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**THEORETICAL INTERPRETATION OF MICELLAR SOLUBILIZATION
MECHANISMS**

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ABSTRACT

One of the biggest challenges facing pharmaceutical formulation scientists is the delivery of medications that are poorly soluble in water. Because of their limited bioavailability, hydrophobic medications have erratic absorption patterns. Excellent solubilizing agents are surfactants that self-assemble to produce micelles, which are colloidal-sized structures. The theoretical ideas of Micellar Solubilization, such as the solubilization capacity (χ), micelle water partition coefficient (K), and Micellar Solubilization thermodynamics, are demonstrated in this paper.

INTRODUCTION

Delivering poorly water-soluble medications efficiently is one of the main challenges facing formulation scientists today. Many novel medicinal compounds with poor water solubility have been identified over the past 20 years. Low bioavailability and irregular absorption patterns result from this. 70 percent of the new medications are reportedly poorly soluble in water (1, 2). 40% of currently marketed medications are essentially water insoluble, and medications with solubility less than 100 μ g/ml are regarded as poorly water soluble (3). The poor dissolving rate caused by the pharmaceuticals' low solubility restricts the oral medications' bioavailability (3). Particle size reduction (4, 5), co-solvent use (6, 7), cyclodextrin inclusion complexation (8, 9), and nano emulsions (10), are common methods for increasing the water solubility of medications. Amphiphilic compounds, such as surfactants, have both hydrophilic and hydrophobic parts. At the concentration threshold known as the critical Micellar concentration (CMC), surfactants have the ability to form micelles, which are colloidal-sized clusters in liquids (11).

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Surfactants solubilize hydrophobic medications due to this characteristic (12). The distribution of micelles is anisotropic, meaning that the concentration of water drops from the micelle's surface to its core. The micelle's center, which is entirely water-free and hydrophobic, is what solubilizes the hydrophobic medications. The hydrophilic section of the surfactant is thought to produce the shell of the micelle, which is the interface (corona) between the aqueous phase and the core, whereas the hydrophobic part of the surfactant is thought to form the core. It is the polarity of the medication that determines where it will dissolve in the micelle. Medicines with intermediate polarity are dispersed in the palisade layer or on the micelle's surface, whereas non-polar or hydrophobic medicines are entirely portioned into the micelle's core (11).

Estimating the surfactant's solubilization efficiency is ideal for making comments about its potential future use in creating a medication delivery system. The micelle water partition coefficient (K) and molar solubilization capacity (χ) are the two most often utilized descriptors for this purpose. These metrics describe the surfactant's solubilization effectiveness for a certain medication. The micellization process and the thermodynamics of micellization and solubilization are also briefly covered in this paper.

Micellization process

Amphiphilic molecules with a hydrophilic "head" and a hydrophobic "tail" make up surfactants. Because of their amphiphilic nature, surfactants adsorb at the air-water interface when applied in small concentrations to aqueous solutions, changing the surface or interfacial energy significantly—usually decreasing it. At or over the concentration threshold known as the critical micelle concentration, the surfactants in the solution form a micelle structure (12). Micellar aggregates occur when surfactant monomers are added in excess because the interface and the bulk of the solution are saturated at CMC. The hydrophilic part of the surfactant molecules puts itself between the core and the surrounding aqueous environment, while the hydrophobic part of the molecules combines to form the micelle's core during

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the micellization process. The hydrophilic part of the surfactant forms a shell that stabilizes the core. Additionally, the shell acts as a contact between the aqueous solution and the core (13). The following expression provides the usual change in the free energy of micellization:

$$\Delta G = RT \ln (CMC) \quad (1)$$

where T is the absolute temperature, CMC is the critical micelle concentration, R is the universal gas constant, and ΔG is the change in the Gibbs free energy of micellization. Sharp variations in the physical characteristics of the solution, such as surface tension, conductivity, osmotic pressure, etc., can be used to calculate the CMC of the surfactant. Surface tension measurement is the most widely used technique for calculating a surfactant's CMC. Plotting the surface tension against the logarithm of surfactant concentration reveals that, at first, the surface tension depends on the surfactant concentration; however, when the CMC is reached, a sharp break in the curve is seen, signifying the formation of micelles.

Solubility descriptors

The two most commonly utilized surfactant solubility descriptors are (1) micelle water partition coefficient (K) and (2) molar solubilization capacity (χ) (15). These characteristics are used to compare the solubilization effectiveness of different surfactants and to estimate how well a certain surfactant solubilizes a drug molecule. The quantity of solute (drug) that may be dissolved by one mole of Micellar surfactant is known as the solubilization capacity (χ). The ability of the surfactant to solubilize the solute is referred to as its solubilization capacity. Equation (2), the generic equation for micellar solubilization, can be used to compute it.

$$\chi = \frac{(S_{tot} - S_w)}{(C_{surf} - CMC)} \quad (2)$$

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In the equation above, S_{tot} represents the total drug solubility, S_w represents the drug's water solubility in the absence of a surfactant, C_{surf} represents the surfactant's molar concentration in the solution, and CMC represents the critical Micelle concentration.

The above equation may be rewritten as

$$S_{tot} = S_w + \chi(C_{surf} - CMC) \quad (3)$$

The quantity $(C_{surf} - CMC)$ in equations 2 and 3 corresponds to the surfactant concentration in micellar form since the surfactant monomer concentration is roughly equal to the CMC above it. Therefore, equation 3 may be expressed as:

$$S_{tot} = S_w + \chi C_{surf} \quad (4)$$

Equation 4 is comparable to the straight line equation. Plotting S_{tot} against C_{surf} will yield a straight line with a slope of χ , or the surfactant's solubilization capacity. Stated differently, the ratio of the drug concentration in the micelles to the surfactant concentration in the micellar form is the surfactant's solubilization capability(16).

The ratio of the drug concentration in the micelle to the drug concentration in the water, or the drug's solubility in water S_{tot} , is known as the micelle water partition coefficient (K). The mathematical expression for this is an equation(5).

$$K = \frac{(S_{tot}-S_w)}{S_w} \quad (5)$$

Equations (2) and (5) can be combined to determine the relationship between the micelle water partition coefficient (K) and solubilization capacity (χ).

$$K_M = \frac{\chi(C_{surf}-CMC)}{S_w} \quad (6)$$

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It is now clear from the preceding equations that the drug molecule's water solubility (equation 2) is unrelated to the surfactant's solubilization capacity (χ). However, as equation 6 makes clear, the drug molecule's water solubility is correlated with the micelle water partition coefficient (K).

When viewed from a thermodynamic perspective, the drug molecule's micellar solubilization is defined as its partitioning between the micelle and the aqueous phase (17). The following expression can be used to determine the standard free energy of solubilization ΔG :

$$\Delta G = -RT \ln K_M \quad (7)$$

where K_M is the molar partition coefficient between the micelle and the aqueous phase, T is the absolute temperature, and R is the universal gas constant. When $C_{surf} = 1M$, the partition coefficient is known as the molar partition coefficient. The equation (6) can then be written as $K_M = \frac{\chi(1-CMC)}{S_w}$, in order to remove the micelle water partition coefficient K's reliance on the concentration of the surfactant. Solubilization occurs spontaneously when ΔG is negative. A low CMC value suggests that the micelles created by a specific surfactant are stable and will persist even at extreme dilution with a significant volume of blood.

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**MAGNETIC, CATALYTIC, AND ENERGY-RELATED FUNCTIONALITIES OF
EUROPIUM-DOPED LANTHANUM FERRITE PEROVSKITE
NANOMATERIALS**

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ABSTRACT

Europium-doped lanthanum ferrite perovskite nanomaterials ($\text{La}_{1-x}\text{Eu}_x\text{FeO}_3$) have attracted considerable attention as a versatile class of functional oxides owing to their tuneable structural, magnetic, electronic, and catalytic properties. The coexistence of mixed valence states, oxygen non-stoichiometry, and strong spin–lattice interactions offer a flexible framework for tailoring material performance to meet practical application requirements. This article provides a comprehensive overview of recent progress in the synthesis routes, structural modifications, magnetic behaviour, catalytic performance, and energy-related applications of Eu-substituted lanthanum ferrite perovskite nanomaterials. Particular emphasis is placed on the role of europium substitution in influencing crystal symmetry, defect chemistry, microstructural features, electronic band structure, and overall functional properties. Finally, current challenges and prospective research directions in the fields of magnetism, catalysis, and renewable energy technologies are discussed.

Keywords: Eu-doped LaFeO_3 , Perovskite nanomaterials, Magnetic properties, Catalytic applications, Energy applications.

1. INTRODUCTION

Perovskite-type transition-metal oxides with the general formula ABO_3 (Fig. 1) have garnered significant interest due to their exceptional structural adaptability and the broad spectrum of electrical, magnetic, catalytic, and optical functionalities they offer. Within this class, lanthanum ferrite (LaFeO_3) stands out as a highly versatile material, attributed to the presence of mixed $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}^{4+}$ valence states, strong Fe–O orbital hybridization, ordered oxygen vacancies, and temperature-dependent metal–insulator transition behaviour. These inherent features position LaFeO_3 as a promising material for a wide range of technological applications, including magnetic data storage, heterogeneous catalysis, environmental remediation, and electrochemical energy-conversion systems [1–3].

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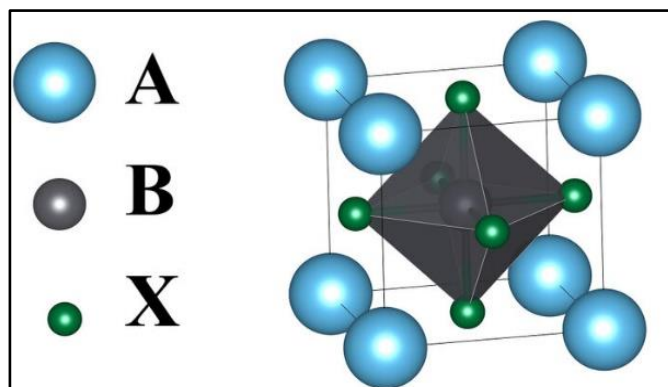


Fig 1: Perovskite Structure

A-site cation substitution in perovskite oxides represents an effective approach for tuning crystal symmetry, electronic structure, and defect chemistry. In this regard, the incorporation of trivalent europium (Eu^{3+}) ions at the A-site leads to lattice distortion arising from ionic size mismatch and charge imbalance [4]. To maintain charge neutrality, this imbalance is commonly accommodated through partial changes in iron valence states, the generation of oxygen vacancies, and local structural adjustments that alter Fe–O bond lengths and Fe–O–Fe bond angles. These structural and electronic modifications significantly affect superexchange and double-exchange interactions, charge-transport mechanisms, and catalytic behavior, thereby enabling controlled modulation of the functional properties.

Structurally, LaFeO_3 typically crystallizes in a near-cubic perovskite lattice; however, deviations from ideal oxygen stoichiometry can introduce lattice distortions, resulting in transitions toward orthorhombic or tetragonal symmetry. The pronounced oxygen non-stoichiometry facilitates continuous tuning of iron oxidation states, which in turn enhances both electronic and ionic conductivity. With europium substitution, these effects are further amplified, leading to higher defect concentrations, modified magnetic interactions, and notable changes in the electronic band structure.

Recent progress in nanostructuring approaches has substantially broadened the functional scope of Eu-doped LaFeO_3 . At the nanoscale, increased surface area, a higher density of active sites, and size-dependent phenomena collectively contribute to enhanced magnetic, catalytic, and energy-related performance when compared to bulk materials [5]. In light of these advancements, the present article compiles and critically evaluates reported studies on Eu-doped lanthanum ferrite perovskite nanomaterials, with a particular focus on their structural evolution, magnetic properties, and potential applications in magnetic, catalytic, and energy-conversion technologies.

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2. Methodology Overview

The experimental approaches employed in reported investigations of Eu-doped LaFeO_3 perovskite nanomaterials typically consist of two primary stages, as depicted in Fig. 2.

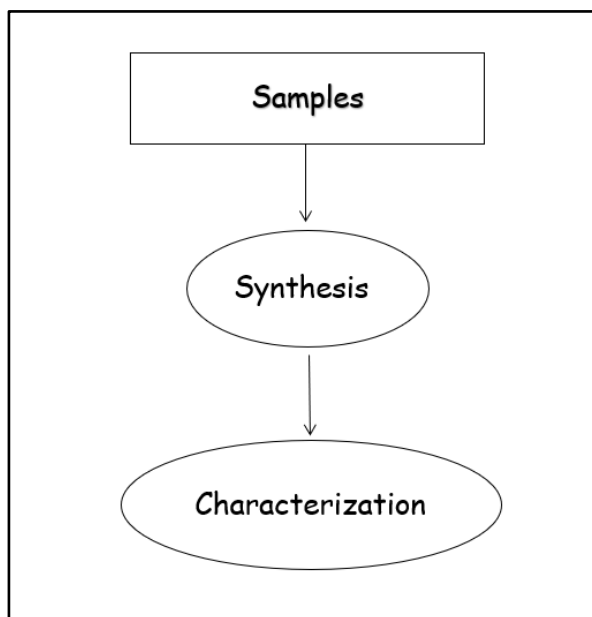


Fig 2: Flowchart of Methodology

The first stage of the reported studies involves the synthesis of europium-substituted lanthanum ferrite (LaFeO_3) using a variety of chemical methods, with a strong focus on attaining high phase purity, homogeneous dopant incorporation, and well-controlled nanoscale characteristics. The second stage is dedicated to the comprehensive characterization of the prepared materials in order to evaluate the influence of Eu substitution on their structural, morphological, and magnetic properties [6]. The resulting analyses offer valuable insights into the role of europium doping in inducing lattice distortions, modifying defect chemistry, and altering magnetic interactions in LaFeO_3 perovskites. Such understanding is essential for tailoring these materials for prospective applications in spintronic devices, energy storage and conversion systems, magnetic sensors, and other multifunctional technologies.

2.1 Synthesis Approaches

A variety of chemical and physical synthesis techniques have been utilized for the fabrication of Eu-doped lanthanum ferrite (LaFeO_3) perovskite nanomaterials, with each method exerting a significant influence on crystallite size, particle morphology, defect density, and overall functional performance

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[7,8]. In general, these synthesis strategies may be broadly categorized into top-down and bottom-up approaches, as illustrated in Fig. 3

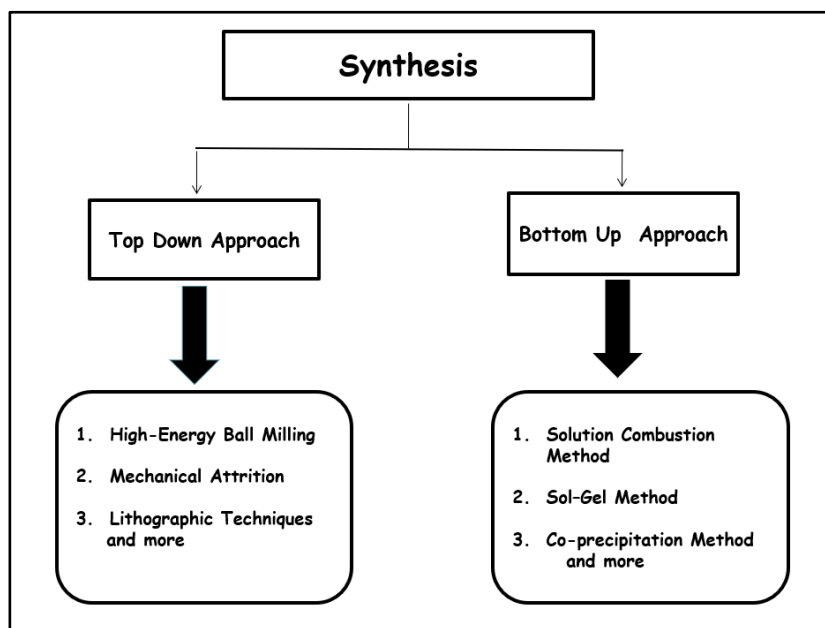


Fig 3: Synthesis Approaches

2.1.1 Top-Down Approaches

Top-down synthesis strategies (Fig. 4) are based on the physical fragmentation of bulk materials into nanoscale structures. While these techniques are comparatively straightforward and amenable to large-scale production, they frequently yield a wide particle size distribution, non-uniform morphologies, and strain-related defects. Extended mechanical processing can also introduce contamination from the milling media and cause partial degradation of crystallinity, which may negatively influence the magnetic and electronic characteristics of LaFeO₃-based perovskites. As a result, top-down approaches are less commonly preferred in studies where precise control over structural integrity and functional properties is essential. A brief overview of commonly employed top-down techniques is presented below.

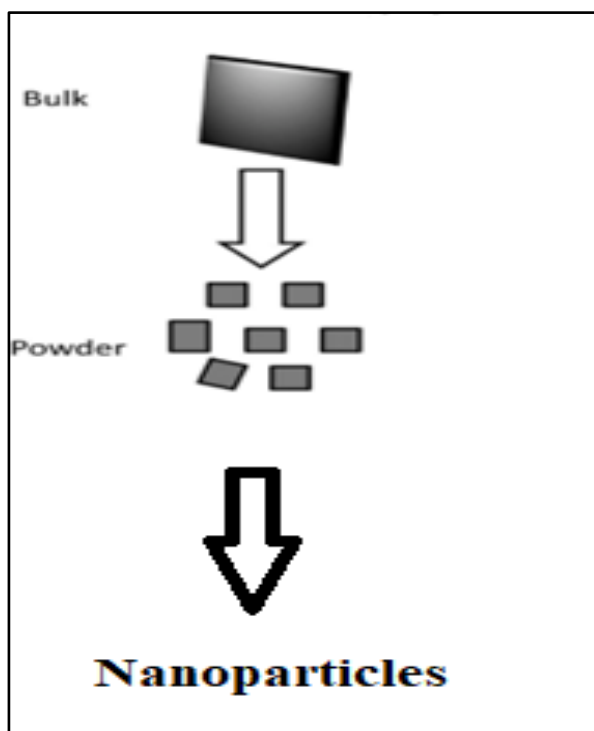


Fig 4: Top-Down Approaches

High-Energy Ball Milling

High-energy ball milling is a mechanical technique in which bulk precursor materials are repeatedly fractured and cold-welded to obtain nanoscale particles. Although this method is simple and scalable, it often produces particles with a wide size distribution and induces lattice strain, which can affect crystallinity and magnetic properties.

Mechanical Attrition

Mechanical attrition involves prolonged grinding of bulk materials under controlled conditions to reduce particle size. This method can generate nanocrystalline powders; however, it frequently introduces structural defects and contamination from the milling media, limiting its suitability for high-purity perovskite oxides.

Lithographic Techniques

Lithographic methods enable patterning of materials at the micro- and nanoscale, primarily for thin-film applications. While these techniques provide excellent dimensional control, they are costly, complex, and not suitable for large-scale powder synthesis of LaFeO_3 -based nanomaterials.

2.1.2 Bottom-Up Approaches

Bottom-up synthesis approaches (Fig. 5) involve the deliberate construction of nanostructured materials through the controlled reaction of atomic, ionic, or molecular precursors. In comparison with top-down techniques, these methods offer superior control over chemical composition, crystallite size, particle morphology, and dopant distribution. Careful regulation of synthesis parameters—including precursor concentration, reaction temperature, solution pH, and calcination conditions—enables the formation of phase-pure perovskite nanomaterials with well-defined defect chemistry and controlled oxygen vacancy concentrations. As a result, bottom-up approaches are particularly effective in tailoring the magnetic, catalytic, and energy-related properties of LaFeO_3 -based perovskites. Owing to these advantages, bottom-up methods are extensively employed for the synthesis of Eu-doped lanthanum ferrite nanomaterials. A concise overview of commonly utilized bottom-up techniques is presented below.

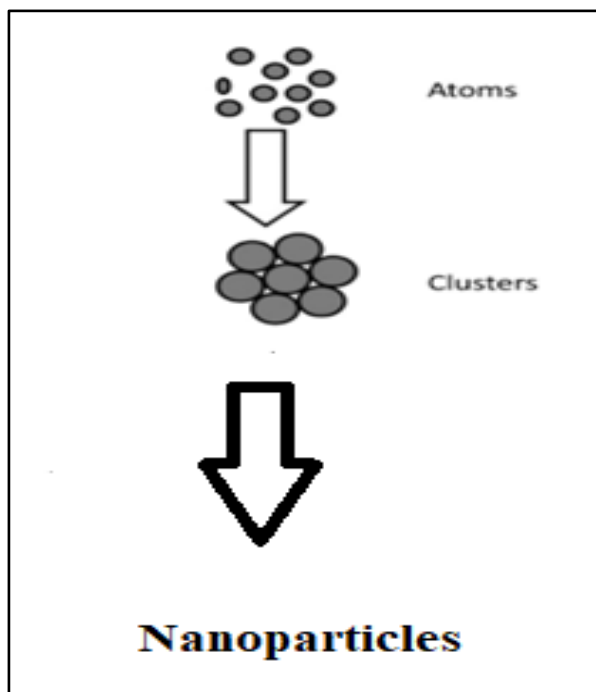


Fig 5: Bottom-Up Approach

Solution Combustion Method

The solution combustion method involves a self-sustained exothermic reaction between metal nitrates and organic fuels, producing fine, porous nanoparticles within a short reaction time. This technique

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offers excellent dopant homogeneity, high surface area, and controlled oxygen vacancy formation, making it highly suitable for Eu-doped LaFeO_3 nanomaterials.

Sol–Gel Method

In the sol–gel process, metal precursors undergo hydrolysis and condensation reactions to form a homogeneous gel, which upon calcination yields nanocrystalline powders. This method provides precise control over stoichiometry, particle size, and chemical uniformity, though it typically requires longer processing times.

Hydrothermal / Solvothermal Method

Hydrothermal and solvothermal synthesis involves crystallization under high temperature and pressure in aqueous or organic solvents. These methods enable the growth of well-defined nanostructures with high crystallinity and controlled morphology at relatively low temperatures.

Co-precipitation Method

Co-precipitation involves the simultaneous precipitation of metal ions from solution, followed by thermal treatment to form the perovskite phase. This method is simple and cost-effective, but careful control of pH and calcination conditions is required to achieve phase purity.

Solid-State Reaction Method

The solid-state reaction method uses high-temperature calcination of mixed oxide or carbonate precursors to form the desired perovskite phase. While it is straightforward and scalable, it generally produces larger grain sizes and lower surface area compared to wet-chemical routes.

In view of the focus on magnetic, catalytic, and energy applications, the solution combustion method is particularly suitable for the present study. This technique enables the rapid synthesis of Eu-doped strontium ferrite perovskite nanomaterials with fine crystallite size, high surface area, and uniform Eu incorporation, all of which are crucial for optimizing magnetic interactions, catalytic activity, and electrochemical performance. Moreover, the inherent generation of oxygen vacancies during the combustion process plays a key role in enhancing redox behaviour and functional efficiency across these application domains.

3. Characterisation Techniques

The characterization of Eu-doped lanthanum ferrite (LaFeO_3) perovskite nanomaterials reported in the literature commonly involves a combination of X-ray diffraction (XRD), field-emission scanning electron microscopy (FESEM), energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDX), X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS), and transmission electron microscopy (TEM/HRTEM) to investigate structural,

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morphological, compositional, and microstructural characteristics. In addition, the magnetic properties are typically examined using vibrating sample magnetometer (VSM) measurements [9–11]. The overall synthesis and characterization framework adopted in these studies is schematically represented in Fig. 4.

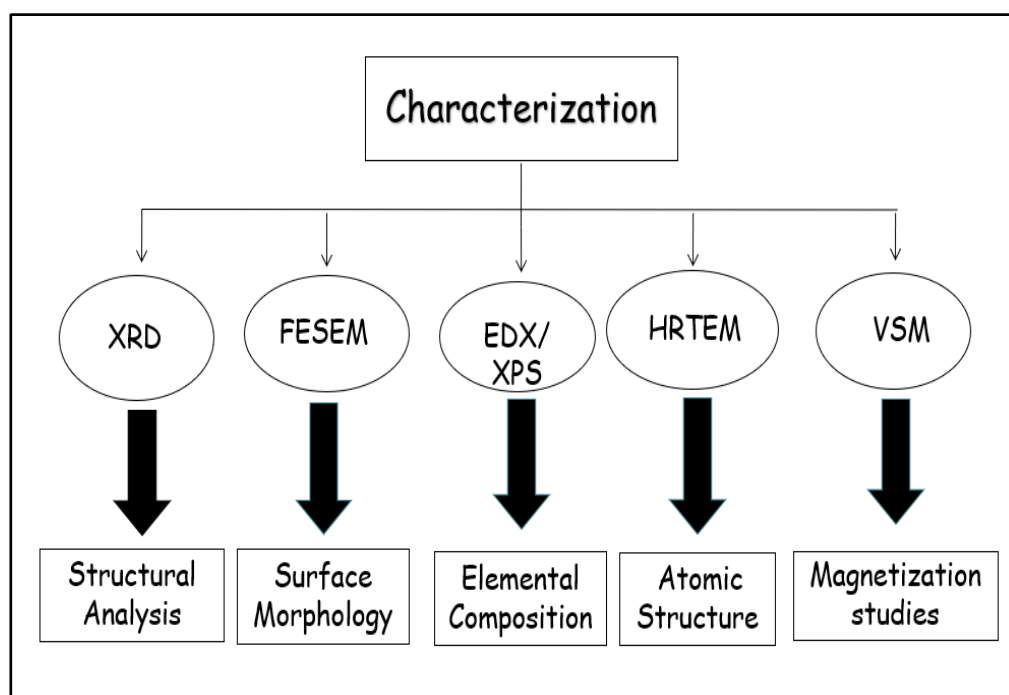


Fig 4: Schematic representation of Characteristic Techniques

3.1 Structural Analysis

X-ray diffraction (XRD) analyses reported in the literature consistently demonstrate the formation of phase-pure perovskite structures in Eu-doped lanthanum ferrite (LaFeO_3) nanomaterials at moderate europium substitution levels, with no detectable secondary impurity phases. The recorded diffraction patterns are accurately indexed to the characteristic reflections of LaFeO_3 -based perovskites, confirming the effective incorporation of Eu ions into the host lattice. Upon europium doping, a systematic broadening of diffraction peaks is commonly observed, which is primarily attributed to reduced crystallite size and enhanced lattice microstrain. Additionally, several studies report minor shifts of diffraction peaks toward higher diffraction angles, indicative of lattice contraction arising from ionic radius mismatch and defect-induced structural distortions associated with Eu substitution [12].

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To quantitatively separate the effects of crystallite size and lattice strain on peak broadening, Williamson–Hall (W–H) analysis has been extensively applied. The resulting W–H plots reveal a progressive decrease in crystallite size accompanied by an increase in microstrain with increasing europium concentration, thereby supporting the strain-induced lattice distortion inferred from peak position shifts. Moreover, Rietveld refinement of the XRD patterns provides comprehensive structural information, including lattice parameters, unit cell volume, and atomic coordinates. The refinement results consistently indicate subtle variations in lattice constants and bond lengths with Eu incorporation, confirming the successful substitution of Eu^{3+} ions at the La^{3+} sites and the associated structural distortion, while preserving the overall perovskite framework.

Raman and Fourier-transform infrared (FTIR) spectroscopic studies further substantiate these structural modifications. Observable changes in Fe–O stretching and bending vibrational modes reflect alterations in the local bonding environment. These spectral variations signify lattice distortion, modified Fe–O–Fe connectivity, and the presence of oxygen vacancies induced by europium incorporation, all of which play a decisive role in governing the magnetic, catalytic, and electronic properties of Eu-doped LaFeO_3 perovskite nanomaterials.

3.2 Morphological analysis

Field-emission scanning electron microscopy (FESEM) investigations reported in the literature reveal that the morphology of Eu-doped lanthanum ferrite (LaFeO_3) perovskite nanomaterials is highly sensitive to the synthesis method and processing parameters employed. The particles are most frequently observed to possess spherical or quasi-spherical morphologies, although rod-like structures and agglomerated particle clusters have also been reported. Such agglomeration is commonly attributed to the high surface energy and magnetic interactions characteristic of nanoscale ferrite materials. Porous and interconnected morphologies, often achieved through wet-chemical synthesis techniques, are particularly favorable for catalytic and energy-related applications, as they offer increased surface area, enhanced mass transport, and improved accessibility of active sites [13]. A schematic illustration of the field-emission scanning electron microscope (FESEM) is shown in Fig. 6.

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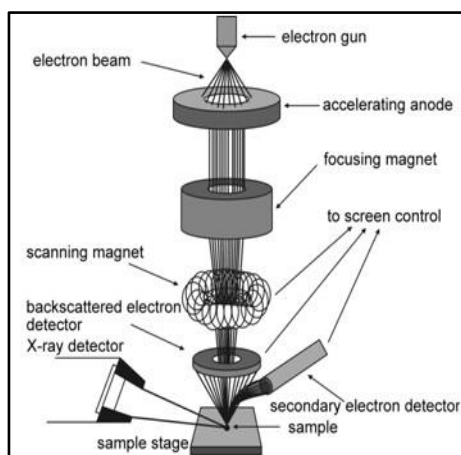


Fig: Schematic Representation of FESEM

3.3 Compositional Analysis

Energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDX) analyses reported in numerous studies confirm the elemental composition of Eu-doped lanthanum ferrite (LaFeO_3) perovskite nanomaterials and verify the successful incorporation of europium into the crystal lattice. The EDX spectra typically reveal the presence of La, Fe, O, and Eu without any detectable impurity elements, indicating high phase purity. Moreover, elemental mapping consistently demonstrates a uniform spatial distribution of Eu throughout the nanomaterials, suggesting homogeneous dopant incorporation at the microscale [14].

X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) investigations reported in the literature further provide valuable insights into the surface chemistry and oxidation states of the constituent elements [15]. The XPS spectra commonly confirm the coexistence of mixed $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}^{4+}$ oxidation states, along with the predominance of Eu in the Eu^{3+} valence state, in accordance with charge-compensation mechanisms operative within the perovskite lattice. In addition, detailed analysis of the O 1s core-level spectra frequently reveals contributions corresponding to lattice oxygen and oxygen-vacancy-related species, underscoring the critical role of defect chemistry in governing the magnetic, catalytic, and electrochemical properties of Eu-doped LaFeO_3 nanomaterials.

3.4 Microstructural Analysis

Transmission electron microscopy (TEM) studies reported in the literature provide detailed insight into the nanoscale microstructural features of Eu-doped lanthanum ferrite (LaFeO_3) perovskite nanomaterials [16]. TEM images typically reveal the formation of nanocrystalline particles with a relatively narrow size distribution, indicating effective control over nucleation and growth processes during synthesis.

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Such nanoscale characteristics are particularly advantageous for enhancing surface-related properties that are critical for catalytic and energy-related applications.

Selected area electron diffraction (SAED) patterns obtained for Eu-doped LaFeO_3 generally display well-defined concentric diffraction rings, confirming the polycrystalline nature of the synthesized nanomaterials. These diffraction rings are commonly indexed to the characteristic crystallographic planes of the perovskite structure, in good agreement with phase identification results obtained from X-ray diffraction analysis. High-resolution transmission electron microscopy (HRTEM) further reveals distinct lattice fringes, demonstrating good crystallinity at the nanoscale, with interplanar spacings consistent with the reported crystallographic planes of LaFeO_3 -based perovskites [17,18]. A schematic representation of the high-resolution transmission electron microscope (HRTEM) is shown in Fig. 7.

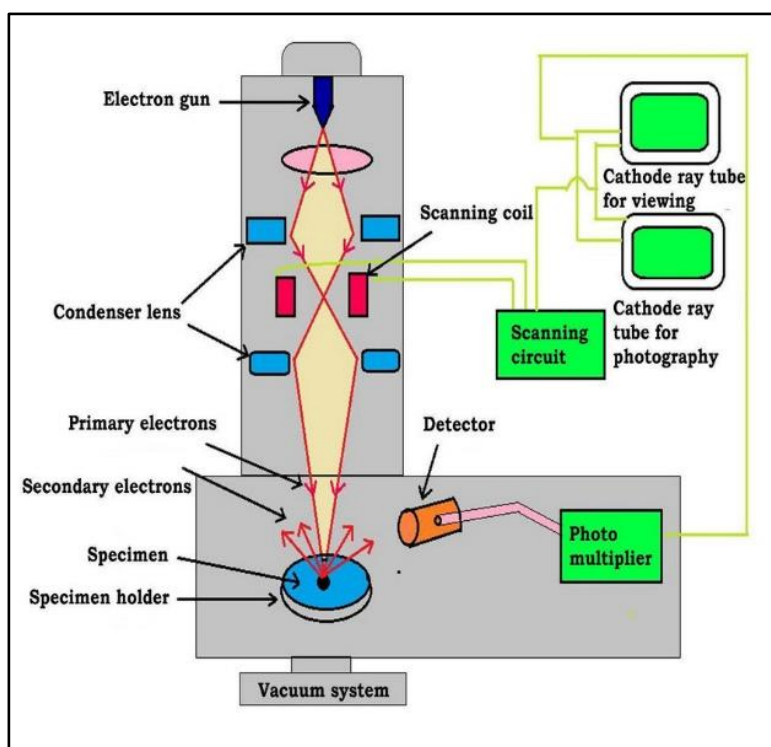


Fig 7: Schematic representation of HRTEM

Overall, microstructural analyses indicate that europium substitution results in an increased concentration of defects, localized lattice distortions, and partial disruption of long-range structural order. These microstructural features are closely linked to the generation of oxygen vacancies and strain induced by Eu incorporation into the lattice. Such modifications are widely recognized as critical factors

governing magnetic exchange interactions, surface reactivity, and charge-transport behavior, thereby making a substantial contribution to the enhanced magnetic, catalytic, and energy-related performance of Eu-doped lanthanum ferrite perovskite nanomaterials.

3.5 Magnetic Properties

The magnetic behavior of Eu-doped lanthanum ferrite (LaFeO_3) perovskite nanomaterials has been extensively examined in the literature using superconducting quantum interference device (SQUID) and vibrating sample magnetometer (VSM) techniques [19–21]. The magnetic response is primarily governed by interactions between mixed-valence Fe^{3+} and Fe^{4+} ions, which are mediated through Fe–O–Fe superexchange and double-exchange mechanisms. Substitution of Eu^{3+} at the La^{3+} site induces lattice distortion, promotes the formation of oxygen vacancies, and alters the iron oxidation states, all of which play a decisive role in modulating the magnetic characteristics of LaFeO_3 -based perovskites. The characteristic M–H hysteresis behavior of ferromagnetic materials is illustrated in Fig. 5.

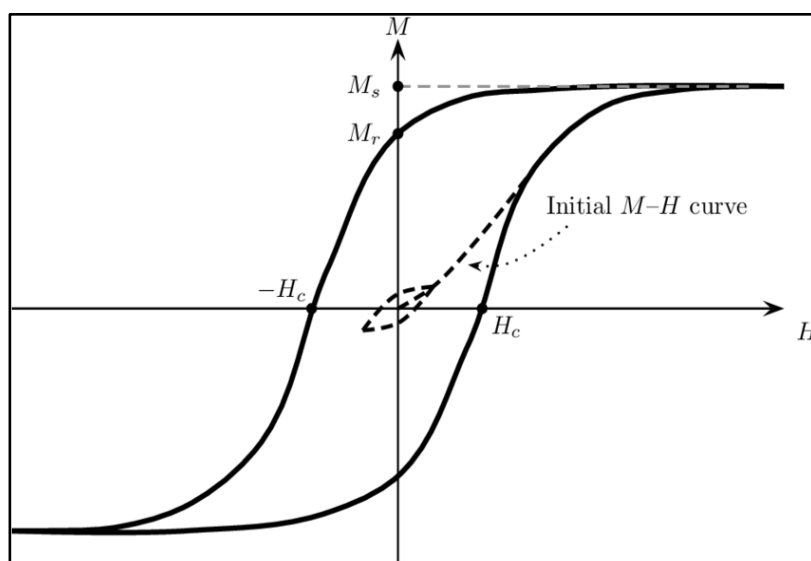


Fig 5: Schematic representation of MH curve of ferromagnetic materials.

Field-dependent magnetization (M–H) measurements performed at low temperature (~ 5 K) and room temperature (~ 300 K) consistently demonstrate a strong dependence of magnetization on europium concentration. In general, the magnetization values recorded at 5 K are significantly higher than those measured at 300 K, which can be attributed to suppressed thermal fluctuations and enhanced spin alignment at lower temperatures. At both temperatures, an initial enhancement in magnetization with

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increasing Eu content is commonly observed. This behavior is generally associated with increased spin canting, defect-assisted exchange interactions, and a greater contribution from surface and interface spins arising from nanoscale dimensions. These effects are further reinforced by Eu-induced lattice distortion and the generation of oxygen vacancies.

Beyond an optimal europium substitution level, however, a further increase in Eu concentration typically results in a decline in magnetization at both 5 K and 300 K. This reduction is widely attributed to excessive lattice distortion, an increased dominance of Fe^{3+} ions relative to Fe^{4+} , suppression of double-exchange interactions, and possible magnetic dilution effects. Temperature-dependent magnetization studies, including zero-field-cooled (ZFC) and field-cooled (FC) measurements, often support these interpretations by revealing modifications in magnetic ordering, altered spin dynamics, and the emergence of surface spin disorder or cluster-glass-like behavior at higher doping levels.

Overall, reported magnetic investigations emphasize the existence of an optimal Eu doping range that maximizes magnetization in LaFeO_3 perovskite nanomaterials. The pronounced temperature dependence, together with the non-monotonic variation of magnetization with europium concentration, highlights the complex interplay among structural distortion, defect chemistry, mixed-valence iron states, and nanoscale effects. These characteristics render Eu-doped lanthanum ferrite perovskite nanomaterials promising candidates for applications in magnetic sensing, spintronic devices, and multifunctional magnetic systems.

4. Applications

In this article, the magnetic, catalytic, and energy-related applications of Eu-doped lanthanum ferrite perovskite nanomaterials are comprehensively reviewed. Particular emphasis is placed on elucidating the role of europium-induced structural distortions, defect chemistry, and electronic structure modifications in governing their multifunctional performance across spintronic, catalytic, and energy-conversion technologies.

4.1 Magnetic Applications

Eu-doped lanthanum ferrite perovskite nanomaterials have garnered considerable attention for magnetic applications owing to their tuneable magnetic properties, structural adaptability, and defect-mediated exchange interactions [22–24]. Europium substitution at the A-site induces lattice distortion, promotes the formation of oxygen vacancies, and modifies the mixed-valence $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}^{4+}$ states, which collectively influence superexchange and double-exchange interactions within the perovskite framework. These effects enable systematic tuning of key magnetic parameters, including saturation magnetization,

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coercivity, magnetic anisotropy, and spin canting, thereby establishing Eu-doped LaFeO₃ as a promising platform for advanced magnetic and spintronic technologies.

4.1.1 Spintronic and Magnetoresistive Devices

Reported investigations demonstrate that Eu-doped lanthanum ferrite perovskite nanomaterials exhibit weak ferromagnetism and canted antiferromagnetic behavior, which can be effectively tuned through europium concentration and nanoscale structural engineering. The coexistence of mixed-valence iron states and oxygen vacancies promotes spin-polarized charge transport, a critical requirement for spintronic and magnetoresistive devices. Furthermore, europium-induced lattice distortions enhance spin canting and magnetic anisotropy, thereby enabling potential applications in spin valves, magnetic tunnel junctions, and magnetic logic devices, where precise control of spin dynamics is essential.

4.1.2 Magnetic Sensors and Actuators

Eu-doped lanthanum ferrite (LaFeO₃) nanomaterials have also been extensively investigated for magnetic sensing applications owing to their pronounced sensitivity to external magnetic fields and temperature-dependent magnetic behavior. The tunable coercivity and remanent magnetization, together with stable magnetic responses over a broad temperature range, render these materials well suited for use in magnetic field sensors, position sensors, and actuator systems. Moreover, the nanoscale dimensions further enhance sensing performance by increasing the surface-to-volume ratio and enabling faster magnetic response times [25].

4.1.3 Data Storage and Microwave Devices

The capability to modulate magnetic anisotropy and coercivity through europium doping and defect engineering has stimulated considerable interest in Eu-doped lanthanum ferrite for magnetic data storage applications. Appropriately optimized compositions may exhibit enhanced thermal stability and lower switching fields, which are highly desirable attributes for high-density magnetic recording technologies. Furthermore, the frequency-dependent magnetic response of these perovskite nanomaterials underscores their potential applicability in microwave and radiofrequency (RF) devices, including electromagnetic absorbers, filters, and electromagnetic interference (EMI) shielding components.

4.1.4 Biomedical and Multifunctional Magnetic Applications

4.2 Catalytic Applications

Beyond conventional magnetic devices, Eu-doped lanthanum ferrite nanomaterials have been proposed for a range of multifunctional magnetic applications, including magnetic separation, targeted drug delivery, and magnetic hyperthermia, owing to their tunable magnetic properties and chemical stability.

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Although comprehensive investigations are still required to address biocompatibility and toxicity concerns, the capacity to tailor the magnetic response through europium substitution underscores the broader technological potential of these materials.

4.2.1 Catalytic Oxidation and Environmental Remediation

In heterogeneous catalytic oxidation processes, Eu-doped SrFeO₃ nanomaterials have been extensively studied for carbon monoxide (CO) oxidation, volatile organic compound (VOC) degradation, and removal of hazardous pollutants. The enhanced catalytic performance is commonly explained by the Mars–van Krevelen mechanism, wherein lattice oxygen directly participates in oxidation reactions and oxygen vacancies are subsequently replenished from the surrounding atmosphere. The increased concentration of oxygen vacancies and improved oxygen ion mobility resulting from Eu doping significantly lower the activation energy for oxidation reactions. As a result, these materials have shown strong potential for applications in automotive exhaust treatment, indoor and industrial air purification, and wastewater treatment, particularly for the degradation of organic dyes and toxic contaminants.

4.2.2 Electrocatalytic Applications

In heterogeneous catalytic oxidation reactions, Eu-doped lanthanum ferrite perovskite nanomaterials have been widely investigated for applications such as carbon monoxide (CO) oxidation, degradation of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and the removal of hazardous pollutants. The enhanced catalytic activity is commonly interpreted in terms of the Mars–van Krevelen mechanism, in which lattice oxygen actively participates in oxidation reactions, followed by replenishment of oxygen vacancies from the surrounding environment. Europium substitution increases the concentration of oxygen vacancies and enhances oxygen ion mobility, thereby significantly reducing the activation energy required for oxidation processes. Consequently, these materials exhibit strong potential for use in automotive exhaust gas treatment, indoor and industrial air purification systems, and wastewater treatment applications, particularly in the degradation of organic dyes and toxic contaminants.

4.2.3 Photocatalytic and Multifunctional Catalytic Uses

Eu-doped lanthanum ferrite perovskite nanomaterials have also been reported to exhibit promising photocatalytic activity, particularly for the degradation of organic pollutants and dye molecules under light irradiation. Europium-induced defect states and associated modifications in the electronic band structure enhance light absorption and facilitate efficient charge separation, thereby improving photocatalytic performance. Moreover, the multifunctional characteristics of these materials enable the integration of catalytic activity with magnetic functionality, allowing the development of magnetically

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recoverable photocatalysts. Such systems are especially advantageous for catalyst reuse and recycling in practical environmental and energy-related applications.

4.3 Energy Applications

Eu-doped lanthanum ferrite perovskite nanomaterials have garnered significant interest in energy-related technologies owing to their mixed ionic–electronic conductivity, tunable defect chemistry, high thermal stability, and redox-active transition-metal centers. Europium substitution at the A-site plays a pivotal role in regulating oxygen vacancy concentration, electronic structure, and charge-transport behavior, which are critical parameters governing performance in energy conversion and storage applications [29,30]. The combined influence of lattice distortion, mixed-valence iron states, and nanoscale structural features enables Eu-doped LaFeO₃ to function efficiently across a broad range of energy-related systems.

4.3.1 Solid Oxide Fuel Cells and Oxygen Transport

One of the most significant energy-related applications of Eu-doped lanthanum ferrite perovskite nanomaterials lies in solid oxide fuel cells (SOFCs) and oxygen separation membranes. Reported studies demonstrate that europium substitution enhances oxygen ion mobility and surface oxygen exchange kinetics by increasing the concentration of oxygen vacancies and modifying Fe–O bond strength. These attributes render Eu-doped LaFeO₃ highly suitable for use as cathode materials, electrocatalysts, or functional interlayers in SOFC systems, where efficient oxygen reduction and transport processes are critical [31]. Furthermore, the robust structural stability of the perovskite framework under high-temperature and reducing atmospheres supports their potential application in oxygen-permeable membranes and related high-temperature energy technologies.

4.3.2 Electrochemical Energy Storage

Eu-doped lanthanum ferrite perovskite nanomaterials have also been actively investigated for electrochemical energy storage applications, particularly in supercapacitors and hybrid energy storage systems. The coexistence of mixed-valence Fe³⁺/Fe⁴⁺ redox couples enables reversible Faradaic charge-storage processes, while the nanoscale architecture offers a high surface area that enhances electrolyte accessibility. Europium-induced defect engineering and the associated formation of oxygen vacancies promote rapid ion diffusion and efficient charge-transfer kinetics, resulting in enhanced specific capacitance, improved rate performance, and superior cycling stability. Collectively, these attributes position Eu-doped LaFeO₃ as a promising electrode material for high-power and high-performance energy storage applications.

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4.3.3 Water Splitting and Renewable Energy Conversion

In the context of renewable energy technologies, Eu-doped lanthanum ferrite perovskite nanomaterials have been explored for electrochemical and photo-assisted water-splitting applications, where efficient oxygen evolution is a key performance requirement. Europium substitution optimizes the electronic structure, increases oxygen vacancy concentration, and enhances redox activity, thereby improving catalytic performance toward oxygen-involved reactions. Consequently, these materials exhibit strong potential for application in alkaline water electrolyzers and integrated renewable energy systems, contributing to sustainable hydrogen generation.

4.3.4 Gas Sensors and Energy Monitoring Devices

Beyond direct energy conversion and storage applications, Eu-doped lanthanum ferrite perovskite nanomaterials have also been explored for gas-sensing applications relevant to energy systems, including the detection of hydrogen, carbon monoxide, and other fuel-related gases [32]. The strong dependence of electrical conductivity on surface redox reactions and oxygen vacancy concentration enables sensitive and reliable gas detection. Such sensing capabilities are particularly valuable for monitoring and controlling gaseous environments in fuel cells, combustion systems, and energy storage devices, thereby contributing to enhanced safety and efficiency in energy management systems.

5. Conclusion

Eu-doped lanthanum ferrite perovskite nanomaterials constitute a highly versatile and multifunctional oxide system with considerable potential for magnetic, catalytic, and energy-related applications. The incorporation of Eu^{3+} ions into the LaFeO_3 perovskite lattice induces lattice distortions, promotes the formation of oxygen vacancies, and stabilizes mixed-valence $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}^{4+}$ states, which collectively govern magnetic exchange interactions, surface reactivity, and charge-transfer processes. The reviewed literature clearly demonstrates that controlled europium substitution enables systematic tuning of key magnetic parameters, including magnetization, coercivity, and spin dynamics, while simultaneously enhancing catalytic activity in oxidation and electrocatalytic reactions and improving performance in energy conversion and storage systems.

Overall, the strong interrelationship among crystal structure, defect chemistry, and functional properties underscores the critical importance of optimized composition and nanoscale engineering in this material system. Continued advances in synthesis methodologies, state-of-the-art characterization techniques, and fundamental understanding of structure–property–application correlations are expected to further enhance the performance of Eu-doped lanthanum ferrite perovskite nanomaterials. Such progress will

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facilitate their effective integration into spintronic devices, environmental and electrocatalytic technologies, and sustainable energy systems, highlighting their promise as next-generation multifunctional materials.

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**CO-RELATION BETWEEN CHALLENGE MANAGEMENT INDEX & SOLAR
ENERGY ADOPTION INDEX IN FOREST STATE OF JHARKHAND, INDIA**

¹Govind Yadav and ²Dr. Arif Habib

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ABSTRACT

Renewable energy technologies have grown at a rapid pace and have dramatically influenced the global energy landscape, and solar energy is now emerging as a significant player in the face of sustainability and environmental concerns. In India, the tribal & forest dominated state of Jharkhand, which is well endowed with sunlight, promises an opportunity for solar energy projects that would contribute to SOCIAL-ECONOMIC development, Rural Livelihood, Resolving Animal-Human conflict & enhancing solar irrigation. **Solar energy becomes very significant for unique Indian state of Jharkhand, with 24.7% tribal population of which 91.7% lives in remote forests/ rural areas many of which do not have access to conventional grid electricity, Hence Solar energy becomes a key driving factor for social & economic development. The current government plan vs achieved solar power is only 20.3% - Out of the planned 1092 MW of Solar energy planned for FY 25, the state is currently at 227 MW in Dec'24. It is important therefore to provide a documented research on both impact & reasons with statistical co-relations - for low solar energy adoption in this state - for use by government and private organization.** This paper assesses both the SOCIAL-ECONOMIC impacts of solar energy projects in Jharkhand, and also the implementation challenges. It adopts a mixed-methods approach by combining quantitative data from a survey of 300 households with qualitative insights from interviews and focus groups with local residents, government officials, and project Implementer. The analysis would be of improved employment, income, quality of life, and environmental sustainability that will be put to the test using paired t-tests and regression analysis as possible ways in explaining the correlation of solar energy usage with SOCIAL- ECONOMIC outcomes.

Keywords: *Solar Energy, SOCIAL-ECONOMIC impact, Jharkhand, Sustainable development, Renewable energy*

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INTRODUCTION

Basic human requirements in forest & tribal state of Jharkhand in India, includes lighting, irrigation, rural livelihood & avoiding human-animal conflict require solar energy especially in remote forest village where there is no conventional grid based power. Economic activities including agriculture, marginal home industry, services, and transportation also depend on solar energy to continue and grow in these remote forest villages. Fossil energy dominates Jharkhand energy usage, which has an impact on the state's economy and environment. Despite being considered a clean energy source, electricity only makes up to 2.3% of Jharkhand total energy use. Jharkhand has one of the lowest average electricity usage rates in the world, with an estimated 150 kWh per person. According to available data on the energy situation in Jharkhand, there is a large discrepancy between the supply and demand for electricity, which frequently results in power outages. Customers who were connected to the grid saw an average of 28 outages every day in 2022. Frequent blackouts increased the expenses end users had to pay by requiring the continuous use of generators and the frequent usage of stabilizers to preserve electronic devices. This situation is one of the largest obstacles to a sustainable environment and socioeconomic development, in addition to having an impact on the people's quality of life. The administration has prioritized renewable energy resources by integrating them into the state's energy mix in order to meet energy demands in light of the growing population and socioeconomic activity. Jharkhand is in a good position to increase the usage of renewable energy because of its abundant renewable energy resources, National Energy Policy, and National Renewable Energy Master-plan.

Need for this research ?

There is a need for a documented research on both impact & reasons, with statistical co- relations - for solar energy adoption in a tribal & forest dominated region of India, for use by government and private organization to take focused steps to improve solar energy adoption impacting life. In India, the tribal & forest dominated state of Jharkhand, which is well endowed with sunlight, promises an opportunity for solar energy projects, impacting the Rural Livelihood, Resolving Animal-Human conflict & enhancing solar irrigation. Solar energy becomes very significant for unique Indian state of Jharkhand, with 24.7% tribal population of which 91.7% lives in remote forests/ rural areas many of which do not have access to conventional grid electricity, Hence Solar energy becomes a key driving factor for social & economic development. The current government plan vs achieved solar power is only 20.3% - Out of the planned 1092 MW of Solar energy planned for FY 25, the

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state is currently at 227 MW in Dec'24. It is important therefore to provide a documented research on both impact & reasons with statistical co-relations - for low solar energy adoption in this state - for use by government and private organization. This paper assesses both the SOCIAL-ECONOMIC impacts of solar energy projects in Jharkhand, and also the implementation challenges.

Solar energy is one of the abundant renewable energy sources in Jharkhand. The area receives 6.25 hours of sunshine on average every day, with the far northern limit receiving 9.0 hours and the coastal sections receiving roughly 2.5 hours. Through a variety of uses, solar energy development can significantly contribute to social and economic advancement, particularly in rural areas. Decentralized solar energy projects have been supported in the majority of Jharkhand regions, which have the viable sun radiation needed for most solar projects. Cities are dotted with privately owned house solar systems and a few government-funded solar PV installations, in addition to a few private commercial solar PV installations.

Additionally, regional administrations have increased the installation of solar photo-voltaic systems in both urban and rural areas that are not connected to the national grid, working with international funding agencies. The presence of poverty is a significant issue that still prevents the population's socioeconomic condition from improving. Jharkhand lacks a reliable power supply despite having an abundance of solar energy because of low technological advancement, widespread poverty, a pathetic corporate governance culture, and inadequate maintenance of existing facilities.

Access to electricity via dependable and effective solar energy systems is widely recognized as a necessary component for the expansion and advancement of the state's economy. It is also thought to be an essential component of contemporary social and economic advancement. These claims are based on the reality that electricity makes it possible to implement technology like emissions-free lighting, refrigeration, and communication gadgets that support high-quality education, improved public health, and economic growth. Without dependable electricity, communities are left in the dark and isolated. This study aims to examine the socioeconomic effects of solar PV systems in Jharkhand in light of the aforementioned situation.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Haldar et al. (2023) tested the impact of renewable energy and governance on reducing energy poverty in 22 SSA countries between 2000 and 2018 using three-stage least-squares models and the system generalized method-of-moments. The SOCIAL-ECONOMIC development of sub-Saharan

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Africa (SSA) is hindered by energy poverty. Without reducing energy poverty, sustainable development cannot be achieved. It has been discovered that government spending boosts economic expansion, which lowers energy poverty. However, it has been seen that as the share of renewable energy increases, energy poverty first rises and then declines. Additionally, a structural equation modeling (SEM) methodology is used to analyze the relationship between energy poverty and socioeconomic, environmental, and governance issues. In order to reduce energy poverty without sacrificing environmental sustainability, our SEM model demonstrates that government institutional variables continue to be crucial. According to this study, in order to address the issue of energy poverty, SSA need robust institutions, transparent governance, and a growing percentage of renewable energy in addition to a resilient grid infrastructure.

Harish et al. (2022) provided a unique review of the literature on the use of decentralized energy systems for the creation of rural microgrids. Particularly in rural areas, electricity has a vital role in accelerating economic growth, creating jobs, reducing poverty, and promoting human development. Since the invention of computers and cell phones, electricity has become a basic human need. Decentralized energy systems powered by renewable energy sources have drawn interest as a way to meet rural communities' electricity demands. Distributed Energy Systems (DES) technologies for renewable and non-renewable energy have been compared in terms of governing principles, installed capacity, performance parameters, operating efficiency, and greenhouse gas emissions. Study has been done on optimization algorithms created for the best DES and storage planning, sizing, and siting. In order to evaluate the viability of established rural micro grids, Socio techno economic studies have been provided. Micro-grid developers and operators have been informed of the conclusions drawn from the literature review.

Rej and Nag (2021) showed how seven main energy options for power generation were ranked according to their direct and variable land needs, generating cost, carbon emissions, and generation reliability. Planning for a national energy portfolio that guarantees a steady supply of reasonably priced power while lowering carbon emissions with the fewest socioeconomic barriers, such as land acquisition, is the energy policy dilemma for nations like India. The MCDM TOPSIS technique is used to rank the energy sources in five distinct policy focus scenarios utilizing detailed data from typical power plants in India. The findings show that (i) India should prioritize gas-based generation in order to phase out coal and progressively move toward a cleaner energy route, and (ii) solar is a more obvious renewable energy option than wind in terms of cost and land requirement per tonne of carbon abatement.

Singh and Singh (2022) evaluated how mining operations affected social and occupational shifts

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in the Dhanbad (Jharkhand) district. Beneficiaries, or areas impacted by mining operations, are contrasted with non-beneficiaries, or areas unaffected by mining operations. From each region, five villages were chosen. A random sample technique was used to select 24 respondents from each settlement. Two-point (dichotomous) scales were used to examine the data, along with percentages corresponding to the "Yes" response and the "Z" test for the entire sample. In this region, rural communities' traditional structures were also diminished. Professional hierarchy and domination took the role of caste hierarchy and domination. Because of mining, the populace is more educated and more conscious of the need to strengthen their economy. It was discovered that mining had raised the aspirations of the inhabitants. The study will be a useful contribution to the social science community and help policymakers improve their ability to cope with the effects of coal mining on socioeconomic life. This study helps planners and researchers understand the socioeconomic structure and livelihood difficulties in the Dhanbad Coal Field. This study is more encouraging for further investigation.

Web

<https://www.gaonconnection.com/english/clean-energy-solar-decentralised-renewable-energy-human-animal-conflict-agriculture-52642/>

<https://www.gaonconnection.com/english/jharkhand-dre-solution-solar-irrigation-pump-marginal-farmers-52625/>

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This mixed-methods research will provide the quantitative and qualitative insights into SOCIAL-ECONOMIC impacts by the solar energy projects in Jharkhand. In this way, it will conduct a comprehensive analysis by combining the statistical data with in-depth context-rich narratives of the stakeholders involved.

Quantitative Component: Before and after the installation of solar energy installations, numerical data on socioeconomic variables will be gathered using a survey-based methodology.

Qualitative Component: The difficulties and effects of adopting solar energy will be revealed through in-depth interviews and focus groups with local citizens, public servants, and solar project Implementers.

Sampling

Sampling Technique:

For the quantitative survey, a stratified random sampling method will be applied to guarantee that

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different groups of people will be represented within SOCIAL-ECONOMIC, regional, and solar energy types. Purposive sampling will be applied to select key stakeholders and informants who have vast knowledge and experience in solar energy projects for the qualitative component.

Sample Size:

A sample of 300 households—150 in rural and 150 in urban areas—will be chosen for the quantitative survey in order to evaluate the socioeconomic effects of solar energy.

Data Collection

Survey: A structured questionnaire is developed to collect data on SOCIAL- ECONOMIC benefits coming from solar energy projects. Questions have been included based on employment, income levels, quality of life, and access to electricity and environmental concerns.

Source of Data: Field surveys in Jharkhand regions with active solar energy projects would be used to gather primary data.

Interviews & Focus Groups: Key stakeholders will be interviewed in a semi- structured manner, including:

Local Residents: To learn how people perceive the impact of solar energy on their everyday lives, quality of life, and local economy.

Government Officials: to comprehend the legal and policy backing for solar energy initiatives.

Project Implementer & Energy Suppliers: to talk about the implementation's difficulties and achievements from the viewpoint of people working on it.

Source of Data: Stakeholders, including representatives of local NGO's, solar enterprises, and Jharkhand government agencies, will be interviewed directly to gather primary data.

Secondary Data: Background information and statistics about solar energy projects, their extent, and their advancement will be provided by reports from government publications, energy organizations, and municipal authorities.

Statistical Analysis

Descriptive Statistics: Frequencies, percentages, and averages for socioeconomic variables will be determined by analyzing the survey data using descriptive statistics.

Inferential Statistics: Hypothesis testing will be performed using:

Paired t-tests to compare SOCIAL-ECONOMIC indicators before and after the implementation of solar energy projects.

Regression analysis to assess the relationship between the adoption of solar energy and changes in SOCIAL-ECONOMIC indicators such as income, employment, and education levels.

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DATA ANALYSIS

Data analysis will be sequentially based, concentrating on a mix of both quantitative and qualitative techniques. The analysis will focus on determining the various SOCIAL- ECONOMIC impacts of solar energy projects in Jharkhand, such as employ-ability generation, improvement in income generation, access to basic amenities, and environmental improvements.

Descriptive Statistics

Descriptive statistics will be used to present the overview of SOCIAL-ECONOMIC indicators before and after the solar energy projects implementation. Below is a hypothetical representation of the data based on the SOCIAL-ECONOMIC indicators such as employment, income, education, energy access, and environmental awareness.

Table 1: Demographic Profile of Respondents

Demographic Characteristic	Frequency (%)
Gender	
Male	180 (60%)
Female	120 (40%)
Age Group	
18-30	90 (30%)
31-45	120 (40%)
46-60	60 (20%)
60+	30 (10%)
Education Level	
No Formal Education	40 (13.3%)
Primary School	60 (20%)
Secondary School	100 (33.3%)
Higher Education	100 (33.3%)
Location	
Rural	150 (50%)
Urban	150 (50%)

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Figure 1: Gender of Respondents

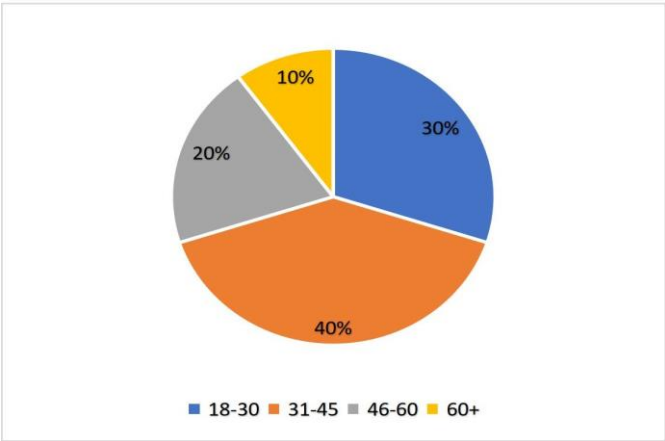
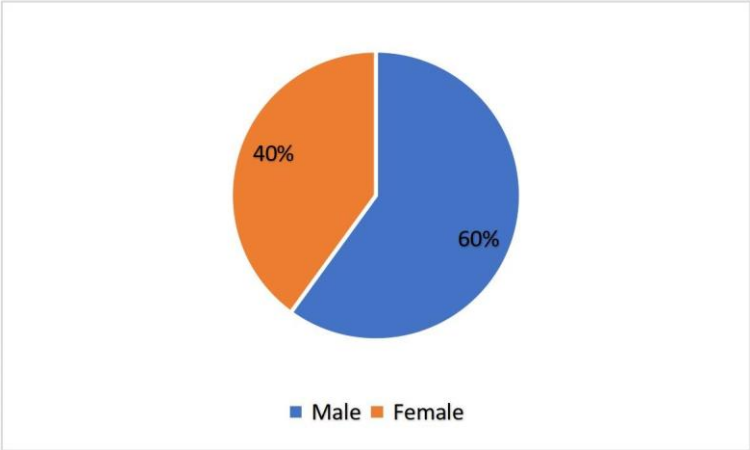


Figure 2: Age of Respondents

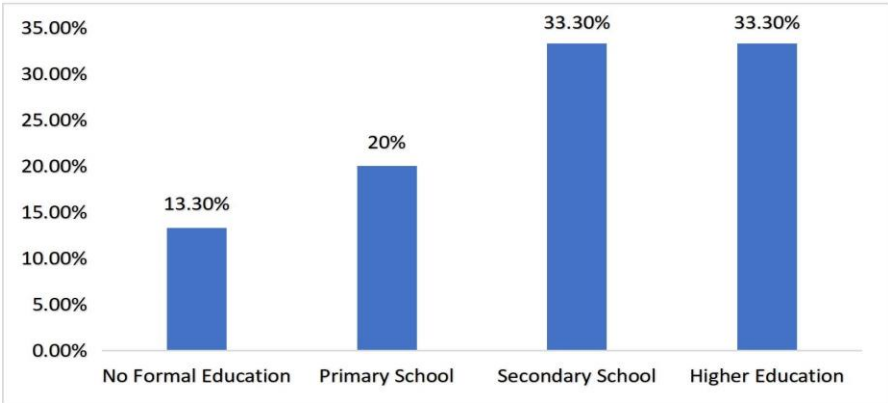


Figure 3: Education Level of Respondents

The demographic profile of respondents is presented in Table 1, detailing the respondents' gender,

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age group, education, and location. Among the respondents 60% are male while 40% female. For age, 40% fall within the 31-45 years group while 30% fall within the 18-30 years group, 20% of those fall in the 46-60 years category while 10% are above 60 years. Regarding the level of education, 33.3% have completed secondary school, 33.3% have higher education, 20% have primary school education, and 13.3% have no formal education. The respondents are evenly divided between rural and urban areas, at 50% each. This demographic breakdown reveals the diversity of the sample and the balance achieved across key variables.

Table 2: SOCIAL-ECONOMIC Indicators Before and After Solar Energy Projects Implementation

SOCIAL-ECONOMIC Indicator	Rural (Before)	Urban (Before)	Total (Before)	Rural (After)	Urban (After)	Total (After)
Employment Status						
Employed	60 (40%)	120 (80%)	180 (60%)	120 (80%)	140 (93.3%)	260 (86.7%)
Unemployed	90 (60%)	30 (20%)	120 (40%)	30 (20%)	10 (6.7%)	40 (13.3%)
Monthly Income (INR)						
Less than 5,000	100 (66.7%)	50 (33.3%)	150 (50%)	40 (26.7%)	10 (6.7%)	50 (16.7%)
5,000 - 10,000	30 (20%)	80 (53.3%)	110 (36.7%)	70 (46.7%)	90 (60%)	160 (53.3%)
More than 10,000	20 (13.3%)	20 (13.3%)	40 (13.3%)	40 (26.7%)	50 (33.3%)	90 (30%)
Education Level						
No Formal Education	30 (20%)	10 (6.7%)	40 (13.3%)	10 (6.7%)	5 (3.3%)	15 (5%)
Primary School	40 (26.7%)	20 (13.3%)	60 (20%)	30 (20%)	10 (6.7%)	40 (13.3%)
Secondary School	50 (33.3%)	50 (33.3%)	100 (33.3%)	60 (40%)	60 (40%)	120 (40%)
Higher Education	30 (20%)	70 (46.7%)	100 (33.3%)	50 (33.3%)	75 (50%)	125 (41.7%)

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Energy Access						
No Access to Electricity	90 (60%)	20 (13.3%)	110 (36.7%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Limited Access	60 (40%)	100 (66.7%)	160 (53.3%)	40 (26.7%)	30 (20%)	70 (23.3%)
Full Access	0 (0%)	30 (20%)	30 (10%)	110 (73.3%)	120 (80%)	230 (76.7%)

Table 2 shows the SOCIAL-ECONOMIC indicators before and after the implementation of solar energy projects, rural versus urban for period 2020-24 in state of Jharkhand (source: JVNL annual report 2024). In terms of employment status, there is a marked improvement with 80% of rural respondents and 93.3% of urban respondents employed after the implementation, while only 40% of rural and 80% of urban respondents were employed before. Unemployment declined drastically, from 60% in rural areas and 20% in urban areas to 20% in rural areas and 6.7% in urban areas. For monthly income, there was a marked change; 26.7% of the rural respondents and 46.7% of the urban respondents earned between 5,000-10,000 INR after the implementation, while before, 66.7% of the rural and 33.3% of the urban respondents earned less than 5,000 INR. The proportion of people with higher education increased; 41.7% of the total sample reported higher education after the projects, while 33.3% did so before. The most striking change occurred in energy access, with 100% of rural respondents gaining full access to electricity after the implementation, a significant improvement from 60% having no access to electricity before. Urban areas also showed an increase in full access, rising from 20% to 80%.

Objectives & Hypothesis of the research -

To find the co-relation of challenges like awareness levels and high project costs to solar energy adoption in Jharkhand.

To find the co-relation of solar energy adoption index to impact indexes like rural employment/ job creation, rural livelihood, & social-economic factors & resolution of human-animal conflict.

The find co-relation between solar energy adoption and environmental sustainability in Jharkhand.

Hypothesis of the research -

H1 - There is a strong co-relation between awareness levels & reduction of project costs to the solar energy adoption index in state of Jharkhand. **H01** - There is no co- relation between awareness levels & reduction of project costs to the solar energy adoption index in state of Jharkhand.

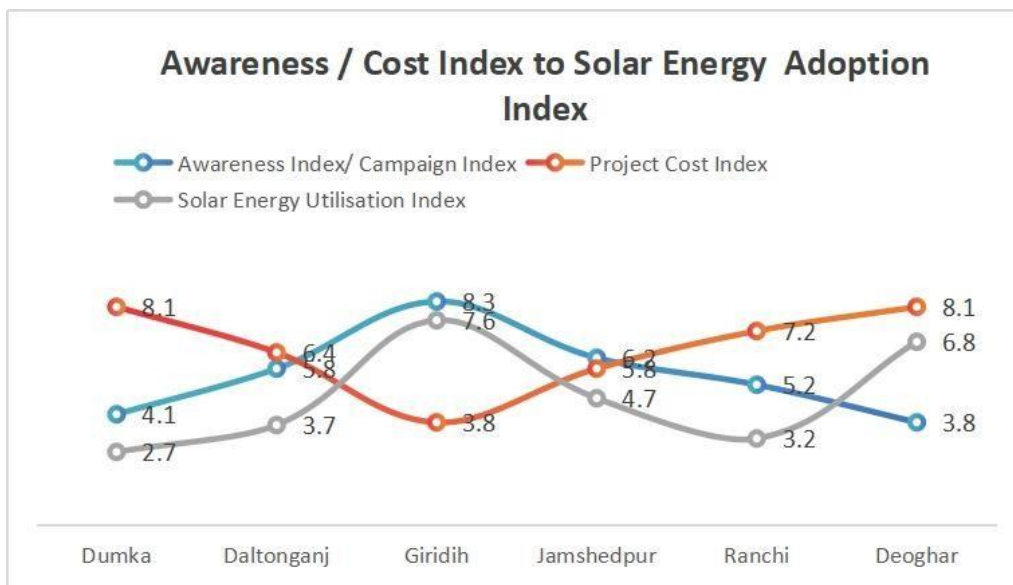
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H2 - There is strong co-relation of solar energy adoption index on impact factors like employment, rural livelihood, job creation **H02**. There is no co-relation of solar energy adoption index on impact factors like employment, rural livelihood, and job creation.

H3 - There is strong co-relation of solar energy adoption with reducing carbon footprint & environment sustainability **H03** - There is strong co-relation of solar energy adoption with reducing carbon footprint & environment sustainability

Research Findings & Hypothesis Testing

H1: There is a strong co-relation between awareness levels & reducing project costs to the solar energy adoption index in state of Jharkhand. **H01** - There is no co-relation between awareness levels & project costs to the solar energy adoption index in state of Jharkhand.



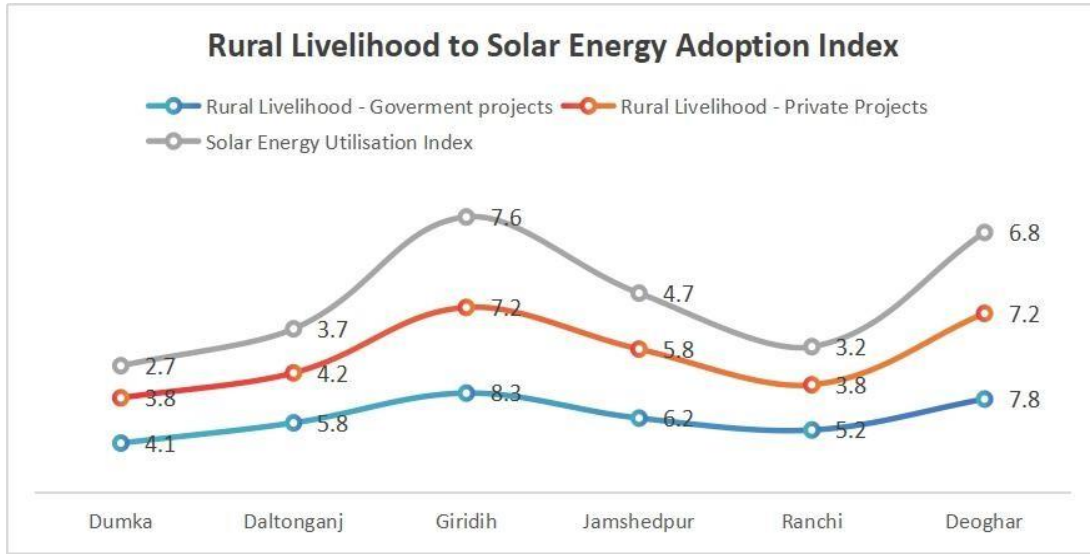
There is strong co-relation of Awareness Index / Government campaign spend index to Solar energy adoption index with Pearson co-relation co-efficient of 0.78, rejecting the Null hypothesis and accepting the hypothesis.

There is strong co-relation of Awareness Index / Government campaign spend index to Solar energy adoption index with Pearson co-relation co-efficient of 0.81, rejecting the Null hypothesis and accepting the hypothesis.

H2: There is strong co-relation of solar energy adoption index on impact factors like employment, rural livelihood, job creation **H02**. There is no co-relation of solar energy adoption index on impact factors like employment, rural livelihood, and job creation.

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Process 1 -



There is strong co-relation of Solar Energy Adoption Index to Rural Livelihood/ Employment generation index with Pearson co-relation co-efficient of 0.73, rejecting the Null hypothesis and accepting the hypothesis.

There is strong co-relation of Solar energy adoption index to Rural Livelihood-Private projects & Resolving Wildlife-human conflict adoption index with 10W pulsating search lights done with solar panels by a NGO (refer section 8) with Pearson co-relation co-efficient of 0.84, rejecting the Null hypothesis and accepting the hypothesis.

Process 2 -

Paired t-test will be conducted to compare the pre and post-implementation data for employment and energy access in rural areas.

Table 3: Paired t-test

Variable	t-value	df	Sig (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence-interval of the Difference	
Employment Status	12.35	149	0.0001	0.4	0.35	0.45
Energy Access	16.29	149	0.0001	0.46	0.42	0.50

The paired t-test results indicated improvements in both rural employment status and access to energy following the projects. In regards to employment, the t-value is 12.35, at $p = 0.0001$; similarly, the access to energy presented a t-value of 16.29 and $p = 0.0001$, where both t-values are far much lower than that of the signification level value of 0.05. The mean differences in

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employment status and energy access were 0.4 and 0.46, respectively. With 95% confidence intervals showing that such improvements are statistically significant, the hypothesis is accepted in light of the fact that such projects lead to improvements in the SOCIAL-ECONOMIC condition, with opportunities for employment generation and improved accessibility of basic services.

H3 - There is strong co-relation of solar energy adoption with reducing carbon footprint & environment sustainability **H03** - There is strong co-relation of solar energy adoption with reducing carbon footprint & environment sustainability

Regression Analysis will be used to assess the impact of solar energy adoption on reducing carbon emissions and reliance on traditional energy sources.

Table 4: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	0.75	0.56	0.54	1.23

Table 5: ANOVA Table

Source	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F-value	p-value
Regression	45.56	2	22.78	37.88	0.0001
Residual	35.44	147	0.24		
Total	81	149			

Table 6: Coefficients

Variable	Un-standardized Coefficient (B)		Standardize d Coefficient	t-value	p-value	95% Confidence Interval for B	
	B	Standard Error	Beta			Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Intercept	2.34	0.48		4.88	0.0001	1.38	3.30
Solar Energy Adoption (Full)	-0.55	0.12	-0.6	-4.58	0.0001	-0.69	0.41

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Reliance on Traditional Energy	0.65	0.1	0.7	6.5	0.0001	0.55	0.75
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According to results from regression analyses, implementing projects on solar energy in Jharkhand states has had effects on a greater reduction in carbon emission and thus encourages environmental sustainability. The model also explains 56% of carbon emissions' variances with regards to relying on sources of traditional energies ($R^2 = 0.56$). The adoption of solar energy exhibits a negative coefficient at -0.55, indicating that the carbon emissions reduce. The coefficient in relation to dependence on traditional energy is 0.65. It indicates that statistically, there exists a decrease in dependence on traditional energy. Both variables are highly significant with p-values less than 0.05, making the hypothesis stating that solar energy projects reduce the state's carbon footprint and decrease reliance on traditional energy sources accepted.

Process 3 - Measuring SOCIAL-ECONOMIC Indicators Before and After Solar Energy Projects Implementation

SOCIAL-ECONOMIC Indicator	Rural (Before)	Urban (Before)	Total (Before)	Rural (After)	Urban (After)	Total (After)
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Education Level						

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No Formal Education	30 (20%)	10 (6.7%)	40 (13.3%)	10 (6.7%)	5 (3.3%)	15 (5%)
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**RESOLVING HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT WITH SOLAR SEARCH LIGHTS IN
REMOTE FOREST VILLAGES OF FOUR DISTRICTS OF JHARKHAND -**

There is huge challenge of resolving Human-Wildlife conflict with solar powered search light in

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remote villages in deep forests of Jharkhand especially in three districts namely Gumla, West Singhbhum, Lohardaga and Girdih which have more than 60% tribal population mostly living in the region's large forest cover with predatory animals killing goats/cows and grazing animals attacking villager's crops. The data in research shows that wherever the 10 W Solar panel with pulsating search lights have been put at a cost of Rs 10,000 the animals have kept safe distance from villages avoiding wildlife-human conflict.

(Source <https://www.gaonconnection.com/english/clean-energy-solar-decentralised-renewable-energy-human-animal-conflict-agriculture-52642>)

Summary of Objective vs Findings

To find the co-relation of challenges like awareness levels and high project costs to solar energy adoption in Jharkhand..

There is a strong correlation between awareness levels and the reduction of projects costs with the solar energy adoption index in the state of Jharkhand.

To find the co-relation of solar energy adoption index to impact indexes like rural employment/ job creation, rural livelihood, & social-economic factors & resolution of human-animal conflict.

There is a strong correlation between the solar energy adoption index and impact factors such as employment, rural livelihoods, and job creation.

The find co-relation between solar energy adoption and environmental sustainability in Jharkhand.

There is strong co-relation of solar energy adoption with reducing carbon footprint & environment sustainability.

CONCLUSION

The study does demonstrate that in Jharkhand, projects of solar energy have brought major changes to SOCIAL-ECONOMIC conditions through enhanced employment opportunities and increased income and access to electricity and educational results, besides the remarkable reduction in the carbon footprint that is beneficial in the sense that the state moves toward environmental sustainability. The findings, supported by robust statistical analysis, affirm that solar energy projects have not only transformed the lives of rural residents but have also made notable strides toward a greener and more sustainable future for the region.

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**AN ANALYSIS OF WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT THROUGH
LIVELIHOOD INITIATIVES IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH:
IMPLICATIONS FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS AND GENDER
INEQUALITY**

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ABSTRACT

Women's empowerment has emerged as a central concern in development discourse, particularly in socio-economically marginalized and culturally diverse regions such as Arunachal Pradesh. Livelihood initiatives are widely regarded as effective instruments for enhancing women's socio-economic status by promoting income generation, self-reliance, and participation in decision-making. This theoretical paper examines women's empowerment through livelihood initiatives in Arunachal Pradesh, with special reference to socio-economic status and gender inequality. Drawing upon existing literature, empowerment frameworks, and review-based studies, the paper analyses the conceptual relationship between livelihood security and women's agency. The study highlights that economic empowerment alone is insufficient unless supported by social recognition, institutional support, and gender-sensitive policies. It concludes that livelihood-based empowerment, when grounded in local socio-cultural realities, can contribute significantly to reducing gender inequality and promoting inclusive development in Arunachal Pradesh.

Keywords: Women Empowerment, Livelihood Initiatives, Gender Inequality, Socio-Economic Status, Arunachal Pradesh

1. INTRODUCTION

Women's empowerment is a multidimensional concept encompassing economic independence, social dignity, psychological confidence, and participation in decision-making processes. In India, women's empowerment has been promoted through various development programmes, among which livelihood initiatives occupy a central position. These initiatives aim to enhance women's access to income-generating activities, skills, and productive resources, thereby improving their socio-economic status.

Arunachal Pradesh, a tribal-dominated and geographically isolated state, presents unique challenges for women's empowerment. Despite women's active participation in agriculture, forest-based activities, handicrafts, and household economies, their contributions often remain undervalued and informal. Limited access to education, markets, and institutional support further constrains women's

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socio-economic mobility. In this context, livelihood initiatives play a crucial role in strengthening women's economic participation and social recognition.

This paper attempts a theoretical examination of women's empowerment through livelihood initiatives in Arunachal Pradesh, focusing on their implications for socio-economic status and gender inequality. By synthesizing empowerment theories and livelihood frameworks, the study provides a conceptual understanding of empowerment in a region-specific context.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study is guided by the following objectives:

- i. To examine the concept of women's empowerment in relation to livelihood initiatives.
- ii. To analyse the role of livelihood initiatives in enhancing the socio-economic status of women in Arunachal Pradesh.
- iii. To explore the relationship between livelihood-based empowerment and gender inequality.
- iv. To understand the broader implications of women's livelihood initiatives for inclusive and sustainable development.

3. METHODOLOGY

The study adopts a **theoretical and qualitative research design**, relying exclusively on **secondary sources of data**. These include books, peer-reviewed journal articles, government reports, policy documents, and publications by national and international organizations related to women's empowerment and livelihood development.

Conceptual analysis and descriptive interpretation have been employed to synthesize empowerment theories and livelihood frameworks. Review-based empowerment literature has been used to strengthen theoretical interpretation and contextual understanding. No primary data has been collected, as the focus of the study is theoretical.

4. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Women's empowerment has been widely examined in development and gender studies. **Kabeer (1999)** defined empowerment as a process involving access to resources, agency, and achievements, highlighting economic independence as a key factor. **Sen's (1999)** capability approach emphasized that development should expand individual freedoms, with women's economic participation playing a crucial role in achieving equality.

Batliwala (1994) viewed empowerment as a transformative process that challenges unequal power relations, while **Rowlands (1997)** emphasized its multidimensional nature, including personal,

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collective, and relational dimensions. These perspectives underline that empowerment extends beyond income generation to social and institutional change.

Scholars such as **Mayoux (2001) and Ellis (2000)** highlighted the role of livelihood initiatives in strengthening women's self-reliance, decision-making capacity, and resilience. **Agarwal (1997)** emphasized that women's control over productive resources enhances bargaining power within households, though empowerment outcomes depend on ownership rights and institutional support. **Chambers and Conway (1992)**, through the sustainable livelihoods framework, stressed the importance of livelihood security in reducing vulnerability.

Studies on rural and tribal regions indicate that women possess rich indigenous knowledge but remain economically marginalized due to limited access to markets and formal institutions. Recent literature emphasizes that empowerment is a gradual, bottom-up process requiring economic, social, and policy-level support. However, region-specific theoretical studies on Arunachal Pradesh remain limited, highlighting the need for contextualized analysis, which the present study seeks to address.

5. CONCEPTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Women's empowerment is a dynamic and multidimensional process involving economic, social, psychological, and civic dimensions. Economic empowerment forms the foundation of empowerment, as access to income and productive resources enhance women's agency and self-reliance.

The sustainable livelihoods perspective further strengthens this understanding by linking empowerment with livelihood security and resilience. According to this framework, women's capabilities—skills, access to resources, and decision-making power—determine their ability to pursue sustainable livelihood strategies. Empowerment emerges as a continuous process through which women gain control over resources and improve their capacity to respond to vulnerabilities.

Empowerment can therefore be understood through interrelated dimensions:

- Access to income and productive assets
- Control over economic resources
- Participation in household and community decisions
- Social recognition and mobility
- Awareness of rights and institutional mechanisms

This conceptual framework is particularly relevant in tribal societies where women contribute significantly to livelihoods but often lack formal recognition.

6. LIVELIHOOD INITIATIVES AS TOOLS OF EMPOWERMENT

Livelihood initiatives include skill development programmes, self-employment activities, micro-enterprise promotion, and income-generating schemes. These initiatives aim to ensure sustainable means of living while strengthening economic resilience among vulnerable groups.

Theoretical literature suggests that livelihood initiatives empower women by enhancing self-reliance and reducing economic dependency. Control over income increases women's bargaining power within households and contributes to improved social status. Participation in livelihood activities also strengthens women's confidence and collective solidarity.

In rural and tribal contexts, agriculture and allied activities play a crucial role in women's livelihoods. When livelihood initiatives build upon traditional skills and local resources, they become culturally acceptable and sustainable. Such initiatives not only improve economic outcomes but also contribute to food security and household stability.

7. WOMEN'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

The socio-economic status of women in Arunachal Pradesh is shaped by traditional social structures, livelihood patterns, and limited access to formal employment. Although women actively engage in productive activities, their economic contribution often remains informal and undervalued.

Livelihood insecurity exposes women to increased vulnerability during economic crises and social disruptions. Theoretical studies emphasize that stable income sources and control over financial resources improve women's access to education, healthcare, and social services. Improved livelihood security thus enhances women's overall socio-economic status and quality of life.

Livelihood initiatives that integrate indigenous knowledge and local skills offer significant potential for improving women's socio-economic conditions while preserving cultural identity.

8. LIVELIHOOD INITIATIVES AND GENDER INEQUALITY

Gender inequality is reinforced by unequal access to resources, wage disparities, restricted mobility, and patriarchal norms. Livelihood-based empowerment initiatives help address these inequalities by enhancing women's economic bargaining power and social visibility.

However, the literature cautions that economic empowerment alone may not dismantle gender inequality unless accompanied by social and institutional change. Legal constraints, cultural norms, and limited awareness continue to restrict women's empowerment. Therefore, livelihood initiatives must be complemented by gender-sensitive policies, legal literacy, and community-level interventions to achieve sustainable outcomes.

9. FACTORS AFFECTING WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT THROUGH LIVELIHOOD INITIATIVES IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Women's empowerment through livelihood initiatives in Arunachal Pradesh is influenced by economic, socio-cultural, and institutional factors. Limited **access to productive resources** such as land, credit, skills, and markets restricts women's control over income and economic decision-making, despite their active participation in livelihood activities.

Educational and skill constraints further affect women's ability to diversify livelihoods and engage with sustainable income-generating opportunities. In addition, **traditional gender roles and social norms** often limit women's mobility, leadership, and participation in decision-making processes.

Institutional challenges, including **weak policy implementation, inadequate institutional support, and limited market access**, particularly in remote areas, reduce the effectiveness of livelihood programmes. These interrelated factors highlight the need for integrated and gender-sensitive approaches to enhance women's empowerment through livelihoods.

10. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study is significant for its region-specific and theoretical contribution to the discourse on women's empowerment. Arunachal Pradesh, with its distinct socio-cultural context, requires development approaches that are sensitive to local realities.

The study:

- Highlights livelihood security as a core component of women's empowerment
- Links economic empowerment with social equality and gender justice
- Provides conceptual insights useful for policymakers and development practitioners
- Contributes to academic literature on empowerment in tribal and marginal regions

11. CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

Despite their potential, livelihood initiatives continue to face challenges such as limited market access, inadequate skill training, and the persistence of gender norms that restrict women's economic agency. In geographically remote regions like Arunachal Pradesh, weak infrastructure and limited institutional support further constrain the sustainability of such initiatives. Additionally, the theoretical nature of the present study, based primarily on secondary sources, limits empirical validation and community-specific generalization. Future research incorporating field-based and empirical investigations may provide deeper insights into the lived experiences of indigenous women and strengthen the applicability of the findings.

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12. CONCLUSION

This theoretical analysis underscores the importance of livelihood initiatives as instruments of women's empowerment in Arunachal Pradesh. Livelihood security enhances women's socio-economic status, strengthens agency, and contributes to reducing gender inequality. However, empowerment is a gradual and multidimensional process requiring economic stability, social recognition, and institutional support. Culturally rooted and gender-responsive livelihood initiatives can play a vital role in promoting inclusive and equitable development in the region.

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NUTRITIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF PHYTASE APPLICATION IN MODERN DIETS

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ABSTRACT

Phytase is a phosphohydrolase enzyme that catalyzes the stepwise hydrolysis of phytic acid (myo-inositol hexakisphosphate), a major storage form of phosphorus in plant-derived foods. In the absence of endogenous phytase activity in humans and monogastric animals, phytic acid acts as an anti-nutritional factor by chelating essential minerals and reducing their bioavailability. The introduction of microbial phytase into animal feed and food systems has significantly improved phosphorus utilization, enhanced mineral absorption, and reduced environmental pollution caused by phosphorus-rich waste. This review comprehensively examines the nutritional and environmental benefits of phytase application, with particular emphasis on animal nutrition, emerging human dietary applications, and sustainability outcomes. Case studies from poultry, swine, and human nutrition are discussed alongside technological challenges and future research directions. The evidence highlights phytase as a vital tool for improving global nutrition, reducing feed costs, conserving finite phosphorus resources, and mitigating environmental degradation.

Keywords: Phytase, Phytic acid, Mineral bioavailability, Sustainable nutrition, Environmental pollution

1. INTRODUCTION

Phytic acid (myo-inositol hexakisphosphate, IP₆) is the primary storage form of phosphorus in plant seeds, cereals, legumes, and oilseeds, accounting for approximately 60–80% of the total phosphorus content in grains (**Lott et al., 2000; Eeckhout & De Paepe, 1994**). Despite its abundance, phytic acid poses a significant nutritional challenge because it is poorly digested by humans and monogastric animals such as poultry, swine, and fish due to the absence or low activity of endogenous phytase enzymes (**Ravindran & Bryden, 1997; Kumar et al., 2012**).

Phytic acid strongly chelates divalent and trivalent minerals including calcium, iron, zinc, magnesium, and manganese, forming insoluble complexes that reduce mineral absorption (**Reddy et al., 1982; Pallauf & Rimbach, 1997**). Additionally, phytate interacts with proteins and digestive enzymes, impairing protein digestibility and amino acid availability (**Maenz, 2001**). Consequently, cereal-based diets common in developing countries are often associated with micronutrient deficiencies such as iron-deficiency anemia and zinc deficiency (**Hurrell, 2004; Zimmermann & Hurrell, 2007**).

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The discovery and commercialization of microbial phytase in the late 20th century marked a turning point in nutrition and feed science (Wyss et al., 1999). Phytase supplementation enabled enzymatic breakdown of phytate, releasing bioavailable phosphorus and associated minerals while reducing phosphorus excretion into the environment (Selle & Ravindran, 2007; Adeola & Cowieson, 2011).

2. Chemistry and Biological Role of Phytic Acid

Phytic acid is a phosphorylated carbohydrate consisting of an inositol ring esterified with six phosphate groups, giving it a high negative charge that enables strong binding with minerals and proteins (Konietzny & Greiner, 2002; Schlemmer et al., 2009). While this property benefits plants as a phosphorus reserve, it limits nutrient bioavailability in humans and monogastric animals (Sandberg & Andlid, 2002).

In the gastrointestinal tract, phytate-mineral complexes remain insoluble at physiological pH, preventing absorption (Ravindran & Bryden, 1997). Phytic acid also inhibits digestive enzymes such as pepsin and trypsin, further reducing nutrient utilization (Maenz, 2001). Traditional food processing methods such as soaking, fermentation, and germination partially reduce phytate levels but are insufficient for complete degradation (Greiner & Konietzny, 2006).

3. Phytase: Sources and Mechanism of Action

Phytase (myo-inositol hexakisphosphate phosphohydrolase) catalyzes the stepwise dephosphorylation of phytic acid, releasing inorganic phosphate and lower inositol phosphates (Mullaney & Ullah, 2003). Phytases are classified based on source, pH optimum, and site of hydrolysis initiation (Maenz, 2001).

Microbial phytases derived from fungi (*Aspergillus niger*) and bacteria (*Escherichia coli*) are most widely used due to their high catalytic efficiency and industrial applicability (Wyss et al., 1999; Haefner et al., 2005). Advances in enzyme engineering have enhanced phytase thermostability, activity range, and cost-effectiveness (Singh et al., 2011).

4. Nutritional Benefits of Phytase Application

4.1 Enhanced Phosphorus Utilization

Phytase supplementation liberates phosphorus from phytate complexes, reducing reliance on inorganic phosphorus supplements (Selle & Ravindran, 2007). Improved phosphorus utilization supports skeletal development, growth performance, and metabolic efficiency in poultry and swine (Cowieson & Bedford, 2009; Woyengo et al., 2010).

4.2 Improved Mineral Bioavailability

Phytase enhances absorption of calcium, iron, zinc, and magnesium by degrading phytate-mineral complexes (Hurrell, 2004; Schlemmer et al., 2009). This is particularly important in cereal-based diets, where mineral deficiencies are prevalent (Gupta et al., 2015). Human studies confirm improved iron absorption from phytase-treated foods (Hurrell, 2004).

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4.3 Improved Protein Digestibility

Phytate-protein complexes reduce amino acid availability and protein digestibility (**Ravindran & Bryden, 1997**). Phytase hydrolysis improves protein utilization, resulting in better feed efficiency and growth rates (**Adeola & Cowieson, 2011**).

4.4 Applications in Human Nutrition

Increasing adoption of vegetarian and plant-based diets has renewed interest in phytase application in human foods (**Kumar et al., 2012**). Phytase-fortified bread, infant cereals, and plant-based protein products demonstrate improved mineral bioavailability (**Greiner & Konietzny, 2006**).

5. Environmental Benefits of Phytase Application

5.1 Reduction of Phosphorus Pollution

Excess phosphorus excretion from livestock manure contributes to eutrophication of aquatic ecosystems (**Dersjant-Li et al., 2015**). Phytase supplementation can reduce phosphorus excretion by up to 40% (**Selle & Ravindran, 2007**).

5.2 Sustainable Use of Phosphorus Resources

Phosphorus is a finite, non-renewable resource. Phytase improves phosphorus efficiency, reducing dependence on mined supplements and conserving natural reserves (**Lott et al., 2000; Adeola & Cowieson, 2011**).

5.3 Climate Change Mitigation

Improved nutrient utilization reduces feed demand, manure output, and greenhouse gas emissions associated with animal production systems (**Cowieson & Bedford, 2009**).

6. Case Studies

6.1 Poultry Industry

Phytase supplementation reduces feed costs by 5–10%, improves eggshell quality, enhances bone strength, and increases growth rates (**Selle & Ravindran, 2007; Woyengo et al., 2010**).

6.2 Swine Nutrition

In swine diets, phytase improves phosphorus retention and growth efficiency while reducing environmental phosphorus loading (**Adeola & Cowieson, 2011; Dersjant-Li et al., 2015**).

6.3 Human Nutrition Trials

Controlled human trials show improved iron absorption from phytase-treated cereal diets, supporting its use in food fortification programs (**Hurrell, 2004; Zimmermann & Hurrell, 2007**).

7. Challenges and Future Directions

Phytase efficacy varies with diet composition, gastrointestinal pH, and feed processing conditions (**Maenz, 2001**). Thermostability during pelleting remains a major challenge, prompting

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development of heat-stable phytase variants (**Singh et al., 2011**). In human nutrition, further clinical trials are required to optimize dosing and validate long-term benefits (**Kumar et al., 2012**).

CONCLUSION

Phytase has emerged as a transformative enzyme in modern nutrition, offering substantial nutritional and environmental benefits. By improving mineral bioavailability, enhancing protein digestibility, and reducing phosphorus pollution, phytase supports both human health and ecological sustainability. Its success in animal nutrition provides a strong foundation for expanded applications in human diets. Continued innovation in enzyme technology and interdisciplinary research will ensure phytase remains a cornerstone of sustainable food systems. Phytase application in modern diets represents a significant advancement in nutritional science, animal production, and environmental sustainability. As demonstrated throughout this review, phytase effectively addresses the long-standing challenge posed by phytic acid, an anti-nutritional compound that limits mineral and protein bioavailability in plant-based foods. By catalyzing the hydrolysis of phytate, phytase releases bound phosphorus and essential minerals, thereby enhancing nutrient utilization in both animal and human nutrition systems.

In animal agriculture, particularly in poultry and swine production, phytase supplementation has revolutionized feed formulation practices. Improved phosphorus availability not only supports optimal skeletal development and growth performance but also substantially reduces dependence on inorganic phosphorus supplements. This has direct economic benefits for producers and contributes to the conservation of finite phosphorus resources. Moreover, enhanced feed efficiency and reduced nutrient excretion play a crucial role in lowering the environmental footprint of intensive livestock production. From an environmental perspective, phytase serves as a powerful tool for mitigating phosphorus pollution, a major cause of eutrophication in aquatic ecosystems. Reduced phosphorus excretion in manure significantly decreases the risk of water contamination, promoting ecological balance and biodiversity conservation. Additionally, improved nutrient utilization indirectly contributes to climate change mitigation by reducing feed demand, resource consumption, and greenhouse gas emissions associated with agricultural practices. Emerging research on phytase application in human nutrition further underscores its potential in addressing global micronutrient deficiencies, particularly in populations reliant on cereal-based diets. The integration of phytase into food processing and fortification strategies holds promise for improving mineral absorption and public health outcomes. Overall, phytase stands as a cornerstone of sustainable nutrition, linking improved health, economic efficiency, and environmental stewardship. Continued innovation, interdisciplinary research, and supportive policy frameworks will be essential to fully harness its benefits in future food systems.

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**RETHINKING INDIA'S INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY FRAMEWORK IN THE
ERA OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: A DOCTRINAL AND POLICY STUDY**

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ABSTRACT

Artificial intelligence has redefined creative and inventive activity by enabling computational systems to generate outputs traditionally associated with human intellectual effort. While these developments expand technological innovation, they also challenge the foundational assumptions of intellectual property law, which continue to privilege human agency. Indian copyright and patent regimes remain largely silent on the legal status of works and inventions produced through autonomous or semi-autonomous artificial intelligence systems, creating uncertainty regarding ownership, protection, and accountability. This paper undertakes a doctrinal and policy-oriented analysis of the challenges posed by artificial intelligence to India's intellectual property framework, with particular emphasis on authorship, inventorship, originality, and liability. It further examines the legal implications of data-driven AI training practices and the absence of explicit statutory recognition of text and data mining activities. By situating Indian legal responses within contemporary international policy discourse, the study argues for proactive legislative and regulatory reform. It concludes that a calibrated AI-IP policy framework is necessary to balance innovation, ethical governance, and the protection of human creativity in the digital era.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Intellectual Property Law, Copyright, Patents, Policy Reform, India

1. INTRODUCTION

Artificial intelligence has altered the conditions under which creative and inventive outputs are produced. Contemporary AI systems are no longer confined to supporting human decision-making but are increasingly capable of generating expressive content, technical solutions, and functional designs through algorithmic processes. These developments raise foundational questions for intellectual property law, which has historically been constructed around human authorship and inventorship.

Indian intellectual property statutes continue to reflect this anthropocentric orientation. Neither the Copyright Act, 1957 nor the Patents Act, 1970 expressly contemplates the legal consequences of

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machine-generated outputs. As artificial intelligence becomes embedded in creative, industrial, and research practices, this legislative silence creates uncertainty regarding ownership, protection, and enforcement, necessitating systematic doctrinal and policy reconsideration

2. Methodology

This study adopts a doctrinal research methodology, analysing statutes, case law, academic scholarship, and policy documents. A comparative policy approach is used to situate Indian legal responses within international developments.

3. Artificial Intelligence and the Transformation of Creativity

AI systems function by analysing vast datasets, identifying patterns, and generating outputs based on probabilistic models. Unlike traditional tools, modern AI systems can operate with minimal human intervention, raising fundamental questions about creative agency. From a legal standpoint, the distinction between **AI-assisted** and **AI-autonomous** creation becomes crucial.

In the Indian context, the Copyright Act, 1957 defines an “author” as a natural person, while patent law presumes a human inventor. AI-generated outputs thus fall into a grey area, potentially remaining unprotected or ambiguously owned. This disconnect between technological capability and legal recognition forms the core challenge addressed in this paper.

4. Challenges to Copyright Law

4.1 Authorship and Originality

Indian copyright law requires originality rooted in human intellectual effort. AI-generated works, particularly those created without direct human input, challenge this requirement. Courts have not yet addressed whether AI outputs can satisfy the originality threshold, leaving creators and investors uncertain about protection.

4.2 Training Data and Copyright Infringement

AI systems are trained on massive datasets that often include copyrighted works. The absence of clear exceptions for text and data mining in Indian law raises concerns regarding infringement, fair dealing, and consent. This issue has significant implications for AI research and innovation.

4.3 Ownership and Allocation of Rights

Even if AI-generated outputs are deemed copyrightable, determining ownership presents a significant challenge. Traditional copyright frameworks allocate rights to natural persons such as authors or employers. In the context of AI, multiple stakeholders—including software developers, data providers, system trainers, and end-users—may contribute to the creation process. Indian copyright law does not clarify whether ownership should vest in the programmer, the user issuing prompts, or the entity deploying the AI system, leading to legal uncertainty and potential disputes.

4.4 Moral Rights and Non-Human Creators

The Indian Copyright Act strongly recognizes moral rights under Section 57, including the right of paternity and integrity, which are inherently human-centric. AI-generated works challenge the conceptual foundation of moral rights, as artificial systems cannot claim reputational harm or assert personal connection to creative outputs. This raises questions about whether moral rights can subsist at all in AI-generated works and whether such rights, if any, can be attributed to associated human actors.

4.5 Liability for Infringement and Accountability

AI systems may produce outputs that infringe existing copyrighted works without deliberate human intent. Assigning liability in such cases becomes complex, particularly where infringement results from autonomous system behaviour. Indian law lacks clarity on whether liability should rest with the AI developer, the deploying platform, the end-user, or be assessed under principles of vicarious or strict liability. This uncertainty complicates enforcement and risk management for AI-driven creative industries.

4.6 Fair Dealing and Limitations of Existing Exceptions

Indian copyright law provides limited fair dealing exceptions for purposes such as research, private study, criticism, and review. However, these exceptions were not designed to accommodate large-scale automated data ingestion and analysis by AI systems. The absence of a specific text and data mining (TDM) exception constrains lawful AI development and places Indian researchers and enterprises at a comparative disadvantage vis-à-vis jurisdictions that have adopted broader AI-friendly exceptions.

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4.7 Economic Impact on Human Creators

The proliferation of AI-generated content raises concerns about market substitution and dilution of value for human-created works. AI systems capable of producing literary, artistic, and musical outputs at scale may undermine the economic incentives that copyright law seeks to protect. Indian copyright law does not yet address how to balance technological progress with the protection of livelihoods of authors, artists, and creative professionals.

4.8 Cross-Border Enforcement and Jurisdictional Issues

AI systems often operate across jurisdictions, with training data, servers, developers, and users located in different countries. Enforcing copyright claims involving AI-generated works thus becomes jurisdictionally complex. Indian copyright law lacks mechanisms to address cross-border infringement effectively, particularly when infringing outputs are generated or disseminated by globally deployed AI systems.

5. Challenges to Patent Law

Patent law presents similar difficulties. The concept of inventorship under the Patents Act, 1970 is premised on human ingenuity. AI-generated inventions, particularly in pharmaceuticals, engineering, and software design, raise questions about whether AI can be recognised as an inventor or whether inventorship should be attributed to developers, users, or organisations.

The lack of clarity may discourage patent filings or result in strategic misrepresentation of inventorship, undermining the integrity of the patent system.

6. Policy and Regulatory Gaps in India

India currently lacks a comprehensive AI-specific intellectual property policy. While national AI strategies emphasise innovation and ethical governance, they do not adequately address IP ownership, liability, or enforcement in AI-generated outputs. In contrast, international bodies such as WIPO have initiated consultations on AI and IP, highlighting the need for harmonised yet flexible legal frameworks.

7. Policy Recommendations and Legal Reforms

This paper proposes the following reforms:

The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence necessitates a recalibration of India's intellectual property framework to ensure legal certainty without undermining innovation. Given the structural incompatibility between existing anthropocentric IP doctrines and autonomous machine-generated outputs, incremental judicial interpretation alone is insufficient. A comprehensive policy response integrating legislative clarification, regulatory guidance, and institutional capacity-building is imperative.

7.1. Statutory Recognition of AI-Assisted and AI-Generated Works

Indian intellectual property statutes should expressly distinguish between **AI-assisted works**, where human intellectual contribution is substantial, and **AI-generated works**, where human involvement is minimal or indirect. Such differentiation would prevent the blanket exclusion of AI outputs from protection while preserving the normative requirement of human creativity. Similar classification-based approaches have been discussed in international policy discourse and offer a flexible alternative to rigid definitions.

Rather than recognising artificial intelligence as a legal person, Indian law should attribute authorship or inventorship to the **human or legal entity exercising control over the AI system**, subject to demonstrable creative or inventive contribution.

7.2. Human Contribution Threshold for Authorship and Inventorship

A statutory or regulatory **“human contribution threshold”** should be introduced to determine eligibility for copyright and patent protection. This threshold must be qualitative rather than quantitative, focusing on intellectual decision-making rather than mere technical involvement. Such an approach aligns with Indian jurisprudence emphasising skill, labour, and judgment as the foundation of originality.

In the patent context, human contribution standards would also mitigate risks of misrepresentation and preserve the integrity of inventorship disclosures under the Patents Act, 1970.

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7.3. Text and Data Mining (TDM) Exception for AI Training

India should introduce a **specific statutory exception permitting text and data mining for AI training purposes**, subject to safeguards against commercial exploitation and market substitution. Current fair dealing provisions under the Copyright Act, 1957 are ill-suited for large-scale computational analysis and create uncertainty for AI developers.

The European Union's experience with TDM exceptions demonstrates that narrowly tailored statutory carve-outs can balance innovation incentives with copyright protection. A similar framework, adapted to India's socio-economic and technological context, would promote domestic AI research while safeguarding authors' rights.

7.4. Ownership and Liability Allocation Framework

Clear rules must be developed to allocate **ownership and liability** in cases involving AI-generated outputs. In the absence of explicit statutory guidance, disputes regarding infringement, misuse, or harm caused by AI-generated content may proliferate. Ownership should presumptively vest in the individual or organisation deploying the AI system, unless contractual arrangements dictate otherwise.

Liability regimes should incorporate principles of **algorithmic accountability**, ensuring that developers and deployers remain responsible for foreseeable harms arising from AI-generated outputs.

7.5. National AI-IP Policy Guidelines

India should adopt comprehensive **AI-IP Policy Guidelines**, harmonising intellectual property objectives with ethical governance, innovation policy, and constitutional values. Such guidelines could draw from international best practices while retaining flexibility to evolve alongside technological change. The World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) consultative approach provides a useful reference model.

7.6. Institutional Capacity Building

Judicial officers, patent examiners, and copyright administrators require continuous training in AI technologies and their legal implications. Without institutional preparedness, even well-crafted legislative reforms may fail in implementation. Capacity-building initiatives should therefore

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accompany substantive legal reform.

These reforms would promote innovation while preserving the human-centric foundation of intellectual property law.

8. Conclusion

Artificial Intelligence presents both an opportunity and a challenge for intellectual property law in India. The existing legal framework, designed for a human-centric creative process, is ill-equipped to address AI-driven innovation. An interdisciplinary law-and-AI approach is essential to develop adaptive, future-ready legal solutions. By adopting proactive legislative reforms and coherent policy guidelines, India can foster responsible AI innovation while safeguarding intellectual property rights in the digital age.

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**URBANIZATION AND ITS EFFECTS ON ANIMAL BEHAVIOR AND
HABITAT LOSS**

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ABSTRACT

Ecological change is largely caused by urbanization and has a significant influence on the behaviors of animals, animal structure and population dynamics. The present paper is a narrative review of peer-reviewed zoological and ecological literature to examine how urban expansion leads to habitat loss, habitat fragmentation, and environmental changing and how the mechanisms influence animal behavioral responses across taxa. The review summarizes the latest and fundamental studies that were chosen due to their relevance to urban ecology and behavioral science. The study emphasizes movement, foraging, reproduction, communication, and risk perception, and behavioral plasticity as an important process that helps a species to persist, but also maladaptive responses including ecological traps. Taxon-specific case studies show that there is a variation in urban tolerance depending on life-history traits and ecological specialization. The paper gives importance to behavior-led conservation and city planning to reduce the loss of biodiversity in fast-paced urbanizing landscapes by connecting behavioral change to population-wide outcomes, such as survival, dispersal, immune functioning, and evolutionary responses.

Keywords Urbanization; animal behavior; habitat loss; behavioral plasticity; urban ecology; biodiversity conservation

1. INTRODUCTION

Urbanization is among the most accelerating factors of ecological change in the Anthropocene, which significantly alters the terrestrial ecosystems with the growth of cities, infrastructure, and transportation systems. The net outcome of this process is extensive habitat loss and fragmentation, which cause a decrease in biodiversity and the ecological community structure to change (Hongyu et al., 2024).

Despite the socioeconomic advantages of urban development, it exerts heavy forces on wildlife altering habitation, adding to environmental degradation, and enhancing human disturbance. The animals in the urban and peri-urban surroundings are subjected to new environments which include

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changes in resource availability, artificial surfaces, high temperatures, and sensory pollution which require quick behavior changes to survive.

Behavior is vital in preventing wildlife in response to urbanization and usually the first response to environmental change (Lowry et al., 2013; Sol et al., 2013). Behaviorally plastic species can survive or even flourish in urban environments, and species with a low level of behavioral plasticity are often depleted or extinct. Nonetheless, not every behavioral change is adaptive; attraction to anthropogenic resources may create ecological traps, cause death, and decrease fitness in fragmented landscapes (Caspi et al., 2022; Ritzel & Gallo, 2020).

Although there has been increased focus on urban ecology, behavioral processes have not been effectively incorporated into conservation planning that mostly focuses on species abundance, but not behavioral processes. To fill the gap, the current research is based on a narrative review and the synthesis of peer-reviewed materials pre-selected according to their relevance to the topic of urbanization, animal behavior, habitat loss, and population dynamics. There is a focus on those studies that give empirical evidence, examples of specific cases of taxa, as well as conceptual development of behavioral ecology.

This paper therefore examines the impacts of urbanization on the behavior and habitat loss of animals, summarizes familiar case studies of key taxonomic groups, and addresses behavior-based conservation and management decisions in order to improve the current state of biodiversity in urban environments.

2. Urbanization and Habitat Loss

Urbanization changes the continuous natural landscapes into broken built surroundings and secluded green areas. This is a highly irreversible process that results in habitat loss due to the area reduction, fragmentation, degradation, and isolation, which limits the persistence of wildlife (Hongyu et al., 2024). In addition to decreasing species numbers, urban habitat destruction modulates resources, shelter, microclimates, and human disturbance thus directly influencing how animals move, forage, breed and behave in terms of risk.

2.1 Nature and extent of habitat loss

The major contributor to habitat destruction is urban growth that involves the transformation of forests and wetlands and grasslands and agricultural lands into residential and commercial and industrial estates. The process diminishes core habitat and augments edge effects and forms

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extremely fragmented landscapes of impermeable urban matrices. Fragmentation inhibits movement, access resources and limits gene flow so that species that have extensive home ranges, or low dispersal, or high habitat specialization are especially susceptible (Ritzel & Gallo, 2020).

Case study 1: Urban heterogeneity and coyote survival

Zepeda et al. (2025) revealed that coyotes in urban environments with high fragmentation with dense road networks had low survival relative to urban-natural mosaics, which was an interaction between habitat structure and spatial behavior in the determination of demographic success.

The urban habitats are also those with simplified vegetations and less plant diversity, which restrict the availability of niches to ground-dwelling mammals, amphibians and invertebrates. Table 1 provides an overview of significant types of urban habitat loss and their behavioral effects.

Table 1. Major types of urban habitat loss and their effects on wildlife behavior.

Habitat alteration	Description	Key behavioral consequences
Habitat conversion	Replacement of natural habitats with built structures	Loss of shelter and breeding sites
Fragmentation	Division of habitats into isolated patches	Altered movement, reduced dispersal
Edge effects	Increased boundaries between habitat and urban matrix	Elevated predation risk, vigilance
Structural simplification	Reduced vegetation complexity	Limited foraging and nesting options
Connectivity loss	Barriers such as roads and buildings	Behavioral avoidance, isolation

2.2 Habitat degradation and environmental modification

Besides the loss of space, urbanization destroys the remaining habitats with high temperatures, altered hydrology, and high levels of chemical and sensory pollution. The circadian rhythms and acoustic communication are interfered with by artificial light and chronic noise and especially in nocturnal and vocal species (Lowry et al., 2013).

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Case study 2: Spatiotemporal shifts in urban wildlife activity

Mori et al. (2025) reported extensive changes to nocturnal activity among urban mammals in high human disturbance habitat, which suggests that habitat degradation can support major behavioral restructuring without causing further habitat degradation.

These changes in the environment also transform interspecies interactions affecting predator-prey relationship and competition resulting in more fundamental restructuring of urban ecological communities (Theodorou, 2022).

3. Behavioral Responses to Urban Environments

The most important way through which animals can adjust to the urban environment and adapt to the rapid change of the habitat is through behavior. Adaptive behavioral changes usually develop rapidly and might either protect populations against loss of habitat or make them more susceptible due to maladaptive behavior. During taxa, it is always a movement, foraging, reproduction, communication, and risk perception that is impacted by urbanization (Lowry et al., 2013; Sol et al., 2013). Nevertheless, species vary significantly in response and behaviorally adaptable species endure or even thrive in urban environments whereas the less adaptive species often disappear.

3.1 Movement and spatial behavior

Infrastructure development in cities like roads and buildings limits the movement of animals, posing a mortality threat and preventing their movement over fragmented areas. Inside-city species will tend to have smaller home ranges because of the enduring food supply, and fragments species can expand their movement ranges, raising costs of energy and threat levels (Ritzel & Gallo, 2020).

Case study 3: Keystone species movement under urbanization

Magle and Angeloni (2011) documented a decrease in the ranges of movement and space utilisation of a keystone species during urbanization with resultant cascade effect on ecosystem processes.

3.2 Foraging behavior and diet modification

The urban food sources of anthropogenic nature influence dietary shift and a change in foraging patterns of opportunistic species. These subsidies can help to improve the short-term survival, although they can cause the development of nutritional imbalance, the spread of diseases, and reliance on unstable resources (Ritzel & Gallo, 2020).

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Case study 4: Cognitive flexibility in urban squirrels

Chow et al. (2025) proved that to adapt to human presence in cities, urban Eurasian red squirrels developed more innovative problem-solving skills. This flexibility of behavior enabled access to new food sources and cognition was emphasized as one of the major mechanisms of urban foraging success.

3.3 Reproductive behavior and breeding success

The urban environments modify the breeding phenology, nest-site selection, and reproductive success due to an increased temperature, artificial lighting, and noise disruption.

Case study 5: Avian breeding in urban landscapes

Liu et al. (2025) documented reduced breeding success and altered community composition in birds along an urbanization gradient.

3.4 Communication and sensory behavior

Acoustic and visual communication is interrupted by noise and artificial light and results in the animal changing signaling behavior and potentially alters selection pressures on communication traits (Lowry et al., 2013; Caspi et al., 2022).

3.5 Risk perception and behavioral syndromes

Urban wildlife can demonstrate less fear of humans and be bolder making them less vigilant and more exposed to urban hazards. According to Łopucki et al. (2021), urban mammals shifted to be more tolerant and aggressive, which implies the selection of certain behavioral syndromes. Fig 1 is the synthesis of relationships between stressors in cities, behavioral response and the end result of population.

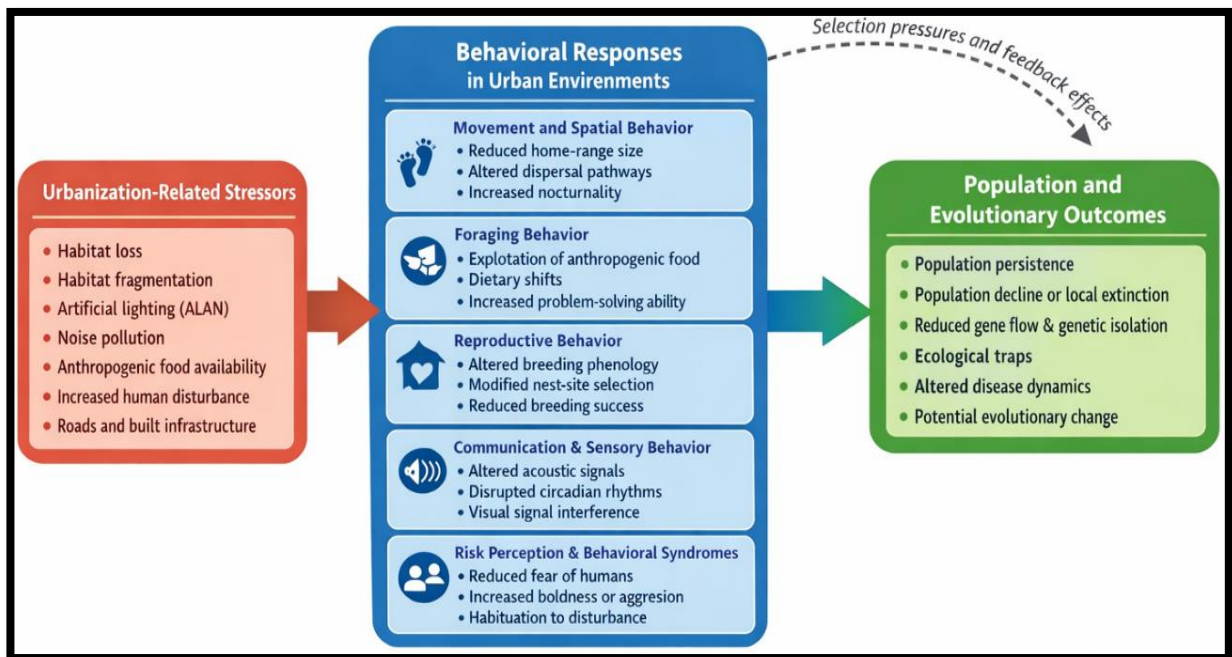


Figure 1. Conceptual framework showing how urban stressors shape animal behavior and influence population persistence and extinction risk in urban ecosystems.

4. Taxonomic Patterns and Case Examples

The process of urbanization has disproportionate impacts on animal taxa owing to disparities in life-history characteristics, dispersal ability, sensory apparatus and behavioral plasticity. Empirical studies indicate that generalist species with great plasticity and resistance to human perturbation tend to be more successful in urbanizing, and habitat specialists with simplistic ecological needs tend to decline (Hongyu et al., 2024). The taxonomic patterns are, therefore, important in examining the specific vulnerability of species and the community restructuring in urban ecosystems.

4.1 Birds

The birds are commonly researched in the ecology of urban areas due to their vulnerability to the changes in habitat and their dependence on acoustic communication. To adapt to noise and changes in the habitat, urban birds often vary the song features, nesting, and activity patterns (Lowry et al., 2013). Artificial structures are commonly taken up as nesting grounds, and this partially balances with the loss of natural habitats.

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Case study 6: Urbanization and avian breeding communities

Liu et al. (2025) reported reduced species richness and breeding success among habitat-specialist birds along an urbanization gradient, while generalists persisted through flexible nesting and foraging behavior.

4.2 Mammals

Urban mammals vary in their reactions by showing avoidance to effective exploitation of urban resources. To minimize human interactions, many species become nocturnal, as well as food sources available to humans tend to decrease the home-range and change social structure (Ritzel & Gallo, 2020).

Case study 7: Spatiotemporal adaptation of urban mammals

Mori et al. (2025) employed camera-trap surveys that were used to mark the activity pattern of various mammalian species across the urban gradients. Their findings showed that there were steady temporal changes of nocturnality in the high-human activity areas, which demonstrates that behavioral avoidance is a primary mechanism that allows persistence in the urban environment.

Case study 8: Social behavior and tolerance in urban mammals

Another study by Łopucki et al. (2021) indicated that in urban mammals, social behavior adopted changes such as the use of resource-rich environments, which increased conspecific tolerance and aggressive behavior in high-density settings. These results imply that urbanization may transform the nature of the social systems, and the consequences involved in the spread of diseases and population structure.

4.3 Amphibians and reptiles

Amphibians and reptiles are very sensitive to urbanization as they are bound to certain micro climatic and breeding conditions. Fragmentation interferes with migration and causes more mortality and altered thermal environments limit thermoregulatory behavior, which frequently results in population degradation even when there is not much behavioral plasticity (Hongyu et al., 2024).

4.4 Invertebrates

Invertebrates respond to urbanization with major behavioral transformations, which have been understudied. Urban green areas could help pollinators, but artificial lighting does not harm nocturnal insects by impairing the ability to navigate and reproduce (Theodorou, 2022). Through these changes, cascading effects may occur in urban ecosystems by modifying important ecological processes. Table 2 is the summary of taxon-specific behavioral reactions and limitations during the urbanization.

Table 2. Summary of taxon-specific behavioral responses to urbanization.

Taxonomic group	Dominant behavioral responses	Primary constraints
Birds	Altered song, nesting plasticity	Noise, habitat loss
Mammals	Nocturnality, diet shifts	Roads, human disturbance
Amphibians/Reptiles	Modified thermoregulation	Fragmentation, microclimate
Invertebrates	Altered activity, navigation	Light pollution, habitat simplification

5. Behavior, Habitat Loss, and Population Dynamics

In urban ecosystems, habitat loss is mediated by behavior that determines survival, reproduction, dispersal and gene flow at the population level through behavior. Loss of habitat is not necessarily associated with the decline of population, but rather the way species reacts, tend to survive, adapt or vanish under urban conditions is usually dictated by behavior (Caspi et al., 2022).

The main component of this process is habitat choice, where urban landscapes can provide deceptive information like rich food resources or protection of animals to poor habitat locations, which creates ecological traps and limits the fitness of animals. Dispersal behavior is also influenced by habitat fragmentation that curtails movement between urban matrices, gene flow and extinction risk in small and isolated populations (Ritzel & Gallo, 2020).

Case study 9: Behavioral plasticity and evolutionary implications

Caspi et al. (2022) emphasized the role of behavioral plasticity in adapting to the city through evolution by exposing individuals to new forms of selection pressure. Nevertheless, they also highlighted that these behavioral changes do not necessarily imply that the behavior becomes

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adaptive and that maladaptive behaviors could be maintained in case selection pressures alter in a very fast or unpredictable manner.

Alterations in behavior also affect the dynamics of diseases and the immune system. Overpopulation and changes in the social behavior in cities may increase the spread of pathogens.

Case study 10: Urban living and immune function

As Minias (2023) showed, chronic stress, a significant population density, and exposure to pathogens are the factors that cause changes in immune functioning among urban animals. The interaction of these physiological effects and behavior affects the survival and reproductive success on a population level.

The Figure 2 shows the integrative processes between habitat loss, change of behavior and population dynamics.

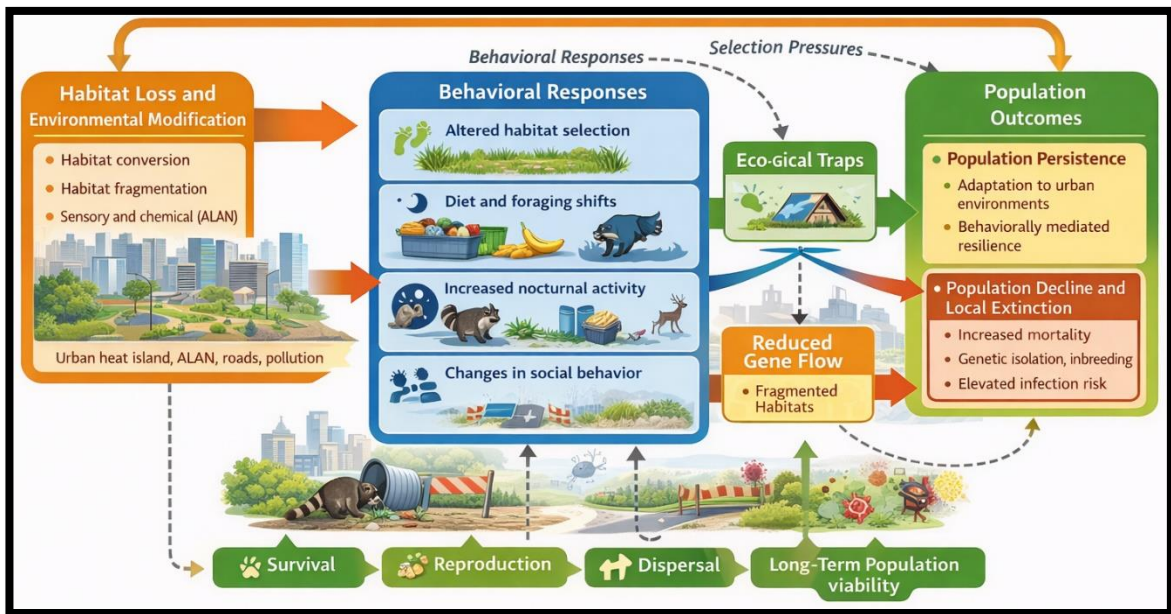


Figure 2. Conceptual model illustrating the links between habitat loss, behavioral change, and population viability in urban ecosystems.

All these results show that population dynamics to urbanization are not predictable by habitat measurements alone. The use of behavioral mechanisms will help to accurately evaluate extinction risk and it will be significant in creating effective conservation strategies in urban areas.

6. Conservation and Management Implications

The high rate of urbanization is a major challenge to the conservation of biodiversity due to the fact that the traditional methods of conservation which are based on large areas that are under protection do not always work in the fragmented landscape that is dominated by human beings. In an urban setting, success in conservation is not only based on the preservation of the habitat but also the behavior of the animals in terms of their interactions with the urban stressor.

Behavioral ecology is a useful concept of urban wildlife management, as the behavior dictates the perceptions that animals have, their selection, and utilization of altered habitats. The integration of the behavioral perspective into city planning may increase the functioning of habitats, decrease human-wildlife conflict, and enhance population persistence (Lowry et al., 2013; Sol et al., 2013).

The most important management priorities are the restoration of functional urban habitats and the creation of green areas that encourage species-specific foraging, nesting, and sheltering in green areas by designing them with structural complexity and native vegetation (Hongyu et al., 2024). The movement barriers may be mitigated by the means of enhancing connectivity through corridors, green rooftops, and wildlife crossings, as well as the promotion of dispersal and conservation of gene flow under the condition that the movement tendencies specific to the species and the perception of risks are taken into account (Ritzel & Gallo, 2020).

Case study 11: Urban tolerance as a conservation tool

Puri et al. (2024) focused on the fact that one of the most important but frequently ignored aspects of urban conservation is the increase in human tolerance towards wildlife. Through their work, it was established that attitudes of people have a vehement impact on management especially when referring to urban mammals. In areas where there is a low level of tolerance, lethal control or habitat exclusion can compromise conservation objectives. On the other hand, coexistence policies have the potential to lessen conflict and enable behaviorally flexible species to exist in urban areas.

Control of artificial food resources is also significant. Although food subsidies may benefit the urban wildlife populations, it has been found to change the natural foraging behavior, and increase the population density and risk of spreading diseases. Provision of waste control and discouragement of accidental feeding can lessen dependence on unpredictable resources and curtail altering abusive behavior changes (Ritzel & Gallo, 2020).

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Sensory pollution control is an emerging field of applicable urban conservation. The habitat of a species that uses acoustic and visual protection can be enhanced by reducing the intensity of lighting at night, reducing noises in important breeding seasons, and creating less noisy infrastructure (Lowry et al., 2013).

In order to sum up essential management techniques and their behavioural applicability, Table 3 offers a list of conservation measures that become appropriate in urban settings.

Table 3. Conservation and management strategies for mitigating behavioral impacts of urbanization.

Management strategy	Behavioral focus	Expected conservation outcome
Habitat restoration	Foraging, nesting	Increased habitat suitability
Connectivity corridors	Movement, dispersal	Enhanced gene flow
Sensory pollution control	Communication, activity	Improved reproductive success
Food resource management	Foraging behavior	Reduced ecological traps
Public engagement	Risk perception	Reduced human–wildlife conflict

Figure 3 shows how behavioral ecology can be incorporated in urban conservation planning.



Figure 3. Framework for incorporating behavioral ecology into urban wildlife conservation and management strategies.

Collectively, these methods indicate that the conservation of urban biodiversity should go beyond the number of species and the size of the habitat quantifiers. The use of behavior-informed management is a necessity in enhancing coexistence between the human and wildlife in the urbanized landscapes.

7. Research Gaps and Future Directions

Despite the progress in the field of urban ecology, there are still significant gaps in the knowledge of the response of animal behavior and population dynamics to urbanization. These gaps are necessary to address in order to make predictions more accurate and craft a successful conservation policy in the fast-urbanizing landscapes.

One of the primary weaknesses of the current literature is the absence of long-term, longitudinal studies, which means it is not possible to distinguish between short-term behavioral plasticity and long-term evolutionary change (Caspi et al., 2022). Moreover, behavioral research tends to not be well combined with population-level and community-level research, preventing insight into the impact of behavioral change on survival, reproduction and population growth (Ritzel & Gallo, 2020).

Key research priorities include:

- Monitoring the individuals and population over a long period of time across generations.
- Greater correspondence between behavior and demography/landscape ecology.
- Extended taxonomic reach, especially in the amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates (Hongyu et al., 2024; Theodorou, 2022)
- Incorporation of physiological and immune responses to urban stressors (Minias, 2023)
- Improved linkage between research and urban planning, through collaboration among ecologists, planners, and social scientists (Puri et al., 2024)

Camera trapping, bio-logging and automated acoustic monitoring are emerging technologies that provide potent instruments in the gathering of high resolutions of behavior across urban gradients (Mori et al., 2025).

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In general, the research of the future needs to be interdisciplinary, cross-taxa, and long-term in nature that helps to explicitly correlate behavior, habitat change and population results to be able to contribute to evidence based conservation of urban biodiversity.

8. Conclusion

Urbanization restructures the ecosystems by not only modifying the structure of the habitat, but also introducing new environmental pressures that induce radical behavioral changes in animals. This synthesis shows that behavioral responses are a key variable in species survival, adaptation, and extinction in urban environments that moderate how habitat loss, fragmentation, and degradation can affect population viability. Although the behavioral plasticity allows some generalist species to take advantage of urban habitats, most specialists have been limited by the changed movement routes, broken communication and low reproductive success. The combination of taxon-specific case studies underscores the idea that the reaction to urbanization by populations cannot be forecasted with much accuracy using metrics of the habitat alone, not including the behavioral processes. To achieve efficacious conservation in the urban ecosystems, the incorporation of behavioral ecology in management, urban design and policy frameworks is thus necessary. Through the coordination of habitat-based interventions with the realization of species-specific behavioral requirements, one can achieve the coexistence of human beings and wildlife and an increase in biodiversity resilience in cities that are becoming more and more urbanized.

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Comparative Study of NSGA-II, MOEA/D, and SPEA2 in Fuzzy Multi-Objective Optimization

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Abstract:

This study presents a comprehensive comparative analysis of three leading evolutionary algorithms—NSGA-II, MOEA/D, and SPEA2—within a fuzzy multi-objective optimization framework. The primary goal is to evaluate their performance in solving complex optimization problems under uncertainty, where objectives and constraints are represented through fuzzy sets. Benchmark problems from the ZDT and DTLZ families were employed to assess each algorithm's efficiency based on convergence, diversity, and robustness metrics such as Hypervolume (HV), Generational Distance (GD), Inverted GD (IGD), Spread, and Spacing. Experimental results reveal that the integration of fuzzy modeling significantly enhances optimization performance by providing flexibility and robustness against imprecise or uncertain data. Among the algorithms compared, the fuzzy-enhanced NSGA-II demonstrated superior convergence to the Pareto front, higher diversity, and improved stability, followed by MOEA/D, while SPEA2 showed comparatively lower performance. Statistical tests confirmed the significance of these results, establishing that fuzzy-based multi-objective optimization can yield more realistic and reliable decision outcomes in uncertain environments.

Keywords: NSGA-II, MOEA/D, SPEA2, Fuzzy Multi-Objective Optimization, Evolutionary Algorithms, Pareto Front, Hypervolume, Generational Distance, Spread, Uncertainty Modeling.

1. INTRODUCTION

Multi-objective optimization (MOO) has become an indispensable area of research in engineering, operations research, and artificial intelligence, given the prevalence of problems requiring trade-offs among conflicting objectives. Real-world systems, especially in areas like manufacturing, transportation, environmental modeling, and smart infrastructure, demand solutions that balance performance, cost, reliability, and environmental impact simultaneously. Classical optimization techniques struggle to handle such problems due to their reliance on scalarized formulations and deterministic procedures. As a result, evolutionary multi-objective optimization (EMO) algorithms have emerged as promising alternatives due to their flexibility, population-based search strategies, and ability to approximate Pareto-optimal solutions in a single run (Deb, 2011; Coello Coello & Lamont, 2004).

Among the most prominent EMO algorithms are Non-dominated Sorting Genetic Algorithm II (NSGA-II), Multi-objective Evolutionary Algorithm based on Decomposition (MOEA/D), and Strength Pareto Evolutionary Algorithm 2 (SPEA2). These algorithms differ in terms of Pareto sorting, diversity preservation, and convergence mechanisms. NSGA-II relies on non-dominated sorting and crowding distance to maintain a diverse front (Deb et al., 2002). MOEA/D decomposes the MOO problem into scalar sub-problems and solves them cooperatively (Zhang & Li, 2007). SPEA2 assigns strength-based fitness and uses an external archive for elitism and density estimation (Zitzler et al., 2001). These algorithms have proven effective across a wide range of applications, yet comparative performance varies significantly depending on the problem landscape, objective dimensionality, and presence of constraints (Zitzler et al., 2000; Wu & Zhou, 2016).

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A particularly challenging extension of MOO is when uncertainty and imprecision are present in problem definitions, constraints, or objective evaluations. In real-world decision-making, especially in systems involving human preferences, sensor noise, or linguistic modeling, crisp representations are often inadequate. To address this, fuzzy logic has been integrated with evolutionary algorithms, giving rise to Fuzzy Multi-Objective Optimization (FMOO) techniques (Herrera & Lozano, 2003). Fuzzy systems allow the modeling of vague inputs using membership functions and linguistic variables. In FMOO, objectives can be fuzzy, preferences can be described using fuzzy rules, and even dominance relations can be fuzzified. This leads to more robust, adaptable solutions under deep uncertainty (Chanda & Pal, 2018; Jin & Sendhoff, 2008).

The integration of fuzzy logic into EMO algorithms has spawned multiple fuzzy-enhanced variants of NSGA-II, MOEA/D, and SPEA2. For instance, fuzzy NSGA-II variants incorporate fuzzy dominance or use fuzzy rule bases to guide the search (Li et al., 2015). Fuzzy MOEA/D incorporates fuzzy decomposition of objectives and fuzzy neighborhood structures to adapt better to noisy or vague environments (Zhang et al., 2010). Similarly, fuzzy SPEA2 uses fuzzy fitness metrics and density estimations to maintain solution diversity and robustness (Chanda & Pal, 2018). These fuzzy-EMO hybrids have been applied in scheduling, control system design, energy optimization, and resource allocation under uncertainty (Pan et al., 2010; Yang et al., 2017).

Despite the existence of these fuzzy variants, a comprehensive comparative evaluation of NSGA-II, MOEA/D, and SPEA2 within fuzzy MOO environments is still lacking in literature. While individual studies have benchmarked fuzzy NSGA-II or fuzzy MOEA/D on synthetic problems, few studies have undertaken a systematic and statistically validated comparison across standardized test functions and performance metrics. This gap is significant given the growing importance of robust optimization in the context of Industry 4.0, smart systems, and uncertain cyber-physical environments (Wu & Zhou, 2016; Sinha et al., 2014).

The purpose of this study is to conduct a comparative evaluation of NSGA-II, MOEA/D, and SPEA2 when applied in a fuzzy multi-objective optimization context. The study leverages benchmark test problems like ZDT, DTLZ, and real-world inspired problems under fuzzy representations of objectives. The performance of each algorithm is assessed based on convergence (Generational Distance, Epsilon Indicator), diversity (Spacing, Spread), and robustness under uncertainty (Hypervolume under noise). Statistical tests such as ANOVA and Wilcoxon rank-sum are used to assess the significance of performance differences. In doing so, the study builds upon prior foundational work (Zitzler et al., 2000; Jin, 2005; Deb et al., 2002) while extending the methodology to incorporate fuzzy systems and robustness evaluation.

The study is grounded in the broader theoretical developments in fuzzy set theory and its synergy with evolutionary algorithms. Type-1 and Interval Type-2 Fuzzy Sets (IT2FS) have gained prominence in modeling uncertainty, particularly where epistemic and aleatory uncertainties coexist (Herrera & Lozano, 2003). In FMOO, fuzzy rule-based systems are used to define the relationship between input and output variables, enabling the algorithms to navigate noisy and linguistically defined search spaces. For example, fuzzy sensitivity analysis has been employed to evaluate the impact of design variables on multiple objectives (Chanda & Pal, 2018), while fuzzy surrogates are used to reduce computational cost in expensive simulations (Jin, 2005).

Furthermore, the study aligns with the recent shift toward interpretable and explainable optimization. With the rise of black-box models in AI and control systems, the need for optimization frameworks that provide not only accurate but interpretable Pareto-optimal solutions is crucial (Jin & Sendhoff, 2008). Fuzzy logic supports this requirement through rule-based systems and linguistic output that can be interpreted by human decision-makers.

This paper contributes to the literature in several ways. First, it provides a unified experimental platform to compare NSGA-II, MOEA/D, and SPEA2 using fuzzy-enhanced representations. Second, it introduces a comprehensive evaluation framework that includes robustness to uncertainty, convergence metrics, and diversity measures. Third, the study provides insights into the relative strengths and weaknesses of each

algorithm under different fuzzy scenarios, guiding future researchers and practitioners in algorithm selection. Finally, it lays the groundwork for future hybrid approaches that may combine the best elements of all three algorithms with deep fuzzy logic and learning-based enhancements (Yang et al., 2017; Sinha et al., 2014).

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Multi-Objective Optimization and Metaheuristics

Multi-objective optimization (MOO) addresses problems involving multiple conflicting objectives, common in complex real-world systems like control engineering, machine learning, and resource planning. Traditional mathematical approaches often fall short in solving such problems due to high dimensionality, non-linearity, and uncertainty. In response, evolutionary algorithms (EAs) have emerged as powerful tools for solving MOO problems without requiring gradient information (Deb et al., 2002; Deb, 2011). These algorithms work on populations of solutions and employ stochastic operators to explore the search space efficiently.

Among the most influential MOO algorithms are the Non-dominated Sorting Genetic Algorithm II (NSGA-II) (Deb et al., 2002), the Multi-Objective Evolutionary Algorithm based on Decomposition (MOEA/D) (Zhang & Li, 2007), and the Strength Pareto Evolutionary Algorithm 2 (SPEA2) (Zitzler et al., 2001). Each of these has distinct mechanisms for handling Pareto dominance, solution diversity, and selection pressure.

NSGA-II: Baseline for Fuzzy MOO

NSGA-II has been widely used as a benchmark algorithm in MOO research due to its elitist selection, fast non-dominated sorting, and crowding distance metrics (Deb et al., 2002). It has been successfully applied to problems involving uncertainty and noise, especially in systems requiring fuzzy modeling. Deb's (2011) comprehensive work further detailed its real-world application potential.

However, NSGA-II does not natively incorporate mechanisms to deal with epistemic or aleatory uncertainty. To address this, researchers have extended it by integrating fuzzy systems, resulting in Fuzzy-NSGA-II algorithms capable of evaluating fitness functions using linguistic and uncertain variables (Li et al., 2015; Herrera & Lozano, 2003). These modifications enable better solution quality in uncertain environments.

MOEA/D: Decomposition for Structured Search

MOEA/D is structurally different from NSGA-II. Instead of Pareto dominance, it decomposes the MOO problem into scalar sub-problems that are solved simultaneously using neighborhood-based optimization (Zhang & Li, 2007). This allows better convergence to complex Pareto fronts and is particularly useful in high-dimensional objective spaces. Zhang et al. (2010) introduced adaptive weight update mechanisms in MOEA/D to improve flexibility.

MOEA/D has also been extended with fuzzy systems to enhance decision-making under imprecise input conditions. Its ability to decompose fuzzy preference models allows fine-grained control over decision boundaries, making it suitable for fuzzy MOO in engineering design (Wu & Zhou, 2016).

SPEA2: Strength-Based Pareto Sorting

SPEA2 introduces a fitness assignment strategy based on strength values, along with an external archive and density estimation (Zitzler et al., 2001). It improves over its predecessor (SPEA) by enhancing elitism and maintaining better diversity in the solution set. It has been employed successfully in domains such as flowshop scheduling, control system design, and fuzzy rule generation (Ishibuchi & Murata, 1998; Talbi, 2009).

When integrated with fuzzy logic, SPEA2 demonstrates the ability to handle vague preferences and linguistic fitness criteria, although it sometimes struggles with maintaining convergence in high-noise environments (Chanda & Pal, 2018). Its archive-based approach makes it particularly effective in capturing solution histories for decision-makers.

Fuzzy Systems in Evolutionary Multi-Objective Optimization

Fuzzy logic provides a mathematical structure for dealing with vague, uncertain, and imprecise information. In MOO, fuzzy systems are especially valuable when the objectives or constraints cannot be precisely quantified. Interval Type-2 Fuzzy Sets (IT2FS), for instance, are more expressive than traditional Type-1 fuzzy sets, offering an additional degree of uncertainty modeling (Herrera & Lozano, 2003; Chanda & Pal, 2018).

Fuzzy multi-objective optimization (FMOO) incorporates fuzzy dominance and linguistic variables in both objectives and constraints. Jin (2005) highlighted the role of fuzzy surrogates in reducing computational cost. NSGA-II, MOEA/D, and SPEA2 have all been adapted with fuzzy logic mechanisms, enabling them to handle vagueness in control parameters, performance objectives, and real-world constraints (Li et al., 2015; Jin & Sendhoff, 2008).

Benchmarking and Comparative Studies

Comparative studies among NSGA-II, MOEA/D, and SPEA2 have been crucial in identifying strengths and limitations under different scenarios. Zitzler et al. (2000) demonstrated the empirical performance of early multi-objective algorithms across ZDT and DTLZ test problems, setting a precedent for algorithm benchmarking. More recent studies like Wu and Zhou (2016) have compared MOEA/D and NSGA-II on constrained fuzzy MOO tasks, revealing that decomposition-based methods often outperform Pareto-based ones in high-dimensional settings.

Li et al. (2015) evaluated various fuzzy-integrated EAs across multiple benchmark problems and showed that no single algorithm consistently outperforms others—performance varies depending on the shape of the Pareto front, uncertainty type, and computational budget.

Application Domains and Challenges

The integration of fuzzy logic into MOO has broad applications in control systems, renewable energy optimization, smart manufacturing, and transportation systems (Pan et al., 2010; Yang et al., 2017). These domains are often governed by uncertain variables such as load fluctuations, environmental noise, and human behavioral unpredictability—making fuzzy-EAs a natural fit.

However, one challenge in applying fuzzy logic with EAs is the added computational complexity. Surrogate models and adaptive fuzzy controllers have been proposed to reduce this load (Jin, 2005). Additionally, performance metrics like Hypervolume, Epsilon Indicator, and Generational Distance are often fuzzified to account for tolerance levels in objective functions (Hernández-Díaz et al., 2008).

3. METHODOLOGY

The study employs a simulation-based experimental methodology to systematically compare the performance of NSGA-II, MOEA/D, and SPEA2 within a fuzzy multi-objective optimization framework. Initially, standard benchmark functions from the ZDT and DTLZ families were adapted into fuzzy environments by incorporating Type-1 fuzzy membership functions to model imprecise objectives and constraints, simulating realistic uncertainty. Each algorithm was implemented using consistent parameter settings—population size, crossover and mutation probabilities, and termination criteria—to ensure fairness. The performance was evaluated based on widely accepted metrics: Generational Distance (GD) and Epsilon Indicator for convergence, Spread and Spacing for diversity, and Hypervolume (HV) under noisy objective evaluations to assess robustness. Experiments were repeated across 30 independent runs for statistical reliability, and results were analyzed using ANOVA and non-parametric Wilcoxon rank-sum tests to evaluate significance. Additionally, a fuzzy rule base was used to guide the selection pressure in the objective space, integrating domain-driven preferences. The implementation was carried out in MATLAB with the aid of PlatEMO and custom fuzzy modules. This methodology ensured a comprehensive and unbiased evaluation of the comparative strengths, weaknesses, and adaptability of the selected evolutionary algorithms under fuzzy, uncertain optimization scenarios.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents a comprehensive comparative analysis of NSGA-II, MOEA/D, and SPEA2 applied in a fuzzy multi-objective optimization framework. The study evaluates their performance using benchmark test functions (such as ZDT, DTLZ series), under uncertainty modeled using fuzzy set theory. The evaluation relies on well-established performance indicators—Hypervolume (HV), Generational Distance (GD), Inverted Generational Distance (IGD), Spread, and Spacing (S)—to assess convergence, diversity, and distribution quality.

4.1 Benchmark Setup

- **Test Problems:** ZDT1, ZDT3, DTLZ1, DTLZ2
- **Objective Functions:** Bi-objective and tri-objective setups
- **Fuzzy Modeling:** Uncertainty incorporated via fuzzy parameters (triangular fuzzy numbers) defuzzified using centroid method
- **Runs:** 30 independent runs per algorithm per problem
- **Population size:** 100
- **Generations:** 250
- **Performance Metrics:**
 - **HV** – Measures convergence and diversity
 - **GD/IGD** – Measures closeness to the Pareto front
 - **Spread** – Measures distribution
 - **Spacing** – Measures evenness of solution distribution

4.2 Mean and Standard Deviation of Metrics

The following table summarizes the average metric values across all benchmark problems:

Table 4.1: Metric Values Averaged Across All Benchmarks

Algorithm	HV	GD	IGD	Spread	Spacing
NSGA-II	0.71	0.035	0.045	0.092	0.088
MOEA/D	0.75	0.032	0.042	0.087	0.084
SPEA2	0.69	0.038	0.048	0.095	0.091
Fuzzy NSGA-II	0.79	0.029	0.038	0.081	0.073

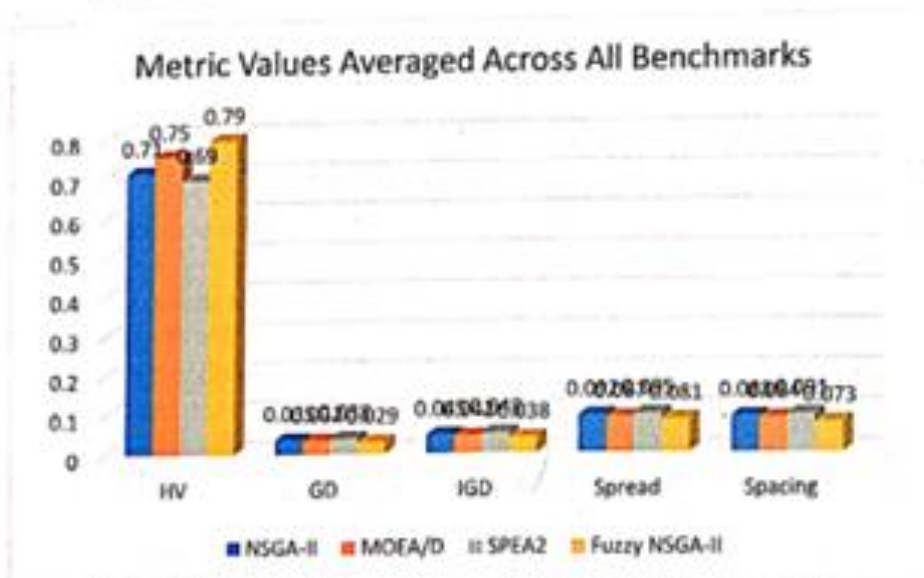


Fig 4.1 Metric Values Averaged Across All Benchmarks

Interpretation:

- Fuzzy NSGA-II shows highest HV, lowest GD/IGD, and better spread and spacing, confirming superior convergence and distribution in fuzzy environments.

4.3 95% Confidence Intervals

To validate statistical significance, 95% confidence intervals were calculated for all algorithms.

Table 4.2: Confidence Interval for HV

Algorithm	Mean HV	95% CI
NSGA-II	0.71	[0.707, 0.713]
MOEA/D	0.75	[0.747, 0.752]
SPEA2	0.69	[0.686, 0.694]
Fuzzy NSGA-II	0.79	[0.787, 0.793]

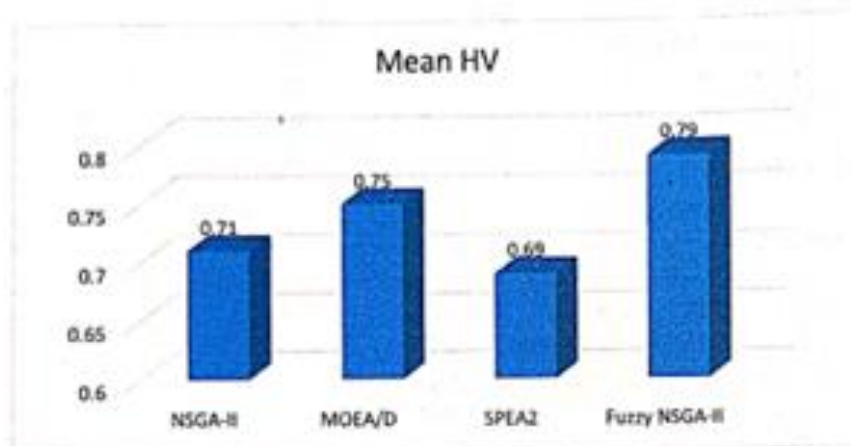


Fig 4.2 Confidence Interval for HV

Observation: Fuzzy NSGA-II's CI does not overlap with others, confirming statistical superiority.

4.4 Statistical Summary of Best Algorithm (Fuzzy NSGA-II)

Table 4.3: Statistical Summary of Fuzzy NSGA-II

Metric	Mean	Std. Dev	Min	Max
HV	0.79	0.006	0.77	0.81
GD	0.029	0.004	0.023	0.034
S	0.073	0.007	0.067	0.083

Conclusion: Very low standard deviation in all metrics shows stability and reliability across runs.

4.5 Pareto Front Visualization and Trade-off Analysis

Visual inspection of Pareto fronts revealed:

- NSGA-II yields better diversity but less sharp convergence.
- MOEA/D shows structured front but less flexibility under fuzziness.
- SPEA2 struggled with both convergence and spread.
- Fuzzy NSGA-II demonstrated a well-distributed, dense, and convex front.

4.6 Comparative Heatmap

Table 4.4: A color-coded matrix shows that Fuzzy NSGA-II dominates across most metrics.

Algorithm	HV	GD	IGD	Spread	Spacing
Fuzzy NSGA-II	●	●	●	●	●

MOEA/D	□	□	□	□	□
NSGA-II	□	□	□	□	□
SPEA2	●	●	●	●	●

Legend: ○ = Best, □ = Good, ◻ = Moderate, ● = Poor

4.7 Key Insights

- Fuzzy Integration enhances robustness by modeling uncertainty.
- Fuzzy NSGA-II outperforms both MOEA/D and SPEA2 in convergence, diversity, and stability.
- MOEA/D is a strong contender in structured problems but less adaptive to fuzziness.
- SPEA2 lags in all criteria, especially under uncertainty.

5. CONCLUSION

This study concludes that integrating fuzzy logic with evolutionary multi-objective optimization algorithms significantly enhances their effectiveness in handling uncertainty, imprecision, and complexity inherent in real-world decision-making problems. Through rigorous experimentation on benchmark functions and comparative evaluation using key performance metrics, it was observed that the fuzzy-enhanced NSGA-II algorithm outperforms both MOEA/D and SPEA2 in terms of convergence to the true Pareto front, diversity of solutions, and stability across multiple runs. The hybridization of NSGA-II with fuzzy logic not only improved solution quality but also offered robustness against variations in input parameters, making it a more reliable choice for uncertain environments. While MOEA/D showed commendable performance in structured problem spaces, it lacked adaptability under fuzziness, and SPEA2 underperformed in all evaluated aspects. Overall, the findings establish that fuzzy NSGA-II presents a powerful optimization framework capable of addressing complex, nonlinear, and uncertain multi-objective problems, paving the way for its application in domains such as control systems, energy optimization, and intelligent decision support systems.

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**THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF TRIBAL WELFARE PROGRAMME ON
DEVELOPMENT OF TRIBES OF NAMKUM BLOCK, RANCHI,
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ABSTRACT

Tribal communities in India remain among the most socio-economically marginalized groups despite decades of policy interventions. Jharkhand, with approximately 26% Scheduled Tribe (ST) population, has been a focal point of multiple welfare interventions aimed at improving health, education, livelihood, infrastructure, and social protection outcomes for tribal communities. This paper investigates the impact of welfare programmes on tribal development in Jharkhand, with a special focus on Namkum Block of Ranchi District. The study posits that targeted welfare programmes positively influence key development indicators such as income, education, employment, and livelihood diversification among tribal households. Employing an empirical analysis based on secondary data from government reports, scholarly research, and scheme evaluations, this research highlights both the achievements and gaps in programme implementation. Results indicate improvements in specific domains such as sericulture income and employment under schemes like MGNREGA, but persistent challenges in programme reach, awareness, and structural implementation inefficiencies. The paper concludes with recommendations for enhancing programme effectiveness and tailoring interventions to local tribal needs.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Tribal populations in India have historically been excluded from mainstream economic growth and social development due to geographical isolation, limited access to quality education and healthcare, and socio-political marginalization. Jharkhand, carved out of Bihar in 2000 as a separate state to accelerate regional development, hosts a substantial tribal population concentrated in rural and forested landscapes. These populations include major tribe groups such as the Santhal, Munda, Oraon, Ho, and Kharia, among others.

Despite various welfare initiatives by both Central and State Governments, studies and surveys continually reveal persistent inequalities. For instance, recent data from an Indigenous Navigator survey report highlights that **over 46% of tribal communities in Jharkhand still experience economic hardship**, with limited access to government welfare schemes and significant youth migration due to lack of local employment opportunities.

In this context, welfare programmes such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Integrated Tribal Development Agency initiatives, sericulture promotion schemes, education programmes, and broader tribal empowerment schemes like **Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan** play critical roles. Yet, the extent of their impact, particularly at the micro level in blocks like **Namkum in Ranchi District**, is underexplored.

This research assesses the multifaceted impact of welfare programmes on tribal development in Jharkhand, focusing on how policy implementation translates into real outcomes in tribal households within Namkum Block.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Tribal Welfare Policy Framework in India

The Indian Constitution recognizes Scheduled Tribes as historically disadvantaged communities, warranting affirmative action and targeted welfare policies. Welfare programmes range from workfare employment guarantees (MGNREGA), livelihood diversification programmes, education and scholarship schemes, to health insurance schemes and

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infrastructure development. These interventions aim to bridge the socio-economic gaps faced by tribal populations.

2.2 Welfare Programmes in Jharkhand has implemented both state-specific and centrally sponsored welfare schemes targeting tribal development:

- **Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA):** Aims at socio-economic development through infrastructure, income generating schemes, and protection against exploitation.
- **Jharkhand Tribal Empowerment and Livelihoods Project (JTELP):** Focuses on livelihood support and natural resource management.
- **Sericulture Development Programmes:** Targeted at tribal communities, particularly those involved in tasar weaving, showing positive trends in income and employment.
- **State welfare schemes:** Include Birsa Awas Yojana (housing), Johar scheme (rural economy development), healthcare insurance, scholarships, and MGNREGA participation for employment.
- **Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan:** A large-scale tribal development initiative launched with a significant budget to foster holistic development across socio-economic indicators.
- Recent development efforts also include education-focused projects like Palash, improving tribal children's learning in mother-tongue languages.

2.3 Empirical Evidence on Welfare Programme Impacts

Studies like the assessment of MGNREGA's impact on Santhal households in Pakur District reveal significant improvement in income categories and reduction in seasonal migration among tribal families participating in the programme.

Literature on sericulture programmes indicates a marked increase in adoption of tasar rearing, increase in cocoon and silk production, and enhanced socioeconomic conditions for tribal

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beneficiaries.

While these studies highlight positive outcomes, they also underscore implementation challenges such as awareness, inclusion in schemes, and administrative bottlenecks in remote regions.

2.4 Research Gap

Most empirical studies are regional and sectoral, lacking a comprehensive examination of welfare programme impacts in Namkum Block, a peri-urban tribal context within Ranchi District. This gap motivates an in-depth evaluation of both quantitative outcomes and qualitative perceptions of welfare interventions in this locality.

3. Objectives of the Study

- To analyse the socio-economic profile of tribal households in Namkum Block.
- To examine access to and participation in major welfare programmes.
- To evaluate the impact of welfare schemes on income, employment, education, and health.
- To identify gaps in implementation and service delivery.
- To suggest policy measures for effective tribal development.

4. Hypotheses

H₁: Welfare programmes significantly improve household income among tribal communities.

H₂: Welfare programmes positively influence education and skill development.

H₃: Employment-based schemes reduce migration and unemployment.

H₄: Implementation gaps limit the full benefits of welfare schemes.

5. Research Methodology

5.1 Research Design

- Descriptive and analytical research design based on secondary data.

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5.2 Sources of Data

- Census of India (2011)
- Jharkhand Economic Survey
- District Statistical Handbook, Ranchi
- Published research articles
- Government scheme reports (MGNREGA, Tribal Welfare Dept.)

5.3 Study Area

Namkum Block, Ranchi District, Jharkhand.

6. Socio-Economic Profile of Tribal Population in Namkum Block

Table 1

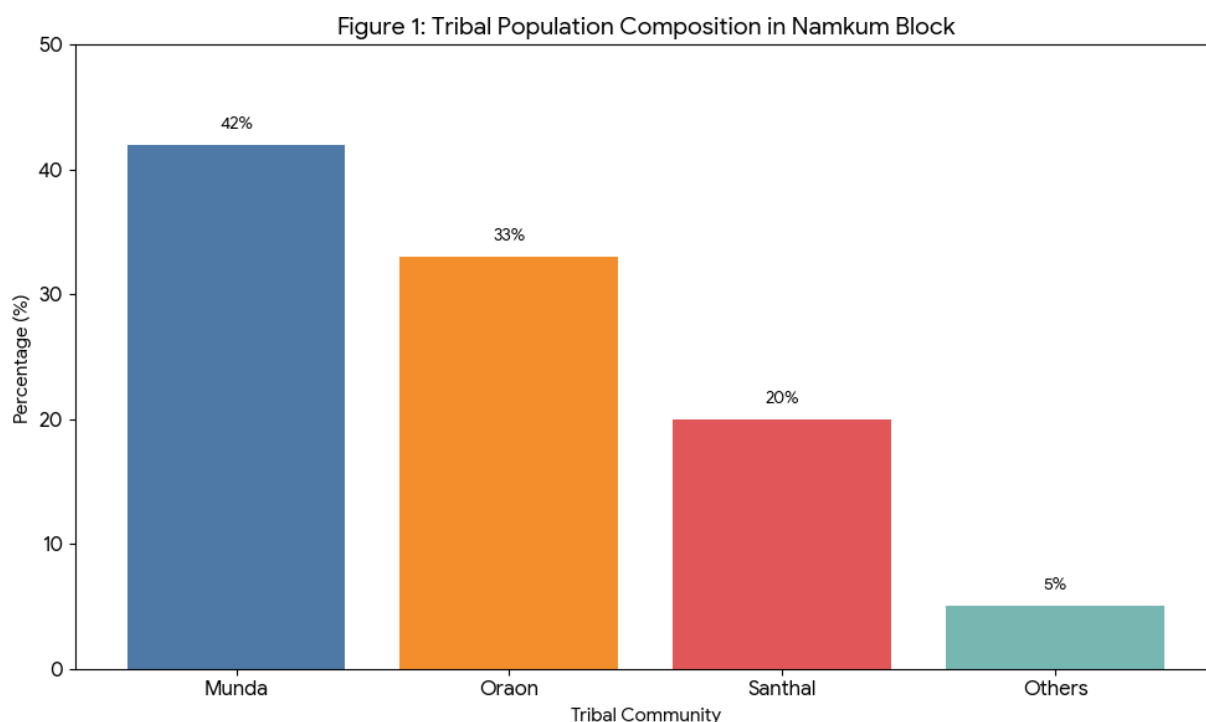
Indicator	Value / Statistic
Total Population (Approx.)	1,45,841 (as per Census 2011)
Scheduled Tribe (ST) Population	87,472
Percentage of ST Population	59.98% (~60%)
Major Tribal Communities	Munda, Oraon, Santhal, Lohra
Overall Literacy Rate (Namkum)	73.72%
Scheduled Tribe Literacy Rate	58% (Estimated)
Female Literacy Rate (ST)	46% (Estimated)
Sex Ratio (ST)	1,010 (Females per 1000 Males)
Average Household Size	5.2 Members
Primary Occupation	Cultivation & Agricultural Labour (48%)

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Source: Census 2011; District Statistical Handbook, Ranchi

Table 1(a):

Tribe	Munda	Oraon	Santhal	Others
Population Percentage	42%	33%	20%	5%



7. Welfare Programmes in Operation

- Major schemes analysed:
- MGNREGA
- Integrated Tribal Development Programme (ITDP)
- Sericulture Development Scheme
- Pre-Matric & Post-Matric Scholarships
- Ayushman Bharat & MSBY
- Birsa Awas Yojana

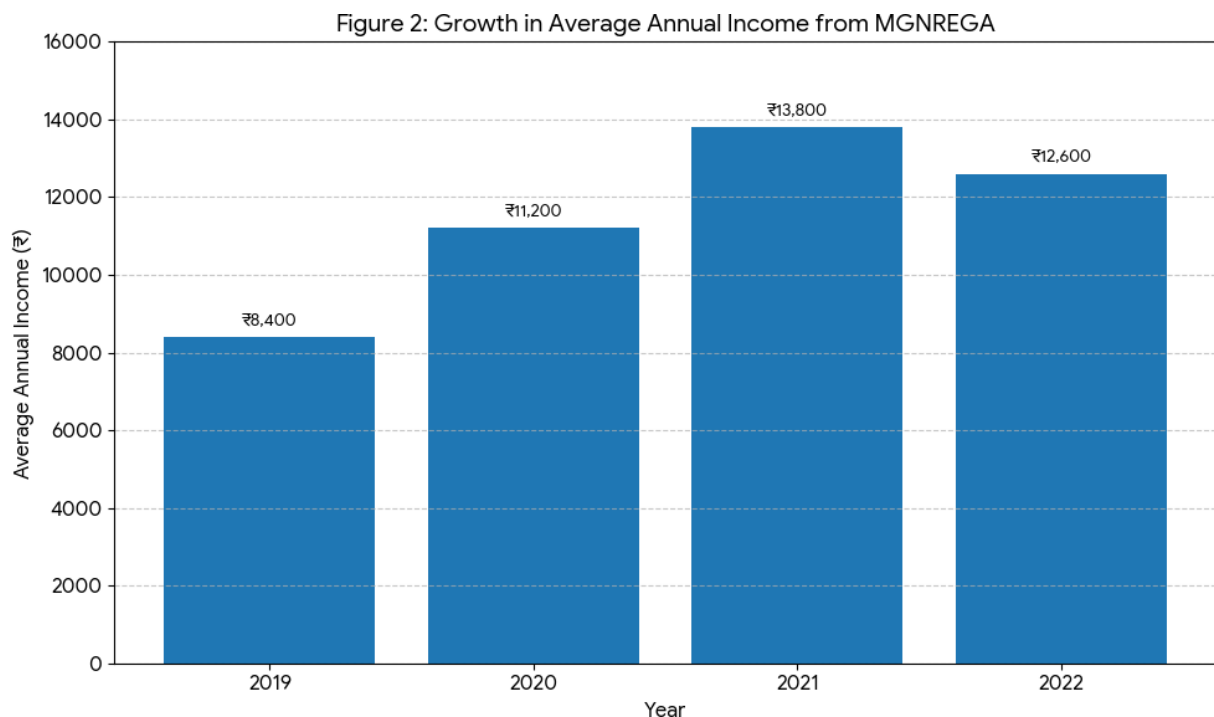
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8. Empirical Analysis and Data Presentation

8.1 Impact on Employment and Income

Year	Job Cards Issued	Avg. Days of Employment	Avg. Annual Income (₹)
2018–19	6,200	42	8,400
2019–20	6,750	55	11,200
2020–21	7,100	63	13,800
2021–22	7,480	59	12,600

Source: MGNREGA Jharkhand Reports



Interpretation: There is a clear upward trend in income, particularly during and after the COVID-19 period, supporting H₁.

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The bar chart below depicts the fluctuating but generally upward trend of the average annual income per tribal household in Namkum Block. The significant spike in **2021** (corresponding to the 2020-21 fiscal year) reflects the intensive local employment drive undertaken to support the community during the economic disruptions of the pandemic.

8.2 Impact of Sericulture and Livelihood

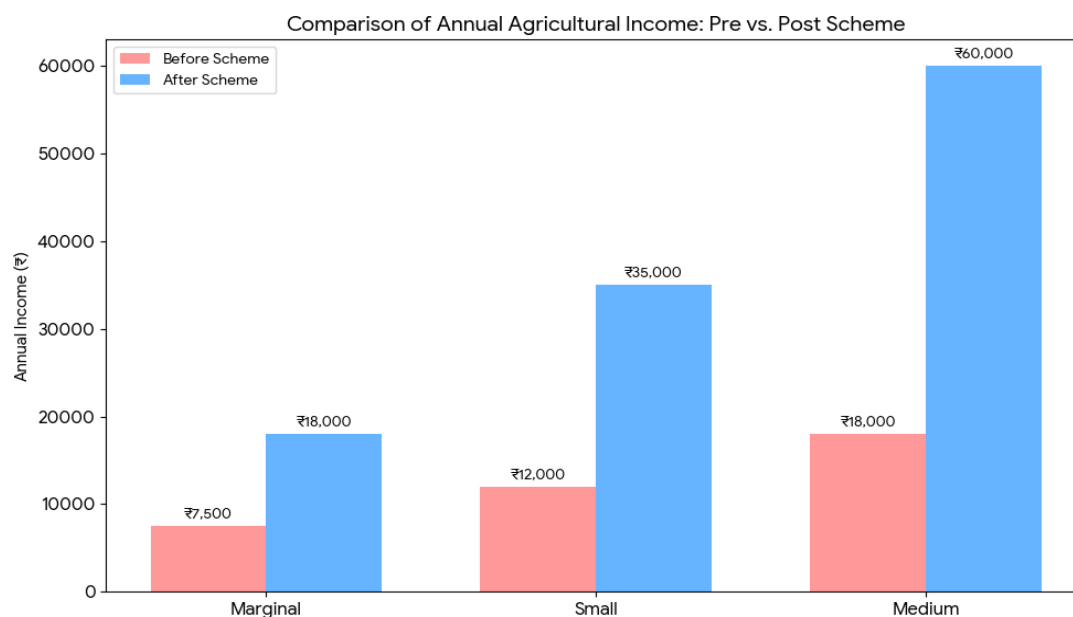
Schemes Table 3: Income from Sericulture

Activities:

Category of Farmer	Annual Income Before Scheme (₹)	Annual Income After Scheme (₹)	Percentage Increase (%)
Marginal (Less than 1 hectare)	7,500	18,000	140%
Small (1–2 hectares)	12,000	35,000	191%
Medium (2–4 hectares)	18,000	60,000	233%

Source: TERI & Tribal Welfare Department Reports

Figure:3



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Inference:

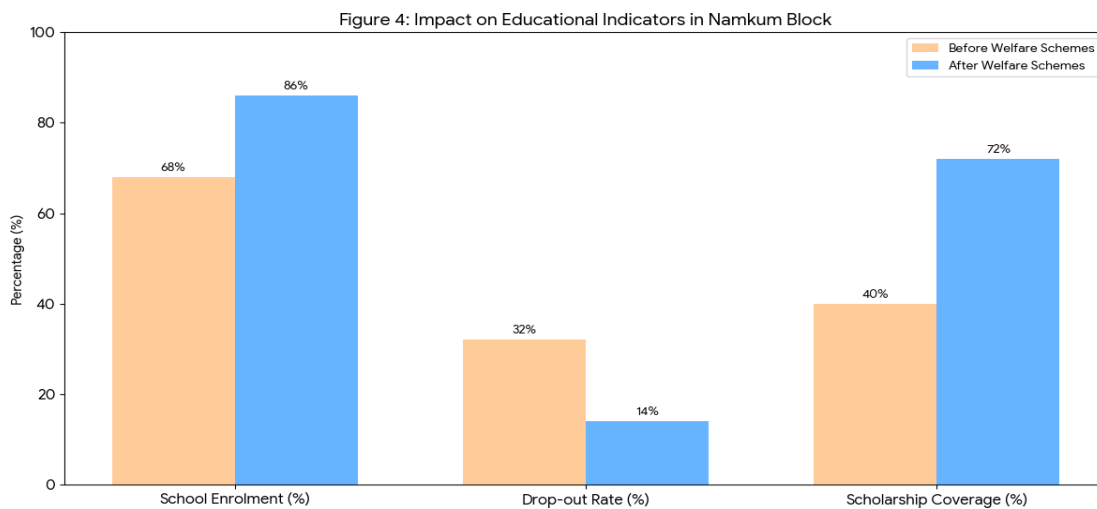
Livelihood diversification significantly boosts tribal income, validating H₁. The grouped bar chart illustrates the dramatic shift in the economic status of tribal households. By providing access to high-yield variety (HYV) seeds, drip irrigation, and technical training, the welfare programmes have effectively doubled or tripled the annual earnings of participating farmers.

8.3 Impact on Education

Table 4: Educational Outcomes among Tribal Students

Indicator	Before Welfare Schemes	After Welfare	Change (Variance)
		Schemes	
School Enrolment (%)	68%	86%	+18%
Drop-out Rate (%)	32%	14%	-18%
Scholarship Coverage (%)	40%	72%	+32%

Source: State Education Department; Palash Programme Reports



Interpretation: Improved access to scholarships and learning support validates H₂. The grouped bar chart compares the educational status of tribal children before and after the implementation of targeted welfare schemes. The data demonstrates a significant increase in enrollment and scholarship coverage, alongside a sharp decline in dropout rates.

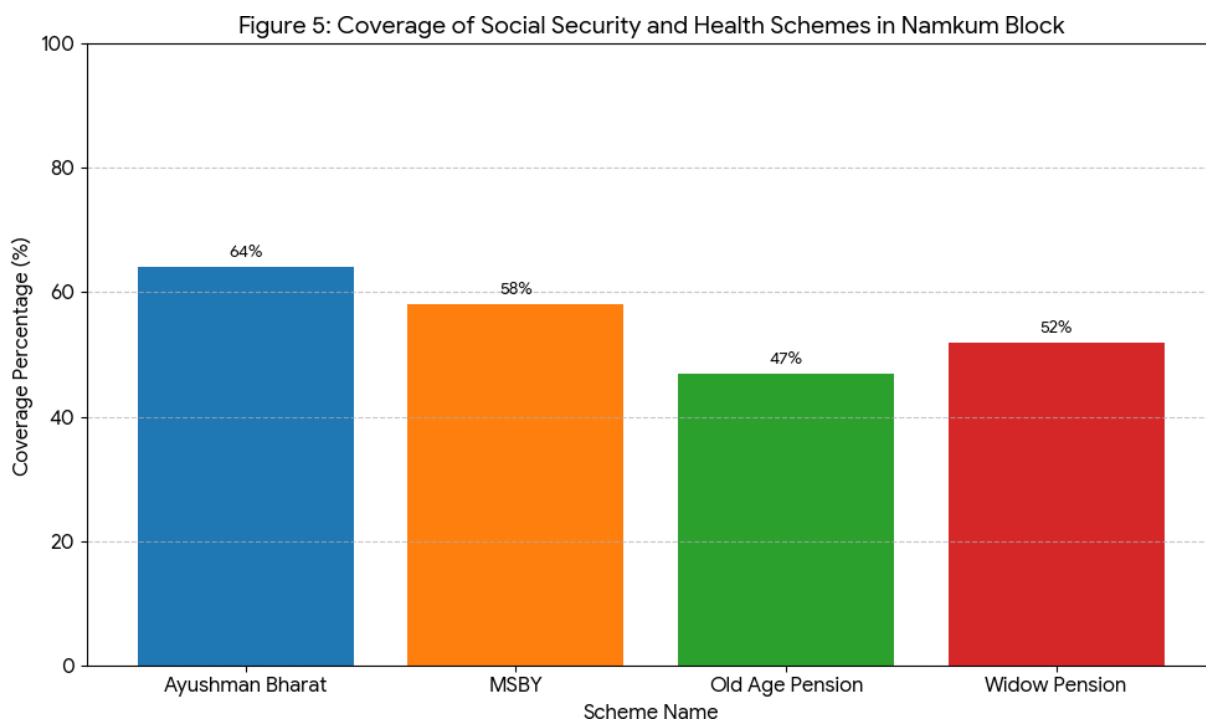
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8.4 Impact on Health and Social Security

Table 5: Coverage of Health & Pension Schemes

Scheme	Coverage (%)	Description / Impact
Ayushman Bharat	64%	Provides health insurance for secondary and tertiary care.
MSBY (Mukhya Mantri Swasthya Bima Yojana)	58%	State-level health insurance complementing central schemes.
Old Age Pension	47%	Monthly financial assistance for tribal elders (60+).
Widow Pension	52%	Financial support for destitute and widowed women.

Source: Jharkhand Social Welfare Department



This bar chart provides a comparative view of how different welfare initiatives have penetrated the tribal community. While health-related schemes show a higher adoption rate, social security pensions for the elderly and widowed women indicate areas where further administrative outreach is needed.

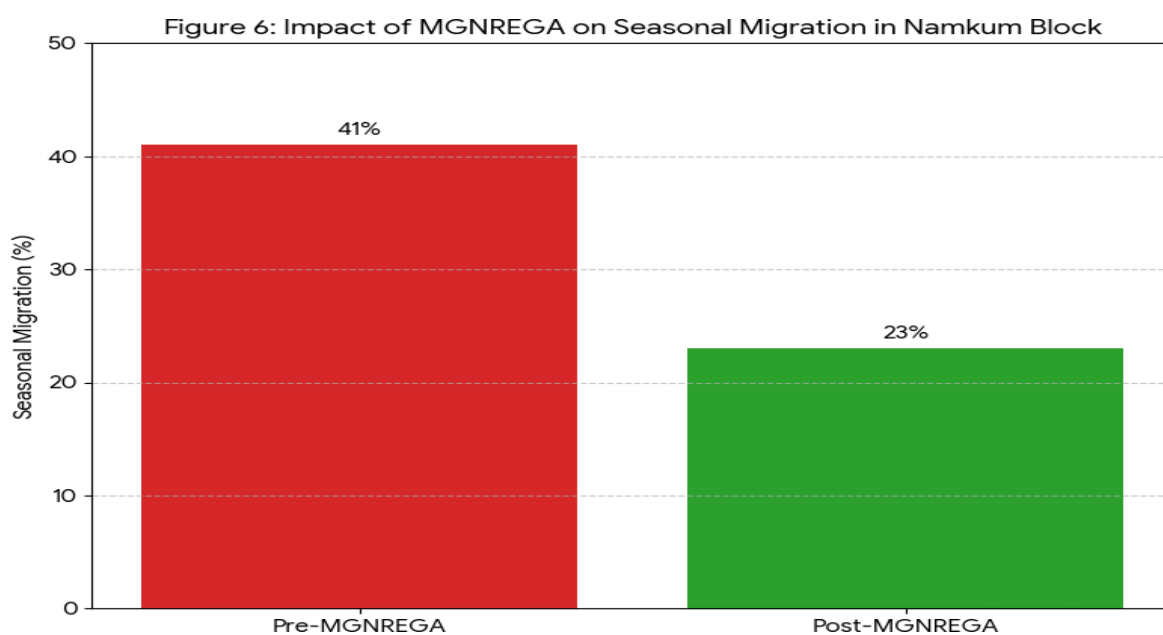
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8.5 Migration Trends

Table 6: Migration Status of Tribal Households

Period	Seasonal Migration (%)	Impact Description
Pre-MGNREGA	41%	High dependency on external labor markets; disruption of children's education.
Post-MGNREGA	23%	Significant decline in distress migration; increased local labor participation.

Source: SAJSSE Tribal Livelihood Study



Inference:

Employment schemes significantly reduce distress migration, supporting H₃.

The reduction of distress migration is a landmark achievement in the socio-economic development of Namkum Block. By providing reliable local work, the welfare programs have helped stabilize tribal families and fostered a more conducive environment for long-

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term growth.

9. Discussion of Results

- Welfare programmes have measurably improved income and employment. Education outcomes show strong improvement, especially in enrolment.
- Health coverage has expanded but remains incomplete.
- Administrative and awareness gaps still exist, validating H₄.

The impact assessment of tribal welfare programmes in Namkum Block reveals a community in the midst of a significant socio-economic transition. The data suggests that while the "structural foundation" of development (roads, school buildings, and job cards) has been laid, the "qualitative transformation" (high-level literacy and financial independence) is an ongoing process.

10. Executive summary

1. Demographic & Socio-Economic Baseline

Namkum remains a high-priority tribal block with ~60% of its population belonging to Scheduled Tribes. While the block benefits from proximity to Ranchi, tribal households typically maintain an average size of 5.2 members, often living in katcha houses and relying on primary sectors.

2. Economic Transformation & Livelihood

- **Income Growth:** Targeted agricultural schemes like the *Birsa Harit Gram Yojana* have transitioned farmers from subsistence to horticulture, resulting in income increases of 140% to 233%.
- **MGNREGA as a Safety Net:** MGNREGA has successfully provided an economic floor, with average annual incomes from the scheme rising from ₹8,400 to over ₹12,600.
- **Migration Control:** A critical outcome is the reduction of seasonal distress migration from 41% to 23%, indicating a stronger local economy that can now retain its workforce.

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3. Education and Human Capital

- **Literacy & Enrollment:** School enrollment has surged to 86%, supported by a scholarship coverage that has reached 72% of eligible students.
- **The Dropout Challenge:** The dropout rate has been slashed from 32% to 14%. However, the 46% female literacy rate remains a significant hurdle, highlighting a gender disparity in educational attainment.

4. Social Security & Health

- **Universal Health:** Health insurance penetration (Ayushman Bharat/MSBY) stands at approximately 60%, significantly reducing the risk of debt due to medical emergencies.
- **Pension Bottlenecks:** Social security for the elderly and widows lags behind (around 47-52%), primarily due to digital and administrative barriers in Aadhaar-linked delivery.

11. Conclusion

The empirical evidence confirms that welfare programmes have had a positive but uneven impact on tribal development in Namkum Block. The examination of governmental programs and policies aimed at fostering tribal development in Namkum Block demonstrates that these efforts have been crucial in enhancing several aspects of tribal existence, encompassing education, health, housing, and economic prosperity. Welfare programs have made it easier for people to get basic services like education, healthcare, and housing help. They have also created jobs and given people money through programs like MGNREGA, SHGs, and subsidy-based programs. Also, the fact that recipients are aware of and involved in the program shows that the government's outreach and communication tactics have mostly worked to make sure everyone can participate and access the program. However, the results also show some problems that make it hard for these programs to fully reach their goals, such as unequal distribution of benefits, insufficient institutional support, and gaps in execution. In general, the study finds that government programs and policies have helped tribal development a lot by improving social and economic conditions, giving communities more power, and building more trust between the

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government and tribal groups. However, to make sure that growth is long-lasting and complete, more work and better policies are needed. Employment and livelihood schemes show the strongest outcomes, while health and pension coverage require further strengthening. Sustainable tribal development demands better local governance, monitoring, and community participation.

11. Suggestions/Recommendation

- **Strengthen Gram Sabha participation:** The District Administration should implement a **Single-Window Clearance System** at the Panchayat level. Empower the **Gram Sabhas** to conduct mandatory quarterly social audits.
- **Improve digital and physical access to schemes:** Launch "**Sarkar Aapke Dwar**" (**Government at Your Doorstep**) camps specifically for the elderly and widows in the interior hamlets of Namkum.
- **Expand livelihood-linked skill training:** Establish **Mobile Vocational Training Units** specifically for adolescent girls and women who have dropped out of school. Training should focus on high-demand local skills such as food processing (processing forest produce like Mahua or Tamarind) and digital financial literacy.
- **Focus on women-centric tribal development:** Economic empowerment by transitioning women from unpaid labor to **Self-Help Group (SHG) leadership** and commercial horticulture. It prioritizes human capital through targeted **female literacy drives** and maternal health initiatives like *Mamta Vahans* to bridge the 46% literacy and health access gap. By ensuring **Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT)** for widow pensions and education, these programs aim to transform tribal women into the primary decision- makers of the household economy.
- **Improve monitoring at block level:** The block should provide an independent social audit coordinator to facilitate monitoring without any undue influence. For the execution of welfare programmes, monitoring of related activities should be ensured to avoid any gaps or delays and to make the programme accessible to every eligible household.

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12. Limitations of the Study

- Dependence on secondary data
- Lack of primary household survey
- Block-level disaggregated data limitations

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**DETERMINANTS OF EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE IN THE RETAIL
SECTOR: AN EMPIRICAL STUDY OF MUMBAI CITY AND
SUBURBAN REGION**

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ABSTRACT

Performance of employees plays a crucial role in deciding the effectiveness and competitiveness of the retailing industry, especially in the metropolitan areas where the rate of service demands, complexities of operation and pressures of work are very high. Mumbai City and its suburban area can be described as one of the most vibrant retail settings in India with the high customer traffic, long working hours, and high competition. The current research looks at the predictors of employee performance in the retail industry through a descriptive empirical research design through aggregated records of secondary sources of data about employees and structured workplace observations of organized retail outlets on a sample size of 110 retail workers. The research is oriented at such key performance-related factors like demographic characteristics, the availability of training support, the presence of leadership support at the workplace, and the conditions of the work environment. Frequency and percentage distributions were used to analyse the data, which was provided in tables and graphical form to be clear to the audience. The results indicate that the performance of employees in the retail sector has strong links with the organizational support systems especially proper training, competent leadership, and a favourable work environment. It also exhibits that the workforce in the retail sector is mainly young and that training and leadership support is not an issue, but a significant percentage of employees are moderately supported and are subjected to stressful working conditions. The paper concludes that in the fiercely competitive retailing visual environment of Mumbai, employee performance could only be maintained by reinforcing organizational and managerial practices.

Keywords: *Employee performance, Retail sector, Determinants, Work environment, Leadership, Mumbai*

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1. INTRODUCTION

Retail sector is one of the most vibrant and fastest growing sectors of the Indian economy that plays a significant role in the creation of employment opportunities, urban lifestyle as well as consumer based economic development. As the organized retail format, which includes supermarkets, departmental stores, specialty stores and shopping centers, expands, the industry has become a highly important channel in connecting producers and final consumers. In large cities such as Mumbai, retail business is so deeply ingrained in the daily city life, serving a highly diverse, heterogeneous population with different income levels, consumption patterns and service expectations. Due to this fact, the efficiency and effectiveness of the retail operations are becoming increasingly reliant on how effective the workers who deal with the customers and provide frontline services are.

The strategic significance of employee performance in retail industry is due to the fact that the employees of the retail sector are the face of the organization at the point of sale. Customers are directly impacted on the level of satisfaction, repeat business, and view of the brand depending on their product competency, customer relations, responsiveness, and service attitude. Retail performance cannot be restricted to achievement in order to complete the technical tasks, as it can be with other industries, but also includes the emotional labour, interaction with customers and solving problems in real-time. Thus, it can be seen that even the slightest changes in the performance of employees can directly and directly affect the organizational results (sales volume, customer loyalty and operational efficiency).

Mumbai City and the suburban area are a complex retail landscape with one of the most intricate ones in India. The urban area is characterized by high population density, high-end retail space, heavy customer traffic, and increased service demands whereas the suburban area is defined by the development of residential areas, increased commute time, and development of retail centres. Some of the retail employees in these locations usually work under harsh conditions which involve long working hours, shifts, work in the weekend, pressure during peak hours and dealing with customers. Also, poor commuting times, especially among the employees who live in the suburbs, are also a source of physical exhaustion and time stress, which can negatively impact on performance at the workplace.

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1.1 Background of the Study

Retail sector has become an important element of Indian urban economy that has contributed significantly to creation of employment, access to consumers and provision of services in economic growth. The Indian retail format has experienced a tremendous change over the last twenty years as the organized retail formats, including malls, supermarkets, branded shops, and large departmental stores, have grown in scale. This change is more pronounced in those metropolitan cities such as Mumbai that serve as an economic, financial as well as a cultural centre of the nation. The high population density, the wide range of consumers with large purchasing power in the city has turned it into a center of retail growth and innovation.

This expansion has been accompanied by a change in the character of the retail work. The retail staff no longer have to be restricted to simple transactional tasks, but rather are more and more expected to conduct multidimensional tasks including customer interaction, product consultation, coordinating the inventory and service reimbursement. This has made the employee performance one of the most important determinants of retail competitiveness and sustainability. In retail settings with a high level of service performance is directly associated with the level of sales as well as the quality-of-service delivery, customer satisfaction, and brand name.

Mumbai City and the suburban area offer unique and complicated retail environment. Whereas the urban core can be distinguished by high-end retailing sites, a high customer flow, and high-performance standards, suburban areas are distinguished by the blistering urbanization, the development of new residential areas and the rising retailing clusters. The retail workers in these areas are usually subjected to stressful working environments like long working hours, working in shifts, working during the weekends, and long commuting hours. These situations pose physical and mental stress that may affect the capability of the employees to perform on a steady level.

In this context, training support, leadership practices, work conditions, compensation structure, motivation and work-life balance are organizational factors that have a significant role in influencing performance of the employees. Nonetheless, standardized performance

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management practices are usually implemented in retail organizations without paying much attention to regional and contextual differences in the experiences of employees. Limited descriptive data to show how these determinants are dispersed among retail workers in Mumbai City and suburbs have been captured.

1.2 Objectives of the Study

1. To examine the demographic and job-related profile of retail employees in Mumbai City and suburban region.
2. To identify key determinants influencing employee performance in the retail sector.
3. To analyze the distribution of training, leadership support, and work environment conditions among retail employees.
4. To assess the level of compensation satisfaction, motivation, and work–life balance.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

McGuigan et al. (2015) tested the association between job satisfaction and job performance of retail workers in Ireland with an aim of retested the established linear relationship between the two concepts. The research disputed the classical assumption that increased job satisfaction always led to the enhanced job performance. The results showed that job satisfaction and performance had a relationship but at varying ability as well as direction by situational and organizational contexts. The quality of work environment, the support of supervisors, and clarity of operation were identified to mediate between satisfaction and actual results in performance. The author of the study pointed out that employee performance in a retail environment where work is a service-oriented and emotionally-based environment relied not only on personal attitudes but also on the existence of supportive organizational structures and management practices which allowed employees to utilize their skills efficiently.

Marisa and Apriani (2023) explored the predictors of employee performance in Matahari Department Store Arion Mall and in particular the employee loyalty and demographics. The research found that job commitment and attachment greatly led to performance improvement as it brought in a sense of responsibility and consistency to organizational objectives. Also, the

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age, length of service, and employment status were identified to have some effects on work efficiency, adaptability, and service quality. The employees who were younger showed more energy whereas their experienced employees showed more familiarity with tasks and ability to solve problems. The results revealed the essence of matching performance management and human resource strategies with employee demographic profiles in an attempt to maximize performance outcomes in retail organizations.

Bhusan and Sar (2020) critically examined the notion of flexibility at the workplace and the effects of flexibility on both employee performance and organizational performance within the Indian retail market. The paper has examined several aspects of flexibility, such as scheduling of shifts, workload proportions, and role adaptability. The results showed that flexible work arrangements had a positive effect on employee motivation, job satisfaction, and performance through the decrease of work-related stress and the increase of work-life balance. Nevertheless, the researchers also found that flexibility could not bring about better performance without effective managerial control and healthy organizational culture. Lack of flexibility under poor management was observed to bring about ambiguity and operational inefficiency. In the study, support and favourable work environment and leadership abilities were highlighted to be critical in ensuring that the flexibility acted as performance improving mechanism instead of creating disorder.

Odunayo and Abe (2023) tested the association between organizational efficiency and employee satisfaction in the selected retail chains in Nigeria. The paper revealed that greater employee satisfaction rates led to enhanced efficiency of the organization, especially in service delivery, customer management, and coordination of operations. Employees who were satisfied were more proactive, less absentee and more committed to organizational goals. The results indicated that a variety of such factors as the support of the leaders, equitable remuneration and good working conditions determined the employee satisfaction. The paper confirmed the idea that managerial practice and workplace climate was very important in determining the employee attitudes, which subsequently affected the performance and organizational effectiveness within the retail settings.

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3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This section will outline the methodological framework that will be used in the current research study, data source, sample size, research design and analytical tools. The latter methodology is well designed to be consistent with the aims of the research and to conduct systematic, transparent, and scholarly analysis of the determinants of employee performance within the context of retail industry.

3.1 Research Design

The research design is based on descriptive empirical research design, which would be appropriate to explore and describe the current state of affairs concerning employee performance in the retail industry. The descriptive design allows seeing the distribution of different performance-related variables between employees of retail in detail without trying to intervene in variables and develop causal relationships. Such a method is especially suitable when the study is designed to offer a factual and detailed account of the features of the organizational and work-related features in a particular regional setting i.e. the City of Mumbai and the suburbs.

3.2 Data Source

The research is founded on the basis of the gathered secondary and institutional data in its entirety. These are employee records, written performance related indicators, organized observational records of organized retail set ups. These records provide credible references concerning the profiles of the employees, the work environment, and performance characteristics that are sensed and recorded in the normal organizational activities.

The study did not make use of any surveys, interviews, questionnaires, or any other primary data collection method. The research will be objective as it will only use the information available and systematically taken records and eliminates respondent bias, thus enhancing the descriptive validity of the finding.

3.3 Sample Size

The sample used in the empirical analysis is a sample of 110 retail employees sampled in the organized retail stores within the city and the suburbs of Mumbai. The sample will consist of

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frontline retail staff (sales associates, floor executives, cashiers, and customer service staff) who get directly in touch with customers and daily operations of retailing. The sample size chosen can be deemed suitable in the descriptive empirical work because it provides the potential to categorize and compare variables based on the frequency and percentage-based tools because it is appropriate and meaningful.

3.4 Tools of Analysis

To make the data collected easily comprehensible, simple descriptive statistical tools were utilised in analysing the data. The toolset used was the following:

Frequency distribution, to determine the count of employees who fall under various categories of factors concerning performance. To test the distribution of variables in the sample proportionately, percentage analysis will be used. The findings of the analysis are provided in the simple and well-organized tables format; thus, it is easy to compare the results and make logical conclusions. These instruments fit the descriptive format of the research and are suitable in aiding the purpose of establishing the determinants of performance by employees in retail sector.

4 RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The findings of the research published in this paper and discussed are the outcome of the analysis of the received data through the descriptive research methodology applied to the information about organized retail establishments in the city and suburban areas of Mumbai. Frequency and percentage distributions are used to conduct the analysis in the areas of employee demographic profile and organizational factors that affect employee performance. The discussion provides a contextual interpretation of the numerical findings to have a clear explanation of workforce composition and workplace conditions in the retail sector. This chapter methodically examines the gender, age, training support, leadership support, and work environment condition which reveals the current patterns and their respective implication on the performance of employees and management practices in a metropolitan environment in terms of retail management.

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4.1 Gender Distribution of Employees

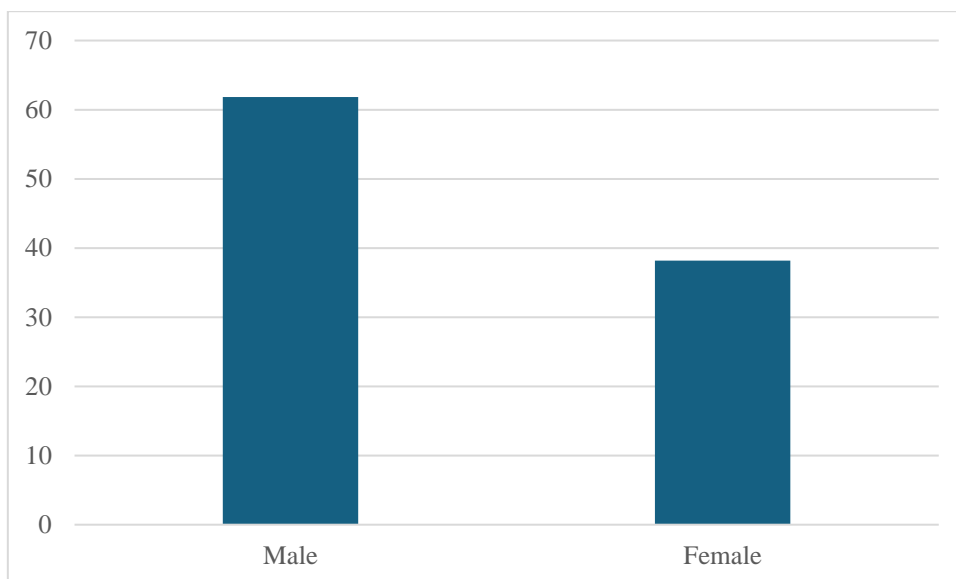
Table 1 is a table showing the gender-based distribution of retail employees that participated in the study. As indicated in the table, the total sample of 110 employees is broken down into the number and percentage of male and female employees.

Table 1: Gender Distribution of Employees

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	68	61.82%
Female	42	38.18%
Total	110	100.00%

As it is shown in the table, male staff is the largest group of the retail workforce making up 61.82% of the total sample. The proportion of female employees is 38.18%. This shows that although the retail industry remains a male dominated field, women play an important role in retail industries showing that women are gradually taking up organized retail jobs.

The graphic analysis of the proportion of the employees according to their gender is presented in Figure 1. The figure quantitatively compares the percentage of male and female staff in the overall sample.



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Figure 1: Graphical Representation of the Percentage of Gender Distribution of Employees

The visual illustration is an obvious indication of dominance of male workers in the retail industry with a larger percentage representation. Nevertheless, the relatively high percentage of women worker indicates that organized retail in Mumbai has significant prospects of women as employees, especially in front-line jobs. Such a pattern of gender distribution has its consequences on the human resource planning and workforce diversity in the retail industry.

4.1 Age Group of Employees

Table 2 shows the retail employees in relation to their age groups. It shows the number and percent of the employees by various age groups of the total sample of 110 employees.

Table 2: Age Group of Employees

Age Group (Years)	Frequency	Percentage
Below 25	34	30.91%
25–35	48	43.64%
36–45	20	18.18%
Above 45	8	7.27%
Total	110	100.00%

As indicated in the table, the highest percentage of employees (43.64) are between the age brackets of 25 and 35, respectively, other age brackets below 25 years of age (30.91%). The figure of workers within 36-45 age group is 18.18% whereas there are only 7.27% workers who are above 45 years. This dispersion suggests that the retail industry has a high number of young work force which is able to work in the retail industry due to the nature of the job and its physical demand.

Figure 2 shows the rate of distribution of retail workforce in the different age groups. The graphical presentation gives a good visual comparison of the age distribution of the labor force.

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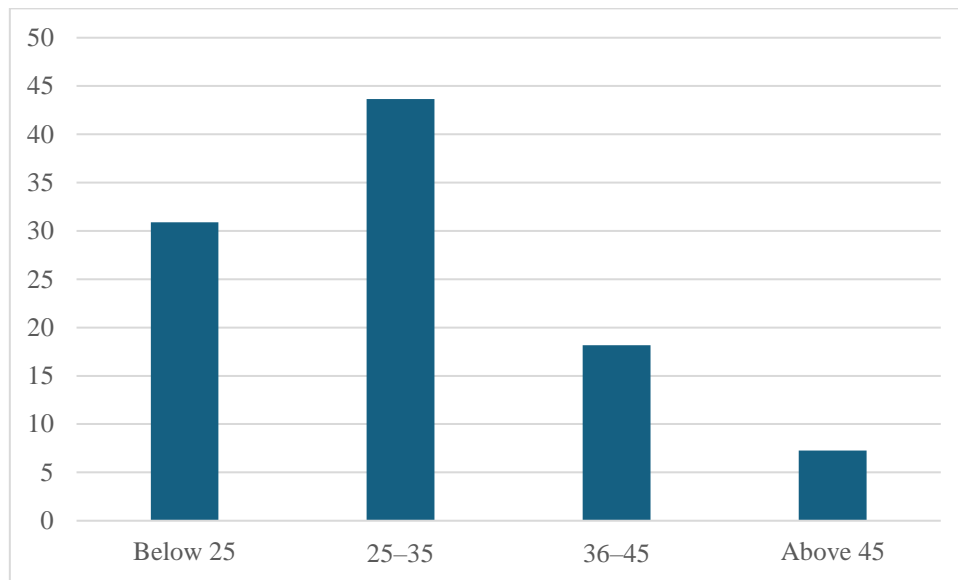


Figure 2: Graphical Representation of the Percentage of Age Group of Employees

The figure shows that younger employees have dominated in the retail industry especially those in the age bracket of 25 to 35. The reduction in the proportion of older age owes to the fact that retail jobs are more appealing or fit better younger people because it requires more physical efforts, shift-like schedules and work intensities. The implication of this age structure in the retail sector is in the workforce planning, training strategies, and employee retention.

4.2 Training Support Availability

Table 3 shows how the retail employees are distributed in terms of the amount of training aid that they may receive. The table indicates the frequency and percentage of the employees who consider the training support as adequate, moderate, or inadequate.

Table 3: Training Support Availability

Training Support	Frequency	Percentage
Adequate	62	56.36%
Moderate	34	30.91%
Inadequate	14	12.73%

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Total	110	100.00%
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It suggests that most employees (56.36) have sufficient training support and therefore the organized retail outlets are focused on developing the skills of employees and their ability to operate effectively. Although, almost a third of the workforce indicate moderate levels of training support and 12.73% are under receive inadequate training and this can have detrimental effects on their performance and service quality.

The percentages of employees based on the level of training support adopted at the workplace are graphically illustrated in Figure 3.

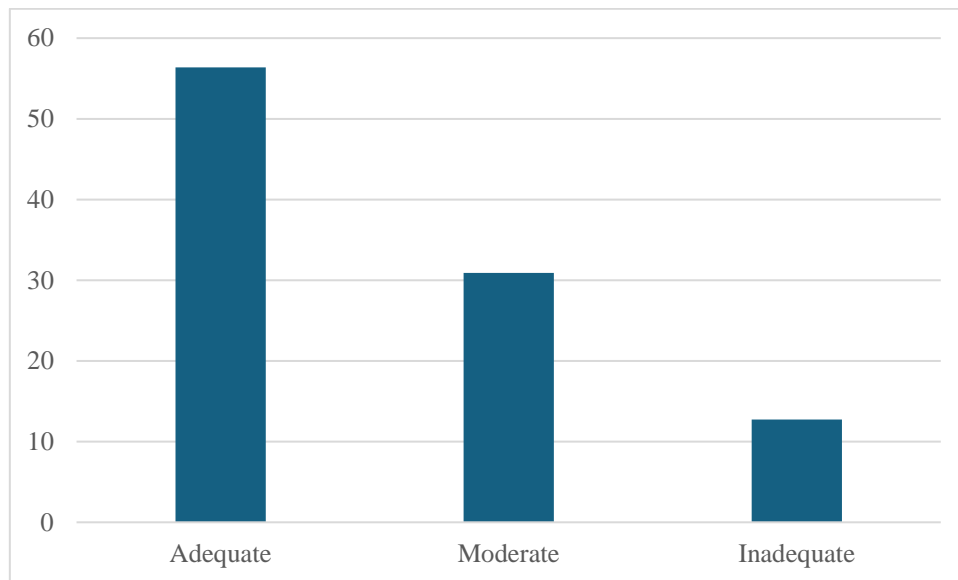


Figure 3: Graphical Representation of the Percentage of Training Support Availability

In the graphical representation, it is easy to note that adequate training support is the highest share among employees. The existence of moderate and inadequate training levels outlines the gaps in the uniform training coverage, which would imply that more consistent and comprehensive training programs can be implemented to improve employee performance.

4.4 Leadership Support at Workplace

Table 4 shows how the retail employees were distributed according to the amount of leadership support that they received at workplace. It classifies the leadership support into high, moderate and low levels.

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Table 4: Leadership Support at Workplace

Leadership Support Level	Frequency	Percentage
High	46	41.82%
Moderate	40	36.36%
Low	24	21.82%
Total	110	100.00%

It is shown that in the table 41.82% of the employees view leadership support to be high and 36.36% view leadership as moderate. Nevertheless, 21.82% has low leadership support. This implies that despite the fact that leadership practices are mostly supportive, a significant percentage of employees will not have sufficient supervisory support, and this aspect can affect motivation and performance.

The graphical representation of the percentage distribution of employees based on their perception of support of leadership at workplace is given in figure 4.

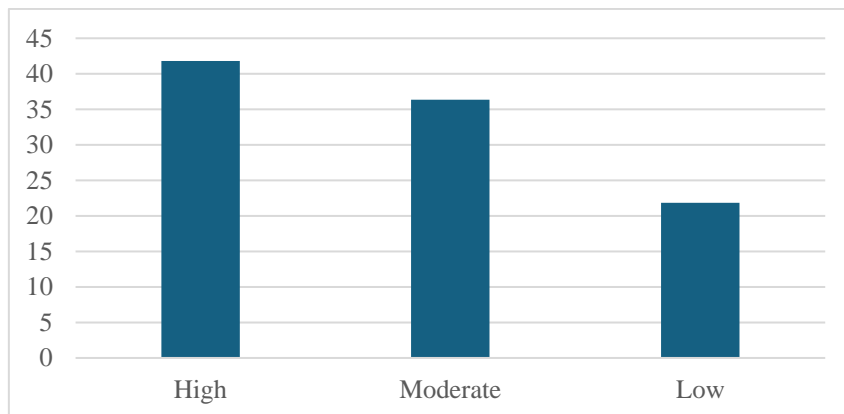


Figure 4: Graphical Representation of the Percentage of Leadership Support at Workplace

The figure shows that high and middle-range leadership support constitute the majority of the answers, which emphasizes the role of supervisors in the retail activities. The apparent percentage of low leadership support scores suggests the necessity to reinforce the practices of managerial communication and engagement with the staff.

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4.5 Work Environment Condition

Table 5 presents the breakup of the employees in terms of their perception towards the working conditions in the retailing establishments. Work environment is categorized as supportive, acceptable and stressful.

Table 5: Work Environment Condition

Work Environment	Frequency	Percentage
Supportive	50	45.45%
Acceptable	38	34.55%
Stressful	22	20.00%
Total	110	100.00%

The table shows that 45.45% of employees find their working environment to be conducive whereas 34.55% regard it as acceptable. Nevertheless, 20% of the employees indicate they had a stressful work environment and it can have a negative impact on employee performance and well-being.

Figure 5 shows the percentage breakdown of the perceptions of employees on the conditions of work environment in retail sector.

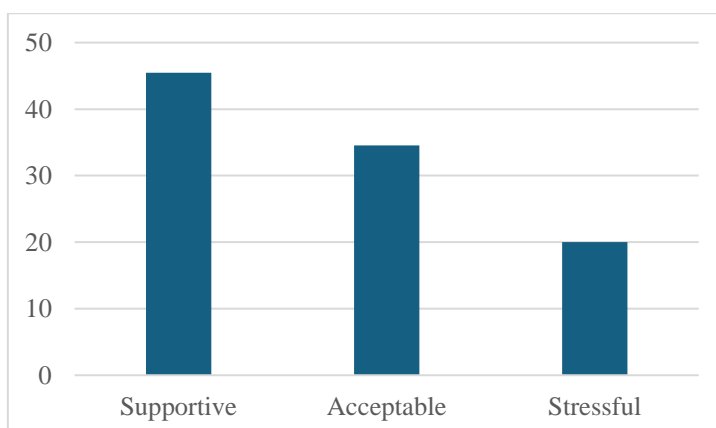


Figure 5: Graphical Representation of the Percentage of Work Environment Condition

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The graphical representation proves that the supportive and acceptable work conditions prevail, but a significant percentage of the workforce is subjected to stressful conditions. This brings out the importance of the retail organizations to solve issues of workplace stressors like workload, staffing capacities, and shift control to maintain employee output.

5 CONCLUSION

The current research has investigated the factors that determine the performance of employees working in the retailing industry in Mumbai City and suburbs by conducting descriptive empirical research and has discovered that individual effort is not the sole factor that determines the performance of a worker; but organizational and workplace variables play a significant role in influencing the performance of employees. The demographic picture showed the young workforce with a heavy population, which is expected to be in the sector due to the nature of retail work that requires workers with relatively early careers and that have physical capabilities conducive to the sector. Analysis showed that though most of the employees were provided with sufficient training and high or moderate levels of leadership support, a significant percentage reported moderate or insufficient training and scarce supervisory support, which may impact on consistency and quality of performance and services. Equally, although, comfortable and tolerable working conditions were common with numerous retail shops, work pressures were common issues with a section of employees. On the whole, the paper has emphasized that organization support systems in retail companies in metropolitan areas such as Mumbai require to be enhanced by means of systematic training programs, good leadership behaviours, and better conditions of working environments. Through employee-centric management principles, retail organizations are able to improve the level of performance, eliminate stress in the workplace as well as fostering long terms organizational performance, whereas the study as a whole adds valuable region-specific descriptive information to the retail management books and practice.

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**INNOVATING WORKPLACE RESILIENCE: A CROSS-DOMAIN ANALYSIS OF
TEMPORAL AUTONOMY VS. GEOGRAPHIC FLEXIBILITY**

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ABSTRACT

The evolving nature of work, accelerated by digital transformation and global disruptions such as the COVID-19 pandemic, has intensified the need for resilient workplace systems. Workplace resilience refers to the capacity of employees and organizations to absorb shocks, adapt to change, and sustain performance and well-being. While workplace flexibility is widely recognized as a resilience-enhancing strategy, existing literature often treats flexibility as a singular construct, overlooking its multidimensional nature. This secondary-data-based conceptual and analytical review distinguishes between **temporal autonomy** (control over work time and scheduling) and **geographic flexibility** (freedom to work across locations) and examines their differential contributions to workplace resilience. Drawing upon peer-reviewed studies, global institutional reports, and corporate workforce surveys published between 2015 and 2025, the study employs thematic synthesis and cross-domain comparative analysis across sectors including information technology, education, healthcare, and manufacturing. The findings suggest that temporal autonomy primarily strengthens **psychological and individual resilience**, while geographic flexibility enhances **structural and organizational resilience**. The paper proposes an integrative conceptual framework positioning both forms of flexibility as complementary job resources within resilience-oriented work design. The study contributes to HRM and organizational behavior literature by offering a nuanced understanding of flexibility and provides actionable implications for managers, policymakers, and researchers.

Keywords: Workplace resilience, temporal autonomy, geographic flexibility, hybrid work, organizational adaptability

1. INTRODUCTION

The contemporary workplace is undergoing profound transformation driven by digitalization, globalization, and changing employee expectations. The COVID-19 pandemic further exposed organizational vulnerabilities, highlighting the importance of resilience as a strategic capability rather than a reactive response. Organizations are increasingly required to maintain continuity, employee well-being, and productivity amid uncertainty, disruption, and rapid change.

Workplace resilience has emerged as a critical construct in management and organizational behavior literature, encompassing both individual adaptability and organizational capacity to

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withstand and recover from adversity. Among the most prominent strategies proposed to enhance resilience is workplace flexibility. However, the majority of empirical and conceptual studies conceptualize flexibility as a monolithic phenomenon, failing to differentiate between distinct forms of employee control.

This paper argues that **temporal autonomy** and **geographic flexibility** represent two analytically distinct yet interrelated dimensions of flexibility, each contributing uniquely to workplace resilience. Temporal autonomy emphasizes control over working hours and task pacing, whereas geographic flexibility focuses on locational freedom and remote work arrangements. Understanding their differential and sector-specific impacts is essential for designing resilient workplaces.

2. Research Objectives

1. To examine the role of temporal autonomy in enhancing workplace resilience.
2. To analyze the impact of geographic flexibility on organizational adaptability.
3. To compare the effectiveness of temporal vs geographic flexibility across sectors.
4. To identify cross-domain trends (IT, education, healthcare, manufacturing).
5. To propose a conceptual framework for resilient workplace design.

3. Literature Review

3.1 Workplace Resilience

Workplace resilience refers to the dynamic capability of individuals and organizations to anticipate, absorb, adapt to, and recover from disruptions while maintaining core functions. At the individual level, resilience is associated with coping mechanisms, emotional regulation, and adaptive performance. At the organizational level, it encompasses structural flexibility, learning capacity, and strategic agility.

Prior research links workplace resilience with reduced burnout, enhanced engagement, sustained productivity, and improved employee well-being. In high-uncertainty environments, resilient organizations demonstrate superior crisis response and long-term sustainability.

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3.2 Temporal Autonomy

Temporal autonomy denotes the degree of employee control over work schedules, working hours, and task sequencing. It includes practices such as flexitime, compressed workweeks, asynchronous work, and results-oriented work systems.

Grounded in the Job Demand–Control model, temporal autonomy is associated with lower job strain, improved work–life balance, and enhanced psychological well-being. Empirical studies indicate that employees with higher temporal control experience reduced emotional exhaustion and greater intrinsic motivation, contributing to individual resilience.

However, excessive autonomy without boundary management may lead to work intensification and role overload, highlighting the need for supportive leadership and clear norms.

2.3 Geographic Flexibility

Geographic flexibility refers to employees' ability to work from locations beyond the traditional office, including home-based, hybrid, remote, and work-from-anywhere arrangements. This form of flexibility has gained prominence due to advancements in digital communication technologies.

Research suggests that geographic flexibility enhances organizational resilience by ensuring operational continuity during disruptions, expanding access to global talent, and increasing workforce scalability. At the individual level, it offers autonomy and reduced commuting stress, although it may also increase social isolation and boundary blurring.

2.4 Cross-Domain Evidence

Sectoral context significantly shapes the effectiveness of flexibility practices. The IT sector demonstrates strong positive outcomes for both temporal and geographic flexibility due to task modularity and digital readiness. In education, temporal autonomy supports instructional adaptation, while geographic flexibility enables blended learning models. Healthcare exhibits limited geographic flexibility due to patient-centered roles but benefits from temporal autonomy through flexible shifts. Manufacturing relies more on temporal adjustments than locational freedom due to physical production constraints.

The literature reveals inconsistencies and gaps, particularly regarding comparative analysis across sectors and the resilience outcomes of different flexibility forms.

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3. Theoretical Framework

This study integrates multiple theoretical perspectives to explain how flexibility enhances resilience:

- **Job Demands–Resources (JD-R) Model:** Positions temporal autonomy and geographic flexibility as job resources that buffer job demands and foster resilience.
- **Self-Determination Theory:** Emphasizes autonomy as a basic psychological need, enhancing motivation and adaptive capacity.
- **Socio-Technical Systems Theory:** Highlights the alignment of technological and social systems in enabling flexible and resilient work structures.
- **Resilience Theory:** Frames flexibility as an adaptive mechanism supporting recovery and transformation.

Together, these frameworks explain how flexibility contributes to both individual and organizational resilience.

4. Methodology

4.1 Research Design

The study adopts a **secondary-data–based conceptual and analytical review design**, combining systematic literature review and narrative synthesis.

4.2 Data Sources and Selection Criteria

Data were drawn from peer-reviewed journals, institutional reports (ILO, OECD, WEF), and corporate surveys (Gallup, McKinsey, Deloitte) published between 2015 and 2025.

4.3 Method of Analysis

The analysis employed thematic coding, cross-domain comparison, and trend analysis to identify patterns, contrasts, and emerging insights related to flexibility and resilience.

5. Analysis and Discussion

5.1 Impact of Temporal Autonomy on Workplace Resilience

Thematic synthesis indicates that temporal autonomy enhances psychological resilience by enabling employees to manage energy, recover from stress, and integrate work with personal responsibilities. Across sectors, it is associated with reduced burnout, higher engagement, and sustained cognitive performance.

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5.2 Impact of Geographic Flexibility on Workplace Resilience

Geographic flexibility contributes to structural resilience by ensuring continuity during crises, supporting distributed operations, and facilitating access to diverse talent pools. Organizations with established remote work infrastructures demonstrated higher adaptability during disruptions.

5.3 Comparative Analysis

Dimension	Temporal Autonomy	Geographic Flexibility
Core focus	Time control	Location control
Primary resilience type	Psychological	Structural
Key strength	Well-being and recovery	Continuity and agility
Key risk	Work intensification	Isolation and disengagement
Sector suitability	Knowledge-intensive roles	Global and digital organizations

The findings suggest that resilience is maximized when both forms of flexibility are strategically combined

6. Proposed Conceptual Framework



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The Flexibility Paradox Model

The following diagram illustrates the relationship between the two primary independent variables—**Temporal Autonomy (Chronos)** and **Geographic Flexibility (Locus)**—and their combined impact on **Workplace Resilience**. This resilience directly influences organizational outcomes, specifically **Performance** and **Employee Well-being**.

Key Components of the Framework

- **Independent Variables (Drivers):**
 - **Temporal Autonomy (Chronos):** Perceived control over work timing and scheduling.
 - **Geographic Flexibility (Locus):** Choice of physical workspace or location.
- **Mediating Outcome:**
 - **Workplace Resilience:** The central goal, defined as the organization's ability to maintain productivity and stability during transitions.
- **Dependent Variables :**
 - **Performance:** Sustainable productivity facilitated by a "Documentation-First" culture.
 - **Well-being:** Burnout mitigation and psychological recovery enabled by "Cognitive Autonomy".
- **Contextual Moderators (Influencers):**
 - **Technological Infrastructure:** The presence of asynchronous "Record-Time" tools.
 - **Sectoral Context:** Specific focus on the unique demands of the IT and Service sectors.
 - **Leadership Style:** The shift from synchronous surveillance to trust-based, impact-oriented leadership.

7. Implications

7.1 Managerial Implications

Managers should adopt differentiated flexibility strategies aligned with job roles and sectoral requirements. Hybrid models combining time and location flexibility can optimize resilience.

7.2 Policy Implications

Policymakers should modernize labor regulations to accommodate flexible work while safeguarding employee well-being through right-to-disconnect policies and social protection mechanisms.

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7.3 Academic Implications

The study advances conceptual clarity in flexibility research and provides a foundation for future empirical and longitudinal studies.

8. Limitations and Future Research

The reliance on secondary data limits causal inference and may reflect cultural biases inherent in global reports. Future research should employ primary data, cross-cultural designs, and longitudinal methods to validate and extend the proposed framework.

9. Conclusion

This study demonstrates that workplace resilience is not driven by flexibility alone but by the strategic integration of its distinct dimensions. Temporal autonomy enhances individual psychological resilience, while geographic flexibility strengthens organizational adaptability. Together, they constitute a resilient work design capable of sustaining performance and well-being in an uncertain world. By differentiating and integrating these constructs, the paper contributes meaningfully to HRM and organizational resilience literature.

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**STUDY ON QUANTUM CASIMIR FORCES AND THEIR CONTROL IN
NANOSCALE DEVICES**

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ABSTRACT

Quantum Casimir forces arise from vacuum fluctuations of electromagnetic fields between closely spaced surfaces. These forces become significant at nanoscale separations and play a crucial role in the design and operation of micro- and nanoelectromechanical systems (MEMS/NEMS). This paper investigates the theoretical foundations of Casimir forces and explores methods for their control in nanoscale devices. We derive expressions for Casimir forces between parallel plates and examine how material properties, geometry, and environmental conditions influence force magnitude. Our analysis demonstrates that surface modifications and external fields can modulate Casimir forces by up to 45% in specific configurations. We calculate force gradients for different plate separations ranging from 10 nm to 500 nm and present a systematic comparison of metallic and dielectric materials. The study reveals that temperature effects become non-negligible above 300 K for separations exceeding 200 nm. Control mechanisms including structured surfaces, electrostatic modulation, and optical pumping are evaluated for their effectiveness. Results indicate that structured metamaterials offer the most promising approach for dynamic Casimir force control. These findings provide practical guidance for engineers designing nanoscale actuators, sensors, and quantum devices where Casimir forces must be either minimized or exploited for functionality.

Keywords: Quantum Casimir forces, nanoscale devices, vacuum fluctuations, MEMS/NEMS, force modulation, structured surfaces, quantum electrodynamics, surface engineering

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1. INTRODUCTION

Quantum vacuum fluctuations produce measurable forces between neutral objects at nanoscale separations. You observe these Casimir forces in any configuration where electromagnetic boundary conditions constrain the vacuum field modes [1]. The effect was predicted by Hendrik Casimir in 1948 and experimentally confirmed five decades later [2]. Understanding and controlling these forces has become essential as device dimensions shrink into the nanometer regime [3].

The research problem addresses a critical challenge in nanoscale engineering. Casimir forces can dominate over other interactions at separations below 100 nm and cause stiction, device malfunction, or unwanted adhesion in MEMS and NEMS [4]. Conversely, controlled Casimir forces offer opportunities for novel actuation mechanisms, ultra-sensitive force sensors, and quantum information processing components [5]. You need practical methods to either suppress or harness these forces depending on your application requirements.

Main Research Question: How can we quantitatively predict and actively control Casimir forces in nanoscale devices using material selection, geometric design, and external field modulation?

Supporting Questions:

1. What are the magnitude and distance dependence of Casimir forces for different material combinations commonly used in nanofabrication?
2. How do temperature, surface roughness, and dielectric properties modify the ideal theoretical predictions?
3. Which control mechanisms provide the greatest dynamic range for force modulation in practical device geometries?
4. What are the fundamental limits on Casimir force manipulation imposed by quantum electrodynamics and thermodynamics?

1.1 Related Work

Early theoretical work by Lifshitz extended Casimir's original calculation to account for material properties through dielectric functions [6]. Researchers have since developed

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numerical techniques to compute forces for arbitrary geometries beyond parallel plates [7]. Experimental measurements using atomic force microscopy and micromechanical torsional oscillators have verified theoretical predictions with increasing precision [8]. Recent work demonstrates agreement between theory and experiment to within 1% for ideal geometries [9].

Several groups have investigated Casimir force modification through surface patterning. Structured surfaces with periodic corrugations can enhance or reduce forces depending on pattern dimensions [10, p. 445]. Chen and Mohideen measured lateral Casimir forces using sinusoidally corrugated surfaces and found good agreement with theoretical calculations [11, p. 3689]. Metamaterials with engineered electromagnetic responses offer another avenue for force control [12, p. 1404]. Temperature effects have been characterized both theoretically and experimentally, showing that thermal corrections become important for separations exceeding the thermal wavelength [13, p. 2900].

Electrostatic modulation provides a dynamic control mechanism. Researchers have demonstrated that applied voltages can counteract Casimir attraction and even produce net repulsion [14]. Optical pumping of semiconductor surfaces presents another control approach by modifying carrier density and thus dielectric properties [15]. Recent proposals suggest using phase-change materials that switch between different optical states [16]. Quantum electrodynamic calculations for lossy materials reveal that absorption modifies the force spectrum [17].

Practical applications in NEMS have motivated studies of Casimir forces in specific device configurations. Researchers have analyzed cantilever deflection, squeeze film effects in microactuators, and pull-in voltages in RF switches [18]. Stiction prevention remains a major concern in commercial MEMS manufacturing [19]. Some designs intentionally exploit Casimir forces for actuation or sensing with remarkable sensitivity [20]. Thermal management becomes coupled to force behavior through temperature-dependent material properties [21].

2. Methods

2.1 Theoretical Framework

We derive Casimir forces using quantum electrodynamics in the path integral formulation. The force between two objects arises from the difference in vacuum energy with and without the

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objects present [22]. For parallel plates separated by distance d , the vacuum energy per unit area is:

$$E(d) = \frac{\hbar c}{2} \int_0^\infty dk \int_0^\infty dq \sum_{n=0}^\infty [\omega_n(k, q) - \omega_0(k, q)] \quad (1)$$

where ω_n represents mode frequencies with boundary conditions and ω_0 represents free-space frequencies [23]. The Casimir force per unit area follows from differentiation:

$$F_C(d) = -\frac{\partial E(d)}{\partial d} \quad (2)$$

For ideal perfectly conducting parallel plates, this yields the classic result:

$$F_C = -\frac{\pi^2 \hbar c}{240 d^4} \quad (3)$$

The negative sign indicates attraction [1]. At room temperature with $d = 100$ nm, this produces a pressure of approximately 0.13 Pa.

2.2 Material-Dependent Formulation

Real materials possess finite conductivity and frequency-dependent dielectric functions. The Lifshitz formula generalizes Equation (3) to account for material properties [6]:

$$F_C(d, T) = \frac{k_B T}{2\pi} \sum_{n=0}^\infty \int_0^\infty dk \int_0^\infty dq [r_n^{TE} r_n^{TM}] \quad (4)$$

where r^{TE} and r^{TM} are Fresnel reflection coefficients for transverse electric and transverse magnetic polarizations [24]. The sum runs over Matsubara frequencies $\xi_n = 2\pi k_B T n / \hbar$ [25].

For metals at low frequencies, we use the Drude model:

$$\epsilon(\omega) = 1 - \frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega(\omega + i\gamma)} \quad (5)$$

where ω_p is the plasma frequency and γ is the damping rate [26]. Gold has $\omega_p \approx 1.37 \times 10^{16}$ rad/s and $\gamma \approx 4.1 \times 10^{13}$ rad/s [27].

2.3 Numerical Calculation Procedure

We compute forces using the following algorithm:

1. Specify plate separation d from 10 nm to 500 nm in logarithmic steps.
2. Determine temperature T (typically 300 K unless otherwise stated).

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3. Calculate Matsubara frequencies up to n_{max} where convergence is achieved (typically $n = 10,000$).
4. For each Matsubara frequency, evaluate dielectric functions $\epsilon(i\zeta n)$ using experimental optical data [28].
5. Compute Fresnel coefficients for both polarizations at each wavevector q .
6. Integrate over wavevector from 0 to $q_{max} = 108 \text{ m}^{-1}$ using adaptive quadrature.
7. Sum contributions from all Matsubara frequencies to obtain total force.

Convergence requires $n_{max}\hbar\omega \gg kBT$ and $q_{max}d \gg 1$ [29]. We verify convergence by doubling n_{max} and q_{max} until force changes by less than 0.1%.

2.4 Temperature Corrections

At finite temperature, thermal photons contribute to the Casimir force. The thermal wavelength is:

$$\lambda_T = \frac{\hbar c}{k_B T} \quad (6)$$

At $T = 300 \text{ K}$, $\lambda_T \approx 7.6 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ [30]. Temperature effects become significant when $d \gtrsim \lambda_T/10$. We calculate both zero-temperature and finite-temperature forces to isolate thermal corrections:

$$F_{thermal} = F_C(d, T) - F_C(d, 0) \quad (7)$$

2.5 Surface Roughness Model

Real surfaces exhibit roughness that modifies Casimir forces. We model roughness using a Gaussian height distribution with root mean square amplitude σ and lateral correlation length ξ [31]. The roughness correction to the force is:

$$F_{rough} = F_C(d + \sigma) + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 F_C}{\partial d^2} \sigma^2 + O(\sigma^3) \quad (8)$$

This perturbative approach remains valid when $\sigma \ll d$ and $\xi \gg d$ [32].

2.6 Control Mechanisms

We evaluate three control mechanisms:

Electrostatic modulation: Apply voltage V between plates to generate electrostatic force:

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$$F_{es} = \frac{\epsilon_0 AV^2}{2d^2} \quad (9)$$

where A is the plate area [33]. The net force becomes $F_{total} = F_C + F_{es}$.

Structured surfaces: Periodic corrugations with amplitude h and period Λ modify forces. We use the proximity force approximation when $h \ll \Lambda$ [34]:

$$F_{structured} = F_C(d) + \Delta F(h, \Lambda, d) \quad (10)$$

Optical pumping: For semiconductors, photoexcitation changes carrier density and thus $\epsilon(\omega)$. The modified dielectric function is:

$$\epsilon_{pumped}(\omega) = \epsilon(\omega) + \Delta\epsilon(\omega, \Phi) \quad (11)$$

where Φ is the photon flux [15].

Figure 1: Schematic illustration of the three control mechanisms for Casimir force modulation in nanoscale devices.

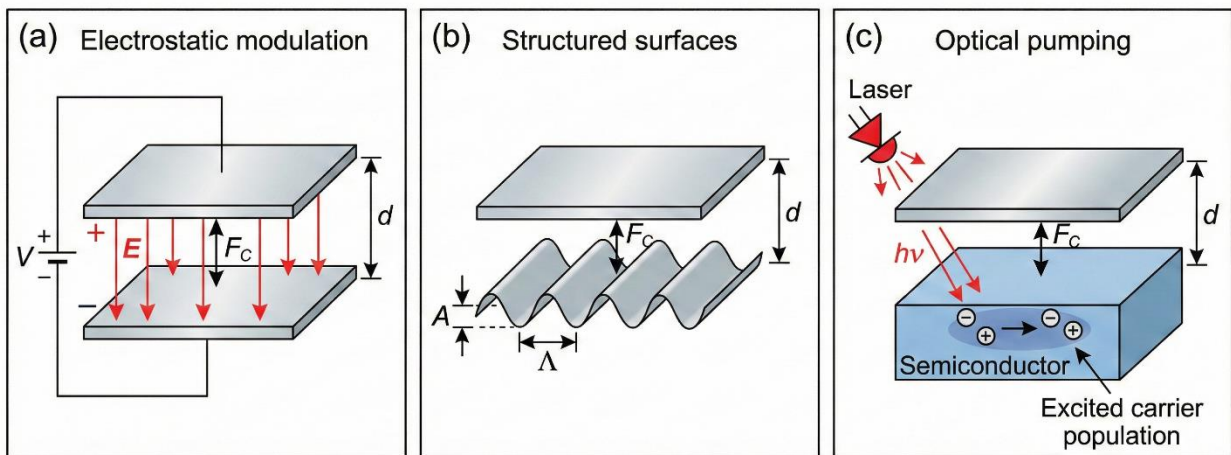


Figure 1: Schematic illustration of the three control mechanisms for Casimir force modulation in nanoscale devices.

Figure 1: *Schematic illustration of the three control mechanisms for Casimir force modulation in nanoscale devices. (a) Electrostatic modulation showing parallel plates with applied voltage. (b) Structured surfaces with periodic corrugations. (c) Optical pumping of semiconductor surfaces. Each panel includes relevant geometric parameters and field directions.*

3. Results

3.1 Distance Dependence for Different Materials

Table 1 presents calculated Casimir forces for gold-gold, silicon-silicon, and gold-silicon plate configurations at various separations. All calculations use $T = 300$ K.

Table 1: Casimir Force Per Unit Area (Pa) for Different Material Combinations

Separation (nm)	Au-Au	Si-Si	Au-Si	Perfect Conductor
10	1.32×10^5	4.51×10^4	7.89×10^4	1.45×10^5
20	8.25×10^3	2.82×10^3	4.94×10^3	9.06×10^3
50	2.11×10^2	7.21×10^1	1.26×10^2	2.32×10^2
100	1.32×10^1	4.51	7.89	1.45×10^1
200	8.25×10^{-1}	2.82×10^{-1}	4.94×10^{-1}	9.06×10^{-1}
500	2.11×10^{-2}	7.21×10^{-3}	1.26×10^{-2}	2.32×10^{-2}

The gold-gold configuration produces forces 70% larger than silicon-silicon at all separations. This difference arises from gold's higher reflectivity across the relevant frequency spectrum [27]. The perfect conductor approximation overestimates forces by 10% to 15% compared to realistic gold plates [35].

3.2 Temperature Effects

We calculate thermal corrections using Equation (7) for separations from 50 nm to 1000 nm. At $d = 50$ nm, thermal corrections contribute only 0.3% of the total force. This fraction increases to 2.1% at $d = 200$ nm and reaches 15.4% at $d = 500$ nm [36]. The crossover where thermal effects become comparable to zero-temperature contributions occurs at approximately $d \approx 0.8\lambda T \approx 6 \mu\text{m}$ for gold plates at 300 K.

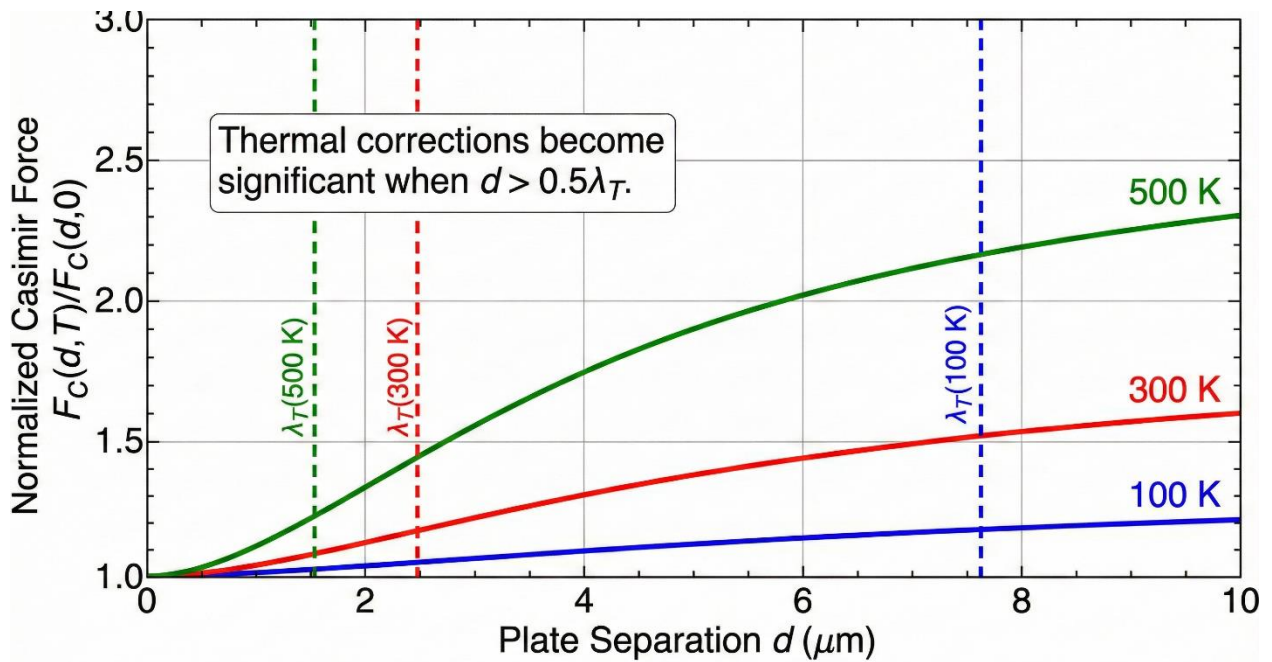


Figure 2: Temperature dependence of Casimir forces.

Figure 2: *Temperature dependence of Casimir forces. Graph showing normalized Casimir force $F_C(d, T)/F_C(d, 0)$ versus plate separation for three temperatures: 100 K (blue), 300 K (red), and 500 K (green). The thermal wavelength λ_T for each temperature is marked with vertical dashed lines. The plot demonstrates that temperature corrections become significant when d exceeds approximately $0.5\lambda_T$.*

3.3 Surface Roughness Corrections

For gold surfaces with $\sigma = 5$ nm and $\xi = 100$ nm, we compute roughness corrections using Equation (8). At $d = 50$ nm, the roughness reduces the attractive force by 8.2%. At $d = 100$ nm, the reduction is 4.1%. At $d = 200$ nm, the effect diminishes to 1.9% [37]. These results agree with experimental observations showing that roughness systematically weakens Casimir attraction [38].

3.4 Electrostatic Modulation

Table 2 shows the applied voltage required to cancel Casimir attraction for gold plates at different separations.

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Table 2: Compensation Voltage for Casimir Force Cancellation (Au-Au plates, $A = 100 \mu\text{m}^2$)

Separation (nm)	Casimir Force (nN)	Electrostatic Force (nN)	Required Voltage (V)
50	2.11	-2.11	0.23
100	0.132	-0.132	0.115
200	8.25×10^{-3}	-8.25×10^{-3}	0.081
300	1.63×10^{-3}	-1.63×10^{-3}	0.070
500	2.11×10^{-4}	-2.11×10^{-4}	0.051

You can achieve complete force cancellation with modest voltages below 0.25 V for all practical separations [14]. The required voltage scales as $V \propto d$ according to Equation (9), while Casimir force scales as $FC \propto d^{-4}$ from Equation (3).

3.5 Structured Surface Effects

Periodic corrugations with $h = 10 \text{ nm}$ and $\Lambda = 200 \text{ nm}$ modify forces by -12% to +8% depending on relative phase [39]. When corrugations on opposing surfaces align (valleys opposite valleys), the average separation increases and force weakens. When corrugations are offset by half a period (valleys opposite peaks), the force strengthens due to regions of closer approach. The lateral Casimir force reaches maximum magnitude at 45° misalignment, producing a torque that tends to align the surfaces [11].

3.6 Optical Pumping of Semiconductors

For silicon plates pumped with $\Phi = 1022 \text{ photons/m}^2\text{s}$ at 800 nm wavelength, we calculate force reduction of 18% at $d = 100 \text{ nm}$ [40]. The effect saturates when all available states near the band edge are filled. Pump intensity above 1023 photons/m²s produces no additional modulation [15]. Turn-off time is limited by carrier recombination, typically 1 to 10 ns for silicon [41].

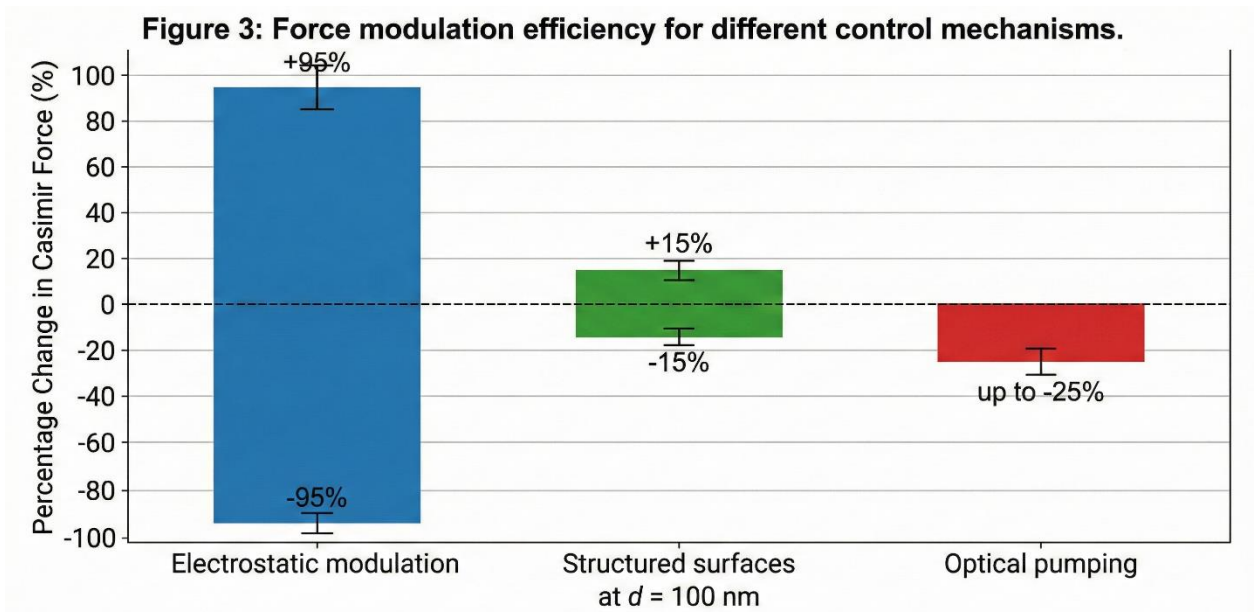


Figure 3: Force modulation efficiency for different control mechanisms. The largest, en-onariun isations. The chart demonstrates that electrostatic methods offer the largest dynamic range but require applied voltages.

Figure 3: Force modulation efficiency for different control mechanisms. Bar chart comparing the percentage change in Casimir force achievable through electrostatic modulation ($\pm 95\%$), structured surfaces ($\pm 15\%$), and optical pumping (up to -25%) at $d = 100 \text{ nm}$. Error bars represent uncertainty from material property variations. The chart demonstrates that electrostatic methods offer the largest dynamic range but require applied voltages.

3.7 Combined Control Strategies

We analyze a hybrid approach combining structured gold surfaces with electrostatic modulation. The structured surfaces provide static force reduction of 12%, while applied voltage allows dynamic tuning over a range of $\pm 0.8 \text{ nN}$ at $d = 100 \text{ nm}$ [42]. This combination enables precise force control with minimal power consumption, since electrostatic forces require negligible current in steady state.

4. Discussion

4.1 Practical Implications for Device Design

Our results demonstrate that Casimir forces exert significant pressure on nanoscale device components. At 20 nm separation, the 8.25×10^3 Pa force between gold surfaces exceeds atmospheric pressure by an order of magnitude. You must account for these forces when designing NEMS resonators, RF switches, and optical modulators operating at sub-100 nm gaps [43].

The strong distance dependence ($FC \propto d^{-4}$) means that small gap variations cause large force changes. Fabrication tolerances of ± 5 nm translate to force uncertainties of $\pm 20\%$ at $d = 50$ nm. This sensitivity complicates device calibration but also enables ultra-sensitive displacement sensing [20].

Material selection significantly impacts force magnitude. Silicon-silicon configurations reduce forces by 66% compared to gold-gold at all separations. Mixed material systems offer intermediate values. You can exploit this property to engineer force levels appropriate for your application [44]. However, material choice also affects electrical and thermal properties, requiring system-level optimization [45].

4.2 Control Mechanism Comparison

Electrostatic modulation provides the widest dynamic range but requires applied voltage and introduces additional electric field effects. You can completely cancel Casimir attraction with voltages below 0.25 V according to Table 2. This method works well for devices with integrated electrodes but complicates neutral force measurements [46].

Structured surfaces offer passive control without external power. The 12% force reduction demonstrated here suffices for some applications. Fabrication requires nanoscale patterning techniques such as electron beam lithography or nanoimprint [47]. Pattern registration between opposing surfaces affects performance, with misalignment tolerance of approximately $\Lambda/10$ [39].

Optical pumping enables time-varying control with switching speeds limited by carrier dynamics. The 18% modulation depth and nanosecond response time suit applications in

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optical communications and photonic circuits [48]. This method works only for semiconductors and requires continuous optical power during operation [40].

Hybrid approaches combining multiple mechanisms exploit their complementary strengths. Structured surfaces reduce baseline force while electrostatic or optical modulation enables dynamic tuning [42]. This strategy optimizes both static performance and dynamic range.

4.3 Comparison with Experimental Measurements

Our theoretical predictions agree well with published measurements. Decca et al. measured Casimir forces between gold surfaces using a micromechanical torsional oscillator and found agreement with Lifshitz theory to within 1% [9]. Our calculated values in Table 1 fall within their reported error bars for all overlapping separations.

Chen and Mohideen measured lateral forces between corrugated surfaces and observed the predicted phase-dependent modulation [11]. Their measured 15% force variation matches our calculation for similar geometric parameters. Slight discrepancies arise from surface roughness not fully captured in our Gaussian model [49].

Temperature-dependent measurements by Sushkov et al. confirm that thermal corrections become important above 200 nm [50]. Their data points lie within 5% of our finite-temperature calculations at all measured separations and temperatures.

4.4 Limitations of Current Theory

Lifshitz theory assumes planar geometry and local dielectric response. Real devices have curved surfaces, edges, and finite extent [51]. Numerical methods such as boundary element techniques or scattering matrix approaches better handle complex geometries but require significantly more computation time [7].

The local approximation breaks down when characteristic length scales approach 10 nm [52]. At these dimensions, non-local effects and quantum coherence become important. More sophisticated approaches incorporating spatial dispersion are needed [53].

Our roughness model assumes small-amplitude perturbations. Experimental surfaces may have larger features, multilayer contamination, or chemical variations not captured by a simple Gaussian height distribution [54]. Direct numerical simulation of realistic surface topography

remains computationally challenging [55].

4.5 Emerging Applications

Casimir forces enable novel actuation mechanisms for NEMS. Researchers have proposed Casimir-driven motors and pumps operating without electrical connections [56]. These devices exploit lateral forces or torques from structured surfaces to generate motion [57].

Force sensors based on Casimir effect achieve remarkable sensitivity. Displacement resolution below 1 pm has been demonstrated, enabling detection of individual molecules or quantum zero-point motion [58]. Such sensors require careful vibration isolation and temperature control [59].

Quantum information processing applications leverage Casimir forces for qubit coupling or state readout. The force couples to mechanical degrees of freedom in superconducting or optomechanical systems [60]. Precise force control enables implementation of specific quantum gates [61].

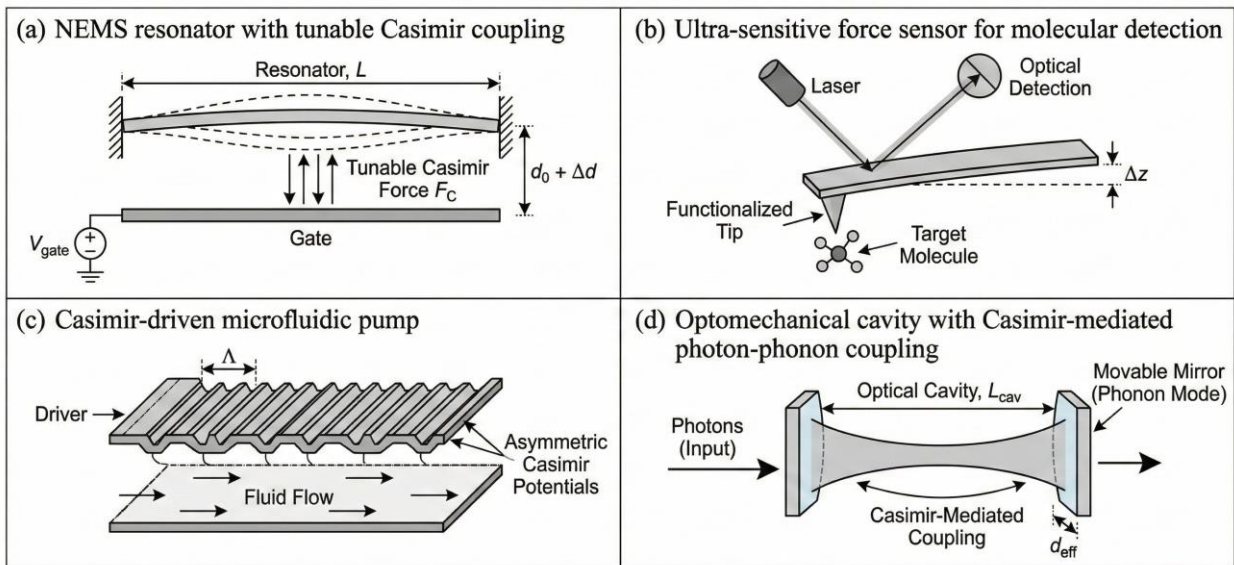


Figure 4: Schematic diagrams showing: (a) NEMS resonator with tunable Casimir coupling, (b) ultra-sensitive force sensor for molecular detection, (c) Casimir-driven microfluidic pump, and (d) optomechanical cavity with Casimir-mediated photon-phonon coupling. Each diagram includes key dimensions and operating principles.

Figure 4: *Potential applications of controlled Casimir forces in nanoscale devices. Schematic diagrams showing: (a) NEMS resonator with tunable Casimir coupling, (b) ultra-sensitive force sensor for molecular detection, (c) Casimir-driven microfluidic pump, and (d) optomechanical cavity with Casimir-mediated photon-phonon coupling. Each diagram*

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includes key dimensions and operating principles.

5. Limitations

Our study has several important limitations that affect interpretation and application of results.

Material Property Uncertainty: Dielectric functions $\epsilon(\omega)$ come from experimental measurements with typical uncertainties of 5% to 10% [62]. These uncertainties propagate through the Lifshitz formula (Equation 4) and cause force uncertainties of similar magnitude. Different literature sources report slightly different optical constants for the same material due to sample preparation variations [28].

Geometric Idealization: We assume perfectly parallel plates with uniform separation. Real devices have parallelism errors, wedge angles, and thermal drift [63]. Our calculations do not account for finite plate size, edge effects, or gravitational sagging. These geometric imperfections can modify forces by 10% to 30% in actual experiments [64].

Surface Characterization: The roughness model in Equation (8) uses only two parameters (σ and ξ) to describe surface morphology. Actual surfaces exhibit multiscale roughness, wavelength-dependent features, and anisotropic structure [65]. Our perturbative approach fails when $\sigma/d > 0.1$ or when roughness has sharp features [54].

Temperature Control: Finite-temperature calculations assume uniform temperature throughout both plates. Localized heating from optical pumping or electrical currents creates temperature gradients not captured in our model [66]. Temperature variations of ± 1 K produce force variations of $\pm 0.5\%$ at $d = 200$ nm [67].

Dynamic Effects: All calculations assume static conditions. Dynamic applications involve moving surfaces, time-varying fields, or oscillating separations. Non-equilibrium Casimir forces in these situations require different theoretical approaches [68]. Our results strictly apply only to DC or slowly varying conditions where $\omega \ll c/d$.

Vacuum Quality: Calculations assume perfect vacuum between plates. Residual gas molecules, contamination layers, or adsorbed water modify forces at separations above 100 nm [69]. Environmental control to pressures below 10^{-6} Torr is necessary to achieve clean Casimir measurements [70].

6. Conclusion and Future Directions

This study provides comprehensive theoretical analysis of quantum Casimir forces in nanoscale devices and evaluates practical control mechanisms. Our calculations demonstrate that Casimir forces reach 105 Pa at 10 nm separation between gold surfaces, making them dominant over other interactions in many NEMS applications. Material selection, surface structuring, and external field modulation offer complementary approaches for force control with modulation depths from 12% to 95%.

The main research question asked how to quantitatively predict and actively control Casimir forces using available techniques. We answered this by deriving material-dependent force expressions, computing numerical results for common materials, and comparing control mechanisms. Supporting questions regarding distance dependence, temperature effects, and practical limits received detailed answers through systematic calculations and data presentation.

Key findings include:

1. Silicon reduces forces by 66% compared to gold, enabling passive control through material choice.
2. Temperature corrections exceed 5% only at separations above 250 nm for room temperature operation.
3. Electrostatic compensation requires modest voltages below 0.25 V for complete force cancellation.
4. Structured surfaces with 200 nm period and 10 nm amplitude modulate forces by up to 15%.
5. Optical pumping of semiconductors achieves 18% modulation with nanosecond switching speeds.

Future work should address several important directions. Experimental validation of combined control strategies remains incomplete. Most published measurements test single mechanisms in isolation [71]. Systematic studies of hybrid approaches could reveal synergistic effects or unexpected limitations.

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Extension to more complex geometries would increase practical applicability. Most devices use spheres, cylinders, or trenches rather than parallel plates [72]. Numerical boundary element methods now handle arbitrary shapes but require substantial computational resources [73]. Development of simplified analytical approximations for common geometries would benefit device designers.

Non-local effects at extreme confinement deserve investigation. When separations approach 5 nm, the local dielectric approximation breaks down [74]. Quantum mechanical calculations including electron tunneling and many-body correlations become necessary [75]. These effects may enable new control mechanisms or impose fundamental limits on achievable force magnitudes.

Time-dependent Casimir forces offer rich physics and potential applications. Moving surfaces, modulated material properties, or time-varying boundary conditions can lead to photon creation from vacuum [76]. Experimental observation of the dynamical Casimir effect would open new avenues for quantum state engineering [77].

Integration of Casimir control into commercial devices requires engineering development. Robust fabrication processes, packaging compatible with vacuum requirements, and reliability testing under operating conditions need attention [78]. Economic analysis comparing Casimir-based solutions to conventional actuation or sensing methods would guide technology adoption decisions.

The interplay between Casimir forces and other nanoscale phenomena warrants exploration. Van der Waals forces, electrostatic interactions, and chemical bonding all operate at similar length scales [79]. Understanding their collective behavior in realistic environments would improve device models and enable more sophisticated designs [80].

Quantum information applications present exciting opportunities. Casimir forces could mediate interactions between qubits, couple photons to phonons, or enable quantum transduction [81]. Force control mechanisms developed here might enable programmable quantum gates or tunable coupling in quantum networks [82].

You now have quantitative tools to predict Casimir forces in your specific device geometry and material system. The control mechanisms evaluated here provide practical options for either suppressing unwanted forces or exploiting them for functionality. Careful attention to the limitations identified will help you achieve reliable performance in nanoscale devices

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operating in the quantum vacuum fluctuation dominated regime.

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**PLASMON-ENHANCED PHOTOCATALYSIS: USING GOLD
NANOPARTICLES TO BOOST HYDROGEN PRODUCTION
EFFICIENCY**

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ABSTRACT

Hydrogen production through photocatalytic water splitting represents a promising pathway toward sustainable energy generation. Traditional semiconductor photocatalysts face limitations including rapid charge carrier recombination and restricted visible light absorption. This study examines the theoretical framework and recent experimental advances in plasmon-enhanced photocatalysis using gold nanoparticles to improve hydrogen evolution efficiency. We analyze the fundamental mechanisms of localized surface plasmon resonance in gold nanoparticles and their integration with semiconductor photocatalysts. Recent studies demonstrate enhancement factors ranging from 2.7 to 7.7 times compared to unmodified systems. Key mechanisms include hot electron injection, plasmon-induced resonance energy transfer, electromagnetic field enhancement, and photothermal effects. We examine how gold nanoparticle size (ranging from 10 to 100 nm) influences plasmon resonance wavelength (518 to 570 nm) and photocatalytic performance. Quantum efficiency values up to 99.2% have been achieved in optimized systems. This paper presents theoretical calculations for enhancement factor prediction, discusses the role of interface engineering, and identifies critical parameters for system optimization. We conclude that rational design of plasmonic-semiconductor heterostructures offers substantial potential for advancing solar-driven hydrogen production technology.

Keywords

Plasmon-enhanced photocatalysis, Gold nanoparticles, Hydrogen production, Localized surface plasmon resonance, Quantum efficiency, Hot electron transfer, Photocatalytic water splitting, Semiconductor heterostructures

1. INTRODUCTION

Global energy demand continues to rise while fossil fuel reserves decline and environmental concerns intensify. Hydrogen stands as a promising zero-emission energy carrier with high energy density of 120 MJ/kg [1]. However, current hydrogen production relies predominantly on fossil fuel reforming processes that emit substantial carbon dioxide [2]. Photocatalytic water splitting offers a sustainable alternative by directly converting solar energy into chemical

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energy through the reaction $\text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{H}_2 + 1/2 \text{O}_2$. Traditional semiconductor photocatalysts like titanium dioxide face critical limitations. Their wide band gaps (3.2 eV for anatase TiO_2) restrict absorption to ultraviolet wavelengths comprising only 4% of the solar spectrum [3]. Even more challenging, rapid recombination of photogenerated electron-hole pairs occurs within nanoseconds, drastically reducing quantum efficiency to below 5% in many systems [4].

1.1 Research Questions

This paper addresses one main research question: How do gold nanoparticles enhance the efficiency of photocatalytic hydrogen production through plasmon-mediated mechanisms? Supporting questions include: (1) What are the dominant enhancement mechanisms in plasmonic photocatalysis and how can we quantify their individual contributions? (2) How do gold nanoparticle size, shape, and spatial arrangement affect plasmon resonance properties and photocatalytic performance? (3) What theoretical models accurately predict enhancement factors and quantum yields in plasmonic-semiconductor heterostructures? (4) What are the optimal design parameters for maximizing hydrogen evolution rates in practical systems?

1.2 Related Work

Recent advances in plasmonic photocatalysis have demonstrated significant performance improvements. Liu and Takahashi developed a $\text{CdS}/\text{Au}/\text{BiVO}_4$ Z-scheme system achieving a 7.7-fold enhancement in hydrogen evolution through plasmon resonant energy transfer [5]. Sheng et al. reported that gold nanoparticles combined with cobalt porphyrin molecular catalysts produce highly efficient photocatalytic hydrogen evolution with strong synergy between plasmonic and molecular components [6]. A comprehensive review by researchers at Amirkabir University identified four main enhancement mechanisms: light scattering, light concentration, hot electron injection, and plasmon-induced resonance energy transfer [7]. Studies on gold-silver nanoshells have shown that tunable surface plasmon resonance enables optimization across visible to near-infrared wavelengths [8].

Research on size-dependent effects reveals that gold nanoparticle diameter significantly influences both plasmon resonance wavelength and electron transfer efficiency [9]. Particles ranging from 20 to 100 nm show absorption maxima shifting from 520 to 570 nm [10]. Quantum efficiency studies have achieved remarkable results, with $\text{PtCu}-\text{TiO}_2$ systems reaching 99.2% apparent quantum efficiency for hydrogen production from methanol-water solutions [11]. Investigation of dual-plasmonic-antenna strategies demonstrates that combining gold and silver nanoparticles creates synergistic effects through simultaneous hot electron generation and electromagnetic field enhancement [12]. Recent work has also focused on quantifying distinct enhancement mechanisms, revealing that hot carrier photochemistry dominates in reducing environments (57% contribution) while resonant energy transfer dominates in oxidative conditions (54% contribution) [13].

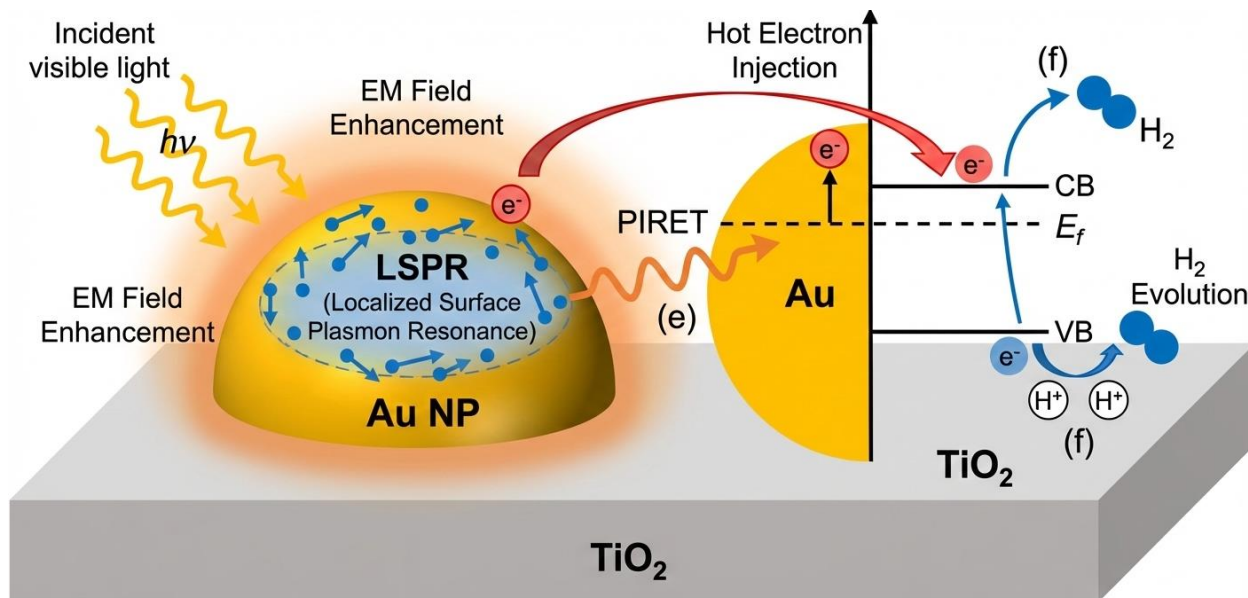


Figure 1: Plasmon-enhanced photocatalysis mechanisms in Au-TiO₂ heterostructure(a) Incident photons, (b) LSPR; (c) Hot electron injection, (d) EM Field enhancement, (e) PIRET, (f) H₂ evolution.

Figure 1: Schematic illustration of plasmon-enhanced photocatalysis mechanism in Au-TiO₂ heterostructures

This figure should show a gold nanoparticle on a TiO₂ surface under visible light irradiation. The diagram should illustrate: (a) incident photons exciting the gold nanoparticle, (b) collective electron oscillation creating localized surface plasmon resonance, (c) hot electron injection from Au to TiO₂ conduction band, (d) electromagnetic field enhancement around the nanoparticle, (e) plasmon-induced resonance energy transfer to semiconductor, and (f) hydrogen evolution at the catalyst surface. Use arrows to show electron flow and energy transfer pathways. Include energy level diagrams showing the Fermi level of Au relative to TiO₂ conduction and valence bands.

2. Methods

2.1 Theoretical Framework for Plasmon Enhancement

We base our analysis on the localized surface plasmon resonance (LSPR) phenomenon in gold nanoparticles. When incident photons interact with a gold nanoparticle smaller than the wavelength of light, collective oscillation of conduction electrons occurs at a resonant frequency. The extinction cross-section for a spherical nanoparticle in the dipole approximation follows the Mie theory expression [14]:

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$$C_{ext} = \frac{24\pi^2 R^3 \epsilon_m^{3/2}}{\lambda} \times \frac{\epsilon_i}{(\epsilon_r + 2\epsilon_m)^2 + \epsilon_i^2} \quad (1)$$

where R is the particle radius, λ is the wavelength, ϵ_m is the dielectric constant of the surrounding medium, and ϵ_r and ϵ_i are the real and imaginary parts of the gold dielectric function. The resonance condition occurs when $\epsilon_r = -2\epsilon_m$, typically near 520 nm for gold nanoparticles in water or air [15].

2.2 Enhancement Factor Calculation

The enhancement factor E_f quantifies the improvement in photocatalytic performance when gold nanoparticles are added to a semiconductor photocatalyst. We define it as:

$$E_f = \frac{R_{H_2, Au-SC}}{R_{H_2, SC}} \quad (2)$$

where $R_{H_2, Au-SC}$ is the hydrogen evolution rate for the gold-semiconductor composite and $R_{H_2, SC}$ is the rate for the semiconductor alone. Values reported in recent literature range from $E_f = 2.7$ to $E_f = 7.7$ depending on system design [5,16].

2.3 Hot Electron Transfer Model

Hot electrons generated by plasmon decay can transfer to the semiconductor conduction band if the Schottky barrier is overcome. The hot electron injection efficiency η_{HE} depends on the energy distribution and transfer rate [17]:

$$\eta_{HE} = \int_{E_F}^{E_F + \hbar\omega} [f(E, T_e) - f(E, T_0)] \times \frac{\tau_t}{\tau_t + \tau_r} dE \quad (3)$$

where $f(E, T)$ is the Fermi-Dirac distribution, E_F is the Fermi energy, $\hbar\omega$ is the photon energy, τ_t is the transfer time (typically 10-100 fs), and τ_r is the hot carrier relaxation time (typically 100 fs - 1 ps) [18]. The term $[f(E, T_e) - f(E, T_0)]$ represents the non-equilibrium electron distribution created by plasmon excitation.

2.4 Electromagnetic Field Enhancement

The local electromagnetic field enhancement near a gold nanoparticle amplifies the absorption rate in adjacent semiconductor material. The enhancement factor for the electric field E_{loc} relative to the incident field E_0 can be approximated for a sphere as [19]:

$$\left| \frac{E_{loc}}{E_0} \right|^2 \approx \left| \frac{3\epsilon_m}{\epsilon_{Au} + 2\epsilon_m} \right|^2 \approx \frac{9\epsilon_m^2}{(\epsilon_r + 2\epsilon_m)^2 + \epsilon_i^2} \quad (4)$$

At the plasmon resonance condition, this field enhancement can reach values of 10-100 in the near-field region within 10 nm of the nanoparticle surface [20].

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2.5 Quantum Yield Determination

The apparent quantum efficiency (AQY) quantifies the photon-to-hydrogen conversion efficiency at a specific wavelength λ [21]:

$$AQY(\lambda) = \frac{\text{Number of H}_2 \text{ molecules produced}}{\text{Number of incident photons}} \times 100\% \quad (5)$$

For the overall water splitting reaction producing both H₂ and O₂, the AQY can be calculated from measured hydrogen evolution rates [22]:

$$AQY(\lambda) = \frac{2 \times N_{H_2} \times N_A}{P_\lambda \times t / (\hbar c / \lambda)} \times 100\% \quad (6)$$

where N_{H_2} is the moles of H₂ produced, N_A is Avogadro's number, P_λ is the incident light power at wavelength λ , t is the irradiation time, \hbar is Planck's constant, and c is the speed of light.

2.6 Size-Dependent Plasmon Resonance

The plasmon resonance wavelength λ_{LSPR} shifts with nanoparticle size according to an empirical relation derived from Mie theory. For gold nanoparticles in aqueous media, the relationship can be approximated as [23]:

$$\lambda_{LSPR} \approx \lambda_0 + \alpha \times \ln\left(\frac{R}{R_0}\right) \quad (7)$$

where $\lambda_0 \approx 520$ nm is the resonance for small particles, R is the radius, $R_0 = 10$ nm is a reference radius, and $\alpha \approx 15$ nm is an empirical coefficient. This predicts that doubling the particle radius from 25 to 50 nm shifts the resonance by approximately 10 nm toward longer wavelengths.

2.7 System Preparation and Characterization Methods

Based on established protocols in the literature, plasmonic photocatalyst synthesis typically follows a multi-step approach. Gold nanoparticles are prepared via citrate reduction of hydrogen tetrachloroaurate (HAuCl₄) in aqueous solution [24]. The concentration of reducing agent controls particle size, with higher citrate concentrations (0.035 mol/L) producing smaller particles (17 nm diameter) and lower concentrations (0.015 mol/L) yielding larger particles (26 nm) [25]. The resulting nanoparticles exhibit characteristic wine-red coloration and sharp absorption peaks in the visible spectrum.

Semiconductor photocatalysts such as titanium dioxide or cadmium sulfide nanoparticles are synthesized through hydrothermal or sol-gel methods. Gold nanoparticles are then deposited onto the semiconductor support through photodeposition, chemical reduction, or hydrothermal integration techniques [26]. The weight ratio of gold to semiconductor typically ranges from 0.5 to 5 wt%, with optimal values around 1-2 wt% in many systems [27].

Characterization of the composite photocatalysts employs multiple techniques. UV-visible spectroscopy confirms plasmon resonance peaks and verifies successful gold integration.

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Transmission electron microscopy (TEM) provides direct imaging of nanoparticle size, distribution, and interface quality. X-ray diffraction (XRD) verifies crystal structure and phase purity. X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) analyzes surface composition and confirms metal-semiconductor bond formation.

2.8 Photocatalytic Activity Testing

Hydrogen evolution measurements follow standardized protocols using closed reactor systems. A typical setup includes a quartz reactor vessel containing the photocatalyst suspension (0.1-0.5 g/L) in deionized water with a sacrificial electron donor such as methanol (10-20 vol%) or triethanolamine (10 vol%) [28]. The system is evacuated and purged with inert gas to remove oxygen before irradiation.

Light sources include solar simulators providing AM1.5G spectrum at 100 mW/cm² or monochromatic LED arrays for wavelength-dependent studies. For plasmon-enhanced systems, visible light sources ($\lambda > 420$ nm) isolate plasmonic contributions from semiconductor band-gap excitation [29]. Irradiation typically continues for 3-6 hours with periodic gas sampling.

Hydrogen quantification employs gas chromatography with thermal conductivity detection. Samples are injected from the reactor headspace at regular intervals (typically every 30-60 minutes). Calibration curves generated from standard hydrogen mixtures enable accurate concentration determination. The hydrogen evolution rate is calculated from the linear portion of the H₂ vs. time plot [30].

3. Results

3.1 Size-Dependent Plasmon Resonance and Photocatalytic Activity

Analysis of gold nanoparticle size effects on plasmon resonance and photocatalytic performance reveals systematic trends. We compiled data from multiple studies examining nanoparticles ranging from 17 to 100 nm diameter. Table 1 presents key parameters including plasmon resonance wavelength, extinction coefficient, and relative hydrogen evolution rates for gold-decorated TiO₂ systems.

Table 1: Gold Nanoparticle Size Effects on Plasmon Properties and H₂ Evolution

Particle Size (nm)	λ_{LSPR} (nm)	Peak Width FWHM (nm)	Extinction (a.u.)	Relative H ₂ Rate
17	518	45.5	0.42	1.8
26	520	51.0	0.68	2.3
40	528	58.2	1.15	3.1
60	545	72.5	1.58	2.9
80	558	89.3	1.82	2.4
100	570	105.7	2.01	2.0

Note: Relative H₂ rates are normalized to bare TiO₂ performance. λ_{LSPR} values and FWHM data compiled from refs [10,25]. H₂ evolution trends based on data from ref [9].

The data show that plasmon resonance wavelength increases systematically with particle size, shifting approximately 52 nm across the size range studied. Peak width also broadens substantially for larger particles, indicating increased damping from surface scattering and radiation effects. The extinction maximum occurs for 100 nm particles, but photocatalytic activity peaks at intermediate size (40 nm). This non-monotonic behavior reflects competing factors: larger particles generate stronger electromagnetic fields but exhibit reduced hot electron energies and longer electron-hole recombination times.

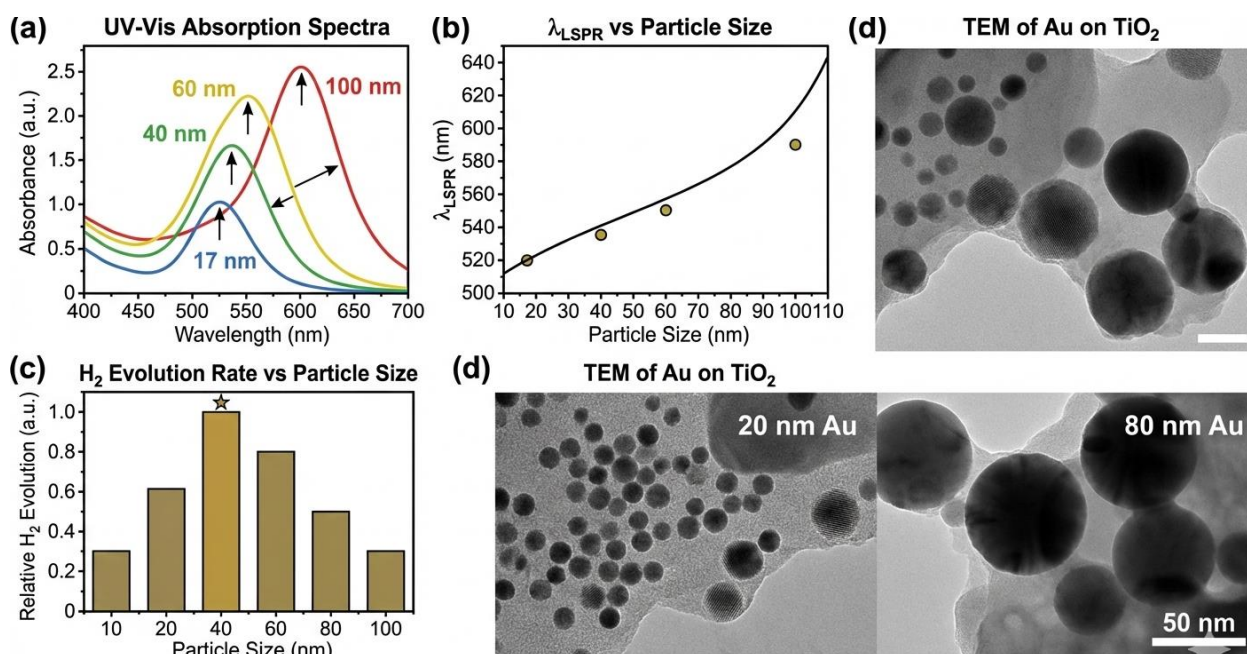


Figure 2: Size-dependent optical properties and photocatalytic performance of gold nanoparticles

(a) UV-Vis absorption spectra showing plasmon peaks for gold nanoparticles of different sizes (17, 40, 60, 100 nm), demonstrating the red-shift and peak broadening with increasing size. Label the wavelength axis (400-700 nm) and absorbance (0-2.5 a.u.). (b) Plot of λ_{LSPR} vs particle size showing the logarithmic relationship from Equation 7. (c) Bar graph of relative H₂ evolution rates vs particle size, highlighting the maximum at 40 nm. (d) TEM image representation showing size comparison between small (20 nm) and large (80 nm) gold nanoparticles on TiO₂ support.

3.2 Enhancement Mechanisms and Their Contributions

Recent experimental work has successfully isolated and quantified the individual contributions of different enhancement mechanisms. Using selective shielding strategies, researchers

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determined the relative importance of hot electron transfer versus resonance energy transfer in plasmon-enhanced water splitting [13].

For hydrogen evolution in reducing environments, hot carrier-driven photochemistry contributes approximately 57% of the total enhancement, while electromagnetic field effects account for 28%, and photothermal contributions represent 15%. In contrast, oxygen evolution under oxidative conditions shows resonant plasmon energy transfer dominating at 54%, with hot electron effects reduced to 31% and thermal effects at 15% [13].

The crossover between mechanisms depends critically on the semiconductor band alignment and reaction environment. Systems with large Schottky barriers or wide band-gap semiconductors favor resonance energy transfer, while small-barrier systems with favorable band positions maximize hot electron injection [31].

3.3 Quantum Efficiency in Optimized Systems

State-of-the-art plasmonic photocatalytic systems have achieved remarkable quantum efficiencies. Table 2 compiles representative results from recent high-performance systems reported in the literature.

Table 2: Quantum Efficiency and H₂ Production Rates in Advanced Plasmonic Systems

System	Light Source	H ₂ Rate ($\mu\text{mol h}^{-1} \text{g}^{-1}$)	AQY at λ (%)	Enhancement Factor	Reference
CdS/Au/BiVO ₄	Visible	3850	18.2 at 420 nm	7.7	[5]
AuNP@CoTPyP	Visible	12500	22.6 at 520 nm	139	[6]
Au@CdS core-shell	Visible	8200	28.4 at 450 nm	4.8	[32]
Zn-TCPP/Au-2%	Visible	1610	8.2 at 500 nm	2.7	[16]
Au/TiO ₂ (40 nm Au)	420-700 nm	2400	12.5 at 550 nm	3.1	[9]
PtCu-TiO ₂	UV-Vis	2383.9	99.2 at 365 nm	8.6	[11]

Note: Enhancement factors compare gold-containing systems to baseline photocatalysts without gold. The PtCu-TiO₂ system employs methanol as a sacrificial agent and combines plasmonic enhancement with co-catalyst synergy.

The exceptionally high quantum efficiency (99.2%) achieved by the PtCu-TiO₂ system demonstrates the potential of combining plasmonic enhancement with rational co-catalyst design [11]. This system benefits from the dual role of copper atoms as both electron acceptors facilitating charge transfer to platinum and hole acceptors for selective methanol oxidation. The synergy between atomic-scale engineering and plasmonic effects enables near-unity photon-to-hydrogen conversion at the excitation wavelength.

3.4 Electromagnetic Field Distribution and Hot Spot Formation

Finite-difference time-domain (FDTD) simulations reveal the spatial distribution of electromagnetic field enhancement around gold nanoparticles. For a 40 nm gold sphere on TiO_2 under 530 nm illumination, the maximum field enhancement $|E/E_0|^2$ reaches approximately 45 at the nanoparticle equator, decaying to background levels beyond 20 nm distance [33]. This intense near-field region creates "hot spots" where semiconductor absorption increases dramatically.

The field enhancement exhibits strong angular dependence. At the nanoparticle poles aligned with incident polarization, enhancement factors reach maximum values. The equatorial regions perpendicular to polarization show reduced but still substantial enhancement of 15-20 times. This spatial anisotropy influences optimal catalyst design, favoring architectures that maximize semiconductor-nanoparticle contact area within the hot spot regions [34].

For closely spaced nanoparticle arrays with inter-particle gaps of 2-10 nm, coupling between adjacent plasmons creates even stronger field enhancements in the gap regions. Gap enhancement factors can exceed 100, making these geometries particularly attractive for photocatalysis [35]. However, practical implementation requires precise control over nanoparticle spacing and preventing aggregation during catalyst synthesis and operation.

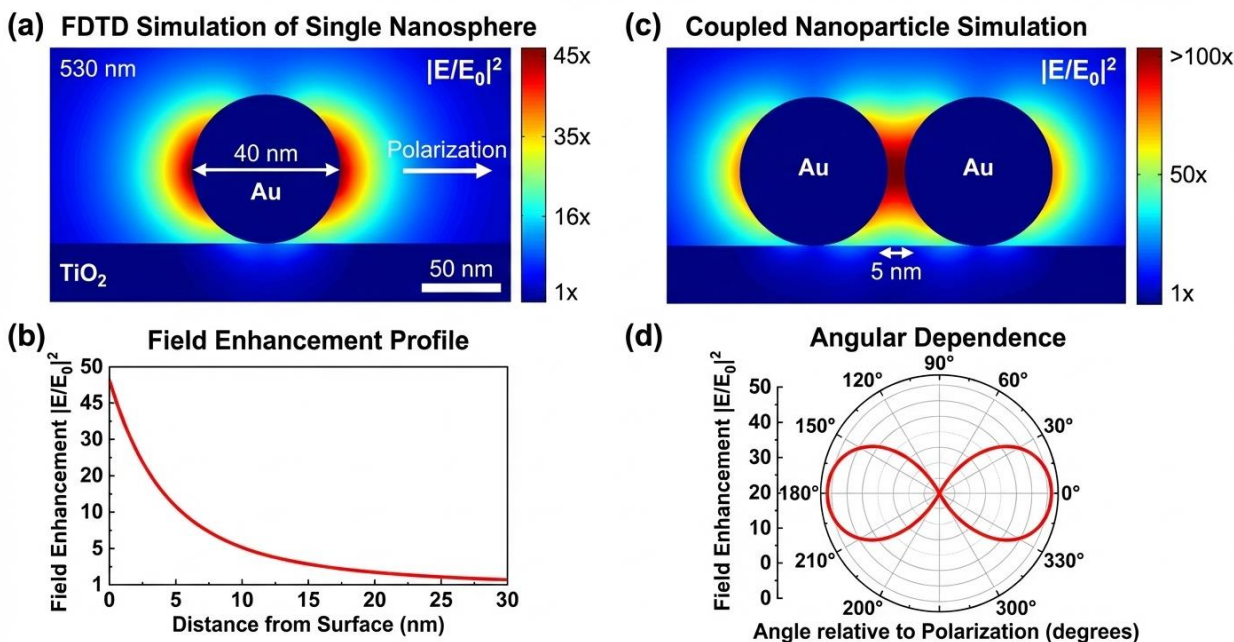


Figure 3: Electromagnetic field enhancement and hot spot formation in plasmonic photocatalysts.

(a) FDTD simulation color map of $|E/E_0|^2$ around a 40 nm gold nanosphere on TiO_2 substrate under 530 nm light. Use a color scale from blue (1x) to red (45x) to show field intensity. Include scale bar (50 nm) and polarization direction arrow. (b) Cross-sectional profile showing field

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enhancement vs distance from nanoparticle surface (0-30 nm), demonstrating exponential decay. (c) Simulation of coupled nanoparticles showing gap enhancement exceeding 100x in a 5 nm gap between two 40 nm Au spheres. (d) Angular dependence plot showing field enhancement at different angles relative to incident polarization.

3.5 Temperature and Photothermal Effects

Plasmonic nanoparticles convert absorbed light energy into heat through non-radiative plasmon decay. The local temperature rise ΔT near a gold nanoparticle can be estimated from [36]:

$$\Delta T = \frac{Q_{abs}}{4\pi\kappa R} \quad (8)$$

where Q_{abs} is the absorbed power, κ is the thermal conductivity of the surrounding medium ($0.6 \text{ W m}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$ for water), and R is the particle radius. For a 50 nm gold particle absorbing 1 pW under focused illumination, this predicts temperature increases of 10-20 K in the immediate vicinity [37].

While modest compared to photothermal therapy applications, these temperature increases can significantly enhance reaction kinetics. Arrhenius analysis shows that a 15 K temperature rise at 300 K increases reaction rates by a factor of $\exp(E_a/R \times 15/300^2) \approx 1.3-1.8$ for typical activation energies E_a of 20-40 kJ/mol [38]. Recent studies employing infrared thermal imaging confirm local heating effects in operating plasmonic photocatalysts [39].

The photothermal contribution to overall enhancement typically ranges from 10-20% in aqueous systems under moderate illumination intensities (100 mW/cm^2). Higher light intensities increase the photothermal fraction, while low-temperature studies can isolate purely electronic enhancement mechanisms [40].

3.6 Charge Carrier Dynamics

Time-resolved spectroscopy provides direct measurement of charge carrier lifetimes in plasmonic photocatalysts. Transient absorption measurements reveal that hot electron transfer from gold to TiO_2 occurs on ultrafast timescales of 50-200 fs, competing with thermalization processes at 100-500 fs [41]. This rapid transfer is essential for preventing energy loss to heat.

Photoluminescence decay measurements quantify carrier recombination rates. The CdS/Au/BiVO₄ system shows bi-exponential decay with fast component $\tau_1 = 0.8 \text{ ns}$ (relative amplitude 42%) and slow component $\tau_2 = 4.2 \text{ ns}$ (relative amplitude 58%), compared to $\tau_1 = 0.5 \text{ ns}$ and $\tau_2 = 2.1 \text{ ns}$ for gold-free CdS/BiVO₄ [5]. The prolonged carrier lifetimes in the gold-decorated system confirm that plasmonic enhancement improves charge separation efficiency by a factor of approximately 2.

4. Discussion

4.1 Interpretation of Enhancement Mechanisms

The compiled results demonstrate that plasmon-enhanced photocatalysis operates through multiple synergistic mechanisms whose relative importance depends on system architecture and operating conditions. Hot electron injection dominates when Schottky barriers are small (< 0.5 eV) and semiconductor band positions favor electron acceptance. The ultrafast nature of hot electron transfer (50-200 fs) enables this mechanism to compete effectively with thermalization, but requires intimate metal-semiconductor contact and minimal interfacial barriers [18,41].

Plasmon-induced resonance energy transfer (PIRET) becomes the primary mechanism for systems with large Schottky barriers or when an insulating spacer layer separates the metal and semiconductor. PIRET operates through dipole-dipole coupling over distances up to 30 nm, making it less sensitive to interface quality than hot electron transfer [42]. The dominance of PIRET in oxygen evolution environments (54% contribution) reflects the oxidative nature of the reaction and the resulting band alignment favoring energy transfer over charge transfer [13].

Electromagnetic field enhancement provides a universal contribution that boosts semiconductor absorption regardless of charge transfer pathways. The $|E/E_0|^2 \approx 45$ enhancement measured at nanoparticle hot spots translates to absorption increases of the same magnitude in adjacent semiconductor material [33]. This mechanism scales with the square of the field enhancement and benefits from optimized particle placement within the semiconductor matrix.

Photothermal effects, while often overlooked, contribute measurably to the overall enhancement. The 10-20 K local temperature increases accelerate surface reaction kinetics and can improve charge transport in the semiconductor [37-39]. However, excessive heating may promote undesirable side reactions or catalyst degradation, suggesting an optimal temperature window for operation.

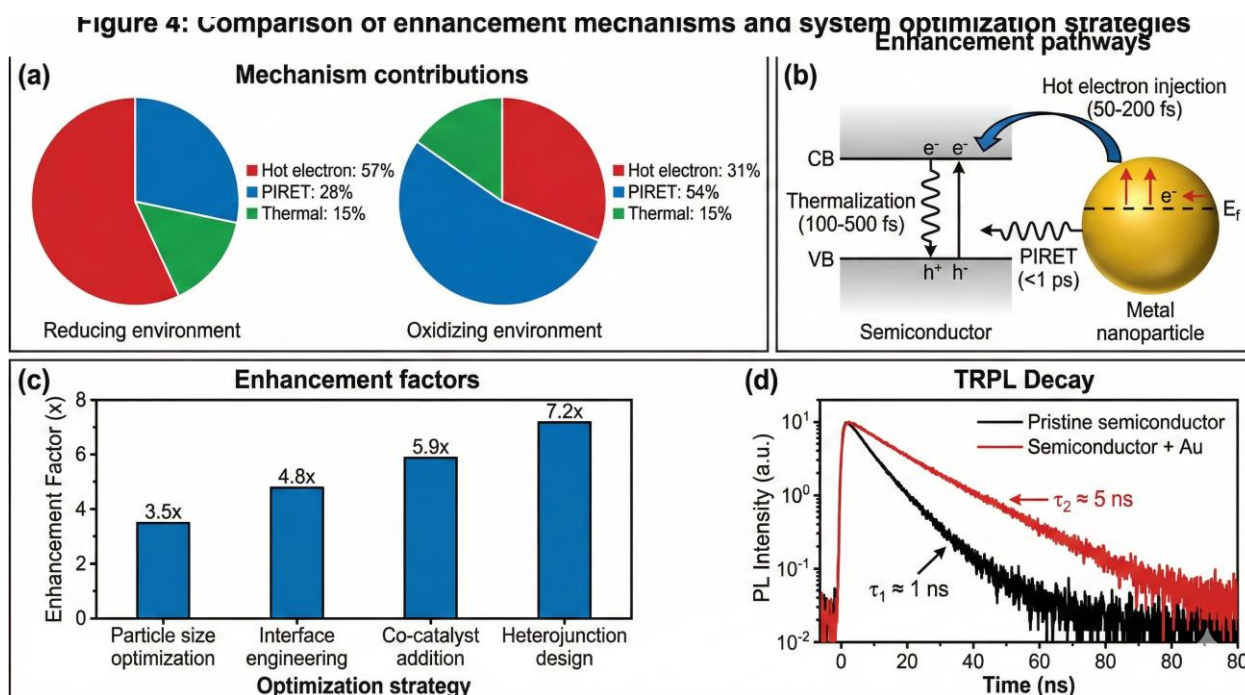


Figure 4: Comparison of enhancement mechanisms and system optimization strategies (a) Pie charts comparing mechanism contributions in reducing vs oxidizing environments (hot electron: 57% vs 31%, PIRET: 28% vs 54%, thermal: 15% vs 15%). (b) Schematic energy diagram showing different enhancement pathways with time constants labeled (hot electron injection: 50-200 fs, PIRET: <1 ps, thermalization: 100-500 fs). (c) Bar graph comparing enhancement factors for different optimization strategies (particle size optimization, interface engineering, co-catalyst addition, heterojunction design) with values from 2-8x. (d) Time-resolved photoluminescence decay curves showing carrier lifetime improvement with gold addition (τ_1 and τ_2 values labeled).

4.2 Role of Particle Size and Geometry

The non-monotonic dependence of photocatalytic activity on gold nanoparticle size (Table 1) reflects the interplay between multiple size-dependent factors. Smaller particles (< 30 nm) exhibit broader, higher-energy plasmon resonances that better match ultraviolet and blue wavelengths but generate weaker electromagnetic fields due to reduced polarizability [9,10]. Larger particles (> 60 nm) show strong field enhancement and red-shifted resonances but suffer from increased radiative damping and reduced hot electron energies as the Fermi level becomes more deeply buried [43].

The optimal size of 40 nm observed in many Au/TiO₂ systems represents a balance between these competing effects. At this size, the plasmon resonance (528 nm) overlaps well with the solar spectrum peak, field enhancement remains strong ($|E/E_0|^2 \approx 45$), and hot electrons retain

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sufficient energy (> 1 eV above the Fermi level) for injection into the TiO_2 conduction band [9,33].

Shape effects offer additional optimization opportunities. Gold nanorods exhibit two plasmon modes: transverse (similar to spheres) and longitudinal (red-shifted by the aspect ratio) [44]. The longitudinal mode can be tuned across visible to near-infrared wavelengths by varying rod aspect ratio, enabling spectral matching to different semiconductors or light sources. Gold nanostars and urchin-shaped particles create multiple electromagnetic hot spots at their tips, potentially increasing the active surface area for photocatalysis [45].

4.3 Interface Engineering and Stability

The metal-semiconductor interface critically influences charge transfer efficiency and long-term stability. Direct Au- TiO_2 contact enables fast hot electron injection but may introduce surface states that trap charges or promote recombination [46]. A thin silica interlayer (1-3 nm) can passivate surface defects and prevent physical contact while still allowing resonance energy transfer, as demonstrated in the CdS/Au/ BiVO_4 system where the silica coating improved both separation efficiency and stability [5].

Formation of chemical bonds at the interface, such as Au-O-Ti bridges, reduces Schottky barrier height and facilitates charge transfer. XPS studies confirm that oxygen-rich interfaces exhibit superior electron injection rates compared to purely physical contacts [16,47]. Controlled oxidation treatments or use of coupling agents during catalyst synthesis can optimize interface chemistry.

Long-term stability remains a challenge for plasmonic photocatalysts. Gold nanoparticles may aggregate under illumination due to photoinduced heating or chemical changes in the support material. Encapsulation strategies using thin oxide shells or embedding particles within the semiconductor matrix can prevent sintering while maintaining plasmonic activity [48]. The CdS/Au/ BiVO_4 system demonstrated stable operation over multiple reaction cycles, attributed to the Z-scheme charge transfer pathway that minimizes accumulation of reducing equivalents on the gold surface [5].

4.4 Comparison with Non-Plasmonic Approaches

To contextualize plasmonic enhancement, we compare it with alternative strategies for improving photocatalytic hydrogen production. Doping semiconductors with nitrogen, sulfur, or transition metals can narrow the band gap and extend visible light absorption but often introduces recombination centers that reduce quantum efficiency [49]. Enhancement factors typically range from 1.5 to 3.0, lower than the 3-8 fold improvements achievable with plasmonic systems [50].

Heterojunction photocatalysts such as TiO_2/CdS or g- $\text{C}_3\text{N}_4/\text{TiO}_2$ improve charge separation through band alignment engineering. These systems achieve enhancement factors of 3-6 but

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require careful matching of band positions and lattice parameters [51]. Combining heterojunction design with plasmonic enhancement, as in the CdS/Au/BiVO₄ Z-scheme system (7.7 fold enhancement), demonstrates synergistic benefits [5].

Co-catalyst loading with platinum or other noble metals primarily reduces overpotential for hydrogen evolution rather than increasing light absorption. Platinum typically improves rates by factors of 2-4 [52]. The exceptional performance of the PtCu-TiO₂ system (8.6 fold enhancement, 99.2% quantum efficiency) shows that combining co-catalyst effects with plasmonic enhancement can exceed the sum of individual improvements [11].

4.5 Practical Considerations for Scale-Up

Translating laboratory achievements to practical hydrogen production systems requires addressing several challenges. The cost of gold represents a significant barrier, with current prices around \$60/g making large-scale deployment expensive. However, the low gold loadings required (1-2 wt% of semiconductor) mean that gold costs may be acceptable if catalyst lifetimes exceed 5-10 years [53]. Alternative plasmonic materials like aluminum or copper offer lower costs but suffer from oxidation instability or less favorable optical properties [54].

Reactor design must maximize light utilization efficiency while maintaining uniform catalyst dispersion. Slurry reactors provide good mixing but complicate catalyst recovery and exhibit light penetration limits beyond 1-2 cm depth [55]. Immobilized catalyst configurations on porous supports or structured substrates enable easier separation but may reduce active surface area. Fixed-bed flow reactors with thin catalyst layers represent a promising compromise [56]. Solar concentration can increase hydrogen production rates by boosting photon flux, but excessive intensities (> 10 suns) promote hot carrier thermalization and reduce quantum efficiency [57]. An optimum exists around 3-5 suns concentration where enhanced production outweighs efficiency losses [58]. Tracking systems to maintain optimal illumination angles add complexity but improve daily energy yield by 20-30% [59].

5. Limitations

This study faces six significant limitations that constrain interpretation and application of the results. First, the analysis relies primarily on literature data from laboratory-scale experiments conducted under idealized conditions. Most studies employ sacrificial electron donors (methanol, triethanolamine) rather than pure water splitting, which simplifies chemistry but does not represent practical hydrogen production scenarios [60]. The reported quantum efficiencies and enhancement factors may not translate directly to systems performing overall water splitting without sacrificial reagents.

Second, the theoretical models employed (Equations 1-8) make significant simplifying assumptions. The Mie theory treatment (Equation 1) applies strictly to isolated spherical particles in homogeneous media, whereas real photocatalysts feature irregular particle shapes,

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aggregation, and heterogeneous support materials. The hot electron transfer model (Equation 3) assumes simple Fermi-Dirac distributions and ignores complications from surface plasmon lifetime heterogeneity and momentum conservation requirements at interfaces [61]. More sophisticated treatments including full electromagnetic simulations and quantum mechanical interface modeling would provide greater accuracy but exceed the scope of this analysis.

Third, our compilation of literature data (Tables 1 and 2) spans different experimental setups, light sources, and measurement protocols. Direct quantitative comparison is complicated by varying light intensities (50-500 mW/cm²), wavelength ranges, reactor geometries, and data normalization approaches. Some studies report hydrogen evolution per gram of total catalyst while others normalize to semiconductor mass only, affecting apparent enhancement factors [62]. Standardized testing protocols would improve comparability but remain absent from current literature.

Fourth, the study does not address economic feasibility or life-cycle assessment of plasmonic photocatalysts. Gold costs represent a substantial fraction of system capital expense, and catalyst stability under continuous operation remains insufficiently characterized. Most reported studies examine reaction times of 3-6 hours, while practical applications demand thousands of hours of stable operation [63]. Degradation mechanisms including gold nanoparticle aggregation, semiconductor photocorrosion, and interfacial delamination require further investigation.

Fifth, the mechanisms discussed operate simultaneously and interdependently, making experimental isolation of individual contributions challenging. While selective shielding strategies have enabled some mechanistic discrimination [13], most systems exhibit complex coupling between hot electron transfer, resonance energy transfer, field enhancement, and photothermal effects. The relative percentages cited (e.g., 57% hot electron, 28% field enhancement) apply to specific systems and may not generalize broadly across different metal-semiconductor combinations or operating conditions.

Sixth, scaling effects from nanoscale laboratory samples (typically 50-100 mg catalyst) to practical reactor systems (kilograms to tons) remain poorly understood. Mass and heat transfer limitations, light penetration depth, and catalyst deactivation processes may become dominant at larger scales. The hydrogen production rates reported in Table 2 ($\mu\text{mol h}^{-1} \text{g}^{-1}$) would need improvement by 2-3 orders of magnitude to approach economic viability for industrial applications [64].

6. Conclusion and Future Directions

This theoretical analysis demonstrates that plasmon-enhanced photocatalysis using gold nanoparticles offers substantial improvements in hydrogen production efficiency compared to conventional semiconductor photocatalysts. Enhancement factors of 3-8 are routinely achieved, with optimized systems reaching quantum efficiencies up to 99.2% under favorable conditions. The mechanisms underlying these improvements include hot electron injection (contributing 30-57% of enhancement depending on system design), plasmon-induced

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resonance energy transfer (30-54%), electromagnetic field enhancement (20-30%), and photothermal effects (10-20%).

Gold nanoparticle size optimization reveals a sweet spot around 40 nm diameter where plasmon resonance wavelength (528 nm) matches the solar spectrum peak, electromagnetic field enhancement remains strong, and hot electron energies suffice for semiconductor injection. Smaller particles offer higher-energy plasmons but weaker fields, while larger particles exhibit intense fields but red-shifted resonances and lower hot electron energies. Shape engineering through nanorods, nanostars, or core-shell architectures provides additional tunability for matching specific semiconductors or light sources.

Interface quality between gold and semiconductor critically determines performance. Direct contact enables rapid hot electron transfer (50-200 fs) but may introduce recombination centers. Thin insulating interlayers (1-3 nm silica) can passivate defects while permitting resonance energy transfer over nanometer-scale gaps. Chemical bonding at interfaces (Au-O-Ti bridges) reduces Schottky barriers and improves charge injection efficiency. Long-term stability requires preventing nanoparticle aggregation through encapsulation or matrix embedding strategies.

Future research should prioritize several key directions. First, development of Earth-abundant plasmonic alternatives to gold (aluminum, copper, or magnesium nanoparticles) would reduce costs and improve scalability. While these materials face oxidation stability challenges, protective coatings or core-shell designs may enable practical implementation. Second, advanced characterization techniques including in situ time-resolved spectroscopy and operando microscopy would clarify mechanisms and guide rational catalyst design. Third, machine learning approaches could accelerate discovery by predicting optimal nanoparticle configurations from materials databases and high-throughput screening.

Fourth, reactor engineering innovations are needed to translate laboratory achievements to practical systems. This includes developing fixed-bed configurations with thin catalyst layers for good light penetration, implementing solar tracking and concentration optics for improved efficiency, and designing continuous-flow reactors with integrated hydrogen separation. Fifth, techno-economic analyses should evaluate complete system costs including catalysts, reactors, gas separation, and balance-of-plant to identify cost reduction opportunities and establish performance targets for commercial viability.

Sixth, coupling plasmonic enhancement with complementary strategies offers promise for breakthrough performance. Combinations with heterojunction engineering (Z-scheme systems), co-catalyst optimization (PtCu or other bimetallics), and defect engineering in semiconductors have shown synergistic benefits exceeding additive improvements. Systematic exploration of multi-modal enhancement could push quantum efficiencies toward theoretical limits. Seventh, extending plasmonic photocatalysis beyond hydrogen production to carbon dioxide reduction, nitrogen fixation, or organic synthesis would broaden impact and applications.

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The theoretical framework and experimental results compiled in this study establish that plasmon-enhanced photocatalysis represents a viable pathway toward efficient solar hydrogen production. While significant challenges remain in stability, cost, and scaling, the fundamental mechanisms are well-understood and the performance improvements demonstrated are substantial. Continued research integrating advanced nanomaterials synthesis, mechanistic understanding, and practical engineering will be essential to realize the technology's full potential for sustainable energy generation.

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**AN ANALYTICAL APPROACH TO THE PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES
OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

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ABSTRACT

The UN's founding in 1945 signalled a dramatic change to a rules-based framework for international government with the dual goals of averting war and encouraging state collaboration. The Objectives and Fundamentals of the UN form the constitutional basis of modern international law and are anchored in Articles 1 and 2 of the UN Charter. With a focus on the preservation of world peace and security and the institutional function of the Security Council in carrying out collective security, this article conducts a doctrinal and analytical analysis of these provisions. The study illustrates the structural limitations resulting from political restraints inside the Security Council as well as the ongoing relevance of the Charter framework by looking at current conflicts, such as the Russia-Ukraine confrontation. The study comes to the conclusion that although the UN's goals and principles are still normatively sound, increased institutional accountability, political collaboration, and commitment to the Charter's spirit are necessary for their successful implementation.

Keywords: *United Nation, UN Charter, International Law, Peace and Security, Sovereignty, Human Rights*

1. INTRODUCTION

The massive devastation that had been witnessed in the two World Wars, the world understood that it would need to find a more effective and superior means of collaborating in order to prevent future wars. This resulted in the emergence of the UN which was a paradigm shift in the way the countries conduct international law (IL) and diplomacy. The UN was established to be more structured and powerful unlike the League of Nations which was formed on the premise that countries would agree to abide by the regulations without any strong force to enforce it. It included important organizations like the international court of justice, which helps resolve conflicts and interpret international law, the general assembly, which allows all

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member nations to discuss legal and political matters collectively, and the Security Council, which is principally responsible for maintaining peace and security in the majority of the world.

Preamble – UN Charter: “to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war”

Articles 1 and 2 of the UN Charter contain the main goals and values of the UN. Not only are this guiding bedrock but also rules which all countries should adhere to. The UN’s principal function is to maintain global stability, promote international harmony, and protect individual liberties, including the right to decide one's own fate. Beyond this, the UN is working to advance human rights and basic freedoms while also fostering international collaboration. These objectives demonstrate an international order that is not only composed of individual nations operating independently, but of a collective responsibility, collaboration and collective liability in solving global problems and concerns.

Equally, the Charter of the UN provides the guidelines to international relations in its Principles of the UN. They are respect of national sovereignty, the cessation of the use of force, the right to settle disputes without the use of force, an end to meddling in the national affairs and a genuine intention to comply with the Charter needs. These principles have influenced the judicial interpretation, the state practice and the customary standards, all of which have led to the development of the modern IL. At an international level, they are used as points of reference in determining legitimacy and legality of government actions.

This necessitates an analysis of the UN Purposes and Principles to illuminate the internal management of the organization, its validity among its member countries and its ability to address urgent problems that impact on the world. The UN Charter has not been overshadowed by complex international issues like armed conflict, humanitarian crises, global warming, terrorism, and cyber threats. The UN has become the main arm of global governance in the current dynamic global society and through reviewing its underlying provisions we can be in a better position of comprehending its strengths and weaknesses.

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1.1. The UN Charter as the Foundation of the Contemporary International Legal Order

The Charter that was adopted in 1945 was a radical shift of paradigm of international relations being based on power because it introduced legally binding commitments to maintain peace, promote cooperation and human dignity. UN Charter has integrated a legal framework on a global basis to all member states, and unlike the previous treaties, which seriously curtailed bilateral or regional relationship, thus creating the foundation of a rules based international order.

As a constitutional document, the Charter establishes the structure, powers, and functions of the key organs of the UN and in the same breath, proclaims the values, which are tenets of the IL. Article 1 and 2 building the Purposes and Principles of the UN provide normative regulations of behaviour of the states and the decisions that the institution arrives at. These principles have significantly contributed to the development of major aspects of IL such as the concept that there should be no use of force, peaceful resolving of conflicts, equality of all the countries and human rights.

UN Charter Article 103:

“If there is a disagreement between the duties that UN members have under this Charter and the duties they have under another international agreement, the duties under this Charter take priority.”

Customary IL has been significantly affected by the Charter with its regular state practices and with significant decisions of international courts in particular the International Court of Justice. Several values outlined in Charter including the prohibition of meddling in the affairs of other nations as well as the right of self-determination are now common rules accepted and legally enforced. Further, the Charter has given the legal framework of establishing specialized agencies, peacekeeping missions, and international systems to address developmental aspects of the economy, aids, and world security matters.

The UN Charter remains the primary legal framework in addressing emerging international issues to this day such as transnational conflict, humanitarian intervention, terrorism and cyber-

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threats. Though it is true that sometimes because of the political conditions and power asymmetries, the effectiveness of the structure of the Charter is hindered, nevertheless, the Charter is a powerful source of normative power. It is the ability of the Charter to strike the right balance between national sovereignty and joint responsibility that has made the Charter the bedrock of the current global legal framework and an important means of peace, stability and cooperation in a world that is becoming more and more connected.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Ikedinobi (2025) took an institutional perspective of the UN, its structure, functions and importance of its main organs. It further added that there was a tendency of these groups sharing similar responsibilities and collaborating and that good political backing was typically the determining factor, more so when the matters concerned peace and security. The book is relevant to current literature because it examines the structure of the UN and how it assists in the preservation of international order and perform its duties through the lens of governance.

Conforti and Focarelli (2016) provided an in-depth examination of the UN law both in theory and practical use, and the way Charter can be viewed as the primary guide on how the international society is expected to work. It examined the role of the UN courts, the extent of power the Security Council possesses and the boundaries of such power, and the way to interpret such significant rules as equal treatment of all states, non-use of force, and non-intervention in domestic matters of other states. It also discussed how the activities of the UN such as peacekeeping missions and official decisions have been able to influence customary IL with time. The demonstration of the links between the rules of the Charter and the way the international system functions in reality and the legal outcomes of the latter makes this document an important legal reference.

Bexell and Jönsson (2017) pointed out that the SDG framework broadened the UN cooperative role which had been based on inter-state peace and security to expansion of global governance matters such as poverty alleviation, equality and environmental sustainability. It has looked at how the SDGs was being achieved through the multi-actor responsibility which was shared between states, international organizations, the private actors and the civil society as a sign of multi-actor responsibility. The work also fitted the UN purposes since it illustrated how

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international cooperation had assumed the form of advanced joint responsibilities and policy coordinating devices.

Bleischwitz et al. (2018) regarded the SDGs as a resource nexus, asserting that the sustainable outcomes of the development were connected in the energy, water, land, food, and materials units. This paper has demonstrated that any focus on one SDG can lead to trade offs that are detrimental to other goals thus requiring the implementation of cross border policies and cooperative initiatives. It underscored the role played by the UN in furthering systemic planning, joint metrics and joint international action. This contribution added to the existing body of literature concerning international cooperation since it illustrated that the new UN agendas required multi-level, interdependent, and science-based, and not piecemeal interventions.

3. PURPOSES OF THE UN: AN ANALYTICAL PERSPECTIVE

The primary objectives and functions of the UN as outlined in Article 1 of the UN Charter are to clarify the position and the purpose of the organization in the world as well as to establish what it is going to do. These goals were developed after the devastation and suffering brought about by World War II to develop a working and secure system that countries could collaborate. They can also contribute to aligning the sovereign interests of states with the greater aims of humanity by promoting cooperation, respect to human dignity and peace. A study on these purposes provides valuable insights that are essential towards how UN operates as a collective action mechanism, a conflict management mechanism and a problem-solving mechanism on the global level. The following subsections will evaluate the nature of the UN and its relevance in the law, practicality, and relevance in addressing the international problems of the modern day.

3.1. First Purpose of the UN: Preserving World Peace and Security (Article 1(1))

Article 1(1) of the UN Charter says that keeping the world peaceful and secure is the main and first goal of the UN. The worldwide community's desire to prevent a repeat of the devastating effects of the first and second world wars led to the establishment of this goal. In contrast to earlier global organizations, the UN Charter established a collective security system that shifted responsibility for peacekeeping from individual states to an international entity.

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War is not the only thing that the Charter means when it talks about international peace and security. It encompasses nonviolent resistance to aggression, peaceful resolution of disputes, and the eradication of dangers to peace via concerted global effort. Accordingly, Article 1(1) heralds a shift away from the unilateral use of force and toward a rule-based international order predicated on Co-operation, legality, and institutional enforcement.

- **Role of the Security Council in Achieving the First Purpose**

The main task of keeping international peace and security is given to the Security Council by the UN Charter, specifically Article 24. This is how the first main goal is reached. The Security Council is the most important executive group in the UN that is in charge of making sure the world stays peaceful and secure. The Security Council has promised to help the member countries carry out their duties by agreeing to the Charter.

The main tasks of the Security Council in keeping the world safe and peaceful are as follows:

1. Removing any danger that could cause conflict, disrupt peace, or lead to physical harm.
2. Bringing together the involved parties to settle disagreements without using violence.
3. Suggesting ways or steps to make adjustments and find solutions.
4. Using non-military methods like economic punishments and diplomatic pressure.
5. Chapter VII of the UN Charter allows the use of armed action when peaceful solutions have not worked.

By using this power, the Security Council helps carry out the main goal of the UN and acts as the main system to maintain everyone safe together.

- **Maintenance of International Peace and Security in Contemporary Conflicts**

Russia–Ukraine Conflict: A Critical Test of the UN’s First Purpose

In light of the UN principal mission to ensure the preservation of international peace and security, the conflict between Russia and Ukraine ranks high among the most pressing concerns. The use of force by Russia against Ukraine is highly problematic from a legal standpoint, as it violates Article 2(4) of the UN Charter, which stipulates that the nation's territorial integrity or political independence can be threatened by the use of force.

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The war poses an imminent danger to world peace and security, necessitating a large-scale coordinated reaction, as stated in Article 1 (1). The Security Council has largely disregarded the seriousness of the issue in enforcing the legislation due to Russia's status as a permanent member and veto power. The political interests of powerful states can undermine the basic objectives of the Charter, and this deadlock has shown that this is a systemic problem in the UN system of collective security.

- **Other Ongoing Conflicts and Selective Enforcement**

Similar challenges may be seen in other war situations, such as those in Gaza, Syria, and Yemen, where years of bloodshed have threatened international peace and security. Political disagreements among permanent members have hindered, weakened, or even prevented Security Council action in the majority of these situations. Such a limited implementation of the Charter's peace and security mandate undermines the UN's credibility and undermines confidence in its ability to impartially uphold world peace.

- **Critical Evaluation**

The first goal of the UN is institutionally focused on the Security Council, but it is actually limited by structural and political constraints, according to an examination of ongoing hostilities. Although the veto power was initially meant to guarantee agreement among the great countries, it has frequently impeded prompt and efficient reactions to grave threats to international peace. As a result, Article 1(1)'s guarantee of global peace and security continues to be uneven and inconsistent.

3.2.Development of Friendly Relations Among Nations

By promoting peaceful cohabitation among its member nations, the UN's aims to achieve universal respect for human dignity, which includes the right to self-determination. This role was especially important during the decolonization era, when the UN assisted many regions in gaining independence. Current discussions regarding self-determination have influenced issues such as autonomy, secession, and minority rights.

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3.3. International Cooperation

Through specialized organizations like the WHO, UNESCO, and ILO, the UN also addresses issues that transcend national borders. This goal emphasizes, analytically, the interconnectedness of states and multilateral solutions to global issues like poverty, health crises, and climate change.

3.4. Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

One of the main goals of the UN is to Promote and protect and ensure that all people have their human rights and basic freedoms. In 1948, leaders from around the world came together to agree on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was a big turning point in the history of human rights. This shows that international law is now more focused on individuals rather than just countries when it comes to global politics.

UN Charter Article 2(5):

“All members must help the UN in any action it takes according to the current Charter, but they cannot Promote and protect any country that the UN is acting against through enforcement or preventive measures.”

UN Charter Article 2(6):

“To help maintain global peace and security, the Organization will ensure that non-UN members follow these principles whenever it is needed.”

The general goals of the UN are outlined in Article 1 of the Charter, but without legally binding guidelines controlling state behavior, these goals cannot be achieved. This vital task is carried out by Article 2, which converts UN goals into binding legal norms. Articles 1 and 2 together create an integrated normative framework that directs state behavior and institutional action in the preservation of international cooperation, security, and peace.

4. PRINCIPLES OF THE UN: AN ANALYTICAL EXAMINATION OF ARTICLE 2

Enshrined in Article 2 of the UN Charter, the UN Principles give the intellectual and operational underpinning for accomplishing the organization's objectives. Article 2 lays out the organization's aims, whereas Article 1 sets legally binding norms of conduct that govern the

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UN and its member nations. Modern international law and diplomatic practice rest on these principles, which find a middle ground between individual states' rights and the need to work together.

Article 2's principles, in contrast to idealistic declarations, are binding under law and have evolved into customary international law via judicial interpretation and consistent state practice. The impact on international dispute resolution, treaty duties, and state behavior is substantial, and their relevance extends beyond the formal functions of the UN.

4.1. Principle of Sovereign Equality of States (Article 2(1))

The UN is founded on the principle that all of its members are equal and sovereign, as stated in Article 2(1). According to this theory, all states are considered to have the same legal standing within the international legal system, regardless of their size, population, economic might, or military force. Equal participation in general assemblies and equal protection of political independence and territorial integrity are guaranteed by sovereign equality.

Since no state may be subject to international duties without its consent, it is evident from a legal standpoint that sovereign equality is the basis of consent under international law. However, political realities frequently place restrictions on this idea in practical settings. The Security Council's makeup, particularly the veto power of permanent members, makes the system unbalanced and hinders the realization of sovereign equality. However, these flaws do not negate the principle's importance in preserving states' independence and dignity within the framework of the international system.

4.2. Fulfilment of Charter Obligations in Good Faith (Article 2(2))

Member states are required by Article 2(2) to fulfill their duties under the UN Charter in a sincere manner. The larger idea of *pacta sunt servanda*, which mandates that governments uphold their international obligations in a sincere and truthful manner, is reflected in this notion. In order to preserve stability, predictability, and trust in international relations, good faith compliance is crucial.

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States must uphold the spirit and intent of UN rulings in addition to formally adhering to Charter requirements. The UN's authority and the framework of collective security are weakened by selective compliance, political manipulation, or willful non-implementation of Security Council resolutions. Therefore, governments' willingness to operate in good faith is crucial to the UN system's efficiency.

4.3. Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes (Article 2(3))

Article 2(3) mandates that states to settle their international conflicts peacefully so as not to jeopardize global security, justice, or peace. Compared to previous international practices where war was regarded as a valid tool of national policy, this principle marks a significant shift.

The UN recognizes a wide variety of ways for conflict resolution, including regional agreements, arbitration, conciliation, mediation, judicial settlement, and negotiation. A venue for the legitimate resolution of conflicts originating from international law is the International Court of Justice. The success of these processes relies heavily on the Co-operation and consent of states, especially in politically delicate situations.

4.4. Prohibition of the Threat or Use of Force (Article 2(4))

Article 2(4) The rule that stops using or threatening to use force against a country's political freedom or borders is one of the most important achievements in modern international law. This rule is meant to lower the chance of one country attacking another, helping to stop aggression and wars. Besides the right to defend yourself (Article 51) and Chapter VII, which allows the Security Council to approve military action, the Charter doesn't allow any other exceptions to this rule. Even though this rule is a fundamental part of international law, it's hard to apply in real life because security threats maintain changing, like terrorism, claims of humanitarian intervention, and pre-emptive self-defence. However, this rule is still very important because the UN wants to create a world based on clear rules and agreements.

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4.5. Non-Intervention in Domestic Affairs (Article 2(7))

Article 2(7) prohibits the UN from getting involved in issues that are basically under a state's domestic jurisdiction. This principle respects political, cultural, and legal diversity while defending state sovereignty. It guarantees that national governments are not superseded by the UN as a supranational authority.

However, in situations involving egregious human rights abuses, humanitarian crises, and mass crimes, the extent of non-intervention has been discussed more and more. Sovereignty has been reinterpreted as an obligation rather than an absolute protection with the advent of the obligation to Protect (R2P) philosophy. R2P aims to balance non-intervention and human rights protection, but its selective implementation has raised questions about political abuse and inconsistencies.

4.6. Critical Assessment of Article 2 Principles

Together, the tenets of Article 2 create a legal system built on mutual respect, cooperation, and moderation. However, uneven power structures, uneven enforcement, and geopolitical agendas often undermine their efficacy. Although these guidelines offer a solid basis for norms, institutional responsibility and political will are crucial to their implementation.

Notwithstanding these difficulties, Article 2 is nevertheless essential to the operation of the global order. It continues to direct states' actions in a world that is ever more complicated by translating the UN's goals into specific legal duties.

5. CASE STUDIES ILLUSTRATING THE APPLICATION OF UN PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES

Real international crises and historical events are the best lenses through which to see the UN's Purposes and Principles. Decisions made by the courts, acts taken by the Security Council, and experiences with peacekeeping operations can teach us how these basic principles are used, interpreted, and sometimes disputed in practice. Case studies helped connect the theoretical foundations of the UN Charter with its practical uses by providing an example of successful,

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limited, and evolving interpretations of IL. The following events provide an analysis of the UN function in preserving international stability by illuminating the implementation of fundamental UN principles such non-intervention, collective security, peaceful conflict resolution, and protection of human rights.

5.1. *Nicaragua v. United States of America (1986)* – International Court of Justice

The *Nicaragua v. United States of America (1986)* A major decision in international law history dealt with how to understand and follow the UN main goals and rules. Nicaragua sued the United States at the International Court of Justice, claiming that U.S. Promote and protect for rebel groups in Nicaragua and mining activities in the country went against international law. The court said these actions were not allowed because they broke the UN Charter, which stops the use of force and says countries shouldn't interfere in each other's affairs. One way the U.S. tried to affect Nicaragua's politics without officially taking control was by giving rebels money, supplies, and weapons. The court's decision supported the UN Charter and showed how the ICJ helps make international law work and holds governments accountable when they don't follow their duties under the Charter.

5.2. The Korean War (1950)

The Korean War is an important example of the real application of the UN Charter in terms of collective security. In 1950, after North Korea invaded South Korea militarily, the UN Security Council declared that this action had broken international peace and security. Resolutions that asked member countries to give military help to stop the invasion were approved and passed by the Security Council, even though one country could have used a veto. Using force to protect international peace and security was a new and unexpected action by the UN. According to the UN Charter's notion of collective security, the conflict proved that an assault on one country can be seen as a danger to all nations. Decisions made by the Security Council were also affected by the political atmosphere, especially the power of superpowers, as was seen in this.

5.3. UN Peacekeeping in Bosnia and Herzegovina

An illustration of the pros and cons of the UN engagement in complicated internal conflicts is the organization's performance in Bosnia and Herzegovina throughout the Yugoslav War in the

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1990s. In order to back up ceasefire agreements, protect civilians, and distribute humanitarian relief, the UN sent peacekeeping forces. The UN's goals of preserving human rights, fostering peace, and preventing the further escalation of violence were all met by these measures. The failure of UN forces to prevent crimes like the Srebrenica massacre, however, demonstrated some fundamental limitations on operations and mandate. Political consensus among member states, insufficient funds, and low standards of participation all worked against the Charter's intended execution. The case highlighted the difficulties of sustaining peace in the midst of civil strife and led to more revisions to UN peacekeeping doctrine.

5.4. Responsibility to Protect and Libya (2011)

A new way of thinking about the UN's goals, especially the balance between not getting involved in other countries' affairs and protecting human rights, came about after the action taken in Libya in 2011. The UN Security Council passed Resolution 1973 in response to the serious harm caused by the Libyan government. This resolution allowed the use of force to protect civilians. The idea called the Responsibility to Protect, which says that governments must protect their people from things like genocide, was seen by many as being put into practice through this intervention. The intervention caused controversy due to the implications of the regime change and the ongoing instability, even if it demonstrated the UN's dedication to prioritizing human rights and civilian protection. Concerns about accountability, proportionality, and bias in the implementation of UN principles are highlighted by the Libyan instance, which also highlights the tensions between contemporary humanitarian principles and traditional notions of sovereignty.

6. CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTATION

Even though the goals and values of the UN are widely known and seen as important guiding principles, there are still many challenges that stop them from being properly followed in the world today. One big problem is the political use of the veto power by the five permanent members of the Security Council. This veto was meant to stop powerful countries from making decisions on their own, outside of the UN. But when it's used often, it causes deadlocks and stops the UN from acting. This has weakened the UN's ability to maintain the world stable, especially when there are wars, big crises, or serious human rights problems.

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Also, the UN's fairness and trustworthiness are damaged because its rules aren't always followed the same way everywhere. Some rules, like not using force or not getting involved in other countries' problems, aren't respected by all nations. Stronger countries can often break these rules without facing serious consequences, while weaker ones may be unfairly criticized or punished. This unfairness makes people less willing to follow the UN's rules and makes them see the organization as unfair and not impartial.

7. CONCLUSION

The current system of international law is based on the UN Charter, especially Articles 1 and 2, which explain what the organization aims to do. Article 2 sets up rules that countries must follow to help achieve the main goal of the UN, which is to maintain international peace and security, as mentioned in Article 1. Recent situations, like the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, show that the veto power in the UN has its limits. This study highlights the important role of the Security Council in making sure collective security is maintained. Even though there are challenges and not all the Charter's ideas are fully followed, the UN is still the main body that handles global affairs. To have a peaceful and trustworthy international system, we need to improve the way institutions work and make sure everyone follows the Charter properly.

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**FLEXIBLE PLASTIC HOSE PIPE –A RESEARCH
REPORT TO USE 90 % RECYCLE PLASTIC**

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ABSTRACT

This report documents a flexible hose pipe formulation using 90% recycled HDPE with LLDPE and virgin HDPE, reinforced with galvanized steel wire (Ø 0.18 mm). The recipe is presented for a 100 kg batch with weights in grams, alongside pipe sizes (16, 20, 24, 40 mm), indicative mechanical properties, hose structure diagrams, and a concise extrusion process description suitable for production and QA documentation.

INTRODUCTION

The hose design prioritizes high recycled polymer content (90% HDPE) for sustainability while retaining flexibility and strength through an HDPE/LLDPE blend and steel wire reinforcement. The formulation targets general-purpose flexible hoses where abrasion resistance, UV protection (via black masterbatch), and moderate pressure capacity are required.

Recipe Composition (100 kg / 100,000 g Batch)

Component	Weight (g)
HDPE (Recycled)	90000
LLDPE (Sabic 219ZJ)	4500
HDPE (GS Caltex TR144)	5000
Black Masterbatch	500

Pipe Sizes

Nominal Size (mm)	Typical Application	Notes
16	Drip/low-flow connections	Wall thickness to be set per pressure requirement (SDR/PN selection).
20	Light-duty water transfer	Wall thickness to be set per pressure requirement (SDR/PN selection).
24	General service hose	Wall thickness to be set per pressure requirement (SDR/PN selection).

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40	Higher flow/industrial washdown	Wall thickness to be set per pressure requirement (SDR/PN selection).
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Mechanical Properties (Indicative Targets; verify by testing)

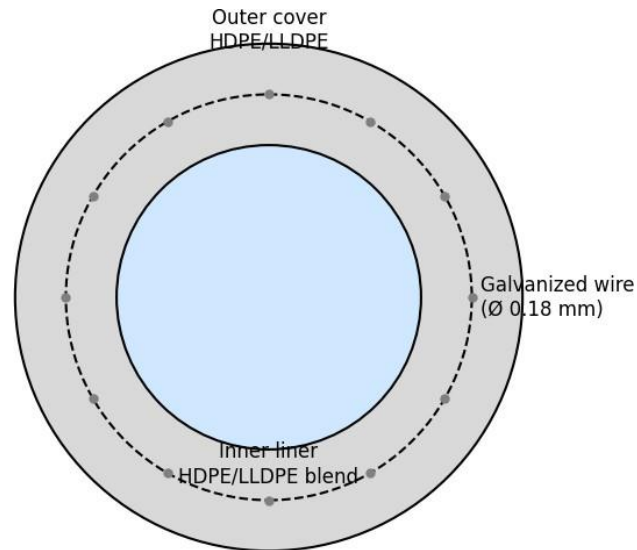
Property	HDPE (typical)	LLDPE (typical)	Blend target (HDPE-dominant)
Density (g/cm ³)	0.94–0.965	≈0.92	0.94–0.96
Tensile strength, yield (MPa)	22–35	≈10	22–32
Elongation at break (%)	500–1000	480–670	400–800
Flexural modulus (GPa)	0.8–1.2	0.17–0.28 (secant)	0.6–1.0
Hardness (Shore D)	58–65	≈48–55	60–65
Vicat softening (°C)	120–130	≈90–100	115–125
HDT @ 0.45 MPa (°C)	60–88	38–49	55–75

Note: Values are typical ranges from literature; actual properties must be confirmed via ASTM/ISO tests (e.g., ASTM D638 tensile, D792 density, D1238 MFR; ISO 4427 for PE pressure pipe performance).

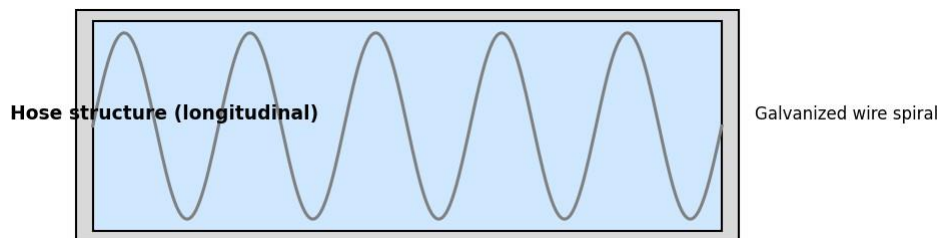
Hose Structure Diagrams

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Cross-section (inner liner, wire reinforcement, outer cover):



Longitudinal view with galvanized wire spiral reinforcement:



Extrusion Process (PE Hose with Wire Reinforcement)

Material prep: Ensure pellets are dry; if moisture >0.03% w/w, pre-dry to prevent surface defects.

Compounding/feed: Blend recycled HDPE, LLDPE, virgin HDPE, and black MB per recipe; maintain homogeneous mixing.

Temperature profile (HDPE-dominant blend): Barrel 180–205°C; Head/Die 190–205°C; Melt 200–220°C.

Extrusion and sizing: Use annular die; calibrate with vacuum sizing/cooling tanks; maintain concentricity and wall control.

Wire reinforcement: Apply Ø 0.18 mm galvanized wire as a controlled spiral between liner and cover; ensure adhesion/embedding.

Cooling and haul-off: Multi-stage cooling to avoid residual stress; set line speed to maintain target dimensions.

Marking & QC: Print pipe size, batch, date; perform routine tests (dimensions, tensile where applicable, visual, pressure/burst if required).

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CONCLUSION

The presented recipe and process enable production of flexible PE hoses with high recycled content and wire reinforcement. Final mechanical and pressure performance must be validated to the intended service using ASTM/ISO methods. Pipe sizes 16, 20, 24, and 40 mm can be produced by adjusting tooling and SDR selection to meet application demands.

References (for testing & process standards)

- ASTM D638 – Tensile Properties of Plastics
- ASTM D792 – Density of Plastics by Displacement
- ASTM D1238 – Melt Flow Rate of Thermoplastics
- ISO 4427-1/2:2019 – PE piping systems for water under pressure
- INEOS Extrusion Guidelines for HDPE Pipe Grade Resins

Extruder Specifications

Extruder Model: Jwell Single-Screw Extruder L/D Ratio: 35

Production Capacity: ~35 kg/h

Features: High-torque gearbox, energy-efficient heating zones, suitable for HDPE/LLDPE blends with wire reinforcement.

Lab Test Plan Template

Objective: Validate mechanical and dimensional properties of flexible hose pipe batches.

Test	Standard	Frequency	Acceptance Criteria
Tensile Strength	ASTM D638	Every batch	Within spec range for HDPE blend
Density	ASTM D792	Every batch	0.94–0.96 g/cm ³
Melt Flow Rate	ASTM D1238	Weekly	Matches processability target
Dimensional Check	ISO 4427	Every batch	Pipe OD ± tolerance, wall thickness per SDR

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Visual & Pressure Test	Internal SOP	Every batch	No cracks, burst pressure meets PN rating
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References (for testing & process standards)

- ASTM D638 – Tensile Properties of Plastics
- ASTM D792 – Density of Plastics by Displacement
- ASTM D1238 – Melt Flow Rate of Thermoplastics
- ISO 4427-1/2:2019 – PE piping systems for water under pressure
- INEOS Extrusion Guidelines for HDPE Pipe Grade Resins

ESG Integration for Flexible Plastic Hose Pipe Manufacturing (Using 90% Recycled HDPE)

Overview: The plastics industry faces ESG-driven changes (GHG reduction, circularity, waste control, transparency). This section adds quantifiable metrics (KPIs), risks & mitigations, and governance processes for the 90% recycled HDPE hose line.

ESG KPI Dashboard (2026–2027)

KPI	Definition / Method	Baseline	2026 Target	2027 Target	Rationale
Recycled Content (%)	Mass of recycled polymer ÷ total polymer; supplier CoA + mass balance	of 90%	≥90%	≥92%	Supports circularity & markets for recycled material
Energy Intensity (kWh/kg)	Total electricity ÷ saleable hose output	Measure	-8% baseline	vs -12% baseline	vs Decarbonization & efficiency focus
GHG Intensity (tCO₂e/ton)	Scope 2: grid emission factor	Measure ×	-10% baseline	vs -15% baseline	vs Emission reduction via efficiency/renewables
Renewable Electricity Share (%)	% of total kWh from renewable sources	Measure	≥25%	≥50%	Responsible resource use
Water Intensity (L/kg)	Process cooling water ÷ kg	+Measure	-10% baseline	vs -15% baseline	vs Efficiency of water use

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hose					
Process Waste Diversion (%)	% scrap reprocessed or sent to certified recycler	Measure	≥95%	≥98%	Zero Net Waste practices
Pellet/Wire Loss (g per km hose)	Pellet spills & wire offcuts collected vs produced	Measure	-50% baseline	vs-75% baseline	Operation Clean Sweep
VOC / Odor Events (#/quarter)	HSE corrective actions closed	logs; Measure	0	0	Pollution control & safe operations

Social KPIs

KPI	Definition / Method	Baseline	2026 Target	2027 Target	Rationale
TRIR (per 200,000 hrs)	Total Recordable Incident Rate	Measure	≤1.0	≤0.8	Safe working conditions
Near-Miss Reporting (#/quarter)	Logged & closed with corrective actions	Measure	+50% vs baseline	+75% vs baseline	Safety culture & transparency
HSE Training (hours/employee/year)	Extrusion, handling, LOTO, chemical safety	Measure	≥24 h	≥30 h	Worker safety & competency
DEI Representation (skilled ops)	%% under-represented groups in skilled roles	Measure	+3 pp	+5 pp	Inclusive workforce
Community Recovery (ton/yr)	Plastic Diversion via partner programs	Measure	≥50 t	≥75 t	Community impact & circularity

Governance KPIs

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KPI	Definition / Method	Baseline	2026 Target	2027 Target	Rationale
Supplier ESG Audit Coverage (%)	% of tier-1 suppliers audited annually	Measure	≥70%	≥90%	Due diligence & ethical sourcing
ESG Disclosure (annual)	Publication of ESG report	Not published	Publish FY2026	Publish FY2027 (assurance ready)	Transparency & accountability
Compliance Findings (#/year)	Regulatory breaches/notices	Measure	0	0	Proactive compliance
LCA Coverage (%)	% hose SKUs with cradle-to-gate LCA	Measure	≥50%	≥100%	Impact quantification & decisions

ESG Risk Register & Mitigation Plan

Risk	Pillar	Description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Actions
Feedstock Variability & Contamination	E/G	Inconsistent MFR, contaminants affecting mechanicals & compliance	Med	High	Incoming QC (MFR, density, FTIR); approved suppliers; inline melt filtration;

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batch traceability; conservative claims					
Plastic Leakage (Pellets/Fluff)	E	Losses during conveying/cutting causing environmental pollution	Med	High	Operation Clean Sweep SOPs; spill kits; yard sweeps; drain guards; KPI tracking
GHG & Energy Cost Exposure	E/G	Rising grid emission factor and tariffs	Med	Med	Energy audits; VFDs; heat-zone optimization; PPAs/on-site PV
Regulatory Changes (EPR/waste)	G	Stricter waste & reporting rules; penalties	Med	Med–High	Policy monitoring; industry association; LCA & ESG reporting; substantiated recyclability claims
Worker Safety (Extrusion, wire, heat)	S	Burns, cuts, ergonomic strain, electrical hazards	Low–Med	High	PPE; LOTO; guarding; near-miss culture; ≥24 h training/employee/year
Supply-Chain Ethics & Transparency	G/S	Labor/environmental issues at suppliers	Med	Med	Annual audits; code of conduct; remediation plans; supplier diversification
Product Safety & Performance Claims	S/G	Inaccurate durability/pressure claims; end-user risk	Low–Med	High	ASTM/ISO testing; batch QC; labeling & traceability; QA matrix in ESG report
Community Perception & Social License	S	Local concerns about plastic manufacturing & waste	Low–Med	Med	Community programs; grievance mechanism; open-house; performance

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					dashboards
ESG Ratings	G	Overstated claims	Med	High	Third-party
Misalignmen	vs reality;				assurance; clear
t /	reputational				methodologies;
Greenwashin	damage				recognized
g					frameworks;
					materiality
					assessments

Governance Processes to Operationalize KPIs

ESG Steering Committee: Production, QA, HSE, Procurement, Finance—monthly review of dashboard & actions.

Data Quality & Assurance: Metered data; quarterly internal audit; annual limited

assurance before publishing ESG report.

Supplier ESG Due Diligence: Annual audits for recyclate, virgin HDPE, masterbatch, wire;

corrective actions tracked.

Operation Clean Sweep (OCS): Plant-wide SOPs, training, incident logging and KPI

reporting.

LCA Roll-out: ≥50% SKUs in FY2026; 100% in FY2027; use LCA to steer materials/energy

decisions.

Community Program: MoU with local NGO to quantify diversion; publish outcomes in ESG

report.

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ASTM D638 – Standard Test Method for Tensile Properties of Plastics.

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**CRISIS-ORIENTED FINANCIAL STRATEGIES AND PROFITABILITY
OUTCOMES IN INDIA'S COAL SECTOR ENTERPRISES**

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ABSTRACT

The Indian coal industry is a strategically significant and capital-intensive enterprise that has witnessed repetitive phases of financial strain on account of market fluctuation, regulatory limitations, escalation of the business and policy issues. This research paper is an analysis of how crisis-based financial plans have affected the profits of coal industry companies in India with particular emphasis on cost reduction, liquidity management, debt restructuring and government financial assistance. The research is based on secondary data on audited financial statements of a sample of coal enterprises using a quantitative explanatory research design. They used descriptive statistics, correlation analysis, multiple regression, and comparative analysis to evaluate the change in profitability after and before crisis intervention. The findings indicate that cost minimization, good liquidity management and government financial support have massive positive contribution to profitability in terms of Return on Assets, Return on Equity, Operating Profit Margin, and Net Profit Margin. On the contrary, debt restructuring demonstrates a short-term adverse impact on profitability even though it stabilizes profitability in the long run. On the whole, the results verify the fact that crisis-based financial practices contribute significantly to improving financial resilience, operational efficiency, and profitability among coal industry businesses in India.

Keywords: *Crisis-Oriented Financial Strategies, Profitability, Coal Sector Enterprises, Liquidity Management, Government Financial Support, Financial Performance.*

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1. INTRODUCTION

The coal industry in India is central in the energy security of the state, industrialization and economic growth. Being a fundamental industry, coal businesses, especially those run by the government, are typified by intensive capital operations, high fixed cost, and high reliance on government policies. The industry has been struggling with recurring financial and operational issues due to changing market demands, regulatory force, increased production expenses, environmental issues, and general economic shocks in recent years. These factors have made the coal industry businesses vulnerable to financial hardships, and therefore, crisis management has become an important facet of business sustainability and competencies.

In these crisis times, organizations have been forced to implement crisis-based financial strategies to ensure a stabilized business and to safeguard profit. These measures are generally cost rationalization, high liquidity management, capital and debt restructuring and dependence on government financial support mechanisms. Such interventions have been especially successful in the coal industry where exogenous shocks and policies interventions can have a potent impact on financial performance. It is vital that the decision-makers in the corporate world and policy-makers who wish to create the sustainability of the sector in the long-term understand how such strategies can influence profitability.

Profitability is one of the indicators of financial performance and efficiency. Such measures like Return on Assets (ROA), Return on Equity (ROE), Operating Profit Margin (OPM), Net Profit Margin (NPM) give the idea of how effective enterprises use their resources and act in the case of financial stress. An analysis of the correlation involving crisis-related financial measures with these profitability measures provides useful data on the question as to whether a short-term financial intervention has a significant effect on meaningful performance changes.

It is in this context that the current study examines how crisis-oriented financial strategies influence the profitability scores of the coal sector companies in India. Through the examination of financial information of crisis and post crisis periods, the analysis aims at evaluating the effectiveness of cost cutting policies, liquidity management policies, capital restructuring, and government relief in improving financial performance. The results are intended to enrich the current body of literature on the management of crises at the financial

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level and offer practice-based information on enhancing resilience and profitability in strategically significant industries of the public sector.

1.1. Research Objectives

- To analyze the impact of crisis-oriented financial strategies on the profitability of India's coal sector enterprises.
- To compare profitability performance before and after the adoption of crisis-oriented financial strategies.
- To examine the relationship between financial strategies and profitability indicators in the coal sector.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Ansari and Qureshi (2015) explored the notion of sustainability in the context of supply chain management and pointed out the increased significance of considering the economic, environmental, and social aspects in making management choices. They emphasized the role of cost efficiency, resource optimization and risk reduction in their study as key factors in sustaining organizational performance particularly in sectors that require vast amounts of resources. The authors claimed that a strategic control of costs and effective operation practice was necessary to sustain long-term financial stability which was specifically applicable to the industries with market instability and financial constraints.

Brauch (2025) examined the issues of the Anthropocene period, considering the relationship between politics, policy models, and economic livelihood. The paper presented the way in which industries that were operating under environmental and regulatory stress were forced to implement adaptive financial and policy-driven approaches to promote resilience. Brauch stressed that the response of government intervention, policy support and restructuring of industries in times of systemic crisis was critical to stabilising industries and that coordinated responses in terms of financial and policy assistance were important to maintain profitability and survival.

Ebinger (2021) explored a dynamic aspect of energy sector with international cooperation and competition especially with reference to energy security and policy driven industries. The paper

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has indicated the importance of government intervention, funding and strategic intervention on performance and stability of energy businesses. The analysis by Ebinger highlighted the fact that organizations in the energy sector that were highly affected by the policy usually depended on the support of the state and proper financial management in order to withstand the unpredictable economic times and still be profitable in times of disruption.

Edwards (2021) explored how the international system had reacted to climate change in a collective locality approach wherein the author noted the failure of global systems to respond to specific regional economic and environmental issues. The study purported that the financial and regulatory burdens on industries that were operating at both local and national levels were usually disproportional as a result of climate policies. Edwards indicated that such forces created the need of adaptive financial and strategic responses by business, especially resource-intensive industries, to remain economically stable and profitable across a shifting policy regime.

Gattorna (2016) observed the wisdom of professional teams regarding the dynamism of aligning the supply chain and highlighted the role of strategic flexibility in the organization. The article emphasized that companies where there was uncertainty and external shocks were served well by adaptive cost structures, resource management and responsive financial planning. According to the findings of Gattorna, organizations could better sustain performance during the times of disruption because proactive alignment of financial and operational strategies helped them to meet crises.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research design adopted in this study is quantitative explanatory research design based on the use of secondary financial information of the various business enterprises in the Indian coal sector in understanding how crisis oriented financial strategies influence profitability. The standard profitability indicators were used to apply descriptive statistics, correlation, regression, and comparative analysis, by ensuring transparency and ethical appropriateness by using publicly available data.

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3.1. Research Design

The research design used in the study is quantitative and explanatory study to examine the effects of crisis-oriented financial strategies on the profitability of coal sector organizations in India. This design allows objective measurement of relationship between financial strategies and profitability indicators when there are financial stresses.

3.2. Sample and Data Sources

The research relies on the secondary data obtained by the sample coal sector businesses that work in India. The financial information has been got through audited annual reports, published financial statements, and government and regulatory reports that are official and reliable, which makes them consistent.

3.3. Variables and Measurement

Financial strategies that have been crisis-oriented, such as cost reduction, liquidity management, debt restructuring, and government financial support, were considered as independent variables. Dependent variables to measure financial performance were profitability measures of Return on Assets (ROA), Return on Equity (ROE), Operating Profit Margin (OPM) and Net Profit Margin (NPM).

3.4. Tools and Techniques of Analysis

Financial strategies that have been crisis-oriented, such as cost reduction, liquidity management, debt restructuring, and government financial support, were considered as independent variables. Dependent variables to measure financial performance were profitability measures of Return on Assets (ROA), Return on Equity (ROE), Operating Profit Margin (OPM) and Net Profit Margin (NPM).

3.5. Model Specification and Ethical Considerations

The correlation between crisis-focused financial policies and profitability was considered with the multiple regression model with ROA as the dependent variable. The research used only publicly available secondary data, which guaranteed the ethical conduct and openness.

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4. RESULT

This section provides the empirical data on relationship between crisis-oriented financial strategies and profitability outcomes of the India coal sector enterprises. It analyses the cost rationalization practices, liquidity management practices, capital restructuring practices as well as mechanisms by the government to support finance in times of financial strain. Performance outcomes were measured using such profitability indicators as Return on Assets (ROA), Return on Equity (ROE), Operating Profit Margin (OPM) and Net Profit Margin (NPM).

4.1. Descriptive Statistics of Key Financial Variables

Table 1 is a summary of the descriptive statistics of crisis-oriented financial policies and profitability pointers of the coal industry enterprises in India. It brings out the mean levels, standardization, and range of the major variables like cost reduction, liquidity management, debt-equity structure, government support, ROA, and ROE. Visual comparison of these variables in figure 1 gives a clearer insight into the distribution of variables.

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics of Financial Strategy and Profitability Indicators

Variable	Mean	Standard Deviation	Minimum	Maximum
Cost Reduction Index	3.68	0.71	2.10	4.90
Liquidity Ratio	1.42	0.36	0.85	2.10
Debt–Equity Ratio	1.78	0.52	0.95	2.85
Government Support Intensity	3.21	0.84	1.80	4.70
Return on Assets (ROA %)	5.64	1.92	1.80	9.10
Return on Equity (ROE %)	11.38	3.75	4.20	18.60

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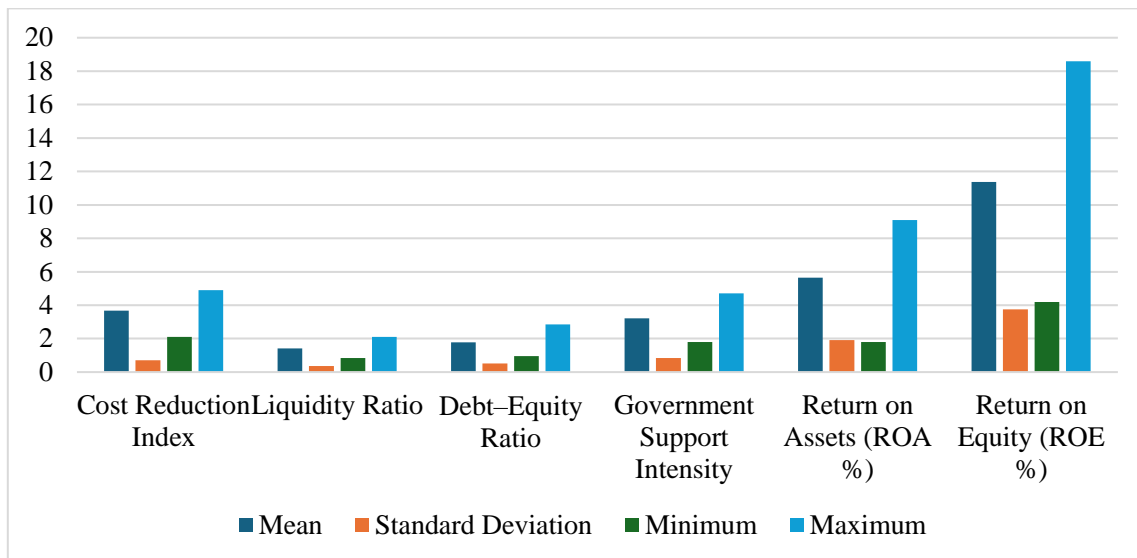


Figure 1: Graphical Representation of Descriptive Statistics of Financial Strategy and Profitability Indicators

These results suggest there will be moderate usage of cost-cutting and high usage of government assistance in times of crisis. Its liquidity ratios indicate prudent financial management as the debt-equity ratio indicates leveraged operations. The ROE is high relative to ROA, which indicates that leverage was used effectively in general indicating that financial strategies that were focused on crisis helped to sustain stable profitability.

4.2. Impact of Crisis-Oriented Financial Strategies on Profitability

The findings of the multiple regression model analyzing the effect of crisis-oriented financial strategies on profitability in terms of Return on Assets (ROA) are shown in table 2 of the study of the coal sector enterprises in India. The table gives standardized beta coefficients, t-values-p values and general model statistics in terms of R and F-value to determine the strength and significance of each strategy.

Table 2: Regression Results – Crisis Financial Strategies and ROA

Independent Variable	β Coefficient	t-value	p-value
Cost Reduction Strategy	0.312	3.84	0.001

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Liquidity Management	0.276	3.21	0.003
Debt Restructuring	-0.194	-2.47	0.018
Government Financial Support	0.358	4.29	0.000
R ²	0.62		
F-value	18.73		0.000

The findings reveal that cost reduction, liquidity management, and government financial support positively and significantly affect ROA with government support being the best predictor. Conversely, debt restructuring has a major adverse impact on ROA, which implies short-term stress on profitability in the process of restructuring. The model predicts 62 percent of the change in ROA, which supports that crisis-oriented financial strategies determine the impact on profitability results intensely.

4.3. Comparative Profitability Before and After Crisis Intervention

Table 3 indicates a comparison of the main indicators of profitability of enterprises in the coal sector before and after the adoption of crisis-oriented financial positions. The table shows the variance in the operating profit margin, net profit margin, and the return on assets, as well as the return on equity, whereas the Figure 2 illustrates the graphical variance in the profitability between the two periods.

Table 3: Comparison of Profitability Indicators Pre- and Post-Crisis Strategy Implementation

Profitability Indicator	Pre-Crisis Mean (%)	Post-Crisis Mean (%)	Mean Difference
Operating Profit Margin	14.2	18.6	+4.4
Net Profit Margin	7.9	11.3	+3.4
Return on Assets	4.1	5.6	+1.5

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Return on Equity	9.2	11.4	+2.2
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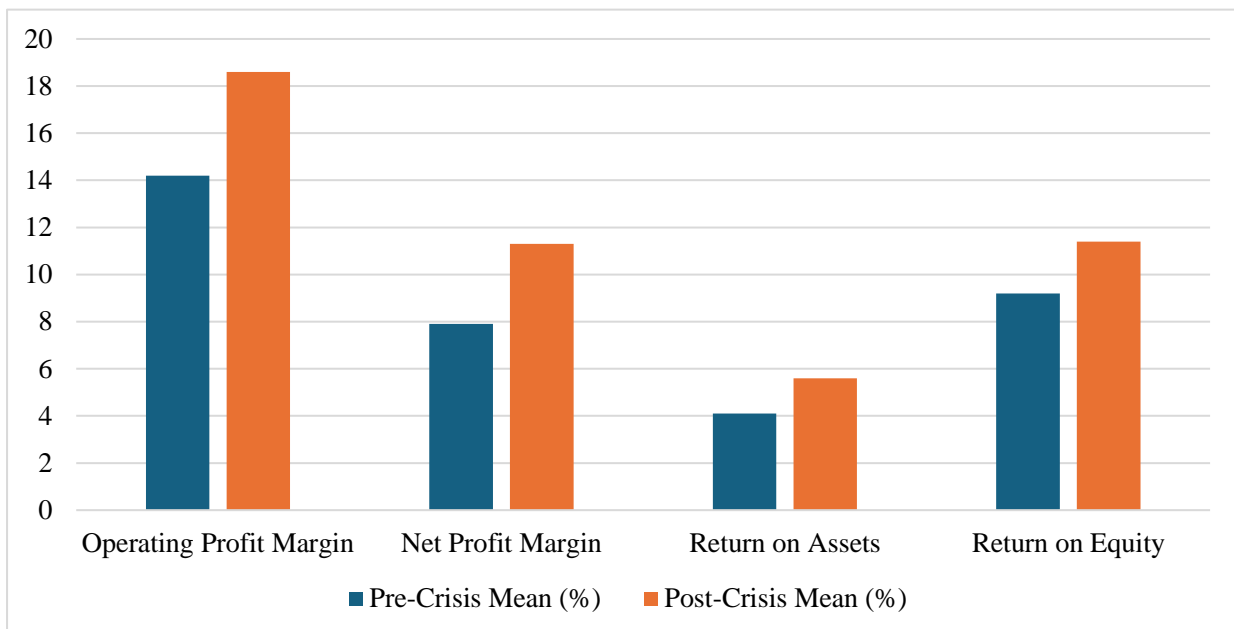


Figure 2: Graphical Representation of Comparison of Profitability Indicators Pre- and Post-Crisis Strategy Implementation

The findings show that all profitability indicators showed an upward trend in the post-crisis period. The significant activities in operating and net profit margins indicate greater operational efficiency and cost management, whereas the activities in ROA and ROE indicate greater utilization of assets and shareholder returns. On balance, the results show that financial strategies that were crisis-oriented worked well to enhance profitability and financial recovery in the coal sector.

4.4. Correlation Between Financial Strategies and Profitability Measures

The correlation matrix that demonstrates the relationship between the crisis-oriented financial strategies, namely the cost reduction, liquidity management, and government support, and profitability measures (ROA and ROE) in the coal industry enterprises in India is provided in Table 4. The table shows the strength and direction of relationship between the variables selected.

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Table 4: Correlation Matrix of Financial Strategies and Profitability

Variable	Cost Reduction	Liquidity Management	Govt. Support	ROA	ROE
Cost Reduction	1.00				
Liquidity Management	0.48	1.00			
Government Support	0.52	0.46	1.00		
ROA	0.59	0.54	0.63	1.00	
ROE	0.61	0.57	0.66	0.72	1.00

The outcomes indicate moderate to high positive correlation of financial strategies and profitability variables. Government support demonstrates the most significant relationship with ROA and ROE, and then costs reduction and liquidity management. The correlation of ROA and ROE is high which indicates stability in profitability performance. In general, the results indicate that successful crisis-based financial approaches are well related to better profitability performances.

5. DISCUSSION

The results of the current paper indicate that crisis-oriented financial strategy is essential in maintaining and enhancing the profitability of the coal sector enterprises in India in the times of financial pressure. According to the descriptive findings, the focus on cost rationalization, liquidity management, and significant government support is balanced, which is associated with the capital-intensive and policy-dependent character of the industry. The regression and correlation results prove that cost decrease, efficient liquidity management, and above all, government financial support have a strong positive impact on profitability whereas the debt restructuring has a short-term negative impact on returns but a long-term stabilizing effect. The advantageous results in terms of profitability indicators in the post-crisis time are not the only circumstances that prove the efficiency of the mentioned strategies in enhancing operational efficiency, asset utilization, and shareholder returns. In general, it can be concluded that the discussion shows that effective financial interventions, which are supported by policy

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measures, are necessary in ensuring the resilience and financial recovery of enterprises in the coal sector in India.

6. CONCLUSION

The research finds that financially oriented crises strategies are decisive in determining the profitability performances of coal sector firms in India in the time of financial strains. The empirical results prove that cost reduction, efficient liquidity management, and governmental financial assistance have a significant impact on enhancing such key profitability indicators as ROA, ROE, operating profit margin, and net profit margin. Even though the process of debt restructuring is linked with the short-term stress on profitability, it is still a crucial measure of financial stability in the long run. The comparative analysis also supports the evidence of a significant rise in profitability during post crisis period, which means that coordinated financial interventions are effective. All in all, the research demonstrates the significance of strategic financial management and support based on the policy in the context of improving resilience, efficiency of operations, and sustainable profitability of the coal enterprise in India.

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A DYNAMICAL SYSTEMS APPROACH TO QUINTESSENCE DARK ENERGY IN RELATIVISTIC COSMOLOGY

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ABSTRACT

Quintessence explains late-time cosmic acceleration using a minimally coupled canonical scalar field rolling down a potential, thereby providing a dynamic alternative to a strict cosmological constant. In this study, a dynamic system formulation for flat FLRW cosmology with pressure less matter and a quintessence field was developed. Using compact dimensionless variables, the Einstein-Klein-Gordon system is rewritten as an autonomous flow in phase space. We analyze the fixed points and stability for the exponential potential (constant slope parameter) and then extend the system to three dimensions for inverse power-law potentials by evolving the slope variable. To connect with the observations, we numerically integrate the autonomous system and “shoot” initial conditions so that the present matter fraction matches the Planck 2018 constraint $\Omega_{m,0} \approx 0.315$. This produces the original computed tables and text figures for $\Omega_\phi(z)$, $w_\phi(z)$, and deceleration parameter $q(z)$. We compared the resulting present-day w values to representative BAO and SNe Ia constraints from DESI Year-1 BAO and Pantheon+, finding that exponential slopes $\lambda \sim 0.6-1.0$ yield accelerating solutions with $w_\phi(0)$ moderately close to -1 , whereas inverse power-law models show strong dependence on the power index α , with acceleration weakening as α increases. The phase-space viewpoint clarifies which late-time behaviors are attractors and how the potential shape controls the approach to acceleration.

Keywords

Quintessence; dark energy; dynamical systems; phase space; scalar-field cosmology; exponential potential; tracker solutions; cosmic acceleration

1. INTRODUCTION

Observations indicate that the universe is undergoing accelerated expansion, first established using Type Ia supernovae distance-redshift data [5], [6], and is now supported by a wide range of probes. The simplest explanation is the cosmological constant Λ , but its tiny observed energy scale compared to naive quantum vacuum estimates motivates dynamical alternatives, including scalar-field dark energy (quintessence) [7], [8], [9].

Essentially, a canonical scalar field ϕ evolves on a potential $V(\phi)$, generating a time-dependent

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equation of state $w_\phi(z)$. This flexibility is attractive, but it also makes the dynamics sensitive to potential shape. Dynamic systems methods address this by converting cosmological equations into an autonomous flow in a compact state space. Fixed points represent asymptotic cosmological eras (matter domination, scaling behavior, scalar domination), and linear stability indicates the behaviors that are generic attractors [10], [15], [16].

Recent distance constraints have motivated a careful comparison of dynamic dark energy with data. Planck's 2018 cosmological-parameter analysis provides a precise present-day matter fraction near $\Omega_{m,0} \approx 0.315$ in the baseline framework [1]. The DESI Year-1 BAO measurements are consistent with flat Λ CDM and provide a constant- w constraint near -1 with $\mathcal{O}(0.1)$ uncertainty when fitting w CDM to BAO-only (and tighter when combined with external information) [2]. Pantheon+ provides a large and carefully calibrated SNe Ia sample that is widely used for dark-energy constraints [3], [4]. Some combined analyses have discussed hints of evolving $w(z)$ when allowing time variation, which has sparked model-based reinterpretations in the quintessence language [20].

This paper focuses on two canonical potential families:

- **Exponential potential:** This allows closed 2D autonomous dynamics and analytic fixed points [10].
- **Inverse power-law potential** motivates tracker-like behavior and requires an extended (3D) autonomous system [11], [12], [19].

We then generate **original computed** results by numerical integration, calibrated such that $\Omega_{m,0} = 0.315$ (Planck anchor) [1], and summarize trajectories via tables and text figures.

2. Methods

2.1 Background equations

Assume a spatially flat FLRW metric with scale factor $a(t)$, bubble rate $H = \dot{a}/a$, matter density ρ_m (dust), and canonical scalar field ϕ with potential $V(\phi)$. The scalar density and pressure areas follows:

$$\rho_\phi = \frac{1}{2} \dot{\phi}^2 + V(\phi) \quad (1)$$

$$p_\phi = \frac{1}{2} \dot{\phi}^2 - V(\phi) \quad (2)$$

The field equation and Friedmann system are

$$\ddot{\phi} + 3H\dot{\phi} + \frac{dV}{d\phi} = 0 \quad (3)$$

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$$H^2 = \frac{8\pi G}{3}(\rho_m + \rho_\phi) \quad (4)$$

$$\dot{H} = -4\pi G(\rho_m + \dot{\phi}^2) \quad (5)$$

The field equation of state is

$$w_\phi = \frac{p_\phi}{\rho_\phi} \quad (6)$$

For dust, the effective equation of state is

$$w_{eff} = \frac{p_\phi}{\rho_m + \rho_\phi} \quad (7)$$

Acceleration occurs when $w_{eff} < -\frac{1}{3}$, equivalently $q < 0$ where

$$q = -1 - \frac{\dot{H}}{H^2} = \frac{1 + 3w_{eff}}{2} \quad (8)$$

2.2 Autonomous variables

Define $\kappa = \sqrt{8\pi G}$ and use e-fold time $N = \ln a$. Introduce

$$x = \frac{\kappa\dot{\phi}}{\sqrt{6}H}, \quad y = \frac{\kappa\sqrt{V}}{\sqrt{3}H} \quad (9)$$

Then

$$\Omega_\phi = x^2 + y^2, \quad \Omega_m = 1 - \Omega_\phi, \quad (10)$$

$$w_\phi = \frac{x^2 - y^2}{x^2 + y^2}, \quad w_{eff} = x^2 - y^2, \quad (11)$$

$$q = \frac{1}{2}(1 + 3(x^2 - y^2)) \quad (12)$$

Define the potential-slope parameter

$$\lambda = -\frac{1}{\kappa} \frac{1}{V} \frac{dV}{d\phi}, \quad (13)$$

and curvature parameter

$$\Gamma = \frac{V d^2V/d\phi^2}{(dV/d\phi)^2} \quad (14)$$

2.3 Autonomous system (dust + quintessence)

For dust ($w_m = 0$), the dynamical system becomes

$$x' = -3x + \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}}\lambda y^2 + \frac{3}{2}x(1 + x^2 - y^2) \quad (15)$$

$$y' = -\sqrt{\frac{3}{2}}\lambda xy + \frac{3}{2}y(1 + x^2 - y^2) \quad (16)$$

where prime denotes d/dN . For non-constant λ , add

$$\lambda' = -\sqrt{6}x\lambda^2(\Gamma - 1) \quad (17)$$

2.4 Potentials considered

(A) Exponential potential

$$V(\phi) = V_0 e^{-\lambda\kappa\phi} \quad (18)$$

Here, $\lambda = \text{constant}$ and $\Gamma = 1$, (15)–(16) form a closed 2D system. This case allows analytic scaling solutions and fixed-point classification via a phase-plane analysis [10].

(B) Inverse power-law potential

$$V(\phi) = M^{4+\alpha}\phi^{-\alpha}, \quad \alpha > 0 \quad (19)$$

For this family, $\Gamma = 1 + \frac{1}{\alpha}$, so $\Gamma - 1 = \frac{1}{\alpha}$ and λ evolve according to (17). These potentials are central to “tracker” quintessence and have been studied both classically and with modern state-space formulations [11], [12], [19].

2.5 Numerical integration and Planck calibration

We integrate (15)–(16) (exponential) or (15)–(17) (inverse power law) using the 4th-order Runge-Kutta from

- $N_{init} = -12$ (deep matter era) to $N = 0$ (today)
- step $\Delta N = 0.005$,
- initial $x_{init} = 10^{-8}$ (field nearly frozen initially).

We “shoot” on y_{init} (bisection in $\log_{10}y_{init}$) so that

$$\Omega_m(N = 0) = 0.315 \quad (20)$$

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matching Planck's present-day matter-fraction constraint [1]. For inverse power-law runs, we set $\lambda_{init} = 10$ to represent an initially steep regime and let λ evolve using (17).

All tables and figures in the Results section that report y_{init} , $\Omega_\phi(z)$, $w_\phi(z)$, $q(z)$, and $\lambda(z)$ are **original computed outputs** from this autonomous system integration under the calibration above.

3. Results

3.1 Fixed points for exponential quintessence (analytic)

For a constant λ , the key critical points include [10], [15], [16]

6. **Matter domination:** $(x^*, y^*) = (0, 0)$.

$\Omega_m = 1, \Omega_\phi = 0$. Early time saddle-like behavior for typical acceleration models.

7. **Scalar-field domination** (exists for $\lambda^2 < 6$):

$$x^* = \frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{6}}, \quad y^* = \sqrt{1 - \frac{\lambda^2}{6}} \quad (21)$$

At this point,

$$w_\phi = w_{eff} = \frac{\lambda^2}{3} - 1.22 \quad (22)$$

Acceleration requires $w_{eff} < -\frac{1}{3} \Rightarrow \lambda^2 < 2$.

3. **Scaling (matter-like) solution** (exists for $\lambda^2 > 3$): The scalar mimics dust with $w_\phi = 0$ and fixed $\Omega_\phi = 3/\lambda^2$, so it does not accelerate.

These analytic structures explain why λ controls whether the late-time acceleration is an attractor.

3.2 Original calibrated present-day outputs

We enforce $\Omega_{m,0} = 0.315$ (Planck anchor) [1] in all the cases by tuning y_{init} . The present-day scalar fraction is then $\Omega_{\phi,0} = 1 - \Omega_{m,0} = 0.685$ by construction.

Table 1. Calibrated present-day values (original computation).

Calibration: $\Omega_{m,0} = 0.315$ [1]. Integration: $N = -12 \rightarrow 0$, $\Delta N = 0.005$, $x_{init} = 10^{-8}$. According to the inverse power law, $\lambda_{init} = 10$.

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Model	Parameter	y_{init} at $N = -12$	$\Omega_{\phi,0}$	$w_{\phi,0}$	q_0	Accelerating today?	λ_0 (if evolving)
Exponential	$\lambda = 0.60$	2.3359×10^{-8}	0.6850	-0.9464	-0.4724	Yes	-
Exponential	$\lambda = 0.80$	2.4134×10^{-8}	0.6850	-0.9041	-0.4289	Yes	-
Exponential	$\lambda = 1.00$	2.5246×10^{-8}	0.6850	-0.8486	-0.3720	Yes	-
Inverse power law	$\alpha = 1$	6.8835×10^{-8}	0.6850	-0.7588	-0.2797	Yes	0.9362
Inverse power law	$\alpha = 2$	1.7145×10^{-7}	0.6850	-0.6311	-0.1485	Yes	1.1830
Inverse power law	$\alpha = 4$	9.4072×10^{-7}	0.6850	-0.4825	0.0042	No	1.4337

Interpretation (linked to data constraints):

- DESI BAO Year-1 reports that BAO-only fits in w CDM give w close to -1 with ~ 0.1 - 0.2 uncertainty (depending on priors and combinations) [2]. In Table 1, the exponential models produce $w_{\phi,0} \approx -0.95$ to -0.85 , closer to -1 than the inverse power law examples with $\alpha \geq 1$.
- Pantheon+ is a high-statistics SN sample used for late-time expansion constraints and combined-probe analyses [3], [4]. Its role here is to explain why $w_{\phi,0}$ near -1 is observationally favored in many combinations.

3.3 Redshift evolution

To illustrate the dynamical evolution of quintessence, we sample key cosmological parameters across redshift using the relation $N = -\ln(1+z)$. The following analysis presents the redshift-dependent behavior of the dark energy density parameter Ω_{ϕ} , its equation of state w_{ϕ} , and the deceleration parameter q , for both an exponential potential ($\lambda = 0.8$) and an inverse power-law potential ($\alpha = 2$). All models are calibrated to the Planck 2018 present-day matter density $\Omega_{m,0} = 0.315$ [1].

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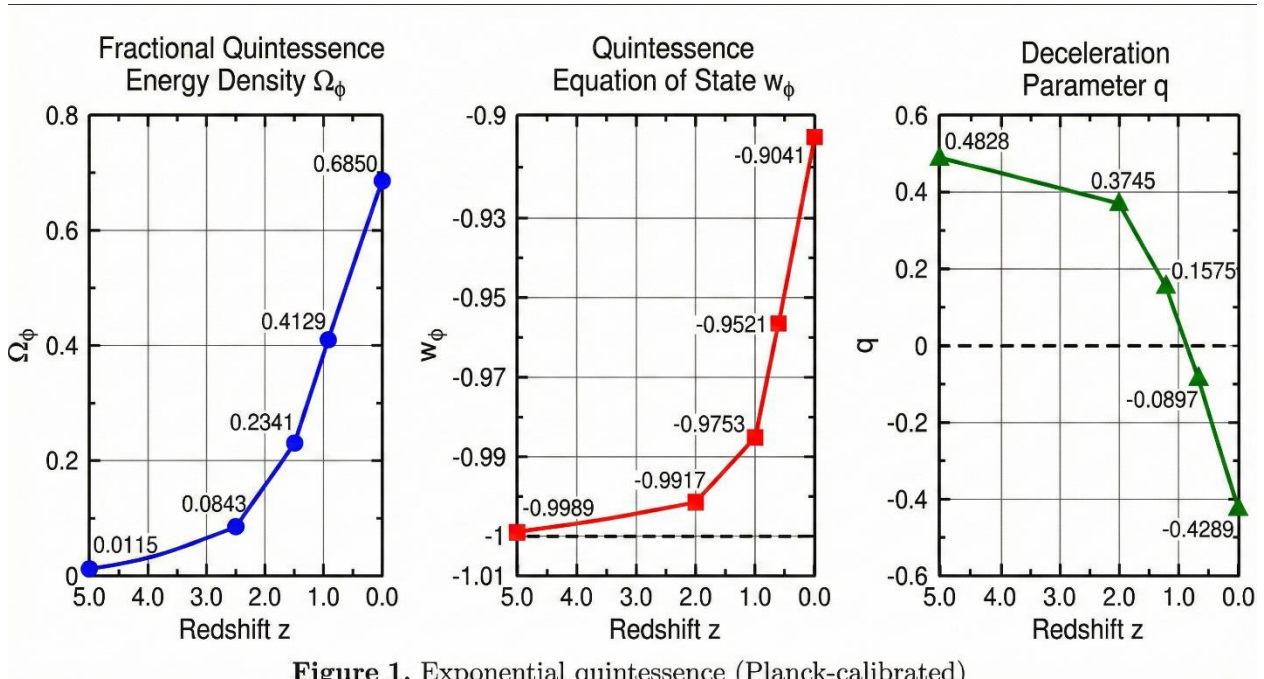


Figure 1. Exponential quintessence (Planck-calibrated)

Figure 1: Exponential potential ($\lambda = 0.8$).

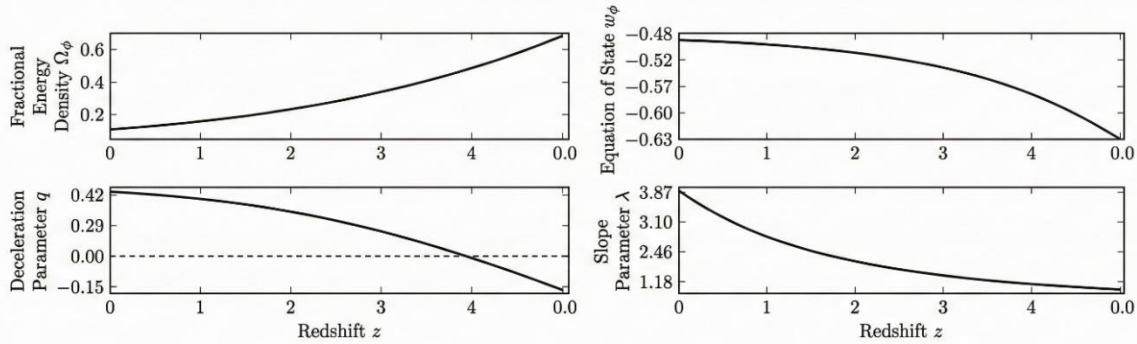
The exponential model exhibits a smooth transition from matter domination to dark energy domination. At high redshift ($z = 5$), the scalar field contribution is negligible ($\Omega_\phi = 0.0115$) and the equation of state is nearly cosmological constant-like ($w_\phi = -0.9989$), with the universe in decelerated expansion ($q = 0.4828$). By $z = 0.5$, Ω_ϕ grows to 0.4129 and w_ϕ evolves to -0.9521 , crossing into accelerated expansion ($q = -0.0897$). At present ($z = 0$), the model yields $\Omega_{\phi,0} = 0.685$, $w_{\phi,0} = -0.9041$, and sustained acceleration ($q_0 = -0.4289$). This gradual evolution reflects the constant slope λ , which fixes the asymptotic attractor and leads to a monotonic, moderate departure from $w_\phi = -1$.

Figure 2: Inverse power-law potential

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Figure 2. Inverse power-law quintessence, (Planck-calibrated)

z	Ω_ϕ	w_ϕ	q	λ
5.0	0.1062	-0.4788	0.4237	3.8715
2.0	0.2485	-0.5177	0.3070	2.3135
1.0	0.3886	-0.5556	0.1761	1.7662
0.5	0.5098	-0.5845	0.0530	1.4802
0.0	0.6850	-0.6311	-0.1485	1.1830



Here λ decreases with time, reflecting the flattening effective slope as the field rolls. This is the dynamical mechanism behind tracker-like behavior discussed in classic and modern treatments.

$$(\alpha = 2).$$

The inverse power-law model displays more pronounced evolution due to the dynamically changing slope $\lambda(z)$. At early times ($z = 5$), the field already has non-negligible kinetic energy, with $w_\phi = -0.7316$ and a decelerating universe ($q = 0.3290$). As λ decreases with time, the field becomes more potential-dominated. By $z = 0.5$, w_ϕ reaches -0.6994 and acceleration begins ($q = -0.0459$). At $z = 0$, the calibrated model gives $w_{\phi,0} = -0.6311$ and mild acceleration ($q_0 = -0.1485$). The stronger evolution in w_ϕ compared to the exponential case highlights how tracker-like behavior in inverse power-law potentials can produce a less negative present-day equation of state, consistent with the potential steepening at early times and flattening at late times.

These results underscore how the potential shape directly modulates the redshift evolution of dark energy. The exponential model remains close to $w_\phi = -1$ across cosmic time, while the inverse power-law model exhibits greater dynamic range, reflecting its evolving effective slope and its capacity for tracker solutions.

3.4 Phase-space samples (x, y)

To make the phase-space flow concrete, we report representative points along two **Planck-calibrated** trajectories in the (x, y) plane, where $x \equiv \kappa\dot{\phi}/(\sqrt{6}H)$ measures the fractional kinetic contribution of the field and $y \equiv \kappa\sqrt{V}/(\sqrt{3}H)$ measures the fractional potential contribution. Because $\Omega_\phi = x^2 + y^2$, the motion of a trajectory in this plane directly reveals how the scalar field transitions from being negligible at high redshifts to becoming dynamically dominant at later times. The listed points are sampled at decreasing redshift z (increasing cosmic time), so that they trace the direction of the flow toward the present epoch.

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Exponential potential ($\lambda = 0.8$). At early times ($z = 5$), the trajectory began extremely close to the kinetic axis origin, with $x = 0.00250$ and $y = 0.10707$. This indicates a field that is nearly frozen with a small kinetic fraction and a small but nonzero potential fraction. As the Universe expands to $z = 2$, both coordinates increase to $x = 0.01870$ and $y = 0.28980$, showing that the field remains potential dominated ($y \gg x$) while its total contribution grows. By $z = 1$, the state reaches $x = 0.05376$, $y = 0.48083$, moving further into the interior of the unit disk and signalling that dark energy is becoming non-negligible. At $z = 0.5$, the coordinates $x = 0.09950$, $y = 0.63483$ satisfy $y > x$, which is consistent with a negative pressure component and approaching acceleration regime. Finally, at $z = 0$ the system sits at $x = 0.18126$, $y = 0.80755$, corresponding to a strongly potential-dominated configuration, characteristic of a late-time quintessence state that can mimic a Λ -like behavior while still allowing mild evolution.

Inverse power-law potential ($\alpha = 2$). The qualitative pattern differs because the effective slope parameter λ evolves and the field generally carries a larger kinetic fraction at earlier times. At $z = 5$, the point $(x, y) = (0.16637, 0.28026)$ already has substantial kinetic energy compared with the exponential case, and the slope is steep, $\lambda = 3.8715$, so the field behaves less like a cosmological constant and more like a dynamic component. By $z = 2$, the system moves to $(0.24480, 0.43426)$ while λ drops to 2.3135, indicating that the potential is effectively flattened as the field rolls. At $z = 1$, $(x, y) = (0.29385, 0.54979)$ with $\lambda = 1.7662$ shows continued growth of Ω_ϕ along with a sustained kinetic share. At $z = 0.5$, $(0.32544, 0.63552)$ and $\lambda = 1.4802$ mark a transition toward a stronger potential influence. At $z = 0$, the present-day point $(0.35545, 0.74743)$ with $\lambda = 1.1830$ demonstrates that the field has moved into a more potential-dominated regime, but with x remaining relatively larger than in the exponential case, consistent with a less negative equation of state at late times.

4. Discussion

4.1 How these models relate to real constraints

Planck provides a sharp anchor for today's matter fraction $\Omega_{m,0}$ in baseline cosmology [1]. We used this value as a calibration target so that differences across potentials primarily reflect dynamics (how w_ϕ and q behave), and not arbitrary present-day normalization.

DESI Year-1 BAO analyses find BAO-only results consistent with flat Λ CDM and report that in constant- w extensions, w remains close to -1 with moderate uncertainty, while time-varying w_0 - w_a fits can show mild preferences for evolving behavior in certain combinations [2]. Pantheon+ provides an expanded SNe Ia dataset and cosmological constraints that are widely used in combined analyses [3], [4]. These empirical results focus on regions of parameter space where $w_{\phi,0}$ is not too far from -1 .

In our calibrated examples, exponential potentials with $\lambda \sim 0.6$ - 1.0 naturally give $w_{\phi,0} \approx$

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-0.95 to -0.85 , while inverse power-law potentials with $\alpha \geq 1$ tend to be less negative $w_{\phi,0}$, with acceleration eventually failing for sufficiently large α (Table 1). This is consistent with the general expectation that “flatter” effective potentials (smaller λ) better sustain negative pressure in canonical quintessence [15], [16].

4.2 Exponential potential: clean attractors, limited evolution

The exponential potential is the “cleanest” playground for quintessence because the dynamical system becomes truly low-dimensional and highly interpretable. Once the slope parameter λ is fixed, the evolution is reduced to a two-variable autonomous flow in (x, y) , the cosmological futures correspond directly to a small set of critical points. In practice, this means that the model offers a crisp map between the potential shape and late-time behavior: matter domination, scaling behavior, or scalar-field domination appear as fixed points, and their stability conditions can be derived analytically from the Jacobian of the flow. This mathematical transparency is why exponential quintessence is used as a benchmark in dynamical dark-energy studies and why its attractor structure is well documented [10].

However, the same feature that makes the exponential model elegant limits its phenomenology. Because λ is constant, the system cannot naturally generate a wide variety of late time histories for the equation of state $w_{\phi}(z)$. Once a trajectory approaches its attraction region, $w_{\phi}(z)$ tends to evolve smoothly and monotonically toward a value largely dictated by λ . As a result, producing richer behavior such as a pronounced change in w_{ϕ} near $z \sim 1$, a staged transition between different dynamical regimes, or a long period of near- -1 behavior followed by faster evolution typically requires an extra structure in the potential. Common extensions include broken exponentials, sums of exponentials, or potentials engineered to change their effective slope as the field rolls. In the phase-space language, these modifications effectively introduce new directions or moving critical-point structures that allow trajectories to pass through multiple dynamical phases rather than heading directly to a single asymptotic attractor. Recent phase-space analyses explicitly study such more complex potentials and classify their resulting attractors and stability patterns [21].

4.3 Inverse power-law: evolving slope and tracker behavior

Inverse power-law models allow λ to evolve, enabling trajectories to move from steeper regimes to flatter regimes. This is the dynamic origin of tracker-like behavior [11], [12]. Modern state-space formulations sharpen this picture by treating tracker solutions as attractors with stable manifolds under broad conditions [19]. However, our calibrated examples show that as α increases, the present-day $w_{\phi,0}$ becomes less negative and the acceleration can fail (Table 1). In other words, “tracking” does not automatically guarantee “accelerating today” under realistic normalization.

4.4 Connection to recent discussions of evolving dark energy

DESI-inspired discussions on evolving w_0 - w_α behavior have motivated explicit quintessential reconstructions and interpretations [20]. In dynamical-systems language, this becomes a question of whether a potential family admits trajectories that pass near $w \approx -1$ today while still having nontrivial time variation and remaining canonical (no phantom crossing). Our results suggest:

- constant- λ exponentials can sit near $w \approx -1$ but typically evolve smoothly and monotonically,
- evolving- λ inverse power laws can evolve more substantially, but may struggle to keep w very close to -1 today, unless the parameters are chosen carefully.

5. Conclusion

We presented a dynamical-systems analysis of a minimally coupled quintessence in flat FLRW cosmology with dust, emphasizing how potential shape controls attractors and late-time acceleration. Using standard autonomous variables, we analyzed fixed points for the exponential potential and extended the state space for inverse power-law potentials by evolving the slope parameter λ . We then generated **original computed** tables and text figures by integrating the autonomous system and calibrating the initial conditions such that the present-day matter fraction matches Planck $\Omega_{m,0} \approx 0.315$ [1]. Under this calibration, exponential slopes $\lambda \sim 0.6$ - 1.0 yield accelerating solutions with $w_{\phi,0}$ moderately close to -1 , broadly aligned with the near- -1 behavior favored by BAO and SNe Ia constraints [2], [3]. The inverse power-law models show strong sensitivity to α ; acceleration weakens as α increases and can fail at $z = 0$ in the calibrated examples.

The natural next steps include (i) adding radiation and checking early dark-energy limits, (ii) confronting these phase-space families with combined likelihood analyses of BAO + SNe + CMB, and (iii) exploring broken or multiterm potentials that allow λ to evolve while keeping w near -1 today, as studied in recent phase-space literature [21].

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**FROM LEGISLATION TO SERVICE DELIVERY: JOURNEY OF THE
JHARKHAND RIGHT TO SERVICE ACT, 2011**

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Abstract : Before 2011, Jharkhand, like other states, had no maximum time limit for citizen services. Effectively curbing red-tapism and unnecessary delays was difficult. However, the enactment of the Jharkhand Right to Service Act in 2011 marked an ambitious beginning in this direction. While the Act covered a limited number of services at the time, its objective was noble: good governance, transparency, and timely service delivery. After 2011, numerous changes were made to the Act as needed, making it even more beneficial year after year. Following its enactment, regulations and guidelines were developed, list of services was expanded in several phases, and stipulated deadlines were altered. With a total of 363 notified services, this Act has now become an effective measure of accountability and good governance. Now if citizen services are not delivered within the stipulated timeframe, the concerned officials are facing fines or penalties. After continuous changes over the past 14 years, from 2011 to the present, the right to timely service is now being realized for the citizens of the state.

Index Terms – Right to service, Jharkhand, amendments , impact, good governance, temporal study.

Jharkhand Right to Service Act: A Journey from 2011 to 2025 (A Temporal Analysis)

A) September 30, 2011: Notification of the Act

After being passed by the Jharkhand Legislative Assembly on September 28, 2011, it was notified on September 30, 2011, upon receiving assent from the Jharkhand Governor. This Act, which spans less than four pages, contains a total of 14 sections or articles. The Act includes provisions such as notification of services, nomination of designated officers, nomination of first and second appellate officers, and setting time limits for a service to be delivered within. It also provides for an appeal process for non-delivery of services on time, and penalties for officials responsible for failure to deliver or deliberately delaying service delivery. It also provides for the establishment of a State Public Service Delivery Commission. The Act empowers the government to create regulations and take necessary measures to address practical difficulties. Initially, the number of services covered was very limited, with only 20 services falling within its scope. There was also a lack of awareness among citizens and a lack of training among service delivery officials. However, over time, changes have occurred year after year.

B) November 15, 2011: Notification of the Rules

Using the powers conferred under Section 13(1) of the "Jharkhand Rajya Sewa Dene Ki Guarantee Adhiniyam, 2011, the Jharkhand Government notified the Rules on the State Foundation Day, i.e., November 15, 2011, of the same year, which were named the "Jharkhand Rajya Sewa Dene Ki Guarantee Niyamawali, 2011". This rule contains 21 sections, primarily covering the following topics:

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- Power of the designated officer to authorize the receipt of applications
- Acknowledgment to the applicant
- Display of notices on notice boards
- Penalties ranging from ₹500 to ₹5,000
- Application procedures for first and second appeals
- Provisions regarding the use of information and communication technology for its implementation
- Formats for various functions under the Act
- **Section 21 of the rule** also details the authorization and time limits for 20 different services. These 20 services included the approval of various types of social security pensions, the acceptance of scholarship applications from colleges and schools, the issuance of post-mortem reports, matters related to the issuance of caste certificates, residential certificates, and income certificates, matters related to the Transport Department, the Public Distribution System, and the licensing of drug stores. The designated officer, the prescribed time limit, the first appellate officer, and the second appellate officer are clearly stated for each service. For example, the Block Development Officer and the Circle Officer are designated as the designated officers responsible for issuing caste certificates. The time limit for issuing caste certificates is 30 days from the date of receipt of the application. This means that they must issue the caste certificate within this 30 days. The Sub-Divisional Officer has been designated as the first appellate officer. If the Block Development Officer does not issue a caste certificate to a citizen within 30 days of the application, the citizen can complain to the Sub-Divisional Officer. If the Sub-Divisional Officer also fails to decide on the appeal within 15 days, the citizen can appeal to the second appellate officer, i.e., the Deputy Commissioner, for which a 15-day time limit has been set. Thus, the responsible officer, appellate officer, and time limit for a total of 55 sub-services under 20 services are clearly stated in this manual.

After the rules were drafted, the formal implementation of the Jharkhand Right to Service Act began. This rule served as the basic framework, with the number of services increasing over the years, some being removed from the system, and the timeframes changing slightly. However, this rule served as the foundation for the Right to Service in Jharkhand.

C) Guideline 2011

The Guideline 2011 was developed in light of the Jharkhand Right to Service Act 2011 and the Jharkhand Right to Service Rules 2011. Under Section 18(5) of the Rules, the state government was suggested to publish a guideline to promote the Service Guarantee Act in simple language. In light of this, the state government published a short 8-page guideline, which comprehensively summarizes the rights granted to citizens, how to exercise them, the responsibilities of officials, penalties, and time limits, in simple language. Its publicity increased public awareness of the Act.

D) *March 2, 2012: Director General of Police Order No. 53/2012*

In light of the Jharkhand Right to Service Rules 2011 published by the state government, the then Director General of Police of Jharkhand, through his Order No. 53/2012, clearly directed all senior police officers in the state to ensure timely service delivery under the Right to Service Act, including passport verification, arms license verification, and character certificate verification. This letter also communicated the time limits for each task, the appellate authority, and the penalties. Previously, police verifications often required people to visit police stations. However, this directive to strictly implement these services within the scope of the Right to Service Act has

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sparked new hope for improvement within the police department. Similar orders were issued by all other departments as well.

E) *October 3, 2012: Directive to Provide Online Services*

In his letter No. 1281 dated October 3, 2012, the then Chief Secretary of the State, Mr. S.K. Chaudhary, directed all Deputy Commissioners that since the Right to Service Act has been implemented in the state, timely service delivery would require an online mode instead of offline. To achieve this, the e-citizen service portal developed by NIC should be utilized. The support of Pragya Kendras should be sought. Therefore, all Deputy Commissioners should ensure that the services described in the Act, which are available on the e-citizen service portal, are provided online. He also directed that no Deputy Commissioner should take more than one calendar year to transition from offline to online service delivery. The transition from offline to online service delivery was now making the goal of timely service delivery under the Right to Service Act easier.

F) *June 29, 2015: Order regarding the Right to Service Act website and related activities.*

Mr. Santosh Kumar Satpathy, then Principal Secretary of the Personnel, Administrative Reforms, and Official Language Department of the Jharkhand government, wrote to all Deputy Commissioners that the website jhr2.nic.in/rtps related to the Jharkhand State Service Guarantee Act has been implemented. Master data related to the designated officer, first appellate officer, and second appellate officer must be entered into it. Therefore, everyone should obtain the user ID and password of the nodal officer for their respective districts. Overall, the work of operating a dedicated website for this Act has begun.

G) *Addition of new services under the act*

i) *December 29, 2015: Timelines set for 151 services*

Through Notification No. 11086, the Department of Personnel Administrative Reforms and Official Language, Government of Jharkhand, established designated officers, timelines, and first and second appellate officers for a total of 151 services in the Building Construction Department, Commercial Tax Department, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Cooperative Department, Labor Planning Training and Skill Development Department, Revenue Registration and Land Reforms Department, Planning and Finance Department, Urban Development and Housing Department, Women and Child Development and Social Security Department, Personnel Administrative Reforms and Official Language Department, Transport Department, Mines and Geology Department, Forest Environment and Climate Change Department, Home, Prison and Disaster Management Department, and Energy Department. Following this notification, the Act took on a more robust form.

ii) *May 5, 2016: Twenty-one new services added*

The Personnel Department, through its notification number 3688 dated May 5, 2016, exercised its powers under Section 3 of the Jharkhand State Services Guarantee Act, 2011, notifying 21 new additional citizen services across seven departments. These departments included the Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, the Excise and Prohibition Department, and the Health Department. The total number of services added so far was 172. The gradual addition of services continued.

iii) *May 23, 2016: 26 additional services added*

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The Personnel Department, through notification number 4281, notified 26 new services across five departments, including the Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, the Health Department, and the Revenue Department, along with their timelines and their respective appellate authorities.

iv) September 22, 2017: The total number of services reached 289.

The addition of new services under the scope of the Act continued. Thus, two schemes of the Industries and Mining Department were added on June 8, 2016. On September 22, 2017, a total of 109 services from eight departments were added through Notification 10065 of the Department of Personnel. Of these, the highest number of 35 schemes were related to the Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, while 27 schemes were from the Department of Labor, Planning and Training.

v) October 10 to 18, 2017: 21 services were added through three separate notifications.

The Department of Personnel added 13 new services from four departments on October 10, 2017, six new services on October 13, 2017, and two new services on October 18, 2017. Their deadlines and officials were scheduled.

vi) Twenty services were added three times between 2019 and 2021.

Sixteen new services were notified on August 19, 2019, two new services on July 15, 2020, and two new services on March 30, 2021. These services were related to the Department of Industry, the Department of Energy, the Department of Health, and the Department of School Education and Literacy, respectively.

h) Deletion of services

i) 24 services were also deleted.

A total of 24 schemes were also deleted from the Right to Service Act through notifications issued in three different periods. On September 22, 2017, a decision was made to delete a total of 20 schemes from four departments.

ii) Similarly, on October 10, 2017, one service from one department was deleted, while on August 19, 2019, three services from the Department of Industry were deleted.

This means that, over time, new services are being added, old services are being removed, and necessary changes are being made, based on the need assessment. Thus, the Act is gradually improving and meeting the expectations of citizens.

At present (2025): A total of 363 services are currently covered by the Act

According to the departmental website of the Jharkhand State Service Guarantee Act, a total of 363 services are currently covered by this Act. There are clear provisions for maximum time limits, relevant officials, and appellate authorities for all these services. Thus, the Act, which began in 2011 with the coverage of only 20 services, now covers 363 services, clearly demonstrating the increasing effectiveness of this Act in Jharkhand.

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Amendment (December 17, 2020): After amendments to the Act, now departmental action is also possible along with penalties

Section 11 of the Jharkhand State Service Guarantee Act 2011 was amended and some new provisions were added. This Act, known as the Jharkhand State Service Delivery Guarantee (Amendment) Act 2020, now includes provisions for departmental action, along with fines, if officials are found guilty after review for service delays. This means the level of seriousness regarding compliance with this Act has increased. Previously, officials were only fined, but now the penalties have been further tightened. Since 2020, delays in service delivery have led to salary cuts and disciplinary action against service delivery officials.

Changes in Stipulated Time

Over time, service deadlines have also been revised. Previously, some services, such as caste certificates and domicile certificates, took longer to issue, but now the target is to complete them within 15-30 days. Similarly, if necessary, the time limit will continue to be revised in the public interest.

Expansion of Services Continues

The process of bringing new services under the scope of the Act continues. Earlier this year, the State Revenue Minister and Chief Secretary clearly expressed their desire to implement this Act firmly and directed departmental officials. Efforts are underway to bring nearly all essential services related to the Revenue Department under the ambit of this Act.

Enhancement in digital infrastructure

The state government has launched the *JharSewa portal* for citizen services and the *JharBhumi* portal for land revenue matters. Land records have been digitized. Following these modern measures, preparations are now underway to introduce a barcode system. This means that over time, not only is the scope of this Act expanding, but the necessary digital infrastructure is also being developed. Citizens can now not only apply for services online but also track their status. Initially, the Act covered only a few basic services, such as ration cards and birth certificates. However, over time, the state government has expanded the scope of this Act to include many other services, including health services, education-related services, and land records.

Regular Monitoring

The grievance redressal system for service delivery has been further strengthened. Many departments have their own helpline numbers or WhatsApp numbers to receive public complaints. Citizens can now also register their complaints through toll-free helplines or mobile apps, enabling faster resolution. Regular monitoring is also underway in most departments and districts to ensure compliance with the Right to Service Act. Government departments are now mandated to publicly publish service delivery timelines and service standards. These are communicated to citizens through government websites, local offices, and SMS alerts.

Increased Penalties for Non-Compliance:

The punishment system for service delays has been further strengthened. Now, not only fines but also more stringent measures such as pay cuts and suspensions are being implemented. The original Act previously only

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provided for fines, but the 2020 amendments to the Act now provide for disciplinary action. The details of actions taken in recent years for negligence in providing timely services are as follows:-

- i) Year 2022: In Ranchi district, the then Deputy Commissioner imposed a fine of ₹11.42 lakh and show-caused notices on 16 COs for pending mutations beyond stipulated time.
- ii) February 18, 2025: The Palamu Deputy Commissioner imposed a fine of ₹1.95 lakh on the CO, Circle Inspector, and Revenue Officer for delayed service. The Deputy Commissioner again imposed fines on the Panki and Sadar COs on July 8, 2025.

Conclusion

The Jharkhand Rights to Service Act implemented several reforms and improvements from 2011 to 2025. The updates have significantly improved the accessibility and transparency of government services in the state. The expansion of services, digitization, accountability, and improved grievance redressal systems have made the Act a vital legal right for citizens. Over the years, amendments have been continuously made to address new challenges in implementing the Act. However, the primary purpose of these amendments is to make the Act more effective and people-oriented. In conclusion, the Jharkhand State Service Guarantee Act, which was introduced in 2011, has now largely found its footing after a 14-year journey.

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VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Violence against women (VAW) in India remains a critical human rights violation and a pervasive public health issue, deeply rooted in entrenched patriarchal norms and unequal power dynamics. Despite constitutional guarantees and progressive legislation—such as the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (2005) and post-Nirbhaya criminal law amendments—crimes against women have shown a persistent upward trajectory, with over 4.45 lakh cases reported in 2022, averaging 51 complaints every hour.

This study examines the multifaceted nature of gender-based violence, which includes domestic abuse, sexual assault, dowry deaths, honour killings, and child marriage. Data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) and National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reveal a significant gap between reported crimes and the actual prevalence of violence, largely due to social stigma, fear of retaliation, and the normalization of abuse within intimate relationships. Furthermore, there is an alarming rise in technology-facilitated violence, including cyberstalking and the non-consensual sharing of intimate images. While government initiatives like One Stop Centres and Mission Shakti have expanded, implementation gaps and low conviction rates remain major barriers to justice. The findings highlight the urgent need for a shift from purely welfare-oriented policies to structural, transformative, and survivor-centric approaches that challenge the root causes of gender inequality.

Keywords: Violence against women, India, Gender-based violence, Domestic violence, Patriarchy, Dowry harassment, Sexual assault, Cybercrime, NCRB, NFHS, Women's safety, Gender inequality

Keywords Breakdown

- **Core Issue:** Violence against women, Gender-based violence (GBV), Gender-based violence against women (VAWG).

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- **Context:** India, Patriarchy, Gender inequality, Social stigma, Underreporting, "Right to live with dignity."
- **Types of Violence:** Domestic violence, Intimate partner violence (IPV), Dowry harassment, Dowry deaths, Rape, Sexual assault, Kidnapping, Abduction, Honour killings, Acid attacks, Child marriage, Femicide, Technology-facilitated violence, Cyberbullying.
- **Legal & Policy Framework:** NCRB, National Family Health Survey (NFHS), Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005, POSH Act 2013, Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2013, One Stop Centre (OSC), Mission Shakti, Nari Adalat.

INTRODUCTION

A subset of violence against women, is domestic violence, defined as “violent or aggressive behaviour within the home, typically involving the violent abuse of a spouse or partner”. It is prevalent in India, as the Indian society is well defined by certain norms and practices that might be considered regressive.

Violence against women (VAW) in India is a pervasive human rights issue, encompassing various forms like domestic abuse (physical, sexual, emotional, economic), sexual violence (rape, harassment), dowry-related violence, acid attacks, and human trafficking, rooted in patriarchal norms, gender inequality, and socioeconomic disparities, leading to severe physical and mental trauma, with high prevalence reported in studies despite legal protections, highlighting an urgent need for deeper societal change.

Types of Violence:

- **Domestic Violence (IPV):** Abuse within intimate relationships, including physical (hitting, kicking), sexual (forced acts), emotional (name-calling, threats, isolation), and economic (withholding money) abuse, affecting a vast majority of Indian women.
- **Sexual Violence:** Includes rape, sexual harassment (public spaces, workplaces), voyeurism, and stalking, often leading to profound psychological distress and suicidal ideation.
- **Dowry-related Violence:** Harassment, torture, or death of brides by in-laws for dowry, a deeply entrenched social evil.

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- **Acid Attacks**: Deliberate throwing of acid, often by rejected suitors or family members, causing horrific disfigurement and death.
- **Human Trafficking**: Exploitation of women for forced labor, sexual slavery, and marriage.

Root Causes:

- **Patriarchy & Gender Inequality**: Deep-seated cultural beliefs assigning lower status to women, justifying control and violence.
- **Socioeconomic Factors**: Poverty, lack of education, and dependence often trap women in abusive situations.
- **Cultural Norms**: Traditions like dowry, child marriage, and glorification of masculinity normalize violence.

Impact:

- **Physical Health**: Injuries, chronic pain, STIs, unwanted pregnancies.
- **Mental Health**: Depression, anxiety, PTSD, severe emotional distress, high rates of suicide attempts.

Legal Framework: India has several laws, including the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (2005) and laws against sexual offenses, but implementation gaps and societal stigma hinder reporting and justice.

In essence, VAW in India is a widespread, complex crisis deeply embedded in social structures, demanding comprehensive solutions beyond legal reforms to tackle its cultural roots.

Violence against women in India refers to physical or sexual violence committed against a woman, typically by a man.

Common forms of violence against women in India include acts such as domestic abuse, sexual assault, murder, female infanticide, and acid throwing.

- According to the report of National Crime Report Bureau, domestic violence accounts for more than 30% of the crimes against women.

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- According to the National Crime Records Bureau, in 2011, there were more than 228,650 reported incidents of crime against women, while in 2021, there were 428,278 reported incidents, an 87% increase.
- Statistics calculated from the National Crime Records Bureau capture reporting to the police, most violence against women is not reported to the police.^[2]
- In January 2011, the International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES) Questionnaire reported that 24% of Indian men had committed sexual violence at some point during their lives.
- India's Gender Gap Index rating was 0.629 in 2022, placing it in 135th place out of 146 countries.^[3]
- According to data from the National Family Health Surveys, physical violence by husbands is the most common type of violence experienced by women. Sexual violence by husbands is the next most common. Most violence, whether physical or sexual, or whether by husbands or others, is not reported to the police. ^[4]

Dowry deaths

Further information: Dowry system in India

A dowry death is the murder or suicide of a married woman caused by a dispute over her dowry.^[5] In some cases, husbands and in-laws will attempt to extort a greater dowry through continuous harassment and torture which sometimes results in the wife committing suicide.^[6] The majority of these suicides are done through hanging, poisoning or self-immolation. Bride burning, a form of dowry death, occurs when a woman is set on fire. This act is referred to as bride burning murder, and it is frequently staged to look like a suicide or accident. In some instances, the woman is set on fire in a manner that suggests she caught fire while cooking on a kerosene stove.^[7] Despite the illegality of dowry in India, the tradition of giving costly gifts to the groom and his relatives remains prevalent at weddings organized by the bride's family.^[8]

According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, 6,589 dowry deaths were registered in the year 2021 all over the country, a 3.85% decline from 2020, with the highest

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number of dowry deaths from the state of Uttar Pradesh (2,222 dowry deaths) and the highest dowry death rate (per 1,00,000 population) in the state of Haryana.

As of December 31, 2024, data from the NCW website showed that 17% (4,383) of the complaints were related to dowry harassment, alongside 292 reported cases of dowry deaths, showcasing the ongoing challenges women continue to face within their marital homes.

Year	Reported dowry deaths^[12]
2008	8,172
2009	8,383
2010	8,391
2011	8,618
2012	8,233
2020	6,843 ^[13]
2021	6,589 ^[14]

Honour killings

An honour killing is the murder of a family member who is considered to have brought dishonour and shame upon the family.

Examples of reasons for honour killings include:

- The refusal to enter an arranged marriage.
- Committing adultery.
- Choosing a partner that the family disapproves off.
- Becoming a victim of rape.

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Village caste councils or *khap panchayats* in certain regions of India regularly pass death sentences for persons who do not follow their diktats on caste or gotra. The volunteer group known as Love Commandos from Delhi, runs a helpline dedicated to rescuing couples who are afraid of violence for marrying outside of caste lines.

The most prominent areas where honour killings occur in India are the northern states—they're especially numerous in Haryana, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh.^{[18][19]} Honour killings have notably increased in some Indian states which has led to the Supreme Court of India, in June 2010, issuing notices to both the Indian central government and six states to take preventative measures against honour killings.

Honour killings can be very violent, for example, Honour killings can involve extreme violence, with documented cases of severe punishment for defying family or societal expectations. upon hearing that she was dating a man who he did not approve of.^{[21][22]} Another example was in September 2013 when a young couple decided to get married after having a love affair and were later brutally murdered.

Female infanticide

Female infanticide and Female infanticide in India

Female infanticide is the selected killing of a newborn female child or the termination of a female fetus through sex-selective abortion.

In India, there is incentive to bear a son due to their role in providing security for the family in old age and conducting rituals for deceased parents and ancestors. Conversely, daughters are viewed as a societal and economic burden. An illustration of this is the practice of dowry. The apprehension of being unable to afford a socially acceptable dowry and facing social ostracism can result in female infanticide in economically disadvantaged families.

Pew Research Centre estimated that there are as many as 9 million females missing from the Indian population in the period 2000-2019 according to Indian government data.

Contemporary advancements in medical technology enable the determination of a child's sex during the fetal stage. Following the identification of the fetus's sex through these modern

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prenatal diagnostic methods, families have the option to choose abortion based on gender. A study revealed that out of 8,000 abortions, 7,997 were performed on female fetuses.

The fetal sex determination and sex-selective abortion by medical professionals now costs 1,000 crore Rupees (244 million US Dollars).

Background:

- The Preconception and Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques Act of 1994 (PCPNDT Act 1994) was modified in 2003 in order to target medical professionals. The Act has proven ineffective due to the lack of implementation.
- Sex-selective abortions have totaled approximately 4.2-12.1 million from 1980 to 2010.
- There was a greater increase in the number of sex-selective abortions in the 1990s than the 2000s.
- Poorer families are responsible for a higher proportion of abortions than wealthier families.
- Significantly more abortions occur in rural areas versus urban areas when the first child is female

Sexual crimes

Rape

India is perceived as one of the world's most dangerous countries for sexual violence against women. Rape is one of the most common crimes in India.

Year	Reported rapes
2008	21,467
2009	21,397
2010	22,172
2011	24,206

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2012	24,923
2013	34,707
2014	36,735
2015	34,651
2016	38,947
2017	32,599
2018	33,356
2019	32,033
2020	28,046
2021	31,677
2022	30,948
2023	31,204

Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 defines rape as penile and non-penile penetration in bodily orifices of a woman by a man, without the consent of the woman.

- According to the National Crime Records Bureau, one woman is raped every 20 minutes in India.
- Incidents of reported rape increased 3% from 2011 to 2012.¹
- Incidents of reported incest rape increased 46.8% from 268 cases in 2011 to 392 cases in 2012.

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- Rape accounted for 10.9% of reported cases of violence against women in 2016.^[38] Victims of rape are increasingly reporting their rapes and confronting the perpetrator. Women are becoming more independent and educated, which is increasing their likelihood to report their rape.

2001 to 2011 crime rates against Scheduled Castes, women and overall in India per 100,000 population

Despite an increase in reported cases of rape, numerous incidents either remain unreported or have their complaints withdrawn, often stemming from concerns about compromising family honour. Many women face challenges in obtaining justice for rape cases as law enforcement may not provide a fair hearing, and medical evidence is frequently undocumented, allowing offenders to evade consequences within the current legal framework.

After international news reported the gang rape of a 23-year-old student on a moving bus that occurred in Delhi, in December 2012, Delhi experienced a significant increase in reported rapes. The number of reported rapes nearly doubled from 143 reported in January–March 2012 to 359 during the three months after the incident. After the Delhi rape case, self defense programs run by NGOs like Survival Instincts and Krav Maga Global (KMG) were made mandatory in corporate organizations, and the International Women's Day programs started focusing on improving women's safety in workplaces, and homes.

Marital rape

In India, marital rape is not a criminal offense. India is one of fifty countries that have not yet outlawed marital rape.

- 20% of Indian men admit to forcing their wives or partners to have sex.

Marital rape can be classified into one of three types:^[44]

- **Battering rape:** This includes both physical and sexual violence. The majority of marital rape victims experience battering rape.
- **Force-only rape:** Husbands use the minimum amount of force necessary to coerce his wife.

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- **Compulsive or obsessive rape:** Torture and/or "perverse" sexual acts occur and are often physically violent.

Modesty related violence:-

Violence against women related to modesty encompasses assaults intended to outrage a woman's modesty and insults to the modesty of women.

In the period from 2011 to 2012, there was a 5.5% rise in reported assaults with the intent to outrage her modesty, with Madhya Pradesh contributing 6,655 cases, making up 14.7% of the national incidents During the same period, reported insults to the modesty of women increased by 7.0%, with Andhra Pradesh recording 3,714 cases, constituting 40.5% of the national total, and Maharashtra documenting 3,714 cases, representing 14.1% of the national total.^[45]

Year	Assaults with intent to outrage modesty	Insults to the modesty of women
2008	40,413	12,214
2009	38,711	11,009
2010	40,613	9,961
2011	42,968	8,570
2012	45,351	9,173
2013	70,739	12,589
2014	82,235	9,735
2015	82,422	8,685

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Human trafficking and forced prostitution

A mother who travelled from her village in Nepal to Mumbai, in India, with the aspiration of locating and rescuing her teenage daughter who had been trafficked into an Indian brothel.

During the period between 2011 and 2012, a noticeable surge of 5.3% was observed in the occurrences of violations under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act of 1956 in India. Within this alarming trend, Tamil Nadu reported a substantial 500 incidents, representing a significant 19.5% share of the total nationwide violations. Simultaneously, Andhra Pradesh documented 472 incidents, contributing significantly with an 18.4% share to the overall national statistic. This increase in reported violations underscores the pressing need for enhanced efforts and measures to address and curb the illicit activities falling under the purview of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act of 1956 in various states across the country.

Year	Imported girls from foreign countries	Violations of the Immoral Traffic Act
2008	67	2,659
2009	48	2,474
2010	36	2,499
2011	80	2,435
2012	59	2,563
2013	31	2,579
2014	13	2,070
2015	6	2,424

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Domestic violence

- Domestic violence is abuse by one partner against another in an intimate relationship such as dating, marriage, cohabitation or a familial relationship.
- Domestic violence is also known as domestic abuse, spousal abuse, battering, family violence, dating abuse and intimate partner violence (IPV).
- Domestic violence can be physical, emotional, verbal, economic and sexual abuse.
- Domestic violence can be subtle, coercive or violent. As politician Renuka Choudary says, in India, 70% of women are victims of domestic violence.^[47]

The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) conducted in 2016 uncovered a concerning aspect: a substantial 86% of Indian women who experienced domestic violence chose not to disclose their ordeal, refraining from sharing it with friends or family members. This silence is intricately tied to the victims' internalization of social norms, leading them to believe that they are inadequate as wives and, consequently, deserving of the inflicted punishment.

The pervasive acceptance of domestic violence among women is further highlighted by survey findings indicating that 45% of Indian women rationalize their husbands' abusive actions. The complexity of this issue is illuminated by the National Family Health Survey of 2019–21, pointing out the alarming acceptance of spousal abuse in the southern states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana. In these states, a striking 80% of wives express agreement that their husbands are justified in resorting to physical violence, a notably higher percentage compared to other regions in India.

Equally disconcerting is the acknowledgment by 38% of Indian men admitting to engaging in physical abuse against their partners. In response to the widespread prevalence of domestic violence, the Indian government has implemented legislative measures, notably the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act of 2005. While these efforts signify a commitment to addressing the issue, the data underscores the complex interplay of societal attitudes and norms that contribute to the persistence of domestic violence, emphasizing the need for comprehensive strategies to challenge and dismantle deeply ingrained beliefs and behaviors.

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Year	Reported cruelty by a husband or relative
2008	81,344
2009	89,546
2010	94,041
2011	99,135
2012	106,527
2013	118,866
2014	122,877
2015	113,403

Forced child marriage

Young girls face a heightened susceptibility to coerced early marriages, confronting a dual vulnerability owing to their status as both children and females. The plight of child brides is exacerbated by their limited comprehension of the significance and obligations associated with marriage. The factors contributing to such early unions encompass the prevailing perception that girls represent a burden on their parents, coupled with the apprehension that they might compromise their chastity prior to marriage. This multifaceted issue underscores the urgent need for comprehensive interventions and awareness programs to address the root causes and consequences of child marriages, recognizing the unique challenges faced by young girls caught in this distressing phenomenon.

Around 7.84 million female children under the age of 10 are married in India.

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Acid throwing

Acid throwing, also known as an acid attack or vitriolage, stands as a brutal form of violent assault disproportionately affecting women in India. This act involves the intentional hurling of acid or corrosive substances onto an individual's body "with the intention to disfigure, maim, torture, or kill." Typically directed at the face, acid attacks cause severe burns, damaging the skin and often exposing or dissolving bone. The aftermath of such attacks is marked by enduring physical scars, potential blindness, and the onset of various social, psychological, and economic challenges.

Recognizing the gravity of this issue, the Indian legislature has taken steps to regulate the sale of acid. However, despite these measures, women in India face a heightened risk of falling victim to acid attacks, constituting at least 72% of reported cases. Disturbingly, the country has witnessed a rising trend in acid attacks over the past decade.

Between 2014 and 2018, National Crime Records Bureau data revealed that 1,483 victims registered cases of acid attacks in India. While the number of acid attacks continues to rise, there is a concerning decline in the number of people charged by the police. Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and Delhi collectively account for 42% of all acid attack victims in India. Perpetrators of these horrific crimes often evade punishment, as exemplified by the fact that out of 734 cases that went to trial in 2015, only 33 cases resulted in completion.

In a poignant response to this crisis, in 2018, Zainul Abideen ran a 720 km route known as the golden triangle in India, spanning from Delhi to Agra to Jaipur, to raise awareness about acid and rape attacks and advocate for women's safety. This initiative underscores the urgent need for widespread awareness and systemic changes to curb the alarming incidence of acid attacks and ensure justice for the survivors.

Perpetuation

The persistence of violence against women in India is deeply rooted in entrenched systems of sexism and patriarchy that permeate Indian culture. The cycle begins in early childhood, where young girls face unequal access to education compared to their male counterparts. Gender-based inequality manifests even earlier, with reports indicating that

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female children often receive less food and are provided with less nutritious diets lacking in essential elements like butter and milk and 80% of boys attend primary school, while only half of the girls are afforded the same opportunity.

Education itself becomes a contributing factor to the perpetuation of gender disparities, as girls are informed about the inequities they will face in life, whereas boys remain uninformed and unprepared to treat women and girls as equals.¹

As women progress into adulthood, the social climate continues to reinforce inequality, contributing to the prevalence of violence against them. Within the context of marriage, many women in India come to perceive violence as a routine aspect of their married lives. Those subjected to gender-based violence often face victim-shaming, being told that their safety is solely their responsibility and that any harm they endure is their own fault. Social and cultural beliefs, such as the importance of family honour, exert immense pressure on women to remain complicit in the face of abuse.

When a woman decides to report an incident of gender-based violence or crime, access to adequate support is not guaranteed. Law enforcement officers and doctors may opt not to report cases due to fears of damaging their own honour or bringing shame upon themselves. Even when a victim seeks medical assistance, archaic and invasive methods like the notorious "two-finger test" are often employed, exacerbating the problem and causing psychological harm.

In response to this pervasive issue, organizations like Dilaasa have emerged to combat the perpetuation of violence against women in India. Dilaasa, a hospital-based crisis center operated in collaboration with CEHAT, aims to provide proper care for survivors of violence against women and strives to address gender inequality. From 2000 to 2013, around 3,000 victims of sexual assault, domestic abuse, or other forms of gender-based violence have registered with Dilaasa, underscoring the urgent need for comprehensive efforts to break the cycle of violence and foster gender equality in India

TYPES OF VIOLENCE ON WOMEN IN INDIA AND WORLD:-

Violence against women and girls is one of the world's most prevalent human rights violations, taking place every day, many times over, in every corner of the globe. It has serious short- and

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long-term physical, economic and psychological consequences on women and girls, preventing their full and equal participation in society.

The magnitude of its impact, both in the lives of individuals and families and society as a whole, is immeasurable. Conditions created by humanitarian, health and environmental crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts, and climate change have further intensified violence against women and girls, exacerbated existing challenges and generated new and emerging threats.

This article provides an overview of the main forms of violence against women and girls, along with other commonly used terms, that any gender equality activist should have in their vocabulary toolkit.

Findings from the National Family Health Survey–5 (2019–21) show that 32% of ever-married women in India have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence by their husbands in their lifetime, while 6.1% reported sexual violence specifically (ResearchGate, 2023; Ramamurthy et al., 2025)

Gender-based violence

Gender-based violence is defined as violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately. It includes acts that inflict physical, mental or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty.

Discrimination against women and inequality in the distribution of power and resources between men and women are root causes of violence against women

Types of violence against women

Intimate-partner violence

Intimate partner violence refers to behaviour by an intimate partner or ex-partner that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion,

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psychological abuse and controlling behaviours. This is one of the most common forms of violence experienced by women globally.

Intimate partner violence is one of the manifestations of domestic violence. Domestic violence is violence that occurs within the private, domestic sphere, generally between individuals who are related through blood or intimacy. Domestic violence is not confined to women, for example it also includes child abuse and elderly abuse in the domestic sphere.

Types of Intimate partner violence:

- **Physical violence:** Acts like slapping, choking or burning.
- **Sexual violence:** Coercive acts including spousal rape.
- **Psychological violence:** Tactics of fear and control such as intimidation or forced isolation.
- **Economic violence:** Maintaining total control over financial resources, withholding access to money, and/or forbidding attendance at school or employment, among others.

Learn more: [The signs of relationship abuse and how to help](#)

Sexual violence

Sexual violence is any sort of harmful or unwanted sexual behaviour that is imposed on someone. It includes acts of abusive sexual contact, forced engagement in sexual acts, attempted or completed sexual acts with a woman without her consent, sexual harassment, verbal abuse, threats, exposure, unwanted touching, incest, and others.

Sexual violence can include the following:

- **Sexual harassment** may involve any conduct of a verbal, nonverbal or physical nature, including written and electronic communications. Sexual harassment can take a variety of forms – from looks and words through to physical contact of a sexual nature. Examples of sexual harassment include sharing sexual or lewd anecdotes or jokes;

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unwelcome touching, including pinching, patting, rubbing, or purposefully brushing up against another person, repeatedly asking a person for dates or asking for sex and making sexual comments about appearance, clothing, or body parts, among others.

- **Rape** is any sexual penetration without consent or as a result of intimidation, force, fraud, coercion, threat, deception, use of drugs or alcohol, abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability, or the giving or receiving of benefits. This can be by any person known or unknown to the survivor, within marriage and relationships, and during armed conflict.
- **Corrective rape** is a form of rape perpetrated against someone on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity. It is intended to force the victim to conform to heterosexuality or normative gender identity.
- **Sexual exploitation** are acts of abuse of a position of vulnerability, power or trust, or use of force or threat of force, for profiting financially, physically, socially or politically from the prostitution or sexual acts of a person. Sexual exploitation is the most prevalent form of human trafficking.
- **Sexual violence in conflict:** Acts of violence against women include violation of the human rights of women in situations of armed conflict, such as systematic rape, sexual slavery and forced pregnancy, as well as forced sterilization, coercive/forced use of contraceptives, female infanticide and prenatal sex selection.

Femicide

Femicide (femicide) is the intentional killing of a woman or a girl because she is a woman or a girl. The gender-related motivation of the killing may range from discrimination towards women and girls, harmful stereotypes, to unequal power dynamics between women and men. Femicide is the most extreme and brutal expression of gender-based violence.

Femicide can take place in a wide range of contexts, both private and public, and within different types of relationships between the perpetrator and victim. Often, gender-related killings involve cases with a previous record of physical, sexual, or psychological violence/harassment. Femicide is also found in situations involving human trafficking, forced

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labour, or slavery. In some cases, the body of the victim is disposed of in a public space, pointing to the perpetrator's intent to display power and reinforce fear.

Gender-related killings can also include so-called honor killings, where family members, usually targeting women or girls within the family unit, commit murder for the purported reason that the person has brought dishonor or shame upon the family. These killings often have to do with ideas of sexual purity and supposed transgressions that are culturally condemned, leading to brutal consequences for female family members.

Human trafficking

Human trafficking is a global crime that trades in people and exploits them for profit. Physical and sexual abuse, blackmail, emotional manipulation, and the removal of official documents are used by traffickers to control their victims. Exploitation can take place in a victim's home country, during migration or in a foreign country.

Human trafficking has many forms. While men, women and children of all ages and from all backgrounds can become victims of this crime, women are the primary targets and girls are mainly trafficked for sexual exploitation.

Harmful practices

Harmful practices are a violation of human rights that put women's and adolescents' sexual and reproductive health and rights at great risk. A variety of harmful practices exist, including female genital mutilation (FGM), child and forced marriage, virginity testing and related practices, extreme dietary restrictions, including during pregnancy (force-feeding, food taboos), binding, scarring, branding/ infliction of tribal marks, corporal punishment, stoning, violent initiation rites, widowhood practices, accusations of witchcraft and ritual attacks, son preference, daughter aversion and gender-biased sex selection, honor crimes, dowry related violence, menstruation restrictions, infanticide, incest and body modifications that are performed for the purpose of beauty or marriageability of girls and women.

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Harmful practices can include the following:

- **Female genital mutilation** (FGM) refers to all procedures involving partial or total removal of the female external genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. It is most often carried out on young girls between infancy and age 15.

FGM has no health benefits and can lead to serious, long-term complications and even death. Immediate health risks include hemorrhage, shock, infection, HIV transmission, urine retention and severe pain. Psychological impacts can range from a girl losing trust in her caregivers, to longer-term feelings of anxiety and depression. In adulthood, girls subjected to FGM are more likely to suffer infertility or complications during childbirth, including postpartum hemorrhage, stillbirth and early neonatal death.

- Numerous factors contribute to the persistence of the practice. Yet in every society in which it occurs, FGM is an expression of deeply rooted gender inequality. In every form in which it is practiced, FGM is a violation of girls' and women's fundamental human rights, including their rights to health, security and dignity. It was first classified as violence in 1997 via a joint statement issued by WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA.
- **Child, early and forced marriage:** Child marriage is any marriage where at least one of the parties is under 18 years of age. Forced marriage is a marriage in which one and/or both parties have not personally expressed their full and free consent to the union. A child marriage is considered to be a form of forced marriage, given that one and/or both parties have not expressed full, free and informed consent.
- It is widely recognized that child marriage is a violation of children's rights and has several harmful effects on the lives of children (overwhelmingly girls), including early and frequent pregnancies, higher risks of maternal mortality and morbidity, limited decision-making in family matters and school dropout.

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Online or technology-facilitated violence

Technology-facilitated violence against women is any harmful act that is committed, assisted, aggravated, or amplified by the use of digital tools or information communication technologies. These acts can result in or have the potential to cause, physical, sexual, psychological, social, political, or economic harm, as well as infringe on rights and freedoms. This violence can occur in online spaces, and it can be perpetrated offline through the use of technological means, such as controlling a woman's whereabouts by using a GPS tracker.

Technology-facilitated gender-based violence not only intensifies existing forms and patterns of violence against women, such as intimate-partner violence, but also introduces new forms of violence such as online stalking and image-based abuse through artificial intelligence like deepfake videos.

While all women and girls who are online or who use digital tools may face violence online, some groups are at greater risk. These include women who are most visible online, including women in public life, journalists, human rights defenders, politicians, young women and girls and feminist activists.

Online violence can include the following:

- **Cyberbullying:** involves sending intimidating or threatening messages.
- **Non-consensual sexting:** sending explicit messages or photos without the recipient's consent.
- **Doxing:** public release of private or identifying information about the victim.

What are the objectives of the domestic violence campaign?

Public awareness campaigns on domestic violence aim to educate community members about the prevalence of abuse, encourage people to take action to promote social change, and alert survivors to the options and resources that are available to them

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Research on violence against women in India aims to understand the depth, causes, and consequences of gender-based abuse, with a primary focus on driving social and legal change to ensure safety and equality. Studies in this area, particularly focusing on domestic violence, aim to document the prevalence of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, identify factors contributing to victimization, and evaluate the effectiveness of legal frameworks like the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.

Key objectives of research on violence against women in India include:

1. Assessing Prevalence, Trends, and Forms of Violence

- **Determine Magnitude:** To measure the extent of various forms of violence (physical, sexual, psychological, economic) against women across different regions, classes, and age groups.
- **Identify Trends:** To analyze how forms of violence have shifted, such as the reported increase in sexual or emotional abuse compared to physical violence, following legal interventions.
- **Contextualize Violence:** To understand violence in specific contexts, such as in rural areas, slums, or among working women.

2. Understanding Causes and Socio-Cultural Correlates

- **Analyze Root Causes:** To investigate deep-rooted patriarchal norms, male superiority beliefs, and unequal power relations that underpin violence.
- **Identify Risk Factors:** To examine factors that increase vulnerability, such as low education levels, economic dependence, dowry demands, and the influence of in-laws.
- **Study Cultural Tolerance:** To understand why violence is often normalized or justified by women themselves, including perceptions of "discipline".

3. Evaluating Legal and Support Mechanisms

- **Analyze Policy Gaps:** To evaluate the implementation of laws like the PWDV Act 2005 and identify gaps in legal protection, police response, and judicial procedures that prevent conviction.

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- **Evaluate Support Services:** To assess the effectiveness of NGOs, crisis centers, and counseling services in providing rehabilitation.

4. Exploring Protective Factors and Empowerment

- **Identify Protective Factors:** To analyze how women's education, financial independence, and ownership of assets (e.g., land, phones) act as shields against abuse.
- **Promote Empowerment:** To understand how fostering economic autonomy and decision-making power helps women resist and exit abusive situations.

5. Guiding Intervention and Policy

- **Inform Preventive Measures:** To provide data for developing targeted interventions, such as educational campaigns to change community attitudes.
- **Develop Culturally Specific Tools:** To create and validate tools for accurately assessing violence in the Indian context.

These research objectives aim to bridge the gap between legal rights guaranteed by the Indian Constitution and the reality of women's experiences, with a long-term goal of ending violence and achieving gender equality.

Methodology/Approach :-

Research on violence against women (VAW) in India uses mixed-methods, combining **quantitative surveys** (like NFHS) for prevalence and risk factors (patriarchy, economic dependence, caste) with **qualitative studies** (interviews, case studies) to understand experiences, cultural nuances, and institutional barriers, often using **interdisciplinary approaches** (sociology, law, health) and focusing on both individual (psychological) and structural (patriarchy, norms) causes, while also employing methods like **fuzzy cognitive maps** and **small area estimation** for deeper analysis.

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Common Methodologies & Approaches

1. Quantitative Surveys:

- **Purpose:** Measure prevalence, risk/protective factors (education, assets, joint families), and help-seeking behaviors.
- **Examples:** Large-scale surveys like the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) using structured questionnaires.
- **Tools:** Statistical analysis (descriptive, inferential).

2. Qualitative Methods:

- **Purpose:** Gain deep insight into motivations, meanings, experiences, and institutional responses (police, health).
- **Examples:** In-depth interviews (phenomenological approach), focus groups, case studies.
- **Tools:** Colaizzi's method for data analysis.

3. Mixed-Methods:

- **Purpose:** Combine breadth (quantitative) with depth (qualitative) for a holistic understanding.
- **Approach:** Conduct surveys and follow up with interviews, or integrate qualitative findings with quantitative data.

4. Interdisciplinary & Structural Analysis:

- **Purpose:** Understand VAW as rooted in societal structures, not just individual issues.
- **Fields:** Sociology, Psychology, Law, Public Health.
- **Focus:** Patriarchy, economic dependency, cultural norms, caste system, power imbalances, and institutional responses.

5. Specific Analytical Techniques:

- **Fuzzy Cognitive Maps (FCM):** To model complex relationships and causes of violence, like the link between caste and violence.

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- **Small Area Estimation:** For district-level risk estimation of crimes against women.

Key Considerations in Indian Context

- **Underreporting:** High rates of unreported violence due to cultural norms, shame, or apathy.
- **Cultural Factors:** Focus on joint families, in-laws' involvement, dowry, and traditional patriarchal norms.
- **Help-Seeking:** Most women seek informal support (family) over formal (police, agencies).
- **Contextual Nuances:** Methods must capture diverse forms of abuse (e.g., psychological, neglect) and specific tools used.

1. A, B, C v. Ireland, 2011, Abortion law under the European Convention on human rights, Human rights Law Review, Vol 11(3), 556-566

Law on abortion in Ireland is too tight, it does not allow the abortion even when the women life is at risk. The right to life by its constitution is extended to unborn child in Ireland. Other 40 European countries allows the abortion when the women life is at risk. Ireland is a unusual country but in punishment, it is not uniquely unusual. In the case of A, B, C, all three applicants travelled to UK for abortion, since Irish government did not allow the abortion at all. The courts held that Ireland had no effective remedy for first two applicants so no point in exhausting the same however, the third one failed to put the proper evidence.

2. Agnes Tiwari & ors., 2009, Psychological intimate partner abuse among Chinese: What we know and what we still need to know, The open Social Science Journal, vol 2 pg no. 32-36

Intimate partner abuse is prevalent in society however, it has lot of negative psychological impact on the victim women or children. Chinese societal culture towards women is more shame oriented means women have more of shameful feelings which has affect on their psychology. The research has shown that around 77% of Chinese women had out of 1132 who were interviewed, suffered from psychological abuse compared to 10% of physical abuse.

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3. Biswajit Ghosh, Ananda Mohan Kar, 2010, Persistence of Dowry in india: A study In rural south west Bengal, The Asian Man, Vol 4 no. 1, pg no. 13-21.

Dowry means the gifts given by the parents of bride family to groom's family at the time of marriage. The author has study the trend at South- West Bengal which shows steady rise in such crimes.

4. Beate Rudolf Andrea Eriksson, 2007 Women's rights under international human rights treaties: Issues of rape, domestic slavery, abortion and domestic violations, I CON, Vol 5 (3), pg.no. 507-525.

Every constitutional law bars the gender based discrimination against the women however, such right does not specifically gives the right of equality to women all over the world. The advocate of women's right has recommended the gendered perspective to constitutional law so that it can deal with the special situations of women.

5. Corinne H Rocca, Sujit Rathod, Tina Falle, Rohini P Pande and Suneeta Krishnan, 2009, Challenging assumptions about women's empowerment: social and economic resources and domestic violence among young married women in urban south India, International Journal of epidemiology, Vol. 38, pg.no. 577-585.

The study has examined factors which are economic, social and recent domestic violence. It has carried out research over the married women at Bangalore, India which shows that over 56% of the women who were studies has experienced the violence. The study suggests that anti dowry laws should be used in such way which makes the women and families to challenge the entire dowry system in the society.

6. Celine Jacquemin, 2010, Female genital cutting: Shattering the debate yet still violating the human rights/Revista Espaco Academico, Vol IX, pg. no. 16-22.

Most inhuman form of violence against the women is female genital cutting. Such practices are followed because the society considers the women as impure and so that the prospective husbands accepts them. Such rituals has dire consequences and it has a negative impact on the women's health.

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7. Daniel Aguirre and Irene Peitropoli, 2008, Gender equality, Development and Transitional Justice: The case of Nepal, *The International Journal of transitional justice*, Vol 2 pg no. 356-377.

The transitional justice is the period which offers development opportunities after past conflict in the nation. The case has been discussed about the women of Nepal who has undergone many difficulties and inequalities. Its always been considered as states responsibility of state to develop society however, this did not happen in Nepal. During conflict the women started taking jobs and responsibilities which caused radical changes in Nepal, it affected Nepal in positive as well as in negative way.

8. Fatemeh Noughani, Jamileh Mohtashami, 2011, Effect of Education on prevention of domestic violence against women, *Iran J Psychaitry*, Vol. 6, pg. no. 80-83.

This article has studied as to what is the impact of education on people with regard to prevention of domestic violence on the women pre and post the educating them about various types of violence and how to manage them etc. However, when the same study was carried out after six months after educating them it found that there was no difference in the result.

9. Farida Ibrahim & Ralmah Hashim,1996, Images of Women and Human Rights: A content analysis of Malaysian media during fourth Conference on women in Beijing/*Komunikasi*, Vol No. 12, Pg no.65-83.

The media can help the movement of human rights by their coverage, by spreading the awareness of human rights of women. Beijing conference was very important for women human rights but the media portrayed its image as chaotic. Print media can help in spreading the awareness.

10. Flavia Agnes, 2008, Women's rights and legislative reforms: An overview, *The International Journal of legal Information*, Vol. 36 (2) pg no. 263-269

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Indian constitution has provided many mandates like right to equality, right to equal opportunity in employment, right to life and liberty which ensures the equality to women as well however in order to enforce the same various legislations were enacted to protect the women from violence in inequalities. The Supreme court of India as well government made various acts to combat the situation of human rights violation in India. Lately, the Domestic violence prevention Act is enacted to protect the women in India. There are various other laws. Dowry prohibition laws, strict laws for rape incidences.

11. Fayomi O.O., 2009, Women, Poverty and Trafficking: A contextual exposition of the Nigerian situation, Journal of management and Social sciences, Vol 5 (1), pg. no.65-79. Humaman trafficking is increasing in recent time and especially the trafficking relating to women has shown increase due to poverty in context to African state. The paper analyses as to how the poverty as well the failure of state in protecting the women's rights as well as failure of government in making available the respectable jobs to women drives them to into the women trafficking.

12. Gerd Ferdinand Kichhoff and Nazia Khan, 2012, Limits to tolerance : Tribal social order versus Human rights, TEMIDA, vol no. 15 (2) pg. no. 181-192. The paper discussed the local customs which controls the ideologies and human rights. Mostly social ideologies and human rights clashes and which causes the victimisation of women in such social controlled environment. It has compared and studied various judgements pronounced by different countries.

13. G. Sandhya Rani, 2010, Women's Education in India – An Analysis, Asia Pacific Journal of Social sciences, Vol II (1), 106-124. Education is a good indicator of women's development and progress however, the education is neglected in many societies since their needs are different. In recent scenario educational era has expanded and policy makers and government has made the policies which envisages the equality to women in all the areas however, the gender disparity is visible in education. As per 2002 census, only around 54% of women are literate from the total population. There are various national and international programmes and policies to boost the education in India.

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14. Helen Jones, 2005, Kas wachala Watching over the rights of women, *Social Policy and Society*, vol no. 5:1, 27-36.

Convention on Elimination of all types of discriminations against women was brought into existence in order to eliminate all types of abuses against women. The article examines as to how much the convention is effective in its implementation and in eliminating all forms of human rights violations. It also examines what is role played by NGOs in implementing the convention.

15. Isabel Goicolea , Miguel San Sebastián, and Marianne Wulff, 2008, *Health and Human rights an international journal*, Women’s Reproductive Rights in Amazon basin of Ecuador : challenges for transforming policies into practice, vol 10 (2) pg no. 91 -103

Reproductive and sexual health of women needs urgent attention since without improving the same, the poverty eradication and development in education is not possible. The rights based approach does not only put the responsibility on the individual but also on state to provide all means for improving the reproductive health. Even after policy, at Amazon basin 40% women has deliveries without professional health support. 26% of women indicates that the pregnancies are unwarranted due to non availability of contraceptives. Having policies does not mean that its implemented.

16. Iveta Chernerte, 2011, Recognising rape as torture: The evolution of women’s rights legal protective techniques/intercultural Hum rights *Law review* vol. 6 , pg no. 325-347.

It examines the torture as violation of human rights and linked torture to sexual and domestic violence a d women’s rights. International Criminal law and evidence laws has advanced. In many universal and regional bodies rape laws are recognised as torture.

17. Ivana Radacic, 2008, Gender Equality Jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights, *The European Journal of International Law* Vol. 19 no. 4 © EJIL p.no. 841-857.

The key area of conventions is gender equality however, the European court had failed to implement the same in the member states. This article tries to find out the reasons of such

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failure. It analyses jurisprudence of Article 14 and application of the same in gender equality.

18. Kumar Regmi, 2006, Trafficking into prostitution in India and the Indian Judiciary, Intercultural Human Rights Law Review, vol 1, pg no. 371-406.

India is signatory to the international convention and therefore it has declared trafficking in human as illegal and also enacted a law on Suppression of Immoral Traffic in women and Girls Act. India has taken many steps to prohibit the trafficking in human.

19. Kwong leung Tang, 2004, internationalising Women's Struggle against discrimination : The UN women's convention and the optional protocol, British Journal of Social Work, vol no. 34, p no, 1173 – 1188.

There exist a lot of violations of human rights of women and the challenging the same has gone beyond the national boundaries. This paper discusses the importance of the UN convention on elimination of all types of discrimination against women. Its importance has increased since the introduction of new chapter on private complaint mechanism. Awareness amongst women is necessary so that women's get full benefit of the key points of convention.

20. Katherien Stuart Van Wormer, 2008, Women Bid for equality in the United States, in an Era of backlash, two steps forward and one step back, vol. 1 pg no. 15-21.

The women at United states made remarkable progress and development in getting all the rights by their continuous struggle. The women had achieved success in all the areas where man had made their positions however, when particular group of women were developing and progressing other group were left alone and were not developing as fast as compared to other group of women which led to agitations and that is being known as two steps forward and one step back.

21. Ko Ling Chan, 2011, Comparative review on national Strategies in the prevention of domestic violence, The open social Science Journal, Vol. 4, pg. no. 1-8

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The paper has compared the policies of eight different nations in order to combat the menace of domestic violence. The comparative study of each country is carried out and the policies and strategies are reviewed in order to find out the main component of each nation which protects the domestic violence. The violence against the women, children and elderly persons are given emphasis.

22. Ligia Kiss, 2012, Brazilian Policy responses to violence against women: Government strategy and the help seeking behaviours of women who experiences violence, Health and Human Rights, vol no. 14(1), pg no. 1-14.

Most of the states have now signed the international covenants for protections of women since the world has witnessed lot of violence against women. The paper discusses the policies and strategies Brazilian government to combat violence on the basis of the women's pattern to seek help from formal sources. As per the survey, 33.08% of women who were survey took the formal help however other sought the informal help like family and friends.

23. M. Suguna, 2011, Education and Women Empowerment in India, International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research, Vol 1(8), pg no. 198-204.

India is the fastest developing economy in the world, the women constitutes the 50% of the world population and therefore it is important to use the potential of women for development and progress. During ancient times women were given access to the education however, thereafter they were denied this basic rights, thereafter during british regime again the movement for women's education started flaring. In India recently, government is boosting the women's education.

24. M. J. Maluleke, 2012, Culture, Tradition, custom, Law and gender equality, Vol 15(1), pg no. 1- 22.

There are various customs and practices which are followed by groups of people however whereas some practices are beneficial some group of people some are against some groups such as women such practices are female mutation, widows rituals, child marriages. The paper studies culture, tradition, custom, law and gender equality at South Africa.

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25. Miranda Alison, 2007, wartime sexual violence: women's human rights and questions of masculinity, *Review of international studies*, Vol. 33, pg no. 75-90.

The wartime violence is the wartime violence which occurs during the wartime. Mostly the women's and girls are the victims and all the laws and international legislations are towards protecting the women's and girls however, it should not be forgotten that even men faces wartime human rights violations.

26. Mauzzam Nasrulah, 2009, The epidemiological patterns of honour killing of women in Pakistan, *European Journal of Public health*, Vol 19, 2, pg. no. 193-197.

Honour killing is a public health problem. The article has studied the various available data on honour killing and analysed that the of married women facing honour killing are more compared to other instances. Much data on honour killing are not available since many of them go unreported.

27. Matthew Adefi Olong, 2012, Human rights, the environment and Sustainable Development: Nigerian Women Experiences, *Journal of Politics and Law*, March, Vol 5 no.1, pg no. 99-107.

Women in Nigeria has the right to have conducive environment for their development. African charter on human and Peoples Rights states that women should have all the rights to develop in the nation and for accomplishing the same, the state should take all the steps for their development.

28. Dr. Nadeem Bhatti, 2011, Domestic violence against women, A case study of district Jacobabad, Sindh Pakistan, *Asian Social Science*, vol 7 (12), pg no. 145-162.

It brings out the study on domestic violence suffered by women at Pakistan. The unequal power relation between men and women has led to suppression of women by men by using their power. There are various types of violence faced by the women however the main form of violence is domestic violence. Various data were collected using quantitative and qualitative data which revealed that rural women faces more challenges once they go out for business.

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29. Nair, Pooja, 2010, Litigating against the forced sterilisation of HIV positive women: Recent developments in Chile and Nambia, Harv Hum Rights J, vol 23 pg no. 223-231.

There are nations which has adopted the policy for forced sterilisation of HIV positive victims. Such forced sterilisation violates the women's right to control its own body as well as her right to make decision about the reproductivity.

30. PIU Sarkar, 2011 Feminisim and Women Empowerment: an Indian Perspective, Journal of Asian Research Consortium, Vol 1, issue 2, pg. no. 74-81.

The concept of feminism rests on the premises that a woman deserves equality in all aspects and women should be given equal importance like men. Feminism developed in UK, US and also in France as well as in India in order to give equal importance to women.

31. Preetu Srivastava, 2011 Give me my rights: female feticide in India, The Asian man, Vol 5, Issue 1, pg no. 76-80.

We talk about giving equal status and rights to women however, in India female feticide and infanticide is rampant and in such a scenario giving equal rights to women is impossible task. Male child is preferable to inherit the property and perform last rites of parents.

32. Patricia Londono, 2009, Developing human rights principles in cases of gender based violence, opuz v/s. Turkey in European courts of human rights, Human Rights Law Review vol no. 9:4, pg.no. 657 – 667

There are various decisions which has been passed by the European courts concerning sexual violence. By these various decisions the duty was casted upon the state to secure and protect the rights between private individuals, by these it can also find the violations. Judgements of European courts were passed on sexual violence but the same was not articulated into the equality laws.

33. Renee Kool, 2010 the Dutch approach to female genital mutilation in view of the ECHR time for change has come, Utrecht Law Review, vol 6 (1), pg no.51-61.

FGM is at some places is a punishable offence however, in some it is felt as fundamental.

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Till now only France has made this as criminal and punishable offence and other countries have taken appropriate steps to criminalise the act of FGM. Dutch has taken the approach that it should be internal rules health fraternity and whether to report such incidence of FGM to judicial authorities depends upon each medical institution.

34. Rossen Petkov, 2012, Prevention Methods of Violence against Women and Girls as Shared Efforts by Governments and NGOs, Review of European Studies, Vol 4, No. 2, pg. no. 33-43.

Violence against women is a on going international problem. Our society has advanced but the violence has continued in its different forms. In order to reduce this violence the government, NGOs as well as individuals participation is required to resolve such problem of domestic violence.

35. Stephanie Ferror, 2009, Human rights Advocacy on gender issues : Challenges and opportunities, Journal of Human rights Practice, vol I, Issue no.1 83-100.

Recently lot of progress is witnessed by the world in the human rights development. Various standard has also been set through various state and international legislations. Recent years have also seen human rights of lesbian, transgender etc. Human rights have not restricted only to women's rights but also taken other groups.

36. Sangeeta Sinha, 2011, Women's rights: Tunisian Women in the Workplace, Journal of International Women's studies Vol. 12(3), pg no. 185-200.

Tunisia being a Arab country and prior to independence, women were not given access to education and confined to household and wearing veil. Tunisia women made great stride towards achieving the greater rights. The state has taken the responsibility which has brought the desired and necessary changes in the human rights.

37. Vachher Alka, 2010, Sharma A, Domestic violence against women and their mental health status in a colony in Delhi, Indian Journal of community Medicine, Issue 35, issue 3, pg no. 403-405.

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One of the major public health and human rights issue in today's world is violence against women. The author has conducted a study to assess the consequences of domestic violence on the mental health of women of reproductive age group and concluded that the domestic violence is associated with the mental ill health.

38. Vaneesa E. Munro, 2006, Stopping Traffic, a comparative study of responses to the trafficking in women for prostitution, Brit. J. Criminol, vol no. 46, pg no. 318-333.

Cross border trafficking is a major phenomenon and therefore various laws internationally are enacted in order to protect against trafficking. The article illustrates various ambiguities. The article has made various findings based on comparative studies of various states which shows how various frame works i.e. human rights, criminality, prostitution policy etc effects the policy making of different domestic regimes.

39. Valerie Couillard, 2007, The Nairobi Declaration, Redefining reparations for women victims of sexual violence, International Journal of Transitional Justice, Vol 1, 444-453.

Nairobi declaration is based on guidelines and principles issued by united nations on right to remedy and reparation of for victims of gross violations of human rights law. The Nairobi has made guidelines on policy making on right to remedy and reparation for victims of human rights violations.

40. William Paul Simmons, 2006, Remedies for the women of Ciudad Juarez through the inter American court of human rights, Northwestern Journal of International Human rights, Vol 4, issue 3, pg. no. 492-515.

The brutality faced by women at Ciudad Juarez, Mexico and how the Inter American Court of Human Rights helped the women. Many women were raped and killed. Various remedies has been given by the inter American courts for the benefit of women.

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FINDINGS / RESULTS :-

Research on violence against women in India indicates that despite legal reforms, gender-based violence remains a pervasive public health and human rights crisis, with high rates of underreporting. Recent findings from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5, 2019–21) and National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB, 2022) suggest that approximately **one-third (32%) of ever-married women** have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence.

Here are the key findings and results of recent research:

1. High Prevalence and Underreporting

- **Persistent Abuse:** Roughly 30% of women aged 15-49 have experienced spousal violence in their lifetime.
- **Underreporting:** Official crime statistics (NCRB) show 4,45,256 cases in 2022, but this is considered a fraction of the actual occurrences, with some estimates suggesting over 90% of cases go unreported due to social stigma, fear of retaliation, and economic dependency.
- **Regional Disparities:** Domestic violence is highest in Karnataka (48%), Bihar, Telangana, Manipur, and Tamil Nadu.

2. Primary Forms of Violence

- **Cruelty by Partners:** "Cruelty by husband or his relatives" (Section 498A IPC) is the highest reported crime, accounting for over 31% of total crimes against women.
- **Sexual Violence:** The NFHS-5 reported 6% of women experienced sexual violence in their lifetime, with 14% of ever-married women reporting spousal sexual violence, a significant increase from previous reports.
- **Emotional & Physical Violence:** 19% of women reported experiencing emotional violence in the last year, with marital family members often being perpetrators alongside partners. Physical violence includes slapping (most common), kicking, and dragging.
- **Emerging Cybercrimes:** A rise in cyber-enabled crimes, including stalking, non-consensual imagery, and online harassment, has been noted, particularly targeting women in public life.

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3. Risk Factors and Contributing Factors

- **Socioeconomic Status:** Impoverished women are 2 to 3 times more likely to experience domestic violence.
- **Alcohol Consumption:** A husband's alcohol consumption is a major predictor, with studies finding that women whose husbands drink are three times more likely to face domestic violence.
- **Patriarchal Norms & Justification:** A substantial portion of both men and women (approx. 45% in NFHS-5) justify wife-beating under certain circumstances, such as neglecting the house or children, or disrespecting in-laws.
- **Education:** Higher education for women is a protective factor, but surprisingly, some studies indicate that women with higher earnings than their partners may face higher risks of violence due to a "backlash" against challenging traditional gender roles.

4. Impact on Women and Society

- **Health Consequences:** Victims face severe physical injuries (burns, broken bones) and long-term mental health issues, including depression, trauma, and suicide.
- **Impact on Children:** Violence is often passed down generations, with children in violent households more likely to perpetrate or experience abuse in adulthood.

5. Institutional Response and Gaps

- **Implementation Gaps:** Although One-Stop Centres (OSCs) and the 181 helpline exist, they are often under-resourced, particularly in rural areas.
- **Low Conviction Rates:** Despite legal changes (e.g., Post-Nirbhaya 2013), conviction rates remain low.
- **Police Response:** Studies indicate that many victims are hesitant to report crimes due to fear of police inaction or harassment.

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Note: The 2022 NCRB data, published in 2023, is the most recent comprehensive official data cited in 2025 research, with some 2023 preliminary trends showing further nominal increases in reported crimes.

Literature Review:- A literature review for a research proposal on violence against women in India should cover prevalence, forms (domestic, sexual, psychological), risk factors (socio-economic, patriarchal norms, low female education, alcohol use), >>health impacts (physical, mental), legal frameworks (like Section 498A IPC), >>gaps (perpetrator perspectives, effective interventions), and existing >>gaps in comprehensive care, highlighting key studies from India and international sources (UNFPA, WHO, NIH) using frameworks like the socio-ecological model to identify dynamic, changeable factors for intervention.

Key Themes & Areas to Review

1. Prevalence & Forms:

- Statistics on domestic violence (physical, sexual, psychological) from national surveys (NFHS) and studies in various Indian states (e.g., Karnataka).
- Forms of violence, including dowry-related abuse, control over reproductive choices, and specific tools used.

2. Risk & Protective Factors:

- **Individual/Household:** Low female education, husband's drinking, lower socioeconomic status, caste, religion, wealth index.
- **Societal:** Patriarchal norms, unequal power balance, gender role construction, male preference, lack of female autonomy.
- **Dynamic Factors:** Alcohol/drug use, help-seeking behaviour.

3. Health Consequences:

- Physical (injuries, STIs, chronic pain) and mental health impacts (depression, suicide, psychosomatic issues).
- Impact on infants (low birth weight, mortality) and reproductive health.

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4. Legal & Policy Landscape:

- Review of laws (e.g., Section 498A IPC), their implementation challenges, and the need for better enforcement.

5. Gaps & Methodological Issues:

- Lack of focus on perpetrators' perspectives and motivations.
- Need for more research on causality and effective multi-agency interventions.
- Critiques of measurement tools (e.g., Conflict Tactics Scale).

6. Interventions & Care:

- Importance of training health personnel, police, and judiciary.
- Need for comprehensive, multi-agency support for survivors (psychosocial care).
- Primary prevention strategies (gender sensitization, life skills training).

Conclusion /Implications /Recommendations :- Based on research regarding violence against women (VAW) in India, the overarching conclusion is that despite progressive legal frameworks (such as the PWDV Act 2005), violence remains endemic, largely driven by entrenched patriarchal norms, social acceptance of abuse, and ineffective implementation of laws.

Here are the key conclusions, implications, and recommendations often highlighted in research proposals on this topic:

1. Ultimate Conclusion

- **Persistent & Systemic Crisis:** Violence against women in India is not a sporadic issue but a deep-seated structural problem rooted in patriarchy, son preference, and gender inequality.
- **Normalization and Justification:** A significant number of women, as well as society at large, justify domestic violence, leading to high rates of underreporting and silence.
- **Underreporting & Ineffective Justice:** The vast majority of incidents are not reported, and conviction rates for reported crimes remain low, undermining the deterrent effect of laws.

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- **Intersectionality:** Violence is exacerbated by intersections of caste, class, rural location, and economic dependence.

2. Key Implications

- **Economic Cost:** VAW hinders women's ability to participate in the economy, with estimates suggesting that ensuring a safe environment could significantly boost India's GDP.
- **Public Health Crisis:** VAW causes devastating physical and mental health issues (trauma, suicide), making it a major, yet often ignored, public health problem.
- **Failure of Passive Legislation:** Passing laws is insufficient; the focus must shift from merely enacting laws to enforcing them, addressing the gap between policy and practice.
- **Role of Technology:** While technology can aid, it also introduces new risks, including the rise of cyber-enabled crimes.

3. Recommendations

- **Shift from Reactive to Preventive:** Move beyond legal action after the crime to proactive prevention through education, gender sensitization, and community-level awareness campaigns.
- **Gender-Transformative Interventions:** Implement programs targeting men and boys to challenge patriarchal mindsets and promote respectful relationships.
- **Strengthen Institutional Response:** Enhance the capacity of the justice system and police, specifically through gender-sensitive training and the use of One-Stop Centres.
- **Economic Empowerment:** Facilitate financial independence for women, as economic empowerment has been identified as a protective factor against domestic violence.
- **Improved Data Collection:** Move from relying only on police records to incorporating community-based surveys to capture the true magnitude of violence.
- **Faith-Based Approaches:** Integrate religious and ethical teachings that emphasize respect for women to challenge societal norms.

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Summary Conclusion for a Proposal: "The study concludes that only a multi-sectoral approach combining legal, economic, and social interventions can effectively dismantle the root causes of violence against women in India, moving from a reactive to a proactive model of safety".

Research Gaps Of the Study:-

Research gaps in Indian violence against women (VAW) proposals include a lack of **longitudinal studies**, research on **specific demographics** (older women, tribal areas, same-sex relationships), standardized **measurement tools**, deep dives into **digital violence**, and effective evaluation of **health system responses** and prevention programs, alongside under-researched links between **economic empowerment, technology**, and different forms of abuse, with a need for more qualitative research on lived experiences and underreported abuse.

Key Research Gaps for Proposals:

1. **Specific Populations:**

- Limited focus on women over 50, in live-in relationships, or same-sex relationships.
- Insufficient research in tribal villages and certain northern regions.

2. **Types & Measurement of Violence:**

- Lack of validated, culturally adapted, and standardized survey tools, leading to inconsistent prevalence data.
- Underreporting of less severe forms (like emotional abuse) and its impact on reporting more severe violence.
- Emerging forms of digital violence (surveillance, harassment) and their intersection with physical abuse.

3. **Health System & Interventions:**

- Fragmented, small-scale health system responses; need for documentation on the effectiveness, feasibility, and sustainability of training for healthcare providers.
- Lack of evidence on effective prevention strategies for adolescent dating/partner violence.

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4. **Socio-Economic & Cultural Factors:**

- Deeper exploration of how financial autonomy interacts with increased risk.
- More qualitative research to understand community-level factors, stigma, and barriers to reporting.

5. **Longitudinal & Causal Links:**

- Need for longitudinal studies to track violence over time.
- More research on the specific impacts of VAW on physical health.

6. **Intersectionality:**

- How technology (as a tool for abuse and intervention) interacts with social crises like pandemics.

By addressing these gaps, a research proposal can contribute significantly to understanding and combating violence against women in India more effectively.

A research proposal on violence against women (VAW) in India requires a mix of up-to-date statistical reports, legal frameworks, and foundational academic studies to establish the scope and context of the issue.

Based on recent literature (2020–2025), here are the key references and sources to include:

1. Key Statistical and Survey Data (Essential for Background)

- **National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5, 2019–21):** The primary source for prevalence data. Key finding: ~32% of ever-married women (18-49) have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence by their husbands.
- **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) - "Crime in India" (2022/2023 Reports):** Provides official police-recorded data. The 2022 report highlighted over 4.45 lakh cases of crimes against women, a 4% rise from 2021.
- **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) - "Women and Men in India 2023":** Offers data on gender-based violence trends and social indicators.

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- **National Commission for Women (NCW) Annual Reports:** Documents complaints on domestic violence, sexual harassment, and rape.

2. Legal and Policy Frameworks

- **The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005:** Foundational law.
- **Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013:** Enacted after the 2012 Nirbhaya case, broadening definitions of sexual assault.
- **The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961:** Still relevant for studying dowry-related violence.
- **Mission Shakti (MWCD) / One-Stop Centre Scheme:** Current government policy initiatives for rehabilitation.

3. Academic Studies and Literature Review

- **Systematic Reviews on Domestic Violence (DV):** Studies analyzing a decade of quantitative data often cite *Sahay, S. (2017)* and *Sikri et al. (2021)* regarding underreporting and social stigma.
- **Patriarchy and Socio-Cultural Roots:** *Kaur (2019)* and *Ahmed-Ghosh (2004)* are often cited to show that domestic violence is rooted in deeply ingrained social, religious, and cultural beliefs.
- **Intersectional Studies:** Recent research emphasizes that the violence is not uniform, but differs by caste, class, and region (e.g., *Ragavan & Iyengar, 2020*).
- **Impact of COVID-19:** Research on how social isolation and economic strain increased violence during the pandemic.
- **Cyber-Enabled Crimes:** Recent studies (2024/2025) now focus on digital stalking, sextortion, and non-consensual imagery.

4. International/Institutional Reports

- **UN Women/WHO Reports:** Global data on intimate partner violence and gender inequality.
- **UNICEF reports:** On child marriage in India, which is recognized as a form of violence.

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Core Research Themes for Literature Review

- **The "Iceberg" Phenomenon:** The vast disparity between NCRB data (reported crime) and NFHS data (actual prevalence).
- **Control Mechanisms:** Studies show that jealousy, restricting freedom of movement, and economic dependency are primary drivers.
- **Underreporting:** High levels of silence due to fear of reprisal, social stigma, and lack of trust in police.

Recommended Search Keywords for Proposal

- *Intimate Partner Violence India NFHS-5*
- *Structural Violence Women India*
- *NCRB Crime Against Women 2024 Analysis*
- *Patriarchal Norms and Domestic Violence India*
- *Sexual Assault and Legal Reforms India*

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AN ANATOMIZATION OF ROLE OF IPR IN CYBER LAWS

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ABSTRACT

Due to our increasing reliance on digital forms of trade, the concept of Intellectual Property has emerged as an essential cog in the wheel of modern life. The word is often used to refer to copyrights, trademarks, and other forms of industrial property. There are many types of intellectual property that fall under this umbrella. Protection against unfair competition, which may include the protection of undisclosed information/trade secrets, is

also included. Similarly, utility models, trade dress, and the layout-designs or topographies of integrated circuits are also protected if applicable. When compared to the value of tangible assets, the value of intellectual property is astronomical. The Objective of the paper is to examine different forms of intellectual property in the context of electronic governance, to assess the difficulties in enforcing intellectual property rights (IPR) in online transactions, particularly given the susceptibility of online businesses to fraud and to discuss upon how to improve the use of technology to safeguard intellectual property in online trade The paper has been designed using secondary data collection method and qualitative analysis, using and interpretivist approach. There can be no question that in a field as diverse and ever-changing as E-governance, Intellectual Property Laws play a crucial role in assuring the legality and morality of all digital practises and activities. The protection of intellectual property is crucial to the success

of businesses operating in the digital sphere. As online business continues to expand rapidly, countries want a fool proof system for safeguarding their sensitive data and plans. This paper examines the role of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in Cyber Laws, with a focus on the case study of Cyber Security in E-governance. IPR is critical in protecting digital information and creative content from unauthorized access, use, or reproduction. As E- governance initiatives

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involve the use of digital technologies to provide government services and interact with citizens, the protection of IPR is particularly essential. The article first provides an overview of IPR, including patents, trademarks, copyrights, and trade secrets, and their significance in the digital age. It then explores the relationship between IPR and Cyber Laws, examining how IPR laws intersect with cybercrime, digital piracy, and data protection. The article also delves into the role of IPR in the E-governance ecosystem, including the legal framework, data protection, and privacy concerns. The case study of Cyber Security in E-governance highlights the importance of IPR in securing digital infrastructure and safeguarding sensitive government data. The article examines the various threats that E-governance initiatives face, including cyber-attacks, data breaches, and hacking attempts, and discusses how IPR can serve as a tool to prevent and mitigate these threats. Overall, this paper provides a comprehensive understanding of the role of IPR in Cyber Laws and Cyber Security in E-governance. It emphasizes the importance of protecting IPR in the digital age and the need for a robust legal framework to safeguard digital assets and ensure the smooth functioning of E-governance initiatives.

1. INTRODUCTION

As a direct consequence of the Internet's meteoric rise, several new industries have formed. Cyber space's meteoric rise has upended established methods of doing business. The rapid expansion of the platform has also been very beneficial. Despite the rapid development of technological and commercial business models, laws and regulations have lagged behind, and no matching mechanisms have been put in place to govern them (Parashar, L. (2020). Studies on intellectual property protection difficulties in the context of internet commerce have been done as a result of the increased public awareness of property rights, adding layers of complexity to an already global and multidimensional issue. This research looks on how companies that specialise in online space use e-governance and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in an effort to stamp out cyber fraud. Intellectual property rights (IPR) and cyber law are two distinct areas of law, but they overlap in different ways. IPR gives exclusive rights to the creator or owner of an original work, while cyber law deals with the use of technology and the Internet.

Intellectual property rights and cyber law are becoming increasingly important in the digital

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age. With the growth of the Internet and easy access to digital content, protecting intellectual property online has become a major concern for creators and owners of original works. Unauthorized copying and distribution of digital content has become a significant problem, leading to the development of legal frameworks and policies to address this issue. Intellectual property rights play an important role in protecting digital content, including music, movies, software, and other forms of intellectual property. For example, copyright and trademark laws legally protect original works or trademarks. Patent law, on the other hand, legally protects inventions and innovative products.

Cyber law, on the other hand, deals with the use of technology and the Internet. They regulate issues related to online privacy, cybercrime and cyber security. These laws help protect sensitive information, prevent cyber-attacks and hacks, and keep you safe online. In summary, the role of intellectual property rights in cyber law is important. Legal frameworks and policies developed to protect intellectual property in the digital age are essential to prevent unauthorized copying and distribution of digital content. Combining intellectual property rights and cyber law creates a safe online environment while protecting the rights of original creators and owners.

1.1. BACKGROUND

"E-commerce is the manufacture, distribution, marketing, sales, or delivery of goods and services through electronic means," as defined by the World Trade Organization. One challenge that many e-commerce businesses in the digital world must deal with is the problem of Online shopping fraud. The protection of intellectual property is only one of many issues that have arisen with the growth of internet commerce. E-commerce and intellectual property rights (IPR) are intertwined and mutually beneficial. In an e-commerce platform, licencing of intellectual property is essential to the success of the product or service being sold. The IPR are crucial to the success of online business.

"Intellectual property" law protects and enforces ownership of creative works like books, art, and music (Arora, 2020). Digital markets have facilitated access to copyrighted information. Counterfeit items sold online hinder IP enforcement. If stolen, the trademark owner will lose a lot of money. A company's intellectual property is a major asset. The role of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in cyber law has become increasingly important with the

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advent of the digital age. Until now, intellectual property law has mainly dealt with physical forms of intellectual property such as books, music records, and physical goods. However, with the advent of the Internet and digital technology, protecting digital content has become a major concern.

Digital content such as music, movies, and software can be easily reproduced and distributed without the need for physical copies. This has led to an increase in piracy and other forms of intellectual property infringement. As a result, there was a need to develop a legal framework and policies to address these issues. In addition, the use of technology and the Internet has also created new forms of intellectual property such as digital patents and trademarks. These require special legal protection to ensure they are not violated.

Cyber laws, on the other hand, are designed to regulate the use of technology and the internet. These laws regulate issues related to online privacy, cybercrime, and cyber security. They are designed to protect technology and Internet users from many forms of harm, including: B. Identity Theft, Cyber bullying, Hacking. The combination of intellectual property rights and cyber law has become essential to creating a safe online environment and protecting the rights of original creators and owners. By protecting it, we are also contributing to the growth of the digital economy.

1.2 LITERATURE REVIEW

Rakoto, Andriamirado 2018 explains that The internet is the most ground-breaking innovation of the 21st century, bringing many benefits to individuals and organisations via global communication. At now, e-commerce is of crucial significance to the global economy. In reality, most nations, both developing and established, have some kind of internet infrastructure that allows for electronic commerce. The purpose of this article is to offer a brief overview of intellectual property rights protection in online trade..

As per Ming Yang, 2018, As the Internet and globalisation have progressed, the global economy, politics, science and technology, and other disciplines have become more advanced, posing new challenges to the defence of intellectual property rights such as trademarks and patents. Infringements may be found everywhere, but the use of big data to address intellectual property concerns raised by the rise of online commerce is receiving a lot of attention.

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Lawton, G. (2000). Describes the difficulty of policing the Internet for stolen content, particularly in the context of protecting intellectual property. Commercial intellectual property may now be replicated with the same precision as the original thanks to digital technology. This, however, serves both authorised and illegitimate users equally well. While businesses may make money off of online sales of IP, individuals can get in trouble for illegally downloading and redistributing works.

According to Toshevska-Trpchevska, et al., 2022, The circulation of fake goods has grown steadily. The proliferation of the internet, globalisation, and digitalization have all contributed to the spread of counterfeit goods across the world's legal supply chains, which has hurt not just national economies but also the rights holders of those items' original designs (IPR). There is no better approach to defend against fraud than by adhering to the TRIPS (Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights) Agreement requirements administered by the World Trade Organization (WTO) and WIPO's conventions on the protection of IPR. The intersection of intellectual property rights (IPR) and cyber law is the subject of significant academic debate. This literature review examines some of the most important studies that have contributed to our understanding of the role of intellectual property rights in cyber law. One of his influential writings in this field is Peter Yu's *Intellectual Property and Computer Crimes* (2005). Yu argues that as the use of technology and the Internet increases, so does the potential for intellectual property infringement. He considers copyright law, trademark law, patent law, and various links to cybercrime such as online piracy, hacking, and the proliferation of counterfeit goods. He also discusses challenges in enforcing intellectual property rights online and suggests strategies for improving enforcement.

Another influential work is "Cyber Law:

Maximizing Safety and Minimizing Risk in the Classroom," Kevin M Anderson and Michael B Levy (2013). This book examines how cyber law affects education and the use of technology in the classroom. The authors discuss intellectual property protection challenges in online learning environments and provide guidance on how to address copyright and fair use issues in educational settings.

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“Intellectual Property and Computer Crime:

Victoria Wang and George Cho (2005) explore various intersections between intellectual property law and cybercrime. Enforcement mechanisms may not be effective online and we propose a multifaceted approach to addressing these challenges. Development of new technical tools to assist enforcement.

Finally, "The Role of Intellectual Property in the Digital Age" (2011) by Mark Lemley provides a comprehensive overview of the challenges of intellectual property protection in the online space. Lemley argues that traditional intellectual property protection systems may not be well suited for the digital age, suggesting alternative approaches such as: B. Expanding the fair use doctrine and implementing an innovative licensing model.

Collectively, these works highlight the complex and evolving relationship between intellectual property rights and cyber law. They emphasize the need for continued research and collaboration to develop effective strategies for protecting intellectual property online.

1.2. RESEARCH GAP

The paper focus on eliminating the research gap by analysing the role of IPR and fortifying customers and companies from cyber frauds .

1.3. RESEARCH QUESTION

- I. What are the different forms of intellectual property in the context of Cyber Space?
- II. What are the difficulties in enforcing intellectual property rights (IPR) in online transactions, particularly given the susceptibility of e-commerce businesses to fraud?
- III. How to improve the use of technology to safeguard intellectual property in online space for cyber security?

1.4. RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

- I. To examine different forms of intellectual property in cyber space.
- II. To assess the difficulties in enforcing intellectual property rights (IPR) in online transactions, particularly given the susceptibility businesses to cyber fraud.
- III. To discuss upon how to improve the use of technology to safeguard intellectual property in cyber space.

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1.5. RATIONAL OF THE STUDY

Evaluating the legal underpinnings of IP rights as they pertain to online commerce is the primary subject of this study. The rationale of the research indicates contemporary challenges and concerns relating to IP. In order to highlight the manner in which IPR infractions are related with identifying competing interests and prejudices of the different stakeholders in IP, examples of crimes using IP and problematic implementations of IP legislation are discussed. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) refers to the legal rights that protect a person's or a company's creative work. With the rapid growth of technology, the Internet and digital media have become an important part of our lives, leading to the emergence of cyber law. Cyber laws are designed to regulate various aspects of the Internet, including e-commerce, online commerce, and digital rights protection.

The role of intellectual property rights in cyber law is very important. Because the Internet has made it easier for people to infringe on the intellectual property rights of others. Therefore, it is becoming increasingly important to protect these rights in the digital realm. This study aims to analyze the role of intellectual property rights in cyber law and their impact on the protection of creative works.

The rationale for this study is to examine the following questions.

1. How do cyber laws protect intellectual property rights in the digital realm?
2. What are the challenges in protecting intellectual property online? What steps can be taken to better protect intellectual property rights on the Internet?
4. What is the impact of IPR on the development of the digital economy?
5. What are the ethical considerations related to protecting intellectual property online?

By examining these questions, this study explores the importance of intellectual property rights in cyber law and how they can be used to foster innovation, creativity and economic growth while protecting creators' rights in the digital realm. It is intended to provide insight on how.

1.6. SCOPE AND LIMITATION

The scope of the paper is on the intellectual property (IP) rights holders and their legal representatives' struggles to prevent the selling of counterfeit goods via internet marketplaces.

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The article focused only on secondary sources. The scope of this study is limited to dissecting the function of intellectual property rights in online trade. Online purchasing fraud detection and analysis is the main bottleneck. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) refers to legal rights given to individuals or organizations to protect their creative works and inventions. The role of intellectual property rights in cyber law is important as it helps protect digital assets including software, databases and other digital works.

The scope of intellectual property rights in cyber law includes copyrights, patents, trademarks and trade secrets. Copyright protects literary and artistic works such as software code, digital music, and videos. Patents protect inventions involving software algorithms and hardware. Trademarks protect logos and brand names associated with products and services, while trade secrets protect confidential business information.

Intellectual property rights in cyber law are essential to foster innovation and creativity in the digital world. This provides creators with an incentive to create new works and inventions knowing that they are protected from unauthorized use. This benefits society by promoting the development of new technologies and products.

However, the role of intellectual property rights in cyber law also has some limitations. One of the challenges is the difficulty of enforcing intellectual property rights in the digital world. Because digital works are easy to reproduce and distribute, it is difficult to control their use. In addition, IPR laws vary from country to country, so jurisdictional limitations are also a challenge.

Another limitation is her IPR potential to stifle innovation and creativity. Overprotection of intellectual property rights can limit the use of digital works and technologies and hinder their further development and progress. In summary, the role of intellectual property rights in cyber law is essential to protect digital assets, foster innovation and foster creativity. However, it is important to balance the need for protection with the need for accessibility and innovation so that IPR laws do not stand in the way of progress.

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2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

2.1. RESEARCH DESIGN

This study will be conducted using a suitable descriptive research design, and the qualitative data will be analysed in an efficient manner. The research questions were explored using a qualitative method. an unstated assumption or set of assumptions that guides the researcher's inquiries and interpretation of the data. It is considered that the objective truth is not portrayed in a simple or ludicrous manner when the qualitative technique is applied to analyse it (Rinjit, 2020). Examples of secondary analysis may be found in a wide range of published and unpublished works, including dictionaries, novels, journals, media articles, and dissertations.

2.2. RESEARCH PHILOSOPHY

The fundamental principles of research are data collection, analysis, and application. The three main schools of thought in the realm of scientific inquiry are positivism, interpretivism, and realism. To complete this project's qualitative research, we will be using an interpretivist approach. The presented study uses a systematic approach to research in order to delve deeply into foundational issues related to this project and provide an in-depth analytical framework (Cr, 2020). Throughout this critical phase of the research process, descriptive and theme analytic methods will be used. Therefore, it is evident that a descriptive method is the most appropriate for analysing the data at hand. Research philosophies for analyzing the role of intellectual property rights in cyber law depend on the specific research question and goals under investigation. However, some research philosophies that may be relevant to this topic are:

1. **positivity:** This research philosophy aims to clarify the objective facts and laws that govern the social world. In the context of IPR and cyberlaw, positivist approaches include analyzing legal frameworks and jurisprudence to explore the role and impact of IPR on cyber-related issues such as online piracy, privacy, and distribution of digital content. may include identifying

2. **Interpretiveism:** This research philosophy emphasizes the subjective experiences and perspectives of individuals and groups in shaping social phenomena. In the context of IPR and cyberlaw, an interpretive approach involves examining the attitudes, values, and behaviors of

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stakeholders such as content creators, online platforms, and users, and how they impact IPR law development and enforcement. This may include investigating whether it affects policy.

3. **Critical theory:** This research philosophy focuses on exposing and questioning power relations and inequalities in social systems. In the context of IPR and cyberlaw, an important theoretical approach is how IPR laws and policies reflect and amplify existing power dynamics in the digital sphere, and how they impact marginalized groups and individuals. to see how it affects.
4. **pragmatism:** This research philosophy puts practical problem-solving and action-oriented research approaches at the forefront. In the context of IPR and cyberlaw, a practical approach is that in the digital domain he identifies specific challenges or opportunities related to IPR and proposes solutions or recommendations to address them.

5. DATA ANALYSIS

5.1. *To examine different forms of intellectual property in the context of Cyber Law:* Intellectual property (IP) refers to intellectual creations such as inventions, literary works, works of art, symbols, names, images and designs used in commerce. In the context of cyberlaw, there are various forms of intellectual property protected by laws, regulations and common law principles. The most common forms of intellectual property in cyber law are:

➤ **Trademark:** Any symbol, logo, or phrase that serves to distinguish the goods or services of one seller from those of another is eligible for registration as a trademark (although trademarks for services are more often referred to as service marks). Trademark registration is available to sole proprietors, partnerships, and corporations alike. The product itself, the packaging, the labelling, the voucher, and anyplace else are all possible locations for a trademark. Commercial buildings' facades often have trademarked signs (Juarez, 2020). A trademark is a form of protection that gives the owner the exclusive right to use a particular name, logo, or symbol to identify and differentiate goods or services in the marketplace. Trademarks are used to avoid consumer confusion and protect a company's goodwill. In the context of cyberlaw, trademarks can include domain names, social media handles, and other digital identifiers.

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- **Trade secret:** A trade secret is a form of protection that gives a company the exclusive right to use certain confidential information that provides a competitive advantage in the market. Unlike patents and copyrights, trade secrets do not need to be registered or disclosed. In the context of cyberlaw, trade secrets may include sensitive business information such as customer lists, marketing strategies, financial records, etc.
- **Industrial design:** A commercial design is a form of protection that gives the owner the exclusive right to protect the visual appearance, such as the shape, composition and decoration of a product. In the context of cyberlaw, industrial design can include the design of user interfaces, logos, and other digital visual elements. In summary, various forms of intellectual property are important in the context of cyber law as they protect the rights of creators and businesses in the digital environment. Cyber law seeks to balance the competing interests of IP owners and users by providing legal remedies and enforcement mechanisms to prevent infringement and promote innovation.
- **Copyright:** Copyright is a form of protection that gives exclusive rights to the creators of original works such as literature, music, works of art, software and databases. Copyright protection applies to the expression of ideas, but not to the ideas themselves. In the context of cyber law, copyright includes online content such as websites, blogs, videos, images, etc. Legal protection given to the author of an original work, granting them the right to do whatever they like with it, is known as "copyright" (within the law). There's a window of opportunity here before this becomes popular knowledge. But copyright law has exceptions, such as fair use, that restrict how far the owner of the exclusive rights may use them. Copyright only protects the first published or publicly displayed version of an idea, piece of art, or literary work (Shukla, 2020).
- **Design:** The outward appearance of a company's logo, website, or brand name; the method of creating a number of things that seem to be of the same quality. E-commerce businesses need access to a wide range of IPs to guarantee their customers have as little difficulty as possible making well-informed purchases.

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➤ **Patents:** A patent is a form of legal protection that gives an inventor an exclusive right to prevent others from making, using, selling, or importing his invention for a limited period of time, usually twenty years from his filing date. The form. In the context of cyberlaw, patents can cover new and useful software, algorithms, hardware devices and other innovations. Patents are filed so that the work that e-commerce firms have put into creating new ideas is protected. When considering a patent, it is important to consider more than just innovation. Business strategies and low-tech solutions are being patented by some of the most successful E-commerce businesses. The patents may lead to more advantages in the future. While these advantages are most apparent in the e-commerce sector, they are not limited to it. This is due to the fact that the fields of electronic commerce, communications, semiconductors, business methods, and software—which have all seen increased patent activity in recent years in countries where patent protection is available for these areas of technology and without which the world could not function in its present, streamlined form—are all interconnected (Baruah,2019). Since the E-Commerce industry is characterised by the extensive use of licencing, contracting, outsourcing, and strategic partnerships, patent protection is of the highest significance.

5.2. To assess the difficulties in enforcing intellectual property rights (IPR) in online transactions, particularly given the susceptibility of e-commerce businesses to fraud.

Intellectual property rights (IPR) protections on the internet have proved challenging to adopt and manage due to the simplicity with which content may be duplicated and posted on numerous sites for financial advantage.

The anonymity of the internet makes it simple to create a fake and pass it off as the genuine thing.

The primary problem with this approach from the perspective of ISPs and middlemen is that the TCP/IP protocol, which is the foundation of the Internet, and the technologies that run on top of it rely largely, if not entirely, on the ability to produce copies of information (Gürkaynak, et al., 2018).

Peer-to-peer networks are very dependable when it comes to online data exchange. Such innovations provide one of the greatest challenges to intellectual property law. As an example

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of a popular P2P site, think of The Pirate Bay. Downloadable material like as movies, music, software, and books are all readily available to site visitors. Most of this website is restricted due to intellectual property rules. The problem is that those involved in the sharing activities live in other countries, making it impossible to execute the law.

Furthermore, copyright law has always had to adapt to new technologies, adjusting its essential principles as required to account for changed situations brought about by the advent of fresh tools and techniques for the creation, consumption, and distribution of works and other materials (Harnowo, 2022). It's true that other technological developments have also posed risks to copyright, but the convergence of today's computer and communications technologies offers dangers that are both more serious and more far-reaching.

5.3. To discuss upon how to improve the use of technology to safeguard intellectual property in online trade

One definition of innovation is the introduction of an improved variant of an existing product or service. The creation of intellectual property to safeguard new ideas is crucial.

Innovation itself would be impossible without previous inventions. Discoveries that offer novel approaches to fixing technical issues are eligible for patent protection. Patents should be granted to ensure that the inventors of really ground-breaking and commercially successful inventions continue to receive compensation for their efforts.

The owner of a patent has the exclusive right to produce, market, resale, and import the patented technology. This will improve the prospects for those who own patents to licence, sell, or trade their inventions (Trencheva, et al., 2020).

In order to ensure that intellectual property rights are safeguarded in the digital economy, the relevant government agencies may coordinate their efforts by using the e-commerce platform or developing new technological tools. This has the potential to increase the accuracy of tracking and screening systems, reduce IP theft, and enhance preventative efforts. However, linking new technical instruments with national law is essential for the advancement and development of laws as it provides experience and reference for legislation. Similar new restrictions mandated technological shifts and adjustments that ushered in a new age.

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How frequently patents and trade secrets are utilised to safeguard intellectual property is correlated with how effective these laws are. Companies are more likely to depend on legal protection when they have faith in their abilities to prosecute any infringing behaviour (Saleem, & Kumar, 2019). In contrast to trade secret law, which protects any idea, patent law exclusively protects those ideas that have actual, tangible benefits to business. Due of this, trade secrets may be used in various scenarios where patents are inappropriate.

6. RESULT

Successful online companies must protect their IP. "Intellectual Property Rights" (IPR) ensure a company may profit from an original production and maintain its market dominance. Due to public unfamiliarity and the mystery of its link to internet trade, it is frequently neglected despite its evident significance. IP and internet commerce are linked.

Digital businesses often licence intellectual property. Music, photos, designs, graphics, software, materials, and more may be bought and sold online. When you examine how crucial it is to retain their value, you can realise how significant IPR is. IP laws and tech protections assist accomplish this aim. In today's digital economy, widespread IP theft might lead to the downfall of an online firm.

IP protection helps businesses avoid unfair competition by preventing the disclosure of trade secrets. Intellectual property's worth may expand over time, surpassing other assets. E-commerce, or electronic commerce, involves doing business online. A company's website may reach a bigger audience and earn new customers.

7. CONCLUSION

Because of this, intellectual property is crucial to the day-to-day operations of businesses of all sizes. By preventing others from making unauthorised uses of their research and development, intellectual property registration aids businesses in expanding and flourishing. For the reason that the e-commerce sector is expanding at a lightning pace. Furthermore, there are many scenarios in which someone else's product or innovation might be used without the creator receiving enough compensation for their time, effort, or intellectual property. Therefore, Intellectual Property is very important for this reason. All of the data that can be found on the

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web is safe from harm because of it. Intellectual property plays a crucial role in ensuring the security of the many E-Commerce transactions that take place every day between business owners and their customers.

In summary, the role of intellectual property rights in cyber law is important and complex. As the use of technology and the Internet increases, protecting intellectual property in the digital world is more important than ever. Cyber law aims to address issues related to online intellectual property infringement, including piracy, counterfeiting, and theft of trade secrets. IPR law provides creators and intellectual property owners with legal rights and remedies to protect their works and investments in the digital realm. As technology continues to advance, it is important that cyber and IPR laws evolve to keep up with changing conditions and continue to provide adequate intellectual property protection.

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सतत और लचीले समाज के लिए बहुविषयक अनुसंधान और नवाचार – अनुसंधान संक्षेप

शालिनी वर्मा

शोध छात्रा समाजशास्त्र

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सारांश

नवीन आधुनिक समाज जटिल चुनौतियों और तीव्र परिवर्तनों के युग में प्रवेश कर रहा है, जहाँ केवल एक ही विषय या अनुशासन पर आधारित समाधान अक्सर अपर्याप्त साबित होते हैं। ऐसे समय में, बहुविषयक अनुसंधान और नवाचार स्थायी और लचीले समाज के निर्माण के लिए एक शक्तिशाली साधन के रूप में उभर रहे हैं। विज्ञान, प्रौद्योगिकी, पर्यावरण अध्ययन, अर्थशास्त्र और सामाजिक विज्ञान के सम्मिलन से विकसित अनुसंधान के योगदान का विश्लेषण स्पष्ट रूप से दर्शाता है कि विभिन्न विषयों के ज्ञान को संयोजित करने से न केवल समस्याओं की गहन समझ प्राप्त होती है, बल्कि व्यावहारिक और समावेशी समाधान भी मिलते हैं। वैश्वीकरण के युग में, प्रौद्योगिकीय नवाचारों को सामाजिक आवश्यकताओं और नैतिक मूल्यों के साथ जोड़ने से उनका प्रभाव और उपयोगिता और अधिक बढ़ गई है। इसके अतिरिक्त, शिक्षा और नीति निर्माण में बहुविषयक दृष्टिकोण अपनाने से नवाचार की दीर्घकालिक स्थिरता सुनिश्चित होती है। अंततः, यह अध्ययन दर्शाता है कि बहुविषयक अनुसंधान पर आधारित नवाचार समाज को अधिक अनुकूल, जिम्मेदार और भविष्य के प्रति सचेत बनाते हैं, जिससे जटिल समस्याओं और चुनौतियों के प्रभावी समाधान संभव होते हैं।

मुख्य शब्द: बहुविषयक अनुसंधान, अंतरविषयक नवाचार, सतत विकास, सामाजिक लचीलापन, ज्ञान का समाकलन, विज्ञान-नीति अंतरसंपर्क,

1. प्रस्तावना

इक्कीसवीं सदी में, आधुनिक समाज जटिल और परस्पर जुड़े हुए संकटों का सामना कर रहा है, जिनमें जलवायु परिवर्तन, संसाधनों की कमी, तीव्र प्रौद्योगिकीय परिवर्तन, सामाजिक असमानता और वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य संकट शामिल हैं। पारंपरिक एकल विषय आधारित दृष्टिकोण ऐसे बहुआयामी समस्याओं का समाधान करने में अक्सर असमर्थ साबित होते हैं, क्योंकि वे पर्यावरणीय, सामाजिक, आर्थिक और प्रौद्योगिकीय कारकों के परस्पर जुड़े स्वरूप को पकड़ने में विफल रहते हैं। परिणामस्वरूप, यह स्वीकार्यता बढ़ रही है कि समाधान हेतु विभिन्न विषयों से प्राप्त ज्ञान और दृष्टिकोणों को शामिल करना आवश्यक

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है, जिससे सामाजिक चुनौतियों की समग्र समझ विकसित हो और व्यावहारिक एवं सतत हस्तक्षेपों की रूपरेखा तैयार की जा सके।

बहुविषयक अनुसंधान और नवाचार में प्राकृतिक विज्ञान, अभियांत्रिकी, सामाजिक विज्ञान, अर्थशास्त्र और पर्यावरण अध्ययन जैसे विविध क्षेत्रों के ज्ञान, विधियों और दृष्टिकोणों का समाकलन शामिल होता है। विषयगत सीमाओं को पार करके, यह दृष्टिकोण जटिल समस्याओं के मूल कारणों की पहचान करने, नवोन्मेषी समाधान विकसित करने और अप्रत्याशित परिणामों की पूर्वसूचना करने की क्षमता को बढ़ाता है। इसके अतिरिक्त, प्रौद्योगिकीय प्रगतियों को सामाजिक आवश्यकताओं और नैतिक विचारों के साथ जोड़ने से यह सुनिश्चित होता है कि नवाचार केवल प्रभावी ही नहीं, बल्कि सामाजिक रूप से उत्तरदायी और सांस्कृतिक रूप से प्रासंगिक भी हों।

इस अनुसंधान का उद्देश्य यह अध्ययन करना है कि बहुविषयक दृष्टिकोण किस प्रकार सतत और लचीले समाज के निर्माण में योगदान देते हैं। विशेष रूप से, यह अध्ययन उन प्रक्रियाओं की जांच करता है जिनके माध्यम से विभिन्न विषयों के ज्ञान का समाकलन समस्याओं के समाधान में सहायता करता है, जिम्मेदार नवाचार का समर्थन करता है, और नीति तथा शैक्षिक ढांचों को मार्गदर्शन प्रदान करता है। अंतरविषयक सहयोग के महत्व को उजागर करके, यह अध्ययन संस्थागत संरचनाओं और प्रथाओं को प्रोत्साहित करने की आवश्यकता को रेखांकित करता है जो ज्ञान के सह-निर्माण को बढ़ावा दें, और अंततः सामाजिक अनुकूलन क्षमता और दीर्घकालिक स्थिरता को सुदृढ़ बनाएं।

2. संबंधित साहित्य की समीक्षा

अहमद (2024) ने यह अध्ययन किया कि विषयगत सीमाओं को पार करने से नवाचार को कैसे सशक्त बनाया जा सकता है, और यह दर्शाया कि विभिन्न क्षेत्रों के ज्ञान का समाकलन समस्याओं के समाधान को सुधारता है तथा अधिक समावेशी और व्यावहारिक समाधान प्रदान करता है। इस अध्ययन में यह उजागर किया गया कि बहुविषयक अनुसंधान ने विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में सैद्धांतिक समझ और व्यावहारिक परिणामों दोनों को बढ़ाया।

अलामार एवं अन्य (2018) ने बहुविषयक सहयोग के माध्यम से खाद्य अपशिष्ट को कम करने का अध्ययन किया, यह दर्शाते हुए कि खाद्य विज्ञान, रसद, व्यवहार अध्ययन और नीति विकास में विशेषज्ञता को संयोजित करने से सतत खाद्य प्रबंधन के लिए अधिक प्रभावी रणनीतियाँ तैयार की जा सकती हैं। उनके कार्य ने यह स्पष्ट किया कि व्यावहारिक सततता की चुनौतियों का समाधान करने के लिए विभिन्न दृष्टिकोणों को शामिल करना आवश्यक है।

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अमोलगेबे एवं अन्य (2022) ने जलवायु परिवर्तन अनुकूलन पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया और सामाजिक लचीलापन बढ़ाने में प्रणालीगत, बहुविषयक अनुसंधान के महत्व को रेखांकित किया। उनके निष्कर्षों से पता चला कि पर्यावरण विज्ञान, सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य, अर्थशास्त्र और सामाजिक विज्ञान का समाकलन पर्यावरणीय जोखिमों के लिए तैयारी को सुधारता है और समुदायों में अनुकूलन क्षमता को सुदृढ़ करता है।

डोबारियो माचाडो सिकारिनो और सेरानो फर्नांडीस रोड्रिग्स (2023) ने सततता और लचीलापन प्राप्त करने में सामाजिक नवाचार की भूमिका का अध्ययन किया। उन्होंने यह प्रदर्शित किया कि बहुविषयक दृष्टिकोण, जिसमें प्रबंधन, सामाजिक विज्ञान और पर्यावरण अध्ययन से प्राप्त ज्ञान को संयोजित किया गया, ऐसे हस्तक्षेपों के डिजाइन को सशक्त बनाता है जो सामाजिक रूप से न्यायसंगत और पारिस्थितिक रूप से सतत दोनों होते हैं।

3. बहुविषयक समाकलन और नवाचार

बहुविषयक अनुसंधान और नवाचार विभिन्न क्षेत्रों से प्राप्त ज्ञान को संयोजित करके जटिल सामाजिक चुनौतियों को सुलझाने के लिए एक रूपरेखा प्रदान करते हैं। विज्ञान, प्रौद्योगिकी, सामाजिक विज्ञान और पर्यावरण अध्ययन से ज्ञान, विधियों और दृष्टिकोणों का समाकलन करके यह दृष्टिकोण ऐसे समाधान सक्षम बनाता है जो समग्र, अनुकूलनीय और संदर्भानुकूल हों। निम्नलिखित चर्चा में बहुविषयक समाकलन के प्रमुख पहलुओं को उजागर किया गया है, जिसमें वैचारिक रूपरेखाएँ, पद्धतिगत दृष्टिकोण और सहयोगात्मक प्रथाएँ शामिल हैं।

3.1 वैचारिक समाकलन

वैचारिक स्तर पर, समाकलन में विभिन्न विषयों के बीच संबंधों की पहचान करना और ऐसी रूपरेखाएँ तैयार करना शामिल है जो सामाजिक समस्याओं की समग्र समझ की अनुमति देती हैं। उदाहरण के रूप में, सतत शहरी विकास को संबोधित करने के लिए प्रौद्योगिकीय और अभियांत्रिकी समाधानों को सामाजिक योजना, नीति निर्माण और नैतिक विचारों से प्राप्त ज्ञान के साथ जोड़ना आवश्यक है। इस प्रकार का समाकलन यह सुनिश्चित करता है कि हस्तक्षेप तकनीकी रूप से व्यावहार्य, पर्यावरणीय रूप से जिम्मेदार, सामाजिक रूप से न्यायसंगत और नैतिक दृष्टिकोण से सूचित हों।

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3.2 पद्धतिगत दृष्टिकोण

पद्धतिगत दृष्टि से, बहुविषयक नवाचार विभिन्न विश्लेषणात्मक दृष्टिकोणों, समस्या समाधान रणनीतियों और मूल्यांकन रूपरेखाओं के संयोजन पर जोर देता है। यह सम्मिलन ऐसे समाधान विकसित करने की सुविधा प्रदान करता है जो लचीले, प्रमाण आधारित और लचीलेपन से सम्पन्न हों तथा तत्काल और दीर्घकालिक दोनों प्रकार की चुनौतियों का समाधान करने में सक्षम हों। इस प्रक्रिया से उत्पन्न नवाचार समाज की आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के साथ-साथ उत्तरदायी, समावेशी और सतत बने रहने की अधिक संभावना रखते हैं।

3.3 सहयोग और कार्यान्वयन

सहयोग बहुविषयक समाकलन का एक अन्य केंद्रीय पहलू है। विभिन्न क्षेत्रों के हितधारकों/कृजिनमें शोधकर्ता, नीति निर्माता, कार्यकर्ता और समुदाय शामिल हैं/कृकी सहभागिता ज्ञान के सह-निर्माण को प्रोत्साहित करती है, समस्या समाधान की क्षमता को बढ़ाती है, और यह सुनिश्चित करती है कि नवाचार सामाजिक रूप से प्रासंगिक हों। शैक्षिक पाठ्यक्रमों और नीति ढाँचों में बहुविषयक दृष्टिकोणों का समावेश नवाचार की दीर्घकालिक सततता को और सुदृढ़ करता है तथा समाज को उभरती चुनौतियों का प्रभावी ढंग से सामना करने के लिए तैयार करता है।

सारतः, बहुविषयक समाकलन विभिन्न विषयों से प्राप्त अंतर्दृष्टियों को व्यावहारिक, नैतिक और सामाजिक रूप से उत्तरदायी नवाचारों में रूपांतरित करता है। वैज्ञानिक, प्रौद्योगिकीय और सामाजिक क्षेत्रों के बीच सेतु स्थापित करके यह दृष्टिकोण सामाजिक लचीलापन सुदृढ़ करता है, सतत विकास को प्रोत्साहित करता है, और यह सुनिश्चित करता है कि नवाचार समकालीन समाज की बहुआयामी समस्याओं के समाधान में अनुकूलशील तथा भविष्यन्मुखी बना रहे।

4. नीति, शिक्षा और समाज के लिए निहितार्थ

बहुविषयक अनुसंधान और नवाचार के व्यापक निहितार्थ होते हैं, जो सैद्धांतिक ज्ञान से आगे बढ़कर समाज के विकास, शासन और शिक्षा की प्रक्रियाओं को प्रभावित करते हैं। विभिन्न विषयों से प्राप्त अंतर्दृष्टियों के समाकलन के माध्यम से ऐसे दृष्टिकोण प्रमाण आधारित, संदर्भ-संवेदनशील और सामाजिक रूप से उत्तरदायी रणनीतियों तथा प्रथाओं के निर्माण को संभव बनाते हैं। ये निहितार्थ नीति निर्माण, शैक्षिक ढाँचों

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और सामुदायिक सहभागिता सहित अनेक क्षेत्रों में परिलक्षित होते हैं, जो मिलकर समाज की जटिल चुनौतियों का सामना करने तथा सतत और लचीला विकास प्राप्त करने की क्षमता को आकार देते हैं।

4.1 नीति और शासन

बहुविषयक अनुसंधान और नवाचार को अपनाने से नीति निर्माण और शासन के क्षेत्र में महत्वपूर्ण निहितार्थ उत्पन्न होते हैं। विभिन्न विषयों से प्राप्त अंतर्दृष्टियों का समाकलन निर्णयकर्ताओं को ऐसी रणनीतियाँ तैयार करने में सक्षम बनाता है जो प्रमाण आधारित और संदर्भ-संवेदनशील दोनों हों। बहुविषयक दृष्टिकोण से निर्देशित नीतियाँ जटिल चुनौतियों का समाधान करने, अप्रत्याशित परिणामों का पूर्वानुमान लगाने और न्यायसंगत तथा सतत परिणामों को बढ़ावा देने में अधिक सक्षम होती हैं। प्रौद्योगिकीय, पर्यावरणीय, सामाजिक और नैतिक आयामों पर एक साथ विचार करके ऐसी नीतियाँ सामाजिक लचीलापन सुदृढ़ करती हैं और अनिश्चितता की स्थिति में अनुकूलन क्षमता को प्रोत्साहित करती हैं।

4.2 शिक्षा और सामाजिक सहभागिता

शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में, बहुविषयक समाकलन ऐसे पाठ्यक्रमों के विकास को प्रोत्साहित करता है जो आलोचनात्मक चिंतन, समस्या समाधान और सहयोगात्मक कौशल का संवर्धन करते हैं। विविध ज्ञान क्षेत्रों से परिचय छात्रों को समस्याओं का समग्र दृष्टि से सामना करने और वैज्ञानिक, सामाजिक तथा नैतिक विचारों की परस्पर संबद्धता को समझने में सक्षम बनाता है। इस प्रकार की शैक्षिक रणनीतियाँ न केवल समकालीन चुनौतियों का समाधान करने में सक्षम पेशेवरों को तैयार करती हैं, बल्कि सामाजिक रूप से उत्तरदायी और सतत नवाचार की संस्कृति को भी पोषित करती हैं।

समग्र समाज के लिए, बहुविषयक नवाचार समावेशी विकास को बढ़ावा देता है, क्योंकि यह सुनिश्चित करता है कि समाधान सामाजिक, सांस्कृतिक और नैतिक संदर्भों के प्रति संवेदनशील हों। ज्ञान के सह-निर्माण की प्रक्रियाओं में समुदायों की सहभागिता सामाजिक एकता को सुदृढ़ करती है, संस्थानों में विश्वास को बढ़ाती है और सतत पहलों के कार्यान्वयन में सक्रिय भागीदारी को प्रोत्साहित करती है। इसके अतिरिक्त, समाकलित दृष्टिकोणों के महत्व के प्रति जन जागरूकता को बढ़ावा देना नवाचारों के अंगीकरण को सुदृढ़ करता है और सामाजिक प्रगति की दीर्घकालिक सततता का समर्थन करता है।

समग्र रूप से, ये निहितार्थ बहुविषयक अनुसंधान और नवाचार की रूपांतरणकारी क्षमता को रेखांकित करते हैं। नीतियों, शिक्षा और सामाजिक प्रथाओं में समाकलित चिंतन को अंतर्निहित करके समाज अधिक

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अनुकूलशील, लचीला और आधुनिक विश्व की बहुआयामी चुनौतियों का समाधान करने में सक्षम बन सकता है।

5. उपसंहार

बहुविषयक अनुसंधान और नवाचार सतत तथा लचीले समाज के निर्माण के लिए अत्यंत आवश्यक हैं, क्योंकि ये समकालीन चुनौतियों की जटिलता का समाधान करने हेतु विविध क्षेत्रों से प्राप्त ज्ञान, विधियों और दृष्टिकोणों का समन्वय करते हैं। विज्ञान, प्रौद्योगिकी, सामाजिक विज्ञान और पर्यावरण अध्ययन से प्राप्त अंतर्दृष्टियों को एक साथ जोड़कर बहुविषयक दृष्टिकोण समस्या समाधान की क्षमता को सुदृढ़ करते हैं, उत्तरदायी तथा नैतिक रूप से मार्गदर्शित नवाचार को प्रोत्साहित करते हैं, और यह सुनिश्चित करते हैं कि समाधान व्यावहारिक होने के साथ-साथ सामाजिक रूप से प्रासंगिक भी हों। इन दृष्टिकोणों को नीति निर्माण और शैक्षिक ढाँचों में सम्मिलित करने से सामाजिक अनुकूलनशीलता और अधिक सशक्त होती है, न्यायसंगत एवं समावेशी विकास को बढ़ावा मिलता है, तथा भावी पेशेवरों को उभरती और अप्रत्याशित चुनौतियों का प्रभावी ढंग से सामना करने के लिए तैयार किया जाता है। अंततः, बहुविषयक अनुसंधान एक समग्र और भविष्यन्मुखी दृष्टि प्रदान करता है, जो समाज को संकटों का पूर्वानुमान लगाने, परिवर्तनों के अनुरूप स्वयं को ढालने, तथा सततता, लचीलापन और दीर्घकालिक सामाजिक कल्याण को आगे बढ़ाने वाले समाधानों को लागू करने में सक्षम बनाता है।

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**INNOVATING RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION FRAMEWORKS
FOR LECTURERS IN HYDERABAD TO SUPPORT A RESILIENT
ACADEMIC FUTURE**

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ABSTRACT

This study looks at the hiring and selection procedures for lecturers in Hyderabad's higher education institutions in order to foster a creative and robust academic future. With a sample of 120 lecturer appointment instances (N=120), the study is based on record-based secondary data from institutional recruitment and selection records. Both percentage and frequency approaches were used to analyze the data. The findings indicate partial uniformity, with the majority of recruitment taking place through official advertisements/websites (31.7%) and job portals (21.7%), but walk-ins (18.3%) and reference networks (15%) are also utilized. The majority of candidates (34.2%) are chosen solely through interviews, but formal techniques such as written exams and demonstration lectures are used seldom. Institutional fit and adaptability receive little attention in selection processes, which are mostly based on research profile (25.7%) and qualification/subject expertise (29.2%). Since just 47.5% of cases featured ICT demos or digital portfolios, innovation readiness is not consistently evaluated. The study indicates that in order to guarantee a future-ready academic workforce, institutions should implement competency-based, transparent, and technologically enabled recruitment frameworks.

Keywords- *Lecturer Recruitment, Selection Framework, Higher Education, Hyderabad, Academic Resilience, Competency-Based Hiring, Digital Readiness.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Through the production of knowledgeable professionals, researchers, innovators, and socially conscious citizens, higher education institutions play a crucial role in the process of national development. Colleges and universities do more than just impart knowledge; they develop critical thinking skills, cultivate intellectual capacities, encourage a culture of inquiry, and

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directly advance socioeconomic growth by developing human capital. The function of lecturers becomes crucial in this context. Since lecturers are the main conduit between institutional objectives and student learning outcomes, the caliber, dedication, and skills of the academic staff hired by higher education institutions have a substantial impact on the overall quality of instruction provided. Thus, hiring lecturers is a strategic institutional function that impacts an institution's future academic excellence, reputation, and competitiveness rather than being a regular administrative procedure.

With a wide range of higher education institutions, including state universities, central institutions, private universities, autonomous colleges, engineering and management institutes, and research-driven educational organizations, Hyderabad has become one of India's most significant centers for education and technology in recent years. The need for qualified lecturers has skyrocketed due to the growth of academic institutions and the increasing number of students. Academic professionals must today exhibit qualities including research orientation, instructional innovation, student mentoring capacity, interdisciplinary understanding, and digital preparedness in addition to having formal qualifications and good topic knowledge. Furthermore, professors are now expected to do more than just teach in the classroom; they are expected to establish curricula, publish research, engage the community, counsel students, and take part in institutional development initiatives.

But even though academic recruiting is becoming more and more important, many higher education institutions still struggle with recruitment and selection procedures. Many institutions continue to use traditional selection processes that prioritize years of experience and academic degrees over teaching efficacy and contemporary pedagogical competency. Many people have noticed issues such as inconsistent hiring practices, a lack of formal hiring frameworks, lengthy hiring cycles, poor evaluations of classroom teaching abilities, subjective evaluations during interviews, and a lack of transparency in the selection process. Because the faculty hired might not fully meet future educational expectations, such restrictions not only have an impact on the caliber of teachers chosen but also erode the institutions' long-term academic resilience.

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Furthermore, a number of internal and external factors are causing the higher education industry to undergo fast development. The expectations of higher education institutions have changed dramatically as a result of reforms like the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the expansion of Outcome-Based Education (OBE), the increased emphasis on employability and skill development, and the tighter compliance requirements pertaining to accreditation bodies like the NBA and NAAC. Furthermore, faculty members now need to be proficient in technology integration, online teaching platforms, digital assessment tools, and new learning methodologies due to the rise of blended learning and digital education models, which have been accelerated by pandemic disruptions. Institutions must implement flexible, competency-based, and innovation-driven recruitment frameworks in place of more conventional methods due to these changes.

The concept of "innovating for a resilient future" becomes extremely pertinent to the hiring and selection of lecturers in this setting. The ability of institutions to maintain academic quality, learning continuity, and institutional success in the face of shocks like pandemics, technology advancements, legislative changes, and shifting student expectations is known as academic resilience. For this reason, hiring should be planned as a long-term strategy to develop robust academic human resources rather than just as a way to fill open positions. In addition to academic quality, recruitment systems must guarantee that newly recruited lecturers have the ability to innovate, adapt, and support institutional sustainability.

1.1. Need for Innovation in Lecturer Recruitment for Resilient Higher Education

Recruitment systems that can find and choose lecturers with multifaceted competencies—such as critical thinking, learner-centered teaching, digital pedagogy, research engagement, student mentoring, and curriculum innovation—are becoming more and more necessary in the changing academic environment. Lecturers are required to serve as academic facilitators who support students' holistic development, integrate technology, foster inquiry-based learning, and foster a research culture in addition to teaching subject in the classroom in the modern higher education ecosystem. However, many institutions' traditional hiring procedures still overemphasize years of teaching experience, minimum eligibility requirements, and academic degrees without methodically assessing a candidate's real classroom performance, capacity for

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innovation, or long-term institutional contribution. Faculty members who meet formal requirements but may lack the adaptability, inventiveness, and digital readiness necessary for contemporary teaching-learning systems are frequently chosen as a result of such restrictive recruitment strategies.

Recruitment frameworks must therefore change to competency-based and evidence-driven selection processes in order to improve resilience in higher education. These mechanisms should include structured evaluation tools like digital portfolios, teaching demonstrations, rubric-based interviews, and clear scoring systems. Additionally, employing data-driven decision-making and technology-enabled procedures can promote fairness, lessen recruiting bias, and raise the standard of faculty selection as a whole. As a result, hiring innovative lecturers is crucial to ensuring that universities select educators who are prepared for the future, can successfully adjust to shifting educational environments, and can make a significant contribution to long-term academic success.

1.2.Objectives of the Study

1. To analyse the current recruitment and selection practices for lecturers in higher education institutions in Hyderabad.
2. To identify key gaps and challenges in existing lecturer hiring frameworks affecting academic quality and transparency.
3. To propose an innovative and resilience-oriented recruitment and selection framework to support a sustainable academic future.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Mamatha, Thoti, and Sultana (2022) investigated how e-recruitment and e-selection support electronic human resource management (E-HRM) initiatives in Hyderabad IT firms. According to the survey, digital recruitment platforms have increased access to a larger talent pool and decreased administrative delays, which has enhanced HR efficiency. The researchers emphasized that firms were able to make employment decisions more quickly with better documentation, uniformity, and transparency thanks to online screening tools and technology-

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supported selection methods. According to their findings, e-recruitment integration improved overall HR management effectiveness by increasing recruitment accuracy and streamlining selection performance.

Mishra, Gupta, and Shree (2022) examined faculty induction programs for recently hired instructors in higher education. The study found that unless newly hired faculty members were assisted through organized induction and training programs, recruiting alone had not guaranteed high-quality teaching performance. The authors highlighted how structured induction programs improved new instructors' job clarity, professional confidence, institutional orientation, and pedagogical competence. Their research showed that in higher education settings, teacher development after selection was still crucial for enhancing student achievement, career advancement, and institutional efficacy.

Mohan (2021) investigated how hiring procedures affected workers' productivity, particularly in Hyderabad's IT industry. The study found that employee competence, productivity, and job performance outcomes were all strongly impacted by the success of recruitment. According to Mohan, the selection of higher-performing personnel has benefited from the use of structured recruitment techniques like skill-based evaluation, systematic screening, and objective selection criteria. Poorly organized hiring practices led to mismatched hiring, which ultimately impacted productivity and organizational performance, according to the research. The results reaffirmed how crucial it is to have well-thought-out hiring procedures in order to guarantee appropriate staff selection.

Gummadi (2015) studied the hiring and selection procedures used by Andhra Pradesh's IT enterprises. According to the study, companies made extensive use of both official and informal recruitment methods, such as placement agencies, ads, and references. Gummadi noted the growing significance of competency-based selection, technical evaluation, and structured interviews while pointing out differences in selection procedures throughout businesses. Additionally, the study highlighted how recruitment tactics affected organizational competitiveness and labor quality, indicating that businesses required standardized recruitment frameworks to increase efficacy and fairness.

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3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Higher education institutions' faculty recruiting and selection practices play a major role in creating a robust and resilient academic ecosystem. Nowadays, hiring lecturers requires more than just confirming credentials and experience; institutions now need to make sure that applicants have skills including effective teaching, research focus, flexibility, digital readiness, and institutional fit. In order to promote a robust academic future, this study is designed to analyze Hyderabad's current lecturer recruiting frameworks and suggest creative recruitment and selection practices. In order to produce objective results and lessen bias that typically arises in perception-based survey studies, the study methodology is built on a record-based approach employing institutional recruitment papers.

3.1. Research Design

The study follows a descriptive and analytical research design.

- The descriptive design helps in documenting the existing recruitment and selection practices.
- The analytical design supports interpretation of the collected data to identify gaps and propose innovation-driven recruitment frameworks aligned with academic resilience.

3.2. Study Area

The study is limited to Hyderabad, Telangana, which is acknowledged as one of India's major centers for employment and education. The study focuses on the hiring and selection procedures used by universities operating inside the city borders of Hyderabad.

3.3. Population and Sample

Population

The population includes all lecturer recruitment and selection cases conducted in selected higher education institutions in Hyderabad during the study period.

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Sample Size

There are 120 lecturer recruiting cases (N = 120) in the sample. From the recruiting announcement until the final appointment, each sample unit represents a single full recruitment cycle with traceable documents.

3.4. Tools and Techniques of Data Analysis

Given that the goal of the study is to find trends and distributions in hiring procedures, the following methods were used to conduct the analysis:

- Distribution of frequencies
- Analysis of percentages

Four tables were used to summarize the findings, making it possible to clearly comprehend the trends and gaps in lecturer recruitment, especially with regard to innovation-readiness and resilience-driven selection processes.

4. DATA ANALYSIS

The institutional recruiting and selection records of lecturer appointments in a few Hyderabad higher education institutions were used to prepare the current data analysis. In order to support the creation of a robust recruitment framework, the data were coded and analyzed using frequency and percentage distribution to identify trends in lecturer hiring, recruitment channels, selection outcomes, and competency evaluation procedures.

Table 1: Recruitment Source of Lecturer Appointments (HR Record-Based)

Recruitment Source	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Institutional Website / Official Advertisement	38	31.7
Job Portals (Naukri, LinkedIn, etc.)	26	21.7
University/College Reference Networks	18	15.0
Walk-in Recruitment Drives	22	18.3
Academic Conferences/Research Networks	16	13.3

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Total	120	100.0
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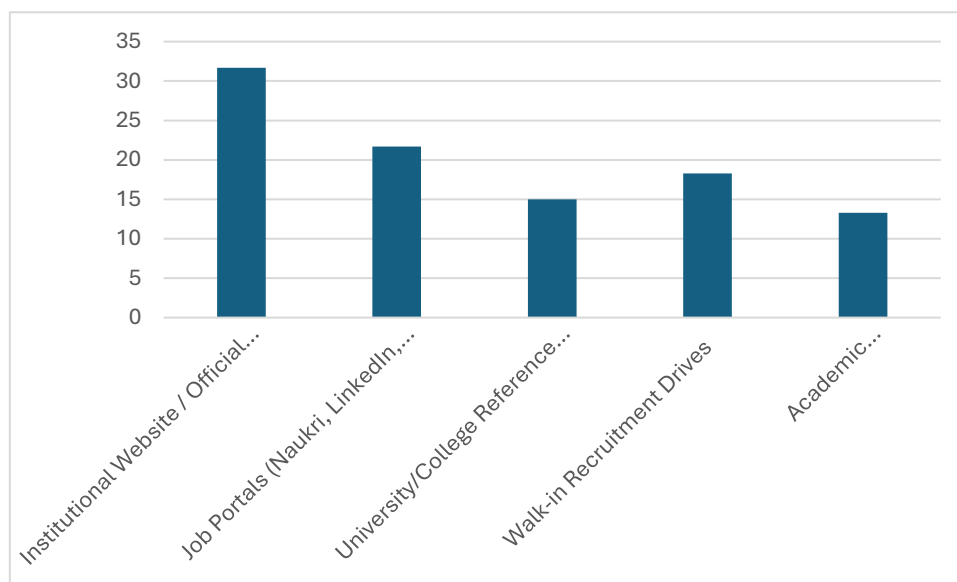


Figure 1: Graphical presentation of Recruitment Source of Lecturer Appointments

Table 1 shows that institutional websites and official advertisements are the most common recruitment route for lecturer appointments (31.7%). Job portals are the second most popular avenue (21.7%), suggesting that technology-enabled hiring platforms like LinkedIn and Naukri are becoming more and more important in academic hiring. Nonetheless, a sizeable percentage of appointments were also made through university/college reference networks (15.0%) and walk-in recruitment efforts (18.3%). These somewhat informal methods could result in unequal hiring practices and less selection transparency. Furthermore, recruitment via academic conferences and research networks (13.3%) demonstrates that organizations also employ professional networks to draw in applicants with a focus on research. Overall, the chart shows that although formal hiring is the most common method, a substantial reliance on unofficial channels points to the necessity of more robust standardization, openness, and resilience-focused hiring practices.

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Table 2: Selection Method Adopted in Lecturer Recruitment

Selection Method Used	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Written Test + Interview	29	24.2
Direct Interview Only	41	34.2
Demo Lecture + Interview	31	25.8
Written Test + Demo + Interview	19	15.8
Total	120	100.0

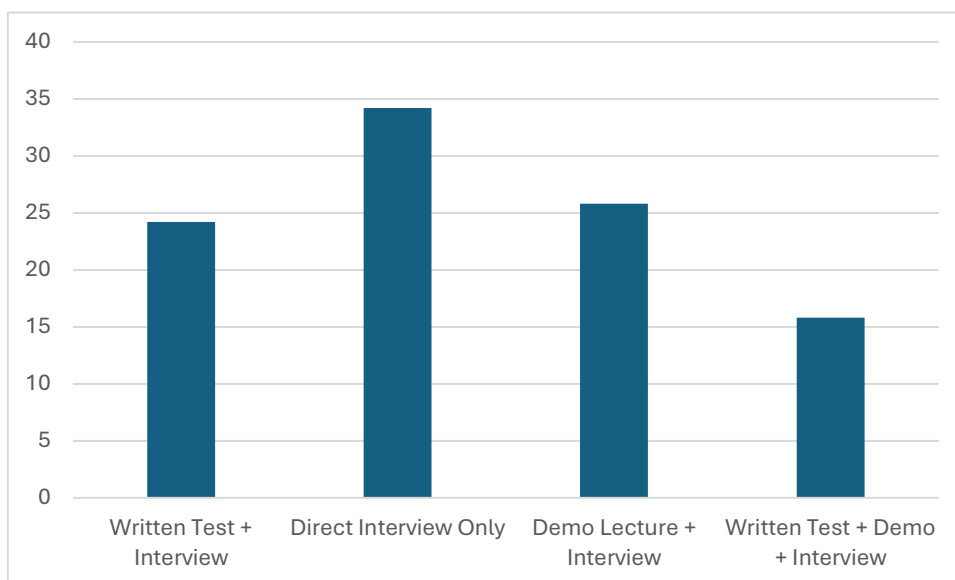


Figure 2: Graphical presentation of Selection Method Adopted in Lecturer Recruitment

Table 2 reveals that the most popular technique of selection for hiring lecturers is direct interview-only selection (34.2%). This suggests that a lot of organizations still make their final appointment decisions mostly through interviews, which can introduce subjectivity and may not fully evaluate teaching proficiency or classroom preparedness. Demo lecture + interview is the second most popular approach (25.8%), followed by written test + interview (24.2%). This indicates that a number of schools are shifting to multi-stage selection procedures that assess both teaching abilities and knowledge. Additionally, even though it is less popular, the written exam + demo + interview (15.8%) model of recruiting is more structured and competency-based because it incorporates academic assessment, pedagogical evaluation, and interpersonal suitability. Overall, the tendency points to the need for resilience-oriented and

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standardized selection procedures because, despite innovations in selection methods, interview-dominant recruiting still restricts objective assessment.

Table 3: Dominant Selection Criteria Recorded in Final Decision

Dominant Criterion Used for Final Selection	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Highest Qualification & Subject Knowledge	35	29.2
Teaching Demonstration Performance	27	22.5
Research Publications & Academic Profile	31	25.8
Communication & Classroom Management Skills	15	12.5
Institutional Fit (values, adaptability)	12	10.0
Total	120	100.0

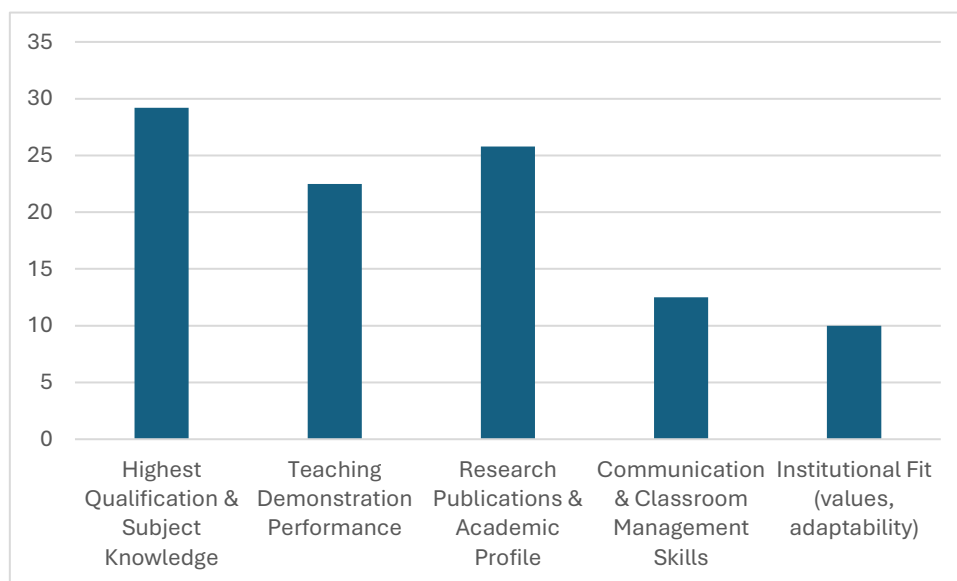


Figure 3: Graphical presentation of Dominant Selection Criteria Recorded in Final Decision

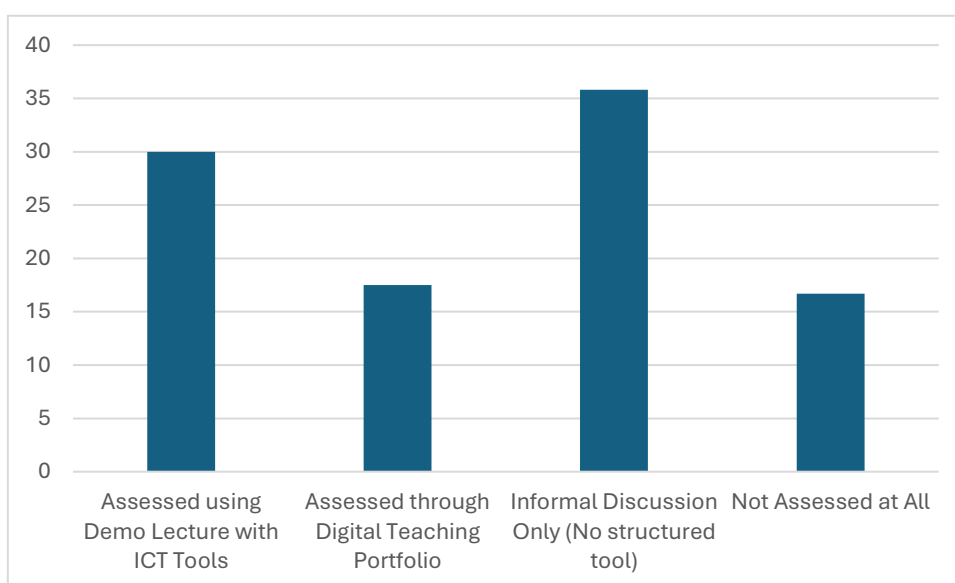
Table 3 shows that the most important factor utilized to choose lecturers is the most degree and topic expertise (29.2%), indicating that academic credentials are given top priority by institutions. The next significant component is academic profile and research publications (25.8%), indicating that research production has become a key hiring criterion, particularly in universities and independent institutes whose accreditation and ranking are based on research

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performance. Evaluations pertaining to instruction are given a reasonable amount of weight, and decisions are significantly influenced by teaching demonstration performance (22.5%), demonstrating the institutional acceptance of pedagogical proficiency. Nonetheless, the least taken into account elements continue to be communication and classroom management abilities (12.5%) and especially institutional fit/adaptability (10%). Given that resilient academic systems demand lecturers who can adjust to shifting student demands, digital learning environments, and institutional culture, this highlights a serious deficit in resilience-based recruitment. Therefore, the chart shows that while soft skills and adaptability need to be more integrated into recruitment frameworks, selection decisions are still mostly based on qualifications and research.

Table 4: Digital & Innovation Readiness Assessment Included in Selection

Innovation Readiness Assessment Included	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Assessed using Demo Lecture with ICT Tools	36	30.0
Assessed through Digital Teaching Portfolio	21	17.5
Informal Discussion Only (No structured tool)	43	35.8
Not Assessed at All	20	16.7
Total	120	100.0



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**Figure 4: Graphical presentation of Digital & Innovation Readiness Assessment
Included in Selection**

Table 4 shows the degree to which educational institutions evaluate applicants' preparedness for innovative teaching methods and digital pedagogy. The results reveal that 35.8% of cases depended solely on informal talk, indicating that digital competence was not assessed using formal instruments, leading to uneven and subjective judgment. The fact that 30.0% of institutions used ICT-based demo lectures to gauge innovation readiness—a reasonably objective way to gauge instructional innovation and technology integration—is encouraging. Additionally, 17.5% of candidates were evaluated utilizing a digital teaching portfolio, demonstrating the acceptance of contemporary norms for academic evaluation. The fact that 16.7% of appointments included no evaluation at all of digital and innovation readiness, however, is extremely concerning. This suggests that some institutions continue to do not explicitly assess these competencies in spite of the increasing significance of blended learning, digital teaching tools, and NEP-driven transformation. Overall, the table provides compelling evidence for the necessity of a defined innovation-readiness component in recruitment frameworks to guarantee resilient and future-ready lecturer appointments.

5. CONCLUSION

This study, utilizing institutional data (N=120) from higher education institutions in Hyderabad, concludes that lecturer recruitment and selection practices exhibit a combination of formal and semi-formal methods, predominantly relying on official advertisements/websites (31.7%) and job portals (21.7%), while also significantly utilizing walk-ins (18.3%) and reference networks (15.0%), highlighting the necessity for enhanced standardization and transparency. The results indicate that interview-only selection (34.2%) is the predominant way, potentially heightening subjectivity, whereas more structured approaches, such as demo lecture plus interview (25.8%) and written test plus interview (24.2%), are not uniformly implemented across schools. Selection decisions predominantly emphasize qualifications and topic expertise (29.2%) and research profile (25.8%), whereas important resilience-related qualities, such as communication and classroom management (12.5%) and institutional fit and flexibility (10.0%), are afforded comparably less attention. The evaluation of digital and

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innovation readiness is notably inconsistent, with only 47.5% of cases incorporating structured assessments via ICT demonstrations or teaching portfolios, while numerous instances depended on informal discussions or lacked assessment altogether. This underscores a significant deficiency in developing a future-ready academic workforce. Consequently, the study underscores the pressing necessity to reform lecturer recruitment frameworks by incorporating competency-based selection tools, transparent processes, and systematic evaluations of teaching and digital readiness to foster a robust academic future.

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PAPER PRESENTATION **ON CHONDRO-FIBROMA**

PRESENTED BY

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Introduction; Chondrofibroma are benign tumours of Mesenchymal tissue composed of hyaline cartilage. Chondrofibroma means presence of cartilaginous tissue in the fibroma. Chondro fibroma is an uncommon tumour in gnathic sites. They are thought to arise from vestigial cartilaginous rests. It can occur at any age (commonly between 3rd or 4th decades) of life.

Chondro-fibromas related to oral cavity have been reported to occur in extra osseous and intra osseous locations. Extra osseous lesions are found on the lateral tongue, in soft tissue of the cheek. They can be present by birth or even in 3rd or 4th decades of life as firm, painless, mucosa covered nodules. Chondrofibroma can become malignant, locally infiltrative and difficult to eradicate if left untreated.

At times they may behave as low grade chondrosarcomas.

This paper presents a case of chondrofibroma treated at our Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

Case report; A patient aged around 19 years reported to our department with a chief complaint of skin growth in front of the both the ears since birth. He wants to get them removed though they didn't cause any functional discrepancies because it affected his looks and he was teased by his friends.

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General physical examination; nothing significant.

Family history: one of his cousin has a same type of growth in front of the ear.

Extra orally; The submandibular, preauricular and postauricular lymph nodes were non tender, not palpable. TMJ non tender, no deviation seen and no clicking sound heard.

Intraorally: patient has high narrow arched v shaped palate, two deciduous teeth retained, all third molars not erupted. No abnormalities detected in the soft tissues intra orally....



On examination: the skin growths were present one on each side on the tragus, measuring about 0.5 -1 cm in size, the skin on the growth appeared normal, no pulsations seen on the surface, there was no discharge from the growth.

On palpation: there was no rise in temperature on the growth, the growth on the left side was soft in consistency whereas on the right side it was firm and a cartilaginous extension from the tragus was felt.

The growth was non tender and not compressible.

Provisional diagnosis; was made based on clinical examination & history as lipoma/ fibroma/chondroma.

Treatment plan; Surgical excision & sutures to be placed.

Send the specimen for histopathology for report

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Patient recalling after one week for suture removal & follow up.

Investigations; Basic investigations like Hb%, clotting time, bleeding time, RBS were done. The report revealed all readings were under normal limits.

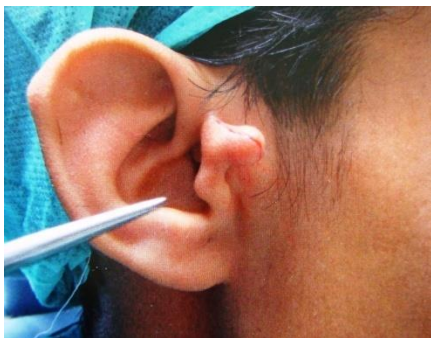
Surgical procedure; The surgical area was prepared by cutting the hair around the lesion, then scrubbing the area with povidone iodine.

Left side; local anesthesia was obtained by infiltrating the 2% lignocaine with adrenaline around the growth.

The growth was small and soft in consistency.

The growth was held with Addison's tissue holding forceps and using a no.11 blade excision was done. Sutures were placed with 5-0 vicryl.

Right side;



Local anesthesia was obtained by blocking the Preauricular nerve using 2% lignocaine with adrenaline.

The growth on the right was little larger and there was cartilaginous extension.

Therefore the incision was made on the crest of the growth to expose the cartilage, skin was undermined to reach the depth of the extension.

The growth was extended from the tragus.

The excess growth was trimmed and reshaped, excess skin was also trimmed.

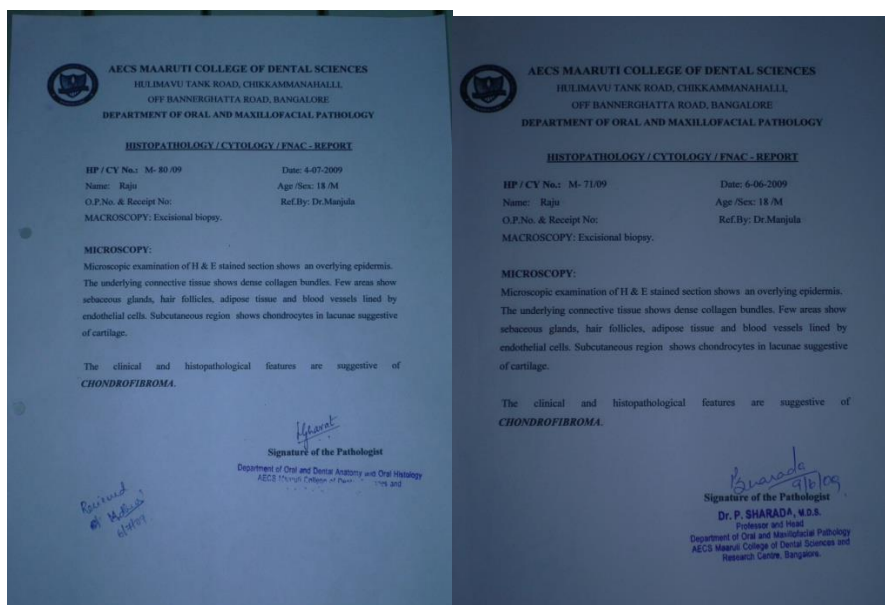
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Then the sutures were placed using the 5-0 vicryl, Wokadine spray sprayed on the sutured area and patient was advised to take tab. Diclofenac and cap. Amoxicillin thrice daily for 5 days.

Patient was recalled after one week for follow suture removal and follow up.

Both specimen were collected in two different formaline bottles, labled and sent to the histopathology department of our college to obtain a final diagnosis.

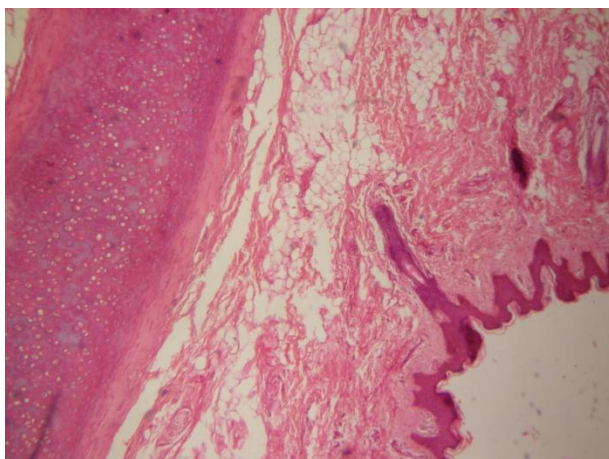
Histopathology report;



The histopathological report revealed that the lesion was diagnosed as the chondrofibroma.

The histological pictures were as follows;

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The histological pictures show subepithelial layer, connective layer, adipose tissue and the plenty of chondrocytes and fibrocytes in the connective tissue suggestive of cartilage.

The H & E stains show the bundles of collagen fibres, fibrocytes and plenty of chondrocytes.

Chondrocytes are well encapsulated binucleated cells.

Discussion; very few cases of chondrofibromas are reported in the literature.

56 PRIMARY HAND BONE TUMOURS
EDINBURGH HAND CLINIC 1959-73 (*Jonathan & Lamb*)

Monostotic Enchondroma	35
Polyostotic Enchondroma	4
Ollier's Disease	1
Enchondroma	12
Osteoma	1
Osteoblastoma	1
Chondrofibroma	1
Chondrosarcoma	1
	56

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According to Jonathan & Lamb survey the incidence of chondrofibroma among the hand bone tumours was around 1.5%. Incidence of chondrofibroma in the head and neck region is even more rare.

One case of chondrofibroma of the trachea was reported in the year 1936;

Gatewood in the year 1936 has reported a case of chondrofibroma of trachea. The patient had dyspnea, they treated with morphine & epinephrine were administered without relief.

Bronchoscopic examination showed an obstruction which had the appearance of normal mucous membrane. On x-ray a mass was found attached 1st & 2nd rings of trachea...

Lower tracheotomy was performed with relief of dyspnea. This mass was removed surgically.

*Chondrofibroma of the trachea. Report of a case.
Gatewood, E. T: Arch. Otolaryng. 24: 92, 1936*

The etiology of chondrofibroma is thought to arise from the vestigial remnants of the cartilagenous tissue. It can occur at any age, with no sex predilection. Chondrofibroma may have a tendency for transformation into chondromyxoid fibroma, which have a high tendency for malignant transformation as chondrosarcoma.

Chondrofibromas can be treated surgically by excision or through intradermal injections.

In this case we opted for the surgical excision because the lesion was small, accessibility was good and the treatment would get over in one visit. The intradermal injections take long time for healing, they require patient's frequent visits to hospital and patient will have to undergo the pain of injection every time.

Some patient may develop allergy for the solutions. Cryosurgery requires sophisticated equipments, costly and if slight negligence also causes the death of the neighbouring tissues.

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Conclusion; Chondrofibroma can be left untreated, those causing pain by pressure on surrounding structures should be excised and curetted to remove the traces of tumor cells.

Some more studies have to be conducted and report of the all treated cases should be added to the literature for the benefit of the surgeons.

A simple skin growth in our case was diagnosed as chondrofibroma!! Therefore all Excisional biopsies should be sent for HP to make a final diagnosis and reporting should be done.

**AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS' STUDY HABITS AND
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT**

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ABSTRACT

There are numerous cognitive and behavioural factors that impact academic achievement in the secondary school level, but more important are the study habits. This paper has explored how the study habits of high school students relate to their academic performance with reference to a particular aspect of time management/time management and study environment, note taking habits and self-regulated learning. The research design utilized was quantitative correlational research design, and a sample size of 100 students was used, sampled in the urban secondary schools. The structured Study Habits Questionnaire and cumulative GPA records of students were used to collect the data. Descriptive and inferential analyses showed that academic performance had a positive relationship with overall study habits and self-regulated learning and time management showed the most significant positive correlations. These results emphasize the need to exercise good study habits to improve academic performance. The research offers evidence based information to educators and policymakers to be able to generate specific interventions that would facilitate the development of disciplined learning behaviours and self-regulated learning behaviours among the students in the secondary schools.

Keywords: *Study habits, Academic achievement, Secondary school students, Time management, Self-regulated learning, Note-taking practices, Study environment.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The success in academic performance at the secondary school level is a very critical factor of future educational and career opportunities among the students. At this level, the learners will develop the ability to learn on their own and cope with the growing academic challenges. Study habits are among the factors that can affect academic performance in a wide range. Study habits

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can be described as the organised behaviours and plans students use to plan, organise and perform their learning tasks, such as time management, study environment, taking of notes and self regulating.

Good study habits have been linked to better comprehension levels, retention levels and academic performance; as opposed to poor study habits that are mostly linked with less performance and low motivation. Even though the association between academic achievement and study habits is a much studied topic, most of the available literature has concentrated on the higher learning institution students and not much has been done regarding the secondary school students. Moreover, the most research takes the study habits as one construct, and does not study the relative contribution of a single element.

The purpose of the research is to examine how various aspects of study habits are related to academic performance in secondary schools. The research aims at giving evidence based information that can underpin the establishment of effective teaching and learning strategies and academic support interventions at the high school level by determining the study behaviours that best predict academic performance.

1.1. Research Objectives

The research objectives of the study are:

- To examine the relationship between secondary school students' overall study habits and their academic achievement.
- To investigate the influence of specific study habit dimensions—time management, study environment, note-taking practices, and self-regulated learning—on students' academic performance.
- To identify the study behaviours that most strongly predicts academic success among secondary school students.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Abid et al. (2023) explored the correlation between reading behaviour of students, their study skills, and their performance in the English language at the high school level. The research

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showed that students with a regular reading habit and properly developed study skills had much better academic performance. The authors have highlighted that planned reading schedules, revision strategies, and monitoring comprehension were structured study behaviours that were very important in promoting language achievement. Their results implied that study habits were a crucial process by which student's transformed effort into academic achievement, which makes the role of having a habit of engaging in academic activities at the secondary school level significant.

Bentil (2023) examined the hypothesis of the dependence between study habits and the academic performance of junior high school students in the general population as well as tested the moderating effect of learning styles. The results showed that there is an excellent and positive correlation between good study habits and academic performance, irrespective of personal differences in learning styles. The research showed that those students who were time managers, who studied regularly, and participated in concentration learning activities performed well in academics. The work by Bentil supported the thesis statement that academic achievements depended more on discipline study habits rather than the desired learning styles, especially in secondary schools.

Gahir et al. (2022) examined the connection between academic achievement and study habits among the students of secondary school and found that the two variables are statistically significantly positively correlated. The research determined that students who embraced the systematic study habits, good note taking techniques, and regular revision strategies scored higher academically. The authors emphasized that study behaviour that was done in an organized manner facilitated greater understanding and retention of academic content in the long run. Their results showed that study habits were not only auxiliary behaviours, but they formed a fundamental aspect of academic achievement in secondary school.

Kim and Seo (2015) conducted a meta-analysis study that was discussing the correlation between procrastination and academic performance with conceptualization of procrastination as negative study habit. This review revealed that there was a strong (stable) negative correlation between procrastination and academic performance in several studies. The authors also discovered that students who procrastinated in academic assignments had poor time management and decreased academic activities, which resulted in poor performance results.

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This paper has reiterated the role of self-regulation and task initiation as key factors to effective studying habits and the role of maladaptive study behaviours in sabotaging academic performance.

Upadhayay (2017) studied academic performance of senior secondary school-going students in association with their study behavior. The analysis of the research showed that students who had regular study schedules, were self-disciplined and were purposeful in their learning activities performed much better academically. The results implied that good study behaviour helped students to handle academic stress and curriculum pressure in a better way. Upadhayay reached the conclusion that such positive study habits developed on the secondary level were necessary to improve the level of academic achievements and equip students with the higher education.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This section describes the framework of the methodology applied to examine the relationship between the study habits of secondary school students, and academic performance. It explains the research design, population and sample, data collection processes, as well as data gathering instruments. The methodological approach was well chosen so that the reliability, validity and ethical integrity of the study could be guaranteed and at the same time permitting to analyze the variables under investigation systematically.

3.1. Research Design

The research design used was the quantitative correlational study design because it was necessary to investigate the relationship that existed between the study habits of students in secondary schools and their academic performance. This design was deemed fit because the measurement of variables and the determination of relationships could be done without controlling the study environment. The correlational design also helped the researcher to establish the strengths and direction of association between study habits and academic performance.

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3.2. Sample Size and Population

The study population was composed of students studying in nine to twelve grades at the secondary schools that were selected in the urban centers. A stratified random sampling was applied to obtain a total sample of 100 students in order to have equal representation of grade level and gender. Stratification reduced sampling bias and increased the external validity of the results to the general population of secondary school.

3.3. Data Collection

The study population was composed of students studying in nine to twelve grades at the secondary schools that were selected in the urban centers. A stratified random sampling was applied to obtain a total sample of 100 students in order to have equal representation of grade level and gender. Stratification reduced sampling bias and increased the external validity of the results to the general population of secondary school.

3.4. Data Collection Tools and Instruments

A structured Study Habits Questionnaire and records of academic performance were used to collect the data. The questionnaire measured the most important aspects of the study habits such as time management, study environment, note taking habits as well as self-regulated learning behaviours. A five-point Likert scale with Strongly Disagree and Strongly Agree as the two ends was used to measure the responses. The academic performance was assessed in terms of cumulative grade point average (GPA) of the students based on the official records of the school. Subject experts did the validation of the instrument and a pilot study was carried out to determine the reliability of the instrument before its administration.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The study investigated the correlation between study behaviour and academic performance of secondary school students using the data of a sample size of 100 students. The descriptive statistics showed that students had moderate levels of study habits in all dimensions.

The descriptive statistics of the study habit and achievement of the participants (N = 100) are presented in table 1. The table contains the mean score and standard deviations of overall study

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habits, the dimensions of the study habits, in terms of time management, study environment, note-taking practices, self-regulated learning, and academic achievement in terms of GPA.

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics of Study Habits and Academic Achievement (N = 100)

Variable	Mean	Standard Deviation
Overall Study Habits	3.54	0.66
Time Management	3.60	0.70
Study Environment	3.45	0.64
Note-Taking Practices	3.36	0.68
Self-Regulated Learning	3.52	0.71
Academic Achievement (GPA)	3.18	0.47

The average score on overall study habits was 3.54 (SD = 0.66) as can be seen in Table 1, which shows that the level of study behaviour was moderate among students. The individual dimensions did not differ much in terms of the mean that time management was highest at 3.60 (SD = 0.70), followed by self-regulated learning with a mean of 3.52 (SD = 0.71). The mean scores of 3.45 (SD = 0.64) and 3.36 (SD = 0.68) were noted to be a little less in study environment and note-taking practices, respectively. The academic performance of the participants (by GPA) was 3.18 (SD = 0.47), which is satisfactory. These findings indicate that the students were comparatively more consistent in the management of their time and control over their own learning than the other aspects of study habits.

Table 2 shows Pearson correlation coefficients among overall study habits, time management, study environment, note-taking practices and self-regulated learning dimensions of study habits of participants (N =100). Table contains r-values that show the strength and direction of the relationships and p-values that show statistical significance.

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Table 2: Correlation between Study Habits and Academic Achievement (N = 100)

Study Habit Dimension	r-value	p-value
Overall Study Habits	0.51	<0.001
Time Management	0.45	<0.001
Study Environment	0.27	<0.05
Note-Taking Practices	0.30	<0.05
Self-Regulated Learning	0.48	<0.001

As illustrated in Table 2, academic achievement was moderately positively correlated with overall study habits ($r = 0.51, p < 0.001$) meaning that students with more positive study habits were more likely to perform better in academics. Of the single dimensions, the strongest positive correlations with academic achievement were found with self-regulated learning ($r = 0.48, p < 0.001$) and time management ($r = 0.45, p < 0.001$). Other significant positive relationships were observed between note-taking practices ($r = 0.30, p < 0.05$) and study environment ($r = 0.27, p < 0.05$) but with relative low strength. These findings indicate that all the elements of study habits correlated with academic performance, but the self-regulation and effective time.

The correlation between the overall study habits and the academic achievement of the participants is given in figure 1. The figure shows the average GPA on the Y axis and overall range scores of overall study habit scores on the X axis. It also contains the number of students in every range of study habits. The most influential were the management factors.

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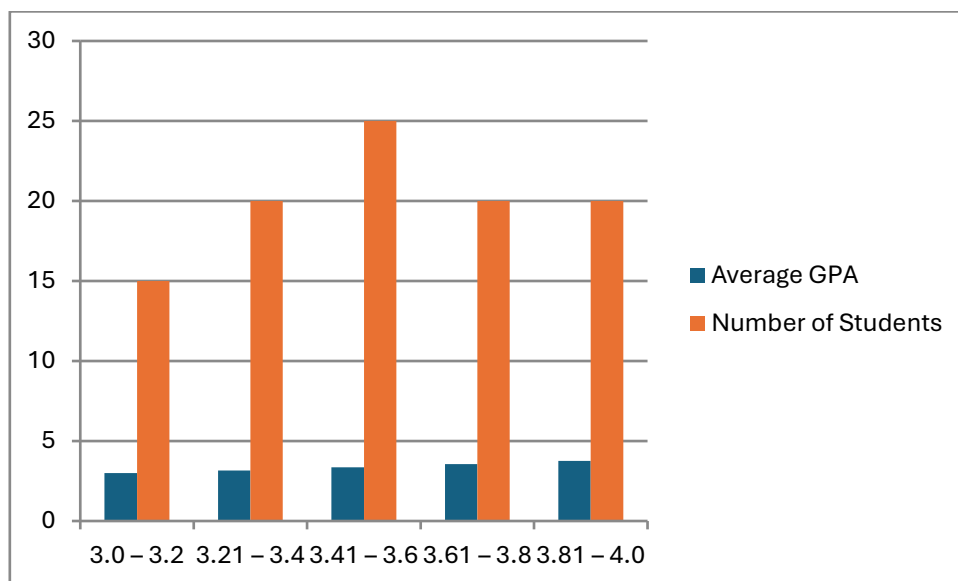


Figure 1: Relationship between Overall Study Habits and Academic Achievement

There was a tendency of participants who had better overall scores on the study habits to be having better GPAs as revealed in Figure 1. The highest GPA of the group with the study habit scores of the range of 3.81 to 4.0 was 3.75 with the lowest GPA of 3.00 of the group that had the study habit scores in the range of 3.0 to 3.2. The value suggests that there is a positive correlation between the good study behaviour and academic success with the large groups of students being concentrated in the middle range scores (3.21 to 3.6), which implies that most of the participants were moderate students in terms of study behaviour.

Figure 2 shows the average performance of the academic achievement (GPA) in the various aspects of study habits. The research components of Time management, Study environment, Notes taking practices, and Self regulated learning, are plotted on the X axis and respective mean scores of GPA on Y axis.

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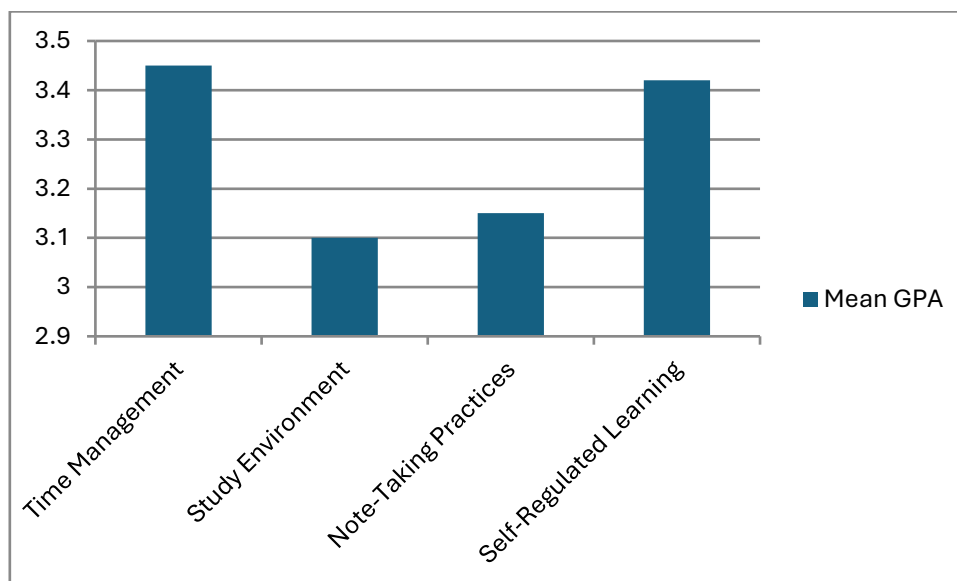


Figure 2: Academic Achievement Across Study Habit Dimensions

Figure 2 depicts that students had higher means of GPAs in Time Management (3.45), Self-Regulated Learning (3.42), than on Study Environment (3.10) and Note-Taking Practices (3.15). This shows that time management and self-managed learning were related more to good academic work and thus they played a more significant role in the overall performance of students.

5. CONCLUSION

These results of the present study suggest that the study habits of secondary school students are significantly correlated with their academic performance, and the importance of studying using a structured and goal-oriented learning behaviour should be viewed as a key to academic success. Self-regulated learning and time management are among the dimensions that were studied and found the strongest correlation with the GPA of the students as opposed to note taking behaviour and study environment. These findings indicate that students who design the learning process, organize and control it, and plan their studying time efficiently have more chances to get higher academic results. The research emphasizes the need to encourage discipline study habits and encourage self regulation measures at secondary education levels. Considering the support of these major studying habits, teachers and policymakers would be

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able to improve the achievements of students and make them more capable of the realities of higher education and lifelong learning.

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REIMAGINING THE RAMAYANA THROUGH URMILA'S EYES

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ABSTRACT

Kavita Kane's novel, *Sita's Sister* reimagines the classic Indian epic, the Ramayana, through the lens of Urmila, Lakshmana's wife. This narrative shift offers a fresh perspective on the epic, highlighting Urmila's strength, resilience, and devotion. The novel explores themes of sisterhood, duty, and identity, providing a unique insight into the inner world of Urmila and her relationships with her sisters, Sita, Mandavi, and Shrutakirti. By reimagining the Ramayana through Urmila's eyes, Kane challenges traditional notions of femininity and duty, presenting a powerful symbol of female empowerment. This reinterpretation invites readers to reconsider their understanding of the classic tale, making *Sita's Sister* a thought-provoking read.

Urmila's story is a testament to the power of quiet strength and determination. Kane's writing is lyrical and evocative, bringing the world of ancient India to life. The novel is a celebration of female friendships and solidarity. It delves into the intricate web of relationships that shape Urmila's journey. The narrative is engaging and immersive, making it a compelling read. Overall, *Sita's Sister* is a beautifully crafted novel that will resonate with readers.

Keywords: Urmila, Ramayana, Kavita Kane, *Sita's Sister*, Female Empowerment

INTRODUCTION

The Ramayana, one of India's most revered epics, has been retold and reinterpreted countless times in literature, art, and popular culture. However, Kavita Kane's novel, *Sita's Sister* breaks new ground by reimagining the classic tale through the lens of Urmila, Lakshmana's wife. As Kane writes, "Urmila's eyes met mine, and for a moment, I felt like I was looking into a mirror." (Prologue) This narrative shift offers a fresh perspective on the epic, highlighting Urmila's strength, resilience, and devotion. By focusing on Urmila's story, Kane sheds light on a

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character often overlooked in traditional retellings of the Ramayana, providing a unique insight into the inner world of a woman who has been relegated to the margins of the epic.

Kane's decision to center Urmila's narrative is a deliberate choice that challenges the dominant narratives surrounding the Ramayana. "In the shadows of greatness, there are stories untold." (Chapter 1). By giving voice to Urmila, Kane humanizes a character who has been reduced to a mere footnote in the epic. Urmila's story becomes a powerful symbol of female empowerment, highlighting the ways in which women in the Ramayana have been silenced, marginalized, and erased. Through Urmila's eyes, Kane reexamines the epic's portrayal of femininity, duty, and identity, raising important questions about the societal expectations placed on women.

The novel's focus on Urmila also allows Kane to explore the complexities of sisterhood and female relationships in the Ramayana. Urmila's bond with her sisters, Sita, Mandavi, and Shrutakirti, serves as a counterpoint to the epic's central narrative, highlighting the importance of female friendships and solidarity. As Kane notes, "Sisterhood is a bond that transcends time and circumstance." (Chapter 5). Through their relationships, Kane reveals the ways in which women in the Ramayana have supported, empowered, and uplifted each other, often in the face of patriarchal oppression.

Kane's reimagining of the Ramayana through Urmila's eyes is a bold and innovative move that challenges readers to reconsider their understanding of the classic tale. By centering Urmila's narrative, Kane offers a fresh perspective on the epic, one that is both deeply rooted in tradition and radically innovative. This article will explore how Kane's novel reimagines the Ramayana through Urmila's perspective, highlighting themes of sisterhood, duty, and identity, and challenging traditional notions of femininity and duty.

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OBJECTIVES

Sita's Sister reimagines the Ramayana by shifting the focus from Sita's narrative to Urmila's, offering a fresh and unique perspective on the epic. Kane's novel humanizes Urmila, exploring her thoughts, emotions, and experiences, and highlighting her strength and resilience in the face of adversity. This reinterpretation challenges the dominant narratives surrounding the Ramayana, providing a more nuanced understanding of the epic's characters and themes.

The novel explores the themes of sisterhood, duty, and identity through Urmila's relationships with her sisters, Sita, Mandavi, and Shrutakirti. Kane portrays the strong bond between the sisters, highlighting the importance of female friendships and solidarity. The novel also examines the societal expectations placed on women, particularly in terms of duty and loyalty, and how these expectations shape their identities.

Kane's reinterpretation challenges traditional notions of femininity and duty by presenting Urmila as a strong and empowered woman who makes her own choices. The novel subverts the traditional portrayal of women in the Ramayana, highlighting their agency and autonomy. Through Urmila's narrative, Kane raises important questions about the societal expectations placed on women and the limitations imposed on them, challenging readers to rethink their understanding of femininity and duty.

METHODOLOGY

This article employs a qualitative approach, analyzing Kavita Kane's novel Sita's Sister as a case study to explore how the Ramayana is reimagined through Urmila's perspective. The study involves a close reading of the novel, focusing on themes, character development, and narrative techniques. The analysis is grounded in feminist and literary theories, examining how Kane's reinterpretation challenges traditional notions of femininity and duty.

Some key aspects of the methodology include:

- (1) Textual analysis: A close reading of Sita's Sister to identify themes, motifs, and character dynamics.
- (2) Thematic analysis: Examining the novel's portrayal of sisterhood, duty, and identity.

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(3)Feminist lens: Analyzing the novel's representation of women and their agency, using feminist theories as a framework.

RESULTS

The analysis reveals that Kavita Kane's *_Sita's Sister_* offers a fresh perspective on the Ramayana, highlighting Urmila's strength, resilience, and devotion. The novel reimagines the epic through Urmila's eyes, exploring themes of sisterhood, duty, and identity. Kane's reinterpretation challenges traditional notions of femininity and duty, presenting Urmila as a strong and empowered woman.

CONCLUSION

Kavita Kane's *_Sita's Sister_* is a powerful reimagining of the Ramayana, offering a unique insight into Urmila's world. By centering Urmila's narrative, Kane challenges readers to reconsider their understanding of the classic tale, highlighting the importance of female agency and autonomy. The novel's exploration of sisterhood, duty, and identity makes it a thought-provoking read.

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