

IUT Journal of Advanced Research and Development

Volume 11, No. 2(October 2025-March 2026)



ISSN: 2455-7846

**Published
by
ICFAI University Tripura,
Kamalghat, Mohanpur, Agartala-799210,
Tripura(W) Ph: 0381-2865752/62
Toll Free No.18003453673 Website: www.iutripura.edu.in**



MESSAGE FROM THE DESK OF EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Chief Editor and Editors of the advanced research journal of Management, Engineering, Law, Paramedical Science, Nursing, Basic Science, Education, Physical Education and Yoga, Special Education, Clinical psychology and Liberal Arts i.e. IUT Journal of Advanced Research and Development (JARD) would take it as their duty to express the deep gratefulness to the contributors and readers of current volume.

We feel proud to bring the present issue of the online IUT Journal of Advanced Research and Development. We consider that the contribution in this multidisciplinary will help in the inclusive and sustainable growth process. Keeping in tune with this dignified idea, the current issue of IUT-JARD has addressed some current issues covering diversified field.

This issue needs an integrative and a holistic approach to the solution. Finally, the information contains in this journal volume has been published by the IUT obtains by its authors from various sources believed to be reliable and correct to the best of their knowledge, and publisher is not responsible for any kind of plagiarism and opinion related issues.



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India's Act East Policy: Significance of NER and impacts of Political crisis in Bangladesh on 'Act East Policy' with special reference to Tripura.

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ABSTRACT

North-Eastern Region of India includes 8 (eight) states, which is famously known by seven sisters with one brother, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura as the seven sisters and Sikkim as the brother. This region is connected to the mainland India with a 24 km narrow line which is known as the Siliguri Corridor or 'Chicken's Neck'. This region is rich in its flora and fauna. The huge forest cover and its geographical location make this region of utmost important for the development of the country. Even after having development potentiality, this region remained marginalized since long with less development. But in the last two decades this region is experiencing some developments by gaining special attention from the centre. This study will highlight the importance of the NER for the development of the country. The Act East Policy will also be analysed to understand its role in the development of the region. The study will also focus on the impact of the Political distress in Bangladesh on the NER particularly Tripura and the Act East Policy.

Keywords: *NER, Act East Policy, Look East Policy, Tripura, Significance, Impact*

Objectives:

1. To understand the background of the Look East Policy and understand the circumstances on which this policy was introduced.
2. To understand the need of up gradation of 'Look East Policy' into 'Act East Policy'.
3. To know the significance of the North Eastern Region in context of Act East Policy.
4. To understand the significance of 'Tripura' in the context of Act East Policy.
5. To understand the impact of Political crisis of Bangladesh on India's Act East Policy with special reference to Tripura.

Introduction:

The eight states of the North Eastern Region of India Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland Tripura and Sikkim is a landlocked region with no coastal region connected to mainland India through a 24 km narrow line which is known as Siliguri Corridor or ‘Chicken’s Neck’. This region is known for its rich culture and huge forest cover with strategic geographical location. This is the region which shares its International borders with five Countries, namely China, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar. No other state in India share its International borders with this many foreign countries, which makes this strategically important for the country in context of foreign policy. Even after having so much of developmental potentialities, this region remained marginalised since long with very less development. This region remained isolated since the Britisher’s time. Even today many of the states in NER exercise special rights including the Inner Line Permits (ILPs). This region has been facing numerous challenges which include Insurgency and migration from a long period in its development and also to be recognised among the other states in the mainland India. But in the last two decades, the region is experiencing some developmental activities. The centre recognised the importance of the NER in developing this region as a platform to connect India with the South East Asian Nations. With this purpose the centre under the Prime Minister Narasimha Rao established the Look East Policy in the 1990s and accordingly worked for the development of the NER. And in 2014 after the present government came in power this policy was upgraded to the Act East Policy which boosted up the development in the NER. The centre is continuously putting effort to develop relations with the neighbouring countries and in context of NER Bangladesh is an important country for India. To encourage the engagement of both the countries in development, India came up with Agartala-Akhaura Railway line which could connect India and Bangladesh through railways benefitting both the countries at a large scale. But recently as the world witnessed the Political Distress in Bangladesh and the Resignation of the Prime Minister in Bangladesh, it became a matter of concern for India. The Act East Policy of India will be affected by this and especially Tripura which is the closest state to Bangladesh will also be affected. Tripura particularly trades with Bangladesh in a large scale which obviously increases the economy of the State and the country as well. But now the situation would not allow India to have a positive trade possibilities with Bangladesh as because the anti-India sentiments in Bangladesh will be affecting the Indian societies which is a matter of concern for the Indian diplomats to re-think about the economic relations with Bangladesh.

Review of Literature:

1. (Charles Reuben Lyngdoh, 2008). It discusses the background of the Look Act Policy, the face of the North East, the transformation of the North east India in context of the Look Act Policy. It also discusses the role of the Financial Institution in the development of the North eastern Region.
2. (Singh, 2009). It discusses the shifting alignments of the Look east Policy, the environmental impacts of the developmental projects being carried out in the North Eastern Region, it primarily discusses Look East Policy in the context of Manipur and its possible connectivity with the South Asian countries.
3. (Trivedi, 2008). It discusses the relation of India with Bangladesh, the trade relations between India and Bangladesh.
4. (Purohit, 2023). It discusses the politics that is happening in the North Eastern Region and the role of the governmental agencies in solving the internal conflicts among the North eastern States.
5. (Sharma, 2023). It discusses about the changes that has been made in the Act East Policy and the continuity and changes in the Act East Policy. It also discusses various projects that have been introduced in India and North eastern region in particular.

Background of Look East Policy in context of North Eastern Region:

Soon after India's Independence, the situation of cold war emerged in the International politics. It is believed that India's Look East Policy was the result of the Cold war. With the rapid growth of the Industrialization, the western countries were achieving development. These developments also attracted India. The five year plans in India was the result of the inspiration from Soviet Union. It was implemented with the thought of developing economic growth of the country. Indian Government was also looking forward to increase Industrialization, which was the only means to develop economy rapidly and we don't have to rely on the foreign countries. In this context India made economic reforms by the 1990s under the Prime Minister Narasimha Rao and Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.

Though North Eastern Region is an important platform of India to connect with South East Asian countries, but this region remained underdeveloped and unrecognised since Independence. Government of India funded this region for development but changes could not be seen. This could be because as per a Chinese saying, the government of India was giving a hungry person fish to eat but didn't taught the

art of catching fish. The North Eastern Region should be developed in a way that it could generate maximum revenue on its own.

Development of Act East Policy:

The Act East Policy is the improvised version of the “Look East Policy”, established in 2014 by the ruling government at the 12th ASEAN – India summit in Myanmar. The primary objective of the Act East Policy is the security cooperation and extended neighbourhood in the Asia-Pacific region whereas the Look East Policy gave emphasis on building economic cooperation with ASEAN nations. The government through the ‘Act East Policy’ is looking forward to develop connectivity, along with trade and economic cooperation with the South-East Asian Nations by developing the North Eastern Region of India.

ASEAN nations are significant for India on economic perspectives, as they are very beneficial business allies of our country. The Infrastructural development of the North Eastern Region will speed up the trade relations with ASEAN nations opening up various areas of Investment, economic integration and smooth connectivity.

Diplomatically also ASEAN nations are significant for India, creating strong ties with the nations will enhance peace, security and stability in International politics. Geographically, India hopes to hold a dominant position in Asia-Pacific region by developing strong ties with the neighbouring countries and involve prominently in the matters of the region and exert more geopolitical and economic clout. (Sharma, 2023)

Significance of North Eastern Region:

According to Act East Policy, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Vietnam are the important player for India in expanding its reach to the South East Asian countries. Act East Policy focuses on Asia-Pacific region as well which develop, Indo-Australia and Indo-Japan relations. Act East Policy gives greater emphasis on the North Eastern Region as this region has greater possibility of developing ties with the other nations being a launch pad to connect other nations. Being such an important region, North Eastern Region has many limitations which slow down the connectivity with other nations. Some major causes include the Inner Line regulations and the geographically landlocked region. Government of India should have to develop this region first to connect India with the South East Asian nations. The economic growth of this region is highly recommended.

The North-Eastern Region holds utmost potentiality for the overall development of the country, it can be utilised as a gateway to the South-East Asia, and the ASEAN markets can be easily accessed by the Indian entrepreneurs. The NER has reserve of abundant natural resources like gas, coal, minerals, timber, medicinal plants, bamboo etc. The region also has the potential in developing tourism industry due to its rich flora and fauna. It also has potential of growing agriculture. This region also has the potential for investments in growing infrastructural development, building industries, generating technological developments etc.

The government of India under the Act East Policy carried certain projects in relation to Bangladesh and Myanmar like the Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport project, Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade (PIWT & T), Comprehensive project for development of National Waterways, Comprehensive Project for development of NW-16 & IBP route etc.

Recent developments in North Eastern Region:

The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has achieved substantial goals during the period from 9th June, 2024 to 17th September, 2024, under the guidance of Union Minister of Communications and DoNER, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia and Union Minister of State for Education and DoNER, Dr. Sukanta Majumder, the Ministry has adopted a holistic approach in building its 100 days plan to fulfil the vision of building a Viksit Purvottara.

Table 1: Summary report on the projects by MDoNER under multiple schemes for the development of the North-Eastern Region (NER)

Sl. No.	Scheme	(All Amount in Crore)							
		All Projects		Completed Projects		Ongoing Projects		Financial Expenditure on the Ongoing Projects till 31.12.2025	Financial Expenditure yet to be made in Ongoing Projects as on 31.12.2025
		No.	Approved Cost	No.	Approved Cost	No.	Approved Cost		
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	PM-DevINE	46	5911.63	3	176.11	43	5735.52	2039.4	3696.13
2	NESIDS-OTRI	1586	20479.88	1211	13074.79	375	7405.09	4705.18	2699.9
3	Special Packages	118	2080.63	78	923.14	40	1157.49	399.46	758.03
4	NESIDS-ROADS	114	5445.66	64	2705.99	50	2739.67	1436.46	1303.21
5	Schemes of NEC	1815	14355.72	1285	10147.07	530	4208.65	3384.09	824.55

Total :	3679	48273.52	2641	27027.1	1038	21246.42	11964.59	9281.82
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(Source: Ministry of Development of the North-Eastern Region (MDoNER), Government of India.)

Importance of Tripura in context of Act East Policy:

The state of Tripura is one among the seven sisters of the North-Eastern States which shares most of its border with Bangladesh making this state strategically important for the country in terms of security but also holds potential in building healthy trade relation with Bangladesh. The connectivity of Tripura with Bangladesh can be proved as beneficial for the NER like the construction of bridge across Feni River and Agartala-Akhaura rail link which could fasten the trading activities in both India and Bangladesh.

Recent developments made in Tripura

The Government of India under the Act East Policy carried numerous projects in different sectors like Health, Agriculture and Allied, education, Transport and Communication, Power etc. implemented by the Ministry of the Development of the North-Eastern Region (MDoNER) particularly in Tripura.

Table 2: List of some of the projects which are already completed along with some of the projects which are in progress in Tripura from different sectors

Sl. No.	Completed Projects	Year of Completion (yyyy-mm-dd)	Ongoing Projects	Year of sanctioned (yyyy-mm-dd)
1	Enhancement of the potential of production of hybrid true potato seed at the Horticulture Research Centre, located in Nagichera, Tripura.	2020-02-28	Building nine Hostels attached to the Vidyajyoti Schools which will be having 100 students capacity in different districts of Tripura.	2022-04-21
2	Cultivation of Exotic Dragon Fruit (<i>Hylocereus</i> sp.).	2025-03-31	Execution of Infrastructure in Education associated with IT Projects in around 240 Schools across Tripura under the scheme of NESIDS(OTRI)	2024-02-22
3	Livelihood generation and Value Addition Chain in Piggery Sector based on District Composite Livestock Farm, Nalicherra under Dhalai District, Tripura	2021-02-26	Building of a Newborn Resource Development Centre and enhancing of NICU & PICU at the Department of Paediatrics, AGMC, Tripura	2022-04-21
4	Improvising the upgraded Gram Sevak Training Centre located at	2021-02-26	Acquisition of Pulse Oximeter and Antigen Tests	2021-03-26

	Lembucherra, West Tripura for Skill Development of the Farmers & Extension Agencies		Kits for fighting COVID 19 pandemic in Tripura	
5	Mobile Common Service Centre (CSC)	2025-02-24	Developing Infrastructure for creating modern Agri. Produce Market Tripura during 2022-23	30-03-2023
6	Improvising the Water arrangement in the rural areas of Khowai and Sepahijila districts of Tripura along with sinking & development of deep tubewell (DTW) schemes.	2020-03-02	Enhancement of Livelihood by increasing fish productivity which includes Reclamation of pond barrage for enhancement of fish productivity	2022-03-31
7	Generation of Livelihood for returned migrant workers due to pandemic outbreak COVID-19 in the state of Tripura	2023-10-27	Construction of 200 bedded (G2), Yuba Awas (Youth Hostel) in Ambasa, Dhalai District	2017-01-16
8	Generation of Livelihood for returned Migrant Workers due to pandemic outbreak COVID-19 to the state of Tripura(Swabalamban)(Phase-II)	2024-01-21	Machineries and Equipments for Brahmakunda Tea Processing Factory (BTPF)	2023-02-15
9	Revival of Bamboo Sticks cluster at Kumarghat, Tripura	2020-02-28	Afforestation in the deprived areas in South and West Tripura Districts of Tripura.	2022-03-31
10	3rd North East Connectivity Summit Govt. of Manipur	2021-04-01	Development of Infrastructure in the State Institute of Hotel Management (SIHM) Catering Technology & Applied Nutrition located at Anandanagar, Agartala	2021-03-15
11	Release of Grant-in-Aid (Plan/ Non-Recurring) to the Government of Tripura for activities related to combating COVID-19 pandemic	2023-04-01	Establishment of Dental College at Agartala by Government of Tripura	2024-01-24
12	Construction of 2X10MVA 132/33 KV and 2X10 MVA, 33/11 KV Sub-Station including LILO at Bishramganj, Sepahijala District, Tripura	2017-11-28	Development of Road from Udaipur-Kakraban to Tualmura via Camper Tilla-Ramkrishna Para Road. The length of the road would be 9.35km.	2023-10-16
13	Reconstruction of Road from Jatanbari to Mandirghat. The length of the road would be 13.775 km.	2023-03-05	Development of Tourist Amenities in Sepahijala Zoological Park, Tripura	2025-08-29
14	Reconstruction of road from Gandacherra-Raishyabari road to Narikel Kunja for easy access for the Tourists from Dhalai, North and Unakoti Districts to Narikel Kunja Island surrounded by Dumbur Lake Water in Tripura	2020-03-31	Construction of all weather road from Jampui Hill PMGSY Point to Kangrai under Jampui Hill RD Block in Tripura , Length -8.625 Km	2025-12-26

(Source: Ministry of Development of the North-Eastern Region (MDoNER), Government of India.)

Impact of political crisis of Bangladesh on India's Act East Policy with special reference to Tripura:

India's act East Policy was very important for the development of its relations and connectivity with the South East Asian Countries. For uplifting its strong ties, Indian government has given importance to the North Eastern Region, for which various new projects were sanctioned. Myanmar and Bangladesh are two important countries for India which had the possibility of speeding up India's trade with other Southeast Asian countries. Bangladesh is believed to be a greater trade partner of India. So, connectivity to Myanmar and Bangladesh could have eased the developmental possibilities of India. But Political turmoil in Myanmar in 2021, created lot of hurdles in India's Act East Policy and recently with the political crisis in Bangladesh, it has possibilities of creating a lot more disadvantages for India. As Tripura is the nearest state to Bangladesh and the trade between Tripura and Bangladesh also runs very well the crisis in Bangladesh will also affect Tripura Individually. Tripura exports many of its local products to Bangladesh on which the State government also earns a good amount of revenue which may hamper. Tripura also imports many of the products from Bangladesh which are very important to meet the demand of the local markets in Tripura which also may hamper and affect the Local market of Tripura.

As Tripura being the nearest state to Bangladesh holds importance in trade relation with Bangladesh. According to the Industry and Commerce department, Government of Tripura, the trade between Tripura and Bangladesh has increased positively in the reign of the present ruling government. It is estimated to have increased from Rs. 230.24 crore in the financial year 2013-14 to Rs. 1008.40 crore in the financial year 2021-22. The North-Eastern Region deals varieties of fish, PVC pipes, doors, different drinks, plastic materials, cement, LPG etc and exports certain products like chips, Lentils, dry chilly, ginger, cumin seeds etc. The trade between Tripura and Bangladesh is seen to be declining.

Economic factors between India and Bangladesh:

- i. India as the largest export destination of Bangladesh which was US \$ 1.8 billion in the financial year 2023-24 and US \$ 2.05 billion in the financial year 2024-25.
- ii. Export of 99,150 MT of Onion to neighbouring countries including Bangladesh by Government of India.

- iii. The decision of elimination of port restrictions and preparation of comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) which was done in the 15th meeting of Joint Working Group on Trade (JWG) in 2023.
- iv. Settlement of bilateral trade in Rupees and Taka by India and Bangladesh in April 2023.
- v. Handing over 20 Broad Gauge (BG) diesel locomotives to Bangladesh under grant assistance from the Government of India.
- vi. Electricity export of nearly 2000 MW to Bangladesh.

Following the trade relations between India and Bangladesh it is very clear that both the countries are dependent on each other for development and if the political turmoil anyhow affects trade relation among the nations, it will not be beneficial for Bangladesh. Bangladesh depends on many of the products and services from India without which Bangladesh will have to face a huge loss, and Tripura State Electricity Corporation Limited (TSECL) supplies about 90 MW of electricity to Bangladesh and which is still running even after the crisis, Trade with Tripura is very significant for Bangladesh, it is believed that the trade will soon return to normalcy, but however it affected and delayed many of the projects running in Tripura under Act East Policy and which will affect the development process in Tripura.

Conclusion:

There was a time when the North Eastern Region was neglected as part of India, but that was history we are talking about, in today's time the focus of whole India is on North Eastern Region and its people and government. This is because the whole of India has realised the potential of the NER, the platform for India's development, it is the platform through which India is being recognised as a powerful country in South Asia. Government's Act East Policy is proved to be the secret behind the development of the NER. Tripura being a very small state is developing in a faster way, the connectivity with Bangladesh will further enhance the development of Tripura and India altogether. The political turmoil in Bangladesh has created tension among the people in both the nations. Keeping aside the political tension, Bangladesh should ensure free flow of trade with India because without trade a country cannot sustain. It doesn't only affects the own country but the neighbouring countries as well. And with globalization whole world is directly or indirectly connected with each other and tension in any of the country brings trade misbalance in the International market and stops the process of development. It is

estimated that the trade relations between India and Bangladesh will soon return to normalcy as both the countries knows the consequences of impact in trade relations.

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**FAITH AND THE MACHINERY OF STATE: INTERROGATING RELIGIOUS HEGEMONY
IN CHUMA NWOKOLO'S *THE EXTINCTION OF MENAI* AND *THE GHOST OF SANI
ABACHA***

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ABSTRACT

*This article examines faith-related discourse in Chuma Nwokolo's *The Extinction of Menai* and *The Ghost of Sani Abacha*. Consequently, four extracts are purposively sampled for this qualitative study. Using Micheal Halliday's *Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL)*, the study analyses the linguistic processes that construct agency and power within the framework of religious hegemony. In addition, it integrates *Marxist Critical Theory* to interrogate the modes of production and the inherent power struggles that define social relationships in contemporary Nigerian society. Findings show that, using choice words, agency and power reside with the bourgeoisies, and they are wheeled to promote and sustain the dominant capitalist ideology by institutionalising religion as a catalyst for promoting this ideology. Therefore, beyond their theological and overt functions, traditional and western religions not only serve as a conduit pipe for political integration, bridging the gap between social dogma and the exercise of state power, but also functions as a critical agent for reinforcing the capitalist hegemony. The paper validates the claim that religion is both a tool for controlling the people, and for sustaining the capitalist spirit. These include the commercialization of religion, changing religious alliances and perpetuating state back nepotism with it. The paper finally concludes that hegemony backed by western and traditional religions remains a complex challenge.*

Keywords: Hegemony, Religion, Capitalism, Western Religion and Traditional Religion

Introduction

While it is difficult to pin down a single acceptable definition of religion, many would agree that it is not only a complex phenomenon but also a multifaceted one that points to personal or collective beliefs,

cultural tradition and a significant component of social structures. In Hegel's view, religion is intrinsic to man. It constitutes the total drive of the human spirit toward something more fulfilling, namely God, that is concrete, real, simple and unconditionally universal (Adogbo 12, citing Hegel 96). Among many others, three descriptions of religion are alluded to in this paper. To begin with, religion means the idea of the Holy which man is committed to. Accordingly, it is "the most powerful, comprehensive, shattering and profound experience of which man is capable" (Wash 30). Secondly, it is a reference to the ultimate reality foregrounded in beliefs, practices and doctrines (Adogbo 13), and thirdly; religion denotes a kind of orientation and way(s) of life that embodies enlightenment, deliverance and salvation. Correspondingly, Kitagawa affirms that "the central concern of religion is nothing less than *soteriology*; what religion provides is not information about life and the world but the practical path of transformation of man according to his understanding of what existence ought to be" (28).

In today's world, it is not uncommon for certain religious values, beliefs and practices to be considered superior than others, affirming the hegemonic relationship existing between the different religions of the world. This is not unexpected as "religion influences social dynamics" (Dewantri11). It is in this regard that many scholars claim that the existence of religious hegemony serves as the primary catalyst for sectarian or ideological disputes within a state (Join 60-66; Adila and Nahdhiyah 33-46; Yusoff and Sarjoon 211-223). In the words of Perez, a religion is said to be hegemonic if it meets these three conditions: enjoys institutional backing through official status, funding and public visibility, supports a defined religious group and with distinct doctrines, and creates a system of inequality where adherents of the said religion have unlimited access to social, political and economic privileges when compared to non-adherents (3).

The impact of religious hegemony can be all embracing in many areas: the suppression of religious freedom, autonomy, and representation. For instance, within the Nigerian enclave, Soyinka warns that, "since the intervention of religion in nation being has been of utmost savage, unconscionable and increasingly intolerant kind. No word for it but butchery, waste and devastation" (46). Consequently, marginalised communities may feel pressured to conform to dominant religious norms which can invariably lead to the suppression of their own religious practices and traditions. Tackling religious hegemony requires a critical understanding of the power dynamics inherent it after which effective strategies and steps toward for religious tolerance and coexistence can be taken. Invariably, there are usually contestations against religious hegemonies (Kırkpınar and Turna 3-6).

Furthermore, Nwokolo unveils in *The Ghost of Sani Abacha* and *The Extinction of the Menai* how religion whether western or traditional can act as a state apparatus of hegemony by influencing social

norms, justifying political power, and shaping individual consciousness, often in ways that benefit dominant groups. This influence can be direct, through religious institutions formally integrated into the state, or indirect, through the permeation of religious values and beliefs into the broader culture: state integration of Western religion (Christianity/Islam) in its affairs, and state's integration of traditional religion (Etuk 29) in civil service reforms, and the broader politics.

Literature Review

A vast body of scholarship has analysed the concept of religion from different perspectives. As a starting point, Petrova studied the dominance of Catholicism in Lithuania as a clear case of religious and cultural hegemony. This is against the backdrop that only this religion was regarded as the face of national identity. Conversely, the paper examined the Ethno-Pagan Romuva, a non-Catholic movement, as a counter measure against this trend. This pagan culture offered some sort of counter-hegemonic narrative to the issue of identity which the Catholicism had commanded over the years, one in which the ethnical, cultural, natural and political aspects of Lithuanian reality come together to form a comprehensive unity under the guidance of the Ethno-Pagan religion.

Pere confronted the issue of hegemonic religions that were often seen as the major and legitimate religions by the state. The paper claimed that government was bias because it was favourably disposed some religions. Many cases were cited in this article to validate this claim notably Swiss minarets ban, tECtHR decision in the Lautsi case and Maryland Bladensburg Cross case in America where tax payers' money were used to finance its operations. Citing notable scholars, this paper challenged what was described as "state religions" (438). The article came to the conclusion that so long as the state continued to give some religions the elitist's status, there would definitely be claims and counter claims like the one of the Religious Majority Approach (RMA) which was extensively debated in this very paper.

In similar investigation, Buyruk examined the evolution of religious education in Turkey, confirming that it is a tool for state hegemony in Turkey. While initially excluded during the early Republic to establish a secular control, religious education was gradually reintroduced to navigate internal political contradictions and international pressures. Using The Imam Hatip Schools (IHSs) as a case study which served as an extension of capitalist interest in the promotion of this ideology, the state of Turkey was not only able to raise a new consciousness but a new generation (657-674). This study, therefore, proved that education is never neutral but serves as an instrument for the consolidation of state power.

Appau and Yang, in their article, also studied advertising and marketing of religious hegemony in Ghana. By studying 3,700 church advertisements, the study came to the conclusion that there was a

connection between faith and commerce. This relationship was categorised into three biological metaphors notably commensalism, mutualism, and competition (263-288). The study proved that by adopting the right marketing strategies, religious institutions were able to harmonise popular imagination and dictate consumption patterns. In a way, the paper demonstrated that religion does not only exist inside the market, but it also uses the market to wheel its own power.

In Gabriel's article, the study explicated on the intersection between policy making and religion. This against the backdrop that even though Nigeria is a secular state, it would be unwise for policy making not to put religious identity into consideration (195). This is understandably so because religious identity is a global phenomenon that cannot be isolated from public affair (Adepeju-Fashina³). The study adopted a descriptive-historical approach to examine how religious ethics can help to strengthen national policy. The study, however, concluded that a stable, progressive domestic and foreign policy should prioritise national interest over religious demographics in Nigeria.

Yakubu, Akoja and Nomor's article could be considered as a reaction to Gabriel's article, claiming that too much emphasis on religion at the expense of national interest, could result to unpalatable circumstances. For instance, the paper stressed that the divisiveness and systemic instability in Nigeria is not unconnected to the bitter rivalry among the adherents of the three major religions in Nigeria: Islam, Christianity and Traditional Religion (27-28). By focusing on the paradox of religious pluralism in Nigeria and its effect on national development, the paper advocated that religious leaders should prioritise religious cohesion and that complementary religious education should be made compulsory to foster early-age tolerance in Nigeria.

Again, Ukeyima's paper delved into some of the negative antecedents of religious pluralism by specifically focusing on religious radicalisation and fiscal opacity within Nigeria's religious organisations (25-31). The paper revealed that extreme interpretation of religious texts, lack of accountability in managing sacred resources (like tithes and offerings) and the emphasis on economic status that exacerbates wealth disparity were identified as some of the pitfalls of religious adulations. The paper further argued that religious leaders, being influencers, have succeeded in promoting a religious culture of non-inclusive ideologies that have hindered economic growth and stability. To mitigate against this, the paper called on the government and civil societies to make religious leaders accountable as it is common in other climes in the world. With the literatures sampled thus far, it is shown that religious hegemonic relationship has both predictable and unpredictable circumstances for the state and its citizenry. It is in the light of this development that this very paper attempts to interrogate religious hegemony in Chuma Nwokolo's the *Extinction of Menai*.

Theoretical Framework

By employing Micheal Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), the study analyses the linguistic processes that construct agency and power within the framework of religious hegemony. In addition, it integrates Marxist Critical Theory to interrogate the modes of production and the inherent power struggles that define the different manifestations of religious hegemony in the picked texts, *The Extinction of Menai* and *The Ghost of Sani Abacha*.

Methodology

Through purposive sampling, the study identifies those extracts from the *Extinction of Menai* and *The Ghost of Sani Abacha* that exemplify religious hegemony. The selected religious passages from both texts stress the themes of exclusivity, institutional integration and national identity. For clarity each identified excerpt is assigned a reference number and a specific theme. Citations utilised the TEoM for the *Extinction of Menai* and TGoSA for *The Ghost of Sani Abacha* respectively, followed by the page number. The analytical approach remains consistent throughout beginning with SFL-based process analysis and culminating in Marxist critique contextualised within Nigeria's contemporary socio-political landscape.

Data Presentation and Analysis

The following analysis organises the data into numbered, thematic extracts to facilitate a systematic evaluation of the data in relation to religious hegemony. Each excerpt undergoes a dual investigative process: it begins with an identification and explanation of the grammatical agency within hegemonic discourse, followed by the exploration of these linguistic choices mirror power struggles inherent in contemporary Nigerian society. Table 1 and 2 complement this discussion, providing both frequency, distribution and the impact of these linguistic choices within the context of hegemony. By using the Menai as a microcosm of the broader Nigerian enclave, the study demonstrates how the localised struggles of the Menai reflect how the macro-level implications of hegemony permeate the Nigerian state. Ultimately, the texts reveal the subtle yet deep-rooted nature of religious hegemony. The following extracts interrogate state integration of western religion and traditional religion in pairs respectively.

Extract 1: State Integration of Western Religion

For a while, it had served him to sit down at prayer with the Muslim colonels and majors of his acquaintance. That time had long gone with their eviction from government. The president and his circles were now pretty Christian, but Qudus was loathe to strip himself of the alhaji title he had acquired at all cost, even if he had to put a prefix before it to fit into his new religion, and he certainly

was not going to break up his family. He did what he had to do and got on with business. (TEoM 359).

Transitivity, Modality, Lexicalisation and Marxism

In the sampled extract above, extract 1, Nwokolo uses of words like “had served”, “eviction” and “got on with business” convey a sense of pragmatism and adaptation for the likes of Qudus. This narrative paints a picture of politicians whose loyalty and ambition are always tilted in the direction of power and agency. The use of Dynamic Modality indicating necessity is clearly seen in the narrative above especially in the context of “he did what he had to do”. Words like “acquired at all cost” and “put a prefix” are all instances of strategic planning and identity management, but the phrase “the president and his circles were now pretty Christian” particularly points to religious configuration and the concentration of power and control.

This extract unveils a new dimension to the Marxist ideology that religion and political opportunism engage with the superstructure, showing how the ruling class (or those aspiring to power) manipulate ideological forms in order to maintain their economic and political position. Marxism sees religion (a non-economic base) as a significant part of the superstructure. Hence, the eviction of the Muslim military figures and the subsequent rise of “pretty Christian” president represents a fundamental shift in the ruling class’s superstructure/ideology which is indicative of a change of hegemony. Within this extract, religion is not a sincere belief system but a necessary ideological costume to facilitate business and guarantee access to state power. As a result, the bourgeoisies see religious and political allegiance as fluid and interchangeable elements of the superstructure to be opportunistically manipulated for the ultimate goal of advancing their base-level economic interests.

Extract 2: State Integration of Western Religion

Nobody knew exactly when the Whale arrived on the river beach but Pastor Deگو was halfway through his regular four-hour service when the news filtered into the church that Sunday morning. By then the carcass had suffered the attentions of five or six neighbouring villages for several hours and the prospect of missing out on this manna from the seas, which had so providentially swum all the way upriver to beach near their village thinned the hundred-strong congregation until the pastor was preaching to a die-hard core of the faithful. Then his own wife slipped away, and then there was such a run on his congregation that Deگو was forced to close the service (TGoSA 43)

Transitivity, Modality, Lexicalisation and Marxism

From the extract 2 above, the people’s defiance in the story of the *Whale* in *The Ghost of Sani Abacha* is a good example of textual irony as a possible case of religious hegemony; and therefore, it serves an illustration of counter resistance. To put it another way, the ironic depiction of scarcity in the midst of

abundance is also seen in the metaphor of the “Whale story”. The ideology of the people to salvage their own situation is brought to bear in this instance; hence, the Biblical account of Jonah and the whale and the negative antecedent of gluttony preached earlier from a service they have had could not deter them from their endeavour including the pastor’s wife herself. This narrative juxtaposes the story of the Biblical whale and the one that is washed ashore. There is a disconnect between the people’s perceived spirituality, and their actual action in real life. It must be stated that the underlying irony here is that this was once a flourishing community in the Niger Delta where fishing is a deep-rooted culture, but oil spills have eroded the livelihood of the people, and now they depend on “mana” from heaven.

Processes like “filtered” and “run on” and “thinned” reveal the agency of Deogo’s congregation and their priorities. Also, this narrative conveys the Epistemic Modality of Uncertainty in the expression “nobody knew exactly when the Whale arrived on the river beach” while the Epistemic Modality of Certainty is seen in the expression “by then the carcass had suffered the attentions of five or six neighbouring villages for several hours”. The use of the Deontic Modality of Ability is seen in the expression. Again, the Deontic Modality of Natural Possibility is seen in the expression, “the prospect of missing out on this manna from the seas, which had so providentially swum all the way upriver to beach near their village thinned the hundred-strong congregation”. This modality helps to explain the natural outcome of a situation. The use of words like “manna from the sea” and “providentially” help to indicate how opportunistic Deogo’s congregation are.

In extract 2, the counter-Marxist strategy here is the prioritisation of immediate material gain over ideological obedience. It illustrates the immediate collapse of a non-material structure (religion), when confronted with a compelling material resource (the beach whale carcass). In this context, the Marxist principle is demonstrated in reverse. This is because to the Marxist, “Religion is the opium of the masses”-an ideology used by the ruling class to pacify the exploited. One important key consideration is that though the purpose of their action is one, the decisions are not taken unanimously but unilaterally. This is the imprint of Marxism, stopping people from collective actions that could undermine capitalist’s interest. It must be reiterated that the thinning of the fish population is as result of the activities of corporate capitalist interest in the Niger area. This confirms that immediate self-interest and the scramble for scarcity remain powerful tools for preventing the collective organisation required for both sustained religious attendance, and more critically, sustained revolutionary action against the capitalist state.

Extract 3: State Integration of Traditional Religion

Then strange things began to happen, a stratosphere beneath him. Abe Araguna was appointed a ‘chief’ by a village nobody had ever heard of before. Phiri got the invitation to the coronation, like everyone else in the department.... He was now addressed, even by the D.G, with the differential moniker, *Chief*. This cause Phiri no little aggravation, especially when official circulars put out by the pool typists began to put the name Chief Dr. Abel Arauna above Dr. Phiri Bombai, contrary to protocol.... Phiri spent eight years on G.L 14. He was still there when Abe received the promotion that brought him level with his former mentor.... Even new entrants to the service quickly discovered that the best way to get ahead was to write brilliant memos for lucrative new committees, get Abe to sign them, and get appointed as deputy to Abe when his uncle approved it-as he inevitably did. That morning as Phiri stared at his face in the mirror of the senior service toilet, he realised, with a grieving spirit, that Chief Dr Abe Arauna was going to be the next D.G of the department. (TGoSA 225)

Transitivity, Modality, Lexicalisation and Marxism

Nwokolo, extract 3, shows how it is possible for the state to incorporate traditional religion, and how it can affect power dynamics even in civil service settings, initiating reforms and privileges. This extract shows how traditional religious power can convey a sense of power dynamics and patronage. In the narrative above, Abe is positioned as a beneficiary of traditional power structures, implying that traditional power can subvert existing power structures. No wonder, Abe’s traditional power coupled with his family political connections gave him an edge over others in his office. Dynamic Modality is depicted in this extract because it reveals what naturally happens when one is empowered both traditionally and politically. Nwokolo’s uses the appropriate of words to convey traditional engagements and power such as “Chief”, “coronation”, activating both the schemata of traditional power and prestige, and the topoi of traditional authority, showing how chieftaincy and patronage are sources of power.

Extract 3 is a reflection of the internal dynamics of the state bureaucracy and the role of patronage and class connection in securing power and privilege. Besides, Abe’s acquisition of the “Chief” title is an example of the cynical manipulation of symbolic capital. This title, a piece of pre-capitalist or traditional superstructure, is strategically co-opted and fused with modern professional credentials (Chief Dr Abe) to enhance his status and bypass bureaucratic protocol. This title eventually becomes the ideological tool to secure and control power. Abe’s rise to power is, however, not really tied to this inordinate coronation but to his capitalist’s class connection. Abe is a beneficiary of patronage, which is the direct exercise of power by the ruling class to secure “juicy” positions for their own members and

allies, regardless of merit. This extract demonstrates that the state bureaucracy is not a neutral arbiter but a mechanism through which the ruling class reproduces itself and advances its interests.

Extract 4: State integration of Traditional Religion

Chief visitors were Tagul elders. Tagul was fifteen miles south of Aafin, along the Sagiso river. It was the second, smaller town in Uguri District, but it had not produced a senator in the fifty years since the creation of the district. In the past, they had been content with cash apologies and future promises, but now they had viable prospect: an uppity businessman who drank hard and spoke loud, whose name was Gaius Deh. He had not formally announced for Senate though. He would not have dared without Chief's blessings. But they were going to be much more expensive to buy off this time (TGoSA 295).

Transitivity, Modality, Lexicalisation and Marxism

In the extract 4, Nwokolo depicts Tagu elders as people credited with traditional authority. They are instruments use for maintaining and influencing local power dynamics through their traditional influence. And since the contention in the extract is for the office of the Senate, Tagul elders are examples of the use of religion as an instrument of political hegemony. Processes like "produced" and "had been content" show how the Tagul elders represent the power dynamics and control; hence, they determine to a large extent who wins the office from their senatorial zone. The use of "elders" is used to depict respect, authority and tradition.

Nwokolo employs the use of the Epistemic Modality of Certainty in expressions like "But they were not going to be much more expensive to buy off this time"; the use of Dynamic Modality of Ability is seen the expression "to buy off this time" implying that they are kingmakers who have the ability to fulfil a politician's senatorial ambition. Deontic Modality of Permission can be applied in the case of Gaius. The elders have endorsed him this time as their candidate: "but now they had viable prospect: an uppity businessman".

This extract echoes the Marxist ideology of geographical class power, regional inequality and the negotiation of political access. From a Marxist perspective, capital and political power concentration in core areas (like Aafin), while peripheral areas (Tagul) are marginalised and often exist merely as sources of resources, labour or votes, receiving little investment or political representation in the process. This imbalance is necessary for the centre to maintain its dominance and extract value. The extract also shows that there could be conflicting capitalist's interests too as seen in the case of the Chief and Gaius. Nevertheless, while the former is seen as the larger political superstructure, Gaius is seen as a petty bourgeoisie (a small capitalist or trader) whose economic success gives him the means as well as the confidence to challenge the political status quo. The likes of Gaius are not to be taken for

granted within the capitalist system as he could pose a significant threat to the capitalist order. People like Gaius have the capitalist credentials to be lured into the inner circle, but most importantly, his candidacy is a depiction of class struggle and competition common in the political arena.

Words/Expressions that highlight religious hegemony

Underneath is a summary of the words that highlight religious hegemony from the data analysed thus far:

1. **“Muslim colonels and majors of his acquaintance”, “The president and his circles were now pretty Christian”, “alhaji title he had acquired at all cost”, and “he had to put a prefix before it to fit into his new religion”.** These expressions help to indicate religious dynamics in the context of power and control.

2: **“manna from the seas”, “providentially swum all the way upriver to beach near their village”, and “thinned the hundred-strong congregation”** showing the ironic intent of depicting a man-made disaster (oil pollution) against a once flourishing aquatic community.

3: **“was appointed a chief”, “with the differential moniker, Chief”, “official circulars put out by the pool typists began to put the name Chief Dr”** indicating how a traditional title can impact on one’s social status.

4: **“now they had viable prospect” and “they were going to be much more expensive to buy off this time”**, indicating the approval of traditional authority in the endorsing of candidates for political offices.

Table 1: SFL Processes

S/N	Material Process	Mental Process	Relational Process	Verbal Process	Behavioural Process	Existential Process
	“had served” (action/utilization) “eviction” (action/removal) “strip” (action/relinquishment) “break up”	“loathe” (emotional state/reluctance)	“was” (attribute/strate) – “The president and his circles were now pretty Christian” “had	Not explicitly stated	“fit” (behavioural adaptation) – “fit into his new religion”	Not explicitly stated

	(action/separation) “do” (action/adaptation) “got on” (action/progression)		acquired” (attribute/possession) –“the alhaji title he had acquired”			
	“arrived” “filtered” “suffered” “thinned” “slipped away” “close”	“Knew”	“was”	“preaching”	Not stated	Not stated
	“appointed” (action/recognition) “got” (action/receipt) –“got the invitation” “put” (action/presentation) - "put the name Chief Dr. Arauna" “spent” (action/duration) –“Phiri	“realised” ” (cognitive state/understanding) “grieving” ” (emotional state/distress)	“was” (attribute/state) – “Chief Dr. Abe Arauna was going to be the next D.G” “had” (attribute/possession) - implied in “his uncle”	“addressed” (verbal action/title usage)	Not explicitly stated	Not explicitly stated

<p>spent eight years” “discovered” (action/realization) - "new entrants discovered" “write” (action/strategy) - "write brilliant memos" “sign” (action/endorsement) - "get Abe to sign them" “stared” (action/reflection) –“Phiri stared at his face”</p>					
<p>“produced” (action/output) –“had not produced a senator” “announced” (action/declaration) –“had not formally announced”</p>	<p>Not explicitly stated</p>	<p>“was” (attribute/state) – “Tagul was fifteen miles south” “had” (attribute/possession) -</p>	<p>“spoke” (verbal action/communication) – “spoke loud”</p>	<p>Behavioural Process: “drank” (behavioural action/habit)</p>	<p>Not explicitly stated</p>

	“dared” (action/courage) –“would not have dared”		“they had viable prospect”			
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Table 2: SFL Processes

S/N	Participants	Circumstances	Modality
1	“Qudus” (individual/main character) “Muslim colonels and majors” (group/previous associates) “The president” (individual/authority figure)	“at prayer” (context/religious practice) “in his new religion” (context/religious affiliation)	“had to” (obligation/necessity) “certainly” (certainty/resolution)
2.	“Nobody” “Pastor Dego” “the congregation” “the faithful” “his own wife”	“on the river beach” (Location) “that Sunday morning” (Time) “for several hours” (Duration) “near their village” (Location)	“was forced to” obligation/necessity
3	“Abe Araguna” (individual/beneficiary) “Phiri” (individual/observer) “D.G” (individual/authority figure) “new entrants” (group/organizational actors) “uncle” (individual/influential figure)	“in the department” (context/organizational setting) “contrary to protocol” (context/rules and regulations)	“inevitably” (certainty/prediction)

4	“Chief” (individual/influential figure) “Tagul elders” (group/visitors) “Gaius Deh” (individual/potential candidate)	“inUguri District” (context/geographic location) “since the creation of the district” (context/historical background)	“would not have dared” (conditional/constraint) “were going to be” (future/prediction)
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Discussion of Findings

Within capitalist narratives, religion is seen in two ways: as a tool for maintaining social stability and control among the working class, and a framework of value that helps to sustain the “spirit of capitalism”. Thus, this article, through Nwokolo selected texts, depicts religion as a potent force and a state apparatus of power. This is suggestive that religion is used as a tool to maintain the dominant ideology and social order. By implication, it is not uncommon for certain religious beliefs to be the prevalent ideological bloc; and hence, a member of such a religion is guaranteed access to power, influence and privilege. Hence, it can be used to legitimise power structures, reinforce existing social norms and as an instrument of manipulation. He reechoes that religion is used as a tool for political maneuvering, and it can be used to shape state power and policies. Thus, even though Nigeria does not have a state religion, the influence of religion on state affairs is still as dominant as ever, including using religion to gain identity and gain political leverage especially on perceived political opponents who in most cases identify with another religion.

This paper suggests that religious hegemony can be achieved both through ideological force and consent. Invariably, some religious hegemonies are maintained through coercion, while others are maintained through persuasion and voluntary acceptance especially Western religions like Christianity and Islam. Consider these expressions, “For a while, it had served him to sit down at prayer with the Muslim colonels and majors of his acquaintance”, and “that time had long gone with their eviction from government. The president and his circles were now pretty Christian” (Extract 5). An expression like “but Qudus was loathe to strip himself of the alhaji title he had acquired at all cost, even if he had to put a prefix before it to fit into his new religion” shows that there is a nexus between religion and political ideology one that influences power dynamics, and political influence and relevance. This is expectedly so in the construct “at all cost” in extract 1.

The concept of changing one’s religion to maintain political power or remain politically relevant, in this

paper, is indicative of religious manipulation or political expediency. It involves exploiting religious beliefs for personal or political gain, and this potentially involves actions like conversion, public displays of faith, or aligning with religious factions. This is the point that Nwokolo tries to buttress in his texts. In a way, he suggests that politicians do not have a religion. Religion, for politicians, is dynamic, and considered as a means to an end, and not an end itself. It is not a constant belief system as the common man would like to believe but a tool of political alignment. For the politician, it especially paves the way to the corridors of power.

Furthermore, in the sample extract, expressions like “for a while, it had served him to sit down at prayer with the Muslim colonels and majors of his acquaintance. That time had long gone with their eviction from government”, shows that timing is crucial in capitalist narrative. Thus, timing is a strong determinant for either power or capitalist accumulation. It plays both a crucial and pervasive role, and ultimately influencing nearly every aspect of individual, cooperate or political decision which is the emphasis in this paper. The agency of control and power know that for their guaranteed political survival, capitalist actors need to act within specific time corridors or become irrelevant. This is clearly seen in the case of Qudus. Therefore, time is not just a logical requirement but also a structural necessity.

Again, the commercialisation of religion is seen as a common place in capitalist orientation. Qudus dramatically changed his religious allegiance because “he had to do and got on with business”. One other thing that is clearly seen in extract 1 is the lack of “mass consciousness” among the people. While there is shared mass suffering, there is the absence of shared economic interests giving the false impression that the pressures of capitalism in the Niger Delta are not seen as political problems to be solved collectively but as personal issues to be endured.

In extract 3, the inevitable presence of nepotism in the polity of Nigeria especially within the Nigerian civil service is disturbing. As usual, the intersection between nepotism and class struggle create a lopsided manifestation of power. While capitalism theoretically promises meritocracy (the best person gets the job), nepotism acts as a pre-capitalist or “feudal residue” where elite families maintain control over the state apparatus, hindering the upward mobility of the working class. In extract 4 also, traditional institutions continue to act as catalyst for the reproduction of the capitalist order. While doing so, the traditional elite accumulate wealth not through industrial production but through rent-seeking that is collecting money for access to land and political resources from their political principals. This creates a specific form of class struggle within traditional territories.

Conclusion

This paper has demonstrated how the fusion between Western and traditional religious structures-bolstered by state power-engineers a pervasive religious hegemony in contemporary Nigeria. Through a Critical Discourse Analysis of Chuma Nwokolo's *The Ghost of Sani Abacha* and *The Extinction of the Menai*, the study illustrated how this dominance was maintained via the strategic commercialisation of sacred institutions, the fluidity of high-stakes religious alliances, and the entrenchment of state-sanctioned nepotism. Specifically, politicians in the novel navigated both the church and the traditional system while using the former for political leverage, and the latter for deep cultural authority. By implication, the study unveiled the dual control strategy deployed by politicians to harness the means of production within the state. This alliance leaves little room for secular dissent or alternative spiritualities, validating the state's right to rule.

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Mid-Day Meal Scheme: A Study of Schools of Mungiakami Block of Khowai District, Tripura

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ABSTRACT

The Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) functions as a crucial initiative aimed at enhancing nutrition levels among students and improving their attendance, especially in rural areas of India. This study examines the effectiveness and challenges associated with MDMS functioning at schools within Mungiakami Block, located at Khowai, District, Tripura. The study is a descriptive survey design that utilized a combination of methods to obtain information from both primary and secondary sources, From government records and past studies. In this study, the researcher made use of descriptive statistics, among others, to carry out its data analysis process. For this study, the researcher made use of a self-administered questionnaire. Findings from the study indicate that MDMS brings forth a considerable improvement in nutritional values and student participation but faces different functional challenges. The educational setting also increases the workload of the teachers and interrupts the distribution of food and the infrastructure of storage and unpredictable funding. Statistical analysis reveals huge gap between the level of satisfaction among teachers and the efficiency of infrastructure. The suggested policies should concentrate on upgrading the-infrastructure and monitoring and transparency level. The program should also tackle such aspects to ensure sustainability and longevity of the scheme. The study must look at the impact of the MDMS programs between different districts through joint evaluations of study results. The working structure of MDMS and its allocation of resources also requires improvement to meet its full potential for improving the well-being and performance of the students. Thus, this research study sums up that mid-day meal programs are successful in the state of Tripura. This study is potential for uses in the fields of policymakers and teachers and parents and social organizations.

Keywords: Mid-Day Meal, Primary School, Mungiakami Block, Tripura.

Introduction

In today's technological environment, education is essential for survival and continuous success. The process helps one to overcome challenges and advance personally as well as collectively by means of knowledge, abilities, and wisdom. Since it sets the fundamental foundation of knowledge, children's contributions are thought to be indispensable for primary schooling. This is a most important period when children's general growth depends so much on nutrition and education. The government-started mid-day-meal seeks to offer nutritious food to the next generation all over India. One case of such a project is the midday meal. Lunch is served to all the youngsters registered in government schools, government-aided schools, and local body schools. This project decided to give every primary school children's packed lunch. With almost a million children targeted for health needs every day in the nation (Rani & Sharma, 2017), the Mid-Day Meal Scheme is the biggest children-feeding program worldwide. The afternoon meal plan was initiated in India on August 15, 1995, with a title of National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP-NSPE) (Deka, 2021). In October 2007, In October 2007, the National Program of Midday Meals in Schools was renamed. Also, in September 2021, this program was renamed as Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM-POSHAN). The government of Tripura started the mid-day-meal scheme on March 1, 1980, for students enrolled in government as well as government-aided schools (Nath & Nath, 2015). The mid-day meal scheme was initiated by the government of Tripura on August 15, 1995. Since 2003, the government of Tripura started providing midday meals to all primary-level kids. Since 2008, the government has been extending this scheme to upper-primary kids too (Bala Bhaskar, 2022). The menu for the noon meal for kids in Tripura consists of rice & vegetable curry, which is served two days a week. a) Rice & egg curry b) Khichudi, once a week. c) Rice & vegetable curry, or khichudi, once a week (Saturday).

The mid-day meal scheme encourages students to attend school regularly and improves the attendance of the children. But the scheme alone cannot flourish properly because of the lack of proper monitoring by the higher authorities and inadequate practical implementation of the scheme. Many research works are conducted regarding the MDM scheme in Tripura, but no work has been done on the MDM scheme in Mungiakami block under Khowai district itself. So, there is needed a depth research work on the mid-day meal in Mungiakami block of Tripura. The present study examines the Mid-Day Meal scheme in the Mungiakami block of Khowai District, Tripura, with special reference to infrastructure, enrolment, and functionality of the programme. It aims at assessing the impact of the MDM scheme in lower and

upper primary schools and also finds obstacles that school managers confronted in the execution of the said programme and their recommendations (Rani et al., 2024; Deka, 2022).

Literature Review

1. **Singh (2016)** conducted a study in the selected villages of the Dharwad district, Karnataka, and the Jhansi district, Uttar Pradesh. The size of the sample consisted of 200 teachers in the mid-day meal scheme. Data collected is primary. This final section of the study introduces improvements for the proper execution of the scheme, which includes training teachers and staff as well as cook, giving awareness, making media, giving utmost importance to toilets, and raising the honorarium amount for the cooks.
2. **Kumar and Metha (2019)** in his study aims to discover powerful, hidden agenda and practices of discrimination that adversely affect children's ability to learn, grow, and become confident young people. The study concludes by highlighting the need to see a comprehensive approach to address social discrimination in schools.
3. **Jalal and Sareen (2019)** In his paper it is mentioned that 66.7% have to do the work whenever the helper is absent the teacher has to step in the role of cooking which reduces the teaching times also gives teacher etc. burden to carry.
4. **Singh (2020)** In his study he used a multistage sampling technique to collect data from 20 municipal corporations of Delhi. The findings indicate a significant increase in enrollment in schools after the scheme was implemented, particularly among disadvantaged groups. As well as among children groups belonging from scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.
5. **Biswas (2020)** his study reveals that it is appropriate and significant in the context of inclusive education in connection to the current provision of mid-day meals in different districts of Tripura. His study focuses on to investigate the social developmental features of the MDM plan in Government Primary Schools of Tripura. The researcher conducted this study by collecting and analyzing primary data, and from secondary sources, to study and encourage the mid-day meal plan on the social development of children.
6. **Dowarah (2020)** His paper focus to promote higher enrolment in primary schools and to decrease the classroom hunger, socialization, and drop-out rates of the students which we can see in the village areas that students tend to not attend the school. His study shows that maximum schools are provided with cooked hot milk; 72.50% of schools received food grains in their doorsteps, 70% of schools reported delays in the arrival of food ration, 55% funds were

received on time, 75% of the schools had kitchens, 92% of the schools had drinking water, and 87.5% of schools had cooks. The problems identified in this study are irregular food supply, food not stored properly, lack of dish space in the dining hall, and they have etc. workload for teachers.

7. **Bhaskar (2022)** In his study of Siddipet District is taken into consideration. This research uses purposive and random sampling, data has been collected from a sample of 640 respondents consisting of teachers, students, parents, and cooks across two mandalas in the Siddipet district. The mid-day meal programme has a positive effect on the students as mentioned in his study.
8. **Deka (2022)** His study aims to identify problems and suggest solution to improve the schemes implementation. The research highlights the challenges faced by teachers including time wastage, increased workload, lack of storage facilities, insufficient fund, delays in fund receipts inadequate infrastructure, poor hygiene, and insufficient nutritional content. Due to lack of knowledge all this issue occurs.
9. **Shanker and Arora (2022)** in their study aims to assess and evaluate the physical health status of boys living in countryside and urban areas. 2. To assess and contrast the physical well-being of girls residing in countryside and urban areas. 3. To examine the nutritional well-being of children residing in rural and urban areas. A cross-sectional study was carried out on 509 youngsters who routinely consume MDM. Anthropometric measurements of height, weight, and mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) were taken and compared to the reference values provided by ICMR. The population in this specific research study consists of all children between the ages of 6 and 11 who are enrolled in primary schools regulated by the U.P. Government. For the experiment, a total of 509 subjects were selected. A total of 263 boys and 246 girls were chosen using a random sampling method.

Objectives

1. To study the MDMS in various Schools in Mungiakami Block.
2. To examine the difficulties educators faced in practicing the Mid Day Meal Programme.
3. To suggest suggestions for enhancing the effectiveness associated with the Mid Day Meal Programme.

Statement of the Problem

The specific issue addressed in this work is “Challenges Encountered by Teachers in Executing the Mid-day Meal Programme at the Primary School Level in Mungiakami Block of Tripura.”

Methodology of the Study

Study Area

Tripura is a state located in the northeastern region of India. With an area of 10,491 km² (4,051 sq mi), it is the third-smallest state in the country. Additionally, it has a population of 3.67 million, making it the seventh-least populous state. Tripura is comprised of 8 districts. The study was carried out in Tripura's Khowai district. According to the 2011 census, there were 327,564 people living in the Khowai district. Khowai's literacy rate is 88.37%. Khowai, Padmabil, Tulashikhar, Kalyanpur, Teliamura, and Mungiakami are the six blocks that make up the Khowai district. The Mungiakami block is selected for the research out of the six blocks. 21 school have been chosen using random selection, were chosen using a random sample technique. The implementation of mid-day-meal was determined by asking questions that required a simple 'yes' or 'no' response.

Research Design

The research design uses descriptive survey methods to evaluate the MDMS implementation process and its barriers in schools of Mungiakami Block within Khowai District in Tripura. The research evaluates the operational structure together with nutritional results and the barriers teachers encounter when implementing the program at educational institutions.

Data Collection

The research makes use of a mix of primary and secondary resources. The headmasters of the schools provided the majority of the data. Data is gathered via self-administered questionnaires. The sources of the secondary data collection were Government reports, policy documents, and educational department publications on MDMS in Tripura. The research includes MDMS implementation case studies and articles regarding different districts throughout India. The findings is based on the official statistics of the Directorate of Elementary Education, Tripura, in combination with the official Mid-Day Meal Scheme reports.

Data Analysis

Data analysis used a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods.

- Descriptive Statistics: Percentage analysis was employed as an interpretation technique by responses to the questionnaire to determine key patterns of implementation.
- Content Analysis: They reveal common challenges and insights for MDMS.

Result and Findings

Mungiakami has several schools, ranging from pre-primary to primary, secondary to higher learning secondary schools. In order to evaluate the status of the scheme's implementation in food preparation, distribution, and service to children in the Mungiakami block, several variables have been identified. During the survey, it was noticed that all the schools sampled a follow mid-day meal weekly suggested menu, which is suggested to follow all schools. The person in charge of the school was discussing about the scheme whenever there was program, he mentions inclusion of meat the menu. As stated in the guidelines, they prepare and provide hot lunch daily without fail. (Acharya et al., 2024). This study examined perspectives of teachers regarding the implementation of the Mid-Day Meal Scheme in education institutions. Teachers provided their responses through a structured questionnaire that contained sixteen statements about operational aspects and infrastructure and motivational elements of the scheme. The study shows how the teacher's face the difficulties on the ground level (Hussain & Saif, 2019).

Table 1: Survey Response Analysis of Mid-Day Meal Scheme Implementation

Sl. No.	Statement	Yes	%	No	%	Maybe	%
1	Is mid-day meal served every day in the school	21	100%	0	0%	-	-
2	Teachers have challenges in implementing the mid-day meal Scheme.	12	57.1%	9	42.9%	-	-
3	Does the midday meal Programme have any impact on education?	12	57.1%	5	23.8%	4	19%
4	Do the governmental inspectors come to examine mid-day meal?	19	90.5%	2	9.5%	0	0
5	The government provides timely funding for running the programme.	16	76.2%	5	23.8%	-	-
6	The midday meal is prepared by the cook.	21	100%	0	0%	-	-

7	Do teachers have any involvement in the cooking process?	13	61.9%	8	38.1%	-	-
8	Under the mid-day meal scheme, the cook receives a sufficient salary, which motivates them to provide service.	11	52.4%	10	47.6%	-	-
9	The school maintains a kitchen for the cooking of midday meals.	21	100%	0	0%	-	-
10	There are enough utensils for the midday meal.	18	85.7%	3	14.3%	-	-
11	Cooking fuel is easily available.	15	71.4%	6	28.6%	-	-
12	Proper water facilities are available.	18	85.7%	3	14.3%	-	-
13	The school offers children access to handwashing facilities both prior to and during the mid-day meal.	21	100%	0	0%	-	-
14	Does the MDM system serve as a motivation for parents to enroll their children in school?	17	81%	0	0%	4	19%
15	Are you in favor keeping the midday meal at the school?	21	100%	0	0%	-	-
16	Have you ever received training for a midday meal?	8	38.1%	13	61.9%	-	-

The majority of participants (57.1%) experienced difficulties when executing the scheme. The MDM Scheme operates in the studied schools but multiple administrative and logistical and infrastructural barriers prevent it from running smoothly. The MDM scheme delivers positive educational effects according to 57.1% of the participants (Mirajkar, 2019). Teachers recognise the MDM as a valuable contributor to improving student enrollment and retention and concentration despite implementation challenges. The survey shows that governmental monitoring takes place regularly since 90.5% of respondents experienced inspector visits. Quality maintenance and proper meal delivery according to guidelines depend on regular monitoring activities. All teachers reported that the government supplies

timely budget support for the scheme and that appointed cooks prepare the meals (Jafari & Zahra, 2023). The financial and human resource structure supports daily operations of the scheme based on these responses. However, teacher involvement in the meal preparation process displayed 61.9% reported some level of involvement, while the other 38.1% indicated no involvement. This suggests inconsistency in role expectations or a lack of standard operational guidelines across schools (Jomaa et al., 2011).

The cook remuneration question was also divided, with 52.4 per cent feeling the salary was adequate and motivating, while the remaining 47.6 percent were against it. This suggests that either the salary scale itself or its perceived adequacy is unequal and could adversely affect the quality and commitments of the cooking staff. In the study conducted for teachers, 85.7% agreed that school has possess enough utensils to prepare and serve the meals. Teacher response to the question on the availability of fuel had 71.4% agreeing and 28.6% disagreeing. The variation in the data of 100% answering "Yes" against 0% answering "No" appears to be a data recording or interpretation anomaly. This definitely needs further clarification in any future studies (Mirajkar, 2019). The result showed the lack of proper water facilities as a more serious concern in the aspects observed. A majority, 14.3% of respondents showed that their area lacked adequate water resources though 85.7% represented in favor. The shortage of proper water facilities presents a major concern because clean water plays critical functions in both cooking and hygiene practices necessary in halting foodborne diseases among children (Paltasingh & Bhue, 2022).

The Mid-Day-Meal Scheme encourages parents to for admission of their children to school, as observed by 81% of the total respondents surveyed. All participants believe that MDM has better result and keep the scheme intact since it was a part of educational inclusion. The major indicator shows that most schools don't have storage for food. Only eight teachers that is 38.1% of the teachers participating in the study, were involved in training regarding the proposed scheme. One of the problems during implementation of a proposed scheme is the lack of adequate training exposure among staff members since staff members will lack vital information concerning hygiene practices and standards as well as procedures (Pal et al., 2024). According to the report, the Mid-Day Meal Scheme has a strong support to keep the scheme as it is, as the school feels that the Mid-Day Meal Scheme is beneficial to the school in the sense that the students are attending the school regularly and have increased the attendance, while the infrastructure is weak in terms of the intervention (Sripathi et al., 2023). The need is to present

design the posts and salaries of the cook as well as training for all the workforce(Ratala et al., 2023), to enable the program to give positive effect by addressing the above shortcomings.

Conclusion and Suggestion

The Mid-day meal scheme is a welfare scheme by the central government of India for the nutritional improvement of the students of pre -primary and primary schools aiming to improve attendance of students in schools. Based on the study it was found that various suggestion was given for teachers to improve the implementation of the Mid-day Meal Scheme, including timely fund transfers, regular food monitoring, ensuring hygiene, using fuel instead of wood, increasing cook salaries and training them. The research results demonstrate how the MDM Scheme serves as a vital instrument for improving nutrition and school attendance and educational achievements in pre-primary schools of Mungiakami Block under Khowai District. The study shows the positive achievement as well as the implementation obstacles which stem from teacher workload issues and insufficient resources and poor infrastructure. The study demonstrated that students participate well in nutritional programs because dietary standards show positive improvements. The scheme faces major obstacles like inadequate infrastructure together with inconsistent food delivery and inadequate storage facilities. The scheme experiences some operational challenges which affect the effectiveness of food supply to the students. The statistics have been confirmed by the significant teacher dissatisfaction that needs further training and support. Operational challenges have been experienced in the scheme due to funding irregularities the teacher in charge have etc burden financially. The MDMS needs some policy interventions that aim at improving the infrastructure within the schools. Increased funding for staff training programs will be beneficial for smooth running of the scheme. Further research is required to analyze the long-term impact of the MDMS scheme with respect to students' health status and performance. The impact assessment studies relating to various districts can provide insights to maximize the implementation process for this scheme. The MDM Scheme exerts a positive impact on students within the Mungiakami Block but some improvements are required.

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Financial Sector Development, Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction in Nigeria: A VAR Analysis

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ABSTRACT

The paper examines the relationship among poverty, financial sector development and economic growth in Nigeria between 1986 and 2023. The data are sourced from World Bank's World Development Indicator (WDI, 2023) and an Impulse Response Function (IRF) is estimated from the Vector Autoregressive (VAR) models to determine the mechanism through which poverty, financial sector development and economic growth respond to shocks. The results reveal that financial sector development exhibits a direct causal link to poverty reduction in Nigeria. It is also found out that the financial sector development necessitates a rise in poverty level and vice versa while shocks to GDP are found to have little or no effect on the poverty level. It is recommended that more access to finance should be broadened as this will increase the productive capacity level and lift many people out of poverty.

Keywords: Poverty, Financial Sector Development Economic Growth, Impulse Response Function, Nigeria

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Finance has been identified as the underlying requirement for input factor in economic development and as well an engine of growth in any economy (Agyemang, 2020). In developing economies like Nigeria which is in a hurry to develop despite challenges, much attention is therefore, placed on the development of financial sector towards reducing poverty by mobilizing sufficient funds for economic growth (Okonji, Nnadi and Igbanugo, 2018). The global financial crisis of 2007 caught many economies of the world unaware and thus inflicted severe distressing impact on the economic trajectories of most

countries and most prominently global financial systems. The phenomenon led both policy makers and academics in financial sector to go back to drawing board with the purpose of actualising short, medium as well as long term financial stability in the banking system in order to prevent future calamity. Specifically, it was time to commence instantaneous review of the consolidation reform programmes of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), before the attendant financial instability on the Nigerian economy that may be necessitated by the global crisis.

The growing interest in the sector's activities may be due to lingering global financial crisis especially in the mid-20 century as well as the role played by the financial market plays in the economy. According to World Bank (2005), the financial sector is a crucial sector of any economy, affecting its business environment, investment, economic prospects, and social dimensions, including poverty. Therefore, vulnerabilities in the financial sector, often lead to financial crises, economic downturns, and fiscal costs (Adediran, Oduntan and Matthew, 2018). The extent to which the sector is developed and managed determines the level of impacts it has on the economy (Ajakaiye and Tella, 2019) According to Arno, (2020), the availability and efficient uses of a nation's financial resources are evident in its effects on the real sectors and manifests in major macroeconomic performance indicators such as real GDP growth, inflation, employment rate and level of poverty in the economy.

Although a large number of empirical studies such as Benjamin, (2017); Khan, Khan, Ahmad and Siraj, (2018) and Dhrifi, (2020) have pointed out that financial development results in faster average growth with welfare implications. The findings of these studies did not determine whether the financial sector development benefits the population equally or disproportionately. Also, the empirical findings of Clarke, Xu and Fou, (2017) and Olusola and Yinusa, (2019) imply that once there is growth it could have an impact on the whole economy. But economists are of the view that an inclusive growth is for welfare improvement and that growth is not all that matters (Fields, 2001). In addition, despite the perceived improvements in the financial sector, the sector is still punctuated with cases of under-performance. A significant proportion of credit transactions still take place in the informal markets, despite governments efforts aimed at channeling credit to the productive sector through the deposit money banks (Rewilak, 2017). Therefore, optimal access to financial services towards poverty reduction is crucial for welfare improvement.

The effects of the prevailing regulations on the financial structure which dominates the financial sector

system are not only relevant to the present but also to the future stability of the financial system which is indeed required for attaining financial inclusion as well as inclusive economic growth. This study, therefore, intends to examine the possible trade-off between financial sector development and poverty reduction in Nigeria with a view to highlighting implications for inclusive growth.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

The concept of 'inclusive growth' has not been unanimously defined in the literature as a result of the evolutionary dimension of growth. For instance, Shahbaz and Islam, (2013) was of the view that inclusive growth is another term for Pro-poor growth. Also, a popular definition is that Inclusive growth is an absolute reduction in poverty associated with the creation of productive employment (which accommodates both the pace and pattern of growth) rather than direct income distribution schemes (Clarke, Xu, and Fou, 2017). Thus, for inclusive growth to be achieved, the economic growth - income distribution relation needs to be investigated, and this is against Pro-poor growth which is a function of growth-poverty nexus without any recourse to the distribution pattern. In effect, inclusive growth is an ex-ante analysis of the growth generating process fused with outcomes of generated growth while pro-poor growth is only an ex-post analysis of the outcomes of growth generated (Uddi, Shahbaz, Arouri, and Teulon 2014). The implication of this argument is that a robust inclusive growth strategy will complement policies to stimulate economic growth by fostering equality of opportunity, alongside a social security net to protect the most vulnerable.

The lingering vulnerability of Nigerian financial sector has characterized it by relative fragility and instability as evidenced by Okonji, Nnadi and Igbunugo, (2018) that investigated financial depth as an instrument of financial sector development. It was revealed that financial depth and stability measures confer positive effect on economic growth while private sector credit and lending - deposit spread maintain negative effects on economic growth. This is an indication that apart from access to financial services, other financial development indicators also have negative effects on economic growth. By implication, that financial sector development could improve economic welfare. Thus, the strength of financial sector to guarantee augmented private sector access to financial services such as bank credit creates an avenue for improving macroeconomic performance of an economy.

Improving the macroeconomic performance of the largest economy in Africa is a singular duty of government. Ajakaiye and Tella, (2019) investigated the potential trade-off between financial sector regulation and financial stability in Nigeria. The results showed that the 2004 consolidation and the

2009 post-consolidation reforms relied on instability in the banking sector as a result of fundamental regulatory framework and regulations gaps as well as inordinate administration and implementation of regulations and instability triggered by capital flows.

The involvement of government (as a regulatory institution) in confirming the suitable level of financial broadening through the Central Bank operations has yielded positive effect on growth. The study of Olusola and Yinusa, (2019) investigated the relationship between financial development and inclusive growth in Nigeria and found that the impact of financial development on inclusive growth depends on the measure of the former up to the threshold level and not beyond. Though, it was discovered that trade openness and capital investment are desirable for inclusive growth in Nigeria, the results also revealed that government participation in the economy as well as financial openness are germane to the financial development trajectories. It was concluded financial deepening and financial widening have negative and positive effects on inclusive growth respectively.

In view of a critical research question of what necessary adjustments to the growth process are to ensure inclusive development, the study of Arno, (2020) investigated the concept of inclusive growth from different perspectives and examined the challenges and policy priorities in Africa. Certain relevant components of inclusive growth were identified with a view to overcoming the broad-based challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality in the region. It was found out that inclusive growth was influential in enhancing Africa's economic inclusivity. It was also a pivot for sustainable development despite growing population rates. Moreover, the rate of inequality in developing nations was alarming and Uddi, Shahbaz, Arouri, and Teulon, (2014) examine the nexus between financial development and poverty reduction in Bangladesh between the period 1995 and 2012. The findings of the study revealed that growth is weakly accelerated by financial development and poverty reduction. The implication of the findings is that weakling financial development and increased poverty retarded economic growth.

The comparative inequality existing between financial development and the growth was investigated by Dhrifi, (2020) and the study showed that financial development resulted in poverty reduction but could not reduce income inequality. Similarly, an examination of the impact of financial development on poverty was carried out by Benjamin (2017) among the randomly selected developing countries of the world and results revealed that financial development reduced poverty; both directly and indirectly but could not reduce income inequality. On the contrary, Khan, Khan, Ahmad and Siraj, (2018) found out

that financial development reduced inter-gender inequalities and reduces poverty

Financial development itself is a multifaceted concept which constitutes an important mechanism for long-term economic growth. Adediran, Oduntanand, Matthew (2018) discovered that short-run outgrew long-run growth together with various exogenous influences could have triggered economic instability in Nigeria. Thus, efforts to moderate these fluctuations by successive administration have resorted into adopting various economic policy measures such as Stabilization Policy(1981- 1983), Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP,1986-1992); Medium Term Economic Strategy, 1993-1998 and the Economic Reforms 1999-2007, with the hope that such policy actions could engender economic growth in the long run. The study found out that ineffective fund allocation especially to the productive sectors and decline in domestic credit to the private sector frustrated the expected inclusive growth phenomenon in the country. The required level of financial development sector for growth to be inclusive has now become a source of great concern.

The relationship among financial development, economic growth and poverty reduction in selected African countries was examined by Yaya, (2017). The selected countries are Benin, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, South Africa and Nigeria, Senegal. The results showed evidence of long-run relationship among the variables. The GDP and financial deepening of the selected countries were found to have significant positive impact on poverty reduction. It was also revealed that bidirectional long run causality ran from economic growth to poverty reduction and vice versa in Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon and South Africa. Similarly, bidirectional long run causality was found to exist between finance and poverty reduction in Benin, Cameroon and South Africa. The implication of the findings is that policies targeting increasing economic growth and improving access to credit would reduce poverty. Also measures to reduce poverty would lead to economic growth and financial deepening in these countries.

Sequel to recent aggressive policies targeting increasing economic growth and improving access to credit with the aim of reducing poverty, the financial sector, economic growth and poverty reduction relation becomes a topical issue among researchers and policymakers. This emanated from the discrepancies between theory and the results of practical policy implementation regarding the interplay of these variables continue to linger on. Hypothetically, the financial sector has a significant positive relationship with economic growth through the provision of financial resources to the factors of

production. This is with the aim of motivating real output production, rising job opportunities and drastically reducing the levels of poverty.

Though, poverty rate in Indonesia has been declining in recent years, and in order to achieve poverty reduction target within the stipulated period, Sovia, Shabri and Aliasuddin, (2018) examined the link between financial sector development and poverty reduction in Indonesia. It was revealed that longrun relationship was found to exist among financial development, economic growth and poverty reduction in Indonesia. The findings of the study established unidirectional causality from the financial sector to poverty reduction while a bi-directional causality between economic growth and poverty reduction was also found.

Poverty is not only a cause of humanity poverty but also a state of disadvantaged economic resources and therefore associated with negative social consequences. This is in line with the work of Sin-Yu and Bernard, (2018) which examined the finance-growth-poverty nexus in Ghana during the period 1960 to 2015. The study found out that growth of financial development led to economic growth, which in turn resulted in poverty reduction.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

Model Specification

The model depicting the relationship among financial sector development, inclusive growth and poverty reduction in selected ECOWAS countries is hereby specified in this study. A poor man is the one who is unable to command necessary resources to satisfy basic needs. Following the modification of the work of Agyemang, (2020) and by assuming that these basic human needs are function of both financial sector development and economic growth, then poverty reduction function can be specified in a Cobb-Douglas form as

$$POV = \beta_0 (FSD^\alpha GDP^\theta) \quad 1$$

Where, POV is poverty reduction variable, FSD stands for financial sector development [measured by Domestic credit to private sector (% of GDP)], GDP is a proxy for economic growth, α and θ are the degrees of elasticity of poverty reduction and β_0 is a constant whose value is an estimate of the subsistence level of poverty.

POV_t is the multi-dimensional poverty index of country at time t , FSD_t is the level of financial sector development of country at time t , GDP_t is the proxy for measuring economic growth of country at time

t , and ε_i is the error term.

The logarithmic transformation of equation (2) above is specified as

$$\ln POV_t = \beta_0 + \alpha \ln FSD_t + \theta \ln GDP + \varepsilon_{it} \quad 2$$

It can equally be maintained that equation (2) could be modified as a dynamic model to permit for some degree of persistence in the data generating process. For illustration, the whole essence of Poverty Impact Assessment (PovIA) is the use of financial sector development as a tool of reducing poverty in developing nations.

To supersede the necessity for structural modelling by considering endogenous variables in the system as a function of the lagged values of all endogenous variables in the system, the direction of causality among financial development, economic growth and poverty reduction in Nigeria were captured by the models stated as below

$$\ln POV_{it} = \delta_0 + \sum_{j=1}^k \delta_1 \ln POV_{it-1} + \sum_{j=1}^k \delta_2 \ln FSD_{it-1} + \sum_{j=1}^k \delta_3 \ln GDP_{it-1} + \varepsilon_{1it} \quad 3$$

$$\ln FSD_{it} = \alpha_0 + \sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_1 \ln FSD_{it-1} + \sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_2 \ln GDP_{it-1} + \sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_3 \ln POV_{it-1} + \varepsilon_{21it} \quad 4$$

$$\ln GDP_{it} = \gamma_0 + \sum_{j=1}^k \gamma_1 \ln GDP_{it-1} + \sum_{j=1}^k \gamma_2 \ln FSD_{it-1} + \sum_{j=1}^k \gamma_3 \ln POV_{it-1} + \varepsilon_{31it} \quad 5$$

Where K signifies the optimal lag length chosen by the various lag length selection criteria while the stability of the variables through appropriate panel unit root techniques were equally determined.

4.0 RESULTS

Unit Root Test

An Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) unit root test was conducted to determine the stationarity or otherwise of the variables used in this study and the results are presented in the Table 1.

Table 1: ADF Unit Root Test Results

Variable	ADF Statistic	p-value
FSD	-3.5495	0.0068
GDP	-4.1290	0.0009
POV	-5.3745	0.0000

Source: Authors' estimation

From Table 1, the results show that financial sector development (FSD) has an ADF statistic of -3.5495 with a p-value of 0.0068. Then, the p-value is less than 0.05, representing the null hypothesis of no unit root is rejected and therefore, the inflation rate series is stationary. Again, GDP growth rate (GDP) has an ADF statistic of -4.1290 with a p-value of 0.0009. Likewise, the p-value is less than 0.05, indicating that the GDP growth rate series is also stationary. Also, poverty level (POV) has an ADF statistic of -5.3745 with a p-value of 0.0000. The p-value is significantly less than 0.05, indicating that the poverty level series is stationary. Therefore, all the variables are stationary and by implication they all have long run relationship.

The VAR results are shown in Table 1 below. It should be noted that the results of standard errors are in () while that of t-statistics are in [].

Table 2: Vector Autoregression Estimates

	FSD	GDP	POV
FSD(-1)	1.174841 (0.17541) [6.69755]	5.53520 (14.5756) [2.43799]	-0.005200 (0.01287) [-0.40399]
GDP(-1)	0.000770 (0.00206) [0.37451]	0.951472 (0.17087) [5.56835]	-0.000111 (0.00015) [-0.73497]
POV(-1)	2.104249 (2.55115) [0.82482]	4.8891 (211.983) [0.96654]	0.571266 (0.18720) [3.05163]
C	1.127633 (1.46095) [0.77185]	-7.0053 (1.395) [-2.69374]	0.153142 (0.10720) [1.42853]
R-squared	0.784540	0.968248	0.387382
Adj. R-squared	0.738370	0.961444	0.256106

Source: Author's Estimation

The results show a positive correlation among the lagged values of all endogenous variables, for instance, lagged value of financial sector development {FSD (-1)} has a positive correlation with current values of FSD, likewise lagged value of economic growth {GDP (-1)} has a positive correlation with current values of GDP and lagged value of poverty rate {POV (-1)} maintains a positive correlation with current values of POV. Conversely, variables FSD (-1) and GDP (-1) maintain negative relationship with POV while previous value of poverty POV (-1) influences the current poverty level (POV) positively.

Impulse Response Analysis

The study examines the relationship among poverty, financial sector development and economic growth in Nigeria between 1986 and 2023. For investigating the effects of shocks on the variables used in the paper, the Impulse Response Function (IRF) is estimated from the Vector Autoregressive (VAR) models. This is a process to determine the channel through which poverty, financial sector development and economic growth respond to shocks. The IRF is plotted on the Y-axis while the shock lies on the X-axis. The interpretation here relies more heavily on the signs of the estimate because the magnitude shows the statistical influence while the signs provide the desired economic effect.

To achieve the objective of this study, the policy variables were positioned first and then the target variables. Hypothetically, the policy variables impact the target variables contemporaneously, while the target variables are found to affect the policy variables through the system. Therefore, the systemic ordering is gross domestic product financial sector development (FSD), economic growth (GDP) and poverty (POV). The graphs of impulse response functions are shown in Figure 1 below.

Response to Cholesky One S.D. (d.f. adjusted) Innovations

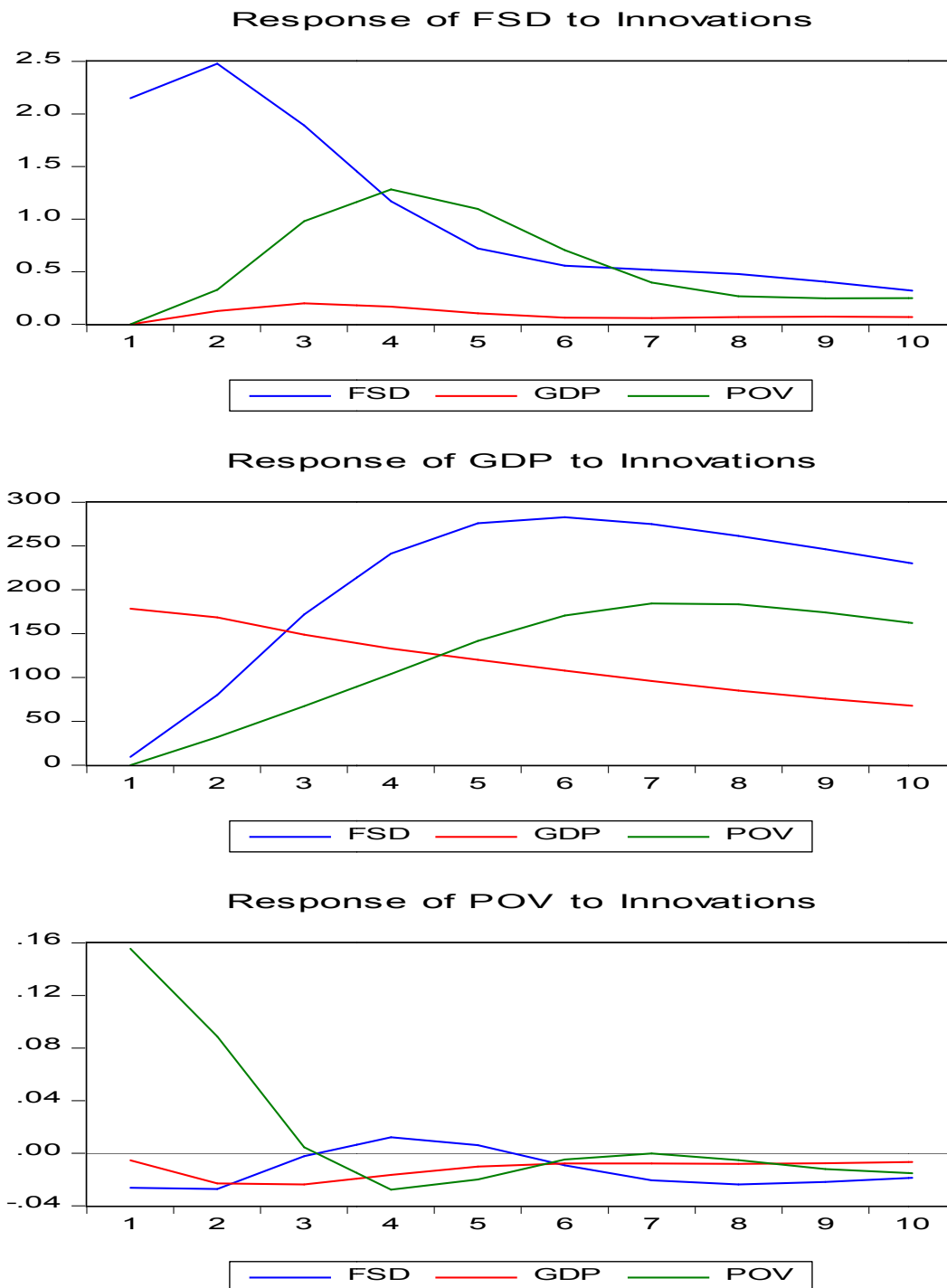


Figure 1: Impulse Response on Poverty, Economic Growth and Financial Sector Development

Source: Author’s graphical illustration from the data extracted from World Bank’s World Development Indicator (WDI, 2023)

The results from Figure 1 above reveal that shocks to financial sector development (FSD) produce positive effect both in the short run and the long run. It is assumed that the expected changes in

poverty and GDP in the economy will only maintain positive impact on financial sector development throughout the time horizon. The effects of the variables, though positive, appear not uniform and equally show an increase at start and begin to decrease. The results are in line with the findings of the work of Yaya, (2017) which also reveals that bidirectional long run causality was found to exist between economic growth and poverty reduction in Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon and South Africa while bidirectional long run causality existed between finance and poverty reduction in Benin, Cameroon and South Africa.

The second graph depicts the response of GDP which measures the rate of growth and wellbeing in the economy shocks from poverty and financial sector development. Thus, GDP responses positively (though in a decreasing rate) to shocks from poverty and financial sector development till the end of the time horizon as the graph depicts a rise from above the origin. The implication of this is that continuous rise in the poverty rate reduces the level of output in the economy and that is why the graph of GDP rears below that of poverty. Also, an improved financial sector development in Nigeria has not translated significantly to an increased economic growth for the country.

The results above are in line with the findings of Sovia, Shabri and Aliasuddin, (2018) which reveal that aggressive policies targeting at increasing economic growth and improving access to credit with the aim of reducing poverty, the connection linking the financial sector, economic growth and poverty reduction has become topical issues of debate among recent researchers and policymakers since the manifestation of inconsistencies between theory and the results of practical policy implementation with regard to the interaction among these variables continue to linger on.

The last graph depicts a shock to poverty which is shown to have positive effect in the short run but negative effect in the long run. Its graph cascades relentlessly till the end of the time horizon as the graph depicts a fall from the top. Thus, a decrease in the financial sector development necessitates a rise in poverty level and an increase in financial sector development engenders a fall in poverty rate while shocks to GDP are found to have little or no effect on the poverty level. This is contrary to the findings of Sin-Yu and Bernard, (2018) which find out that growth of financial development led to economic growth, which in turn resulted in poverty reduction.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The findings of the study imply that policies targeting augmenting economic growth and enhancing access to credit tend to bring about poverty reduction. It is indicated that effort to reduce poverty would engender economic growth and enhance financial deepening in Nigeria. Likewise, an improved financial sector development in Nigeria has not translated significantly to an increased economic growth for the country. It is concluded that growth of financial is associated with the real economic growth by providing financial resources for the production factors to stimulate production of real output, increase job opportunities and reduce the rate poverty. It is recommended that more access to finance should be broadened as this will increase the productive capacity level and lift many people out of poverty.

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India's Fashion Heritage: Examining Cultural Appropriation In Light of Geographical Indications

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ABSTRACT

India has a rich cultural heritage, which has been vulnerable to appropriation by foreign industries. The paper primarily deals with the convergence of the increasing concerns over the cultural appropriation of Indian fashion industries in the global market and the role of the Geographical Indication Act, 1999, in limiting it. The Act intends to safeguard the products that originate from specific places whereby restricting the unauthorized use of the product. The paper explores the role of the Geographical Indication Act of 1999 in conserving the cultural values of the country, and at the same time examines the gaps existing in the legislation. However, the Act has flaws, such as neglecting the need to protect product designs and ethical concerns, which are frequently exploited in the global fashion industry. The paper also delves into the international efforts made to support the growing concerns of intellectual rights, such as the WIPO, TRIPS, which are instrumental. Furthermore, the paper examines the recent case, the Prada-Kolhapuri Footwear case and analyzes the role of the Geographical Indication Act, 1999, to provide a consolidated framework for preserving the country's cultural heritage. The paper addresses the need for stringent measures to safeguard and protect the Indian fashion industry from unauthorized usage of Indian heritage products by the global industry without any consent or compensation to the original manufacturers.

Keywords: *Cultural appropriation, Geographical Indications Act 1999, Indian fashion heritage, Kolhapuri chappals, WIPO.*

INTRODUCTION

In the current era, fashion trends travel across geographical borders with unprecedented speed. This has become an opportunity to fashion designers across the globe to create fusion pieces, enhancing innovation. Yet, unfortunately, sometimes the line between deriving inspiration and exploitation blur together, as cultural elements originated from decades old traditions are “inspired” to create products featured on international runways, many a times, by costing the original artisans a huge portion of their income. Cultural appropriation takes place when someone who is not a part of a particular community adopts a style, practice, or product of significant value, often originating in that community, usually categorized as a minority¹.

The most recent example is adoption of the design of the Kolhapuri chappals by the luxury fashion brand Prada in 2025, wherein an artifact produced by local artisans were commodified. Consolidating these detrimental effects, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) reported in its 2022 survey a 12.5% decline in global exports of "creative goods", which included handicrafts, artisan products, and design items, in the year 2020². This highlights the challenges faced by these local handicraft sectors and the artisans whose livelihood depends on them.

Geographical Indications are signs that denote products with certain qualities that creates a link with them and their geographical origin. In the International Law, such GIs are protected from treaties founded by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). The first treaty that dealt with GIs was the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property (1883)³. This treaty made proper indication of source for ethnic products mandatory, and provided remedies against false indication. This frame work was advanced with the Madrid Agreement of 1891⁴, where there were provisions to seize or prohibit goods that had false origin claims. Furthermore, the Lisbon Agreement (1958)⁵ brought forth a system to register appellations of origin,

¹Tuvel, R. (2021). Putting the appropriator back in cultural appropriation. *The British Journal of Aesthetics*, 61(3), 353–372. <https://doi.org/10.1093/aesthj/ayab010>

²United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (2022). *Creative economy outlook 2022: The International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development: Pathway to resilient creative industries* (UNCTAD/DITC/TSCE/2022/1). Retrieved from https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ditctsce2022d1_en.pdf.

³*Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, Mar. 20, 1883, as revised at Stockholm July 14, 1967, and as amended Sept. 28, 1979*, <https://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/ip/paris>

⁴*Madrid Agreement for the Repression of False or Deceptive Indications of Source on Goods, April 14, 1891 (as revised at Lisbon on October 31, 1958, and with Additional Act of Stockholm on July 14, 1967)*. *World Intellectual Property Organization*. Retrieved from <https://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/text/286779>

⁵*Lisbon – The International System of Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications. (n.d.)*. *World Intellectual Property Organization*. Retrieved from <https://www.wipo.int/en/web/lisbon-system/>

and this agreement was amended further by the Geneva Act of 2015⁶ to include broader GIs and create a facility for international access. The WTO's TRIPS agreement of (1994)⁷ sets a set binding minimum standards for all WTO members, creating provisions for general protection against misleading uses.

In India, the GI Act has been established in 1999 as a domestic framework to register and protect products which got their significance due to their unique geographical origins. While diving into the Act, Sections 8 to 24 describes the conditions for registration, rights of authorized users, and sets penal provisions against the infringement of registered GI products and misrepresentation of them as well. While this Act safeguards these products inside Indian territory, its comprehensive nature ceases to exist beyond India, particularly in the international fashion markets. This has adversely affected many of the decades old Indian artistry, undermining the livelihood of these local artisans. Apart from the few countries with whom India share a common international treaty or an agreement, India lacks mechanisms to enforce this Act across the border, which results in market failures as well as unregulated production of Indian GIs as well.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND METHOD

The research objectives of this paper are as follows:

To explore the role of the Geographical Indication Act, 1999, in conserving the cultural values of Indian heritage products, particularly in the fashion industry and limiting their unauthorized appropriation in the global market.

To examine the gaps in the Geographical Indication Act, 1999 particularly in the light of the Prada-Kolhapuri Footwear case and assess the need for more stringent measures to better protect Indian cultural heritage from exploitation.

The methodology followed in the drafting of this paper is doctrinal research methodology, primarily analyzing on the Geographical Indications Act of 1999, the Prada Kolhapuri Case and research works affiliated to the same.

⁶ Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration of October 31, 1958, as revised at Stockholm on July 14, 1967, and as amended on September 28, 1979, September 28, 1979 (entered into force various dates; original 1958 Act entered into force September 25, 1966). <https://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/registration/lisbon/>

⁷ World Trade Organization. (1994). Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization, Annex 1C. Retrieved from https://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/27-trips_01_e.htm

LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

International Frameworks

The TRIPS Agreement⁷, through its articles 22, 23 & 24 has set a base standard for the purpose of protecting geographical indications of its member countries. Article 22 provides the general framework for GI protection; defining them as signs identifying a particular product to a geographic origin, where essential features of that product is linked to that place. It also forbids misleading the public about where the good truly originated from. While goods like wines and spirit is protected by Article 23 of the Agreement, Article 24 introduces the limitations and exceptions of GI rights. For instance, if pre-existing trademarks exists, or in case of generic terms like *cheddar cheese*.

International frameworks that predate the TRIPS Agreement includes treated introduced by World Intellectual Property Organization [WIPO]. The Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, 1883³ first introduced provisions that mandated member states to provide remedies against false indications of source of these goods. Later, in 1891, the Madrid Agreement for the Repression of False or Deceptive Indications of Source on Goods⁴ provided provisions that made seizure or prohibition of importing of goods that had false origin claims compulsory. The Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration (1958, revised 1967)⁵ brought forth a multilateral registration system for the appellations of origin, which are qualities exclusively attributed to a particular geographical environment. This Agreement was further enhanced to suit modern day's needs through the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications⁶ which, though drafted in 2015, was enforced only from 2020. This Act extended the international registration mechanism to broader GIs to align with the TRIPS definition. The unique feature of this Act is that it permits European Union and other similar intergovernmental organizations to access it, while maintaining the level of protection.

The Geographical Indication Act, 1999

The *Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999* was established as a result of India's obligation under the TRIPS Agreement of 1994 by WTO, which required all member countries to provide protection for the Geographical Indications (GIs) as intellectual property. Enacted in 30 December 1999, the Act came into effect in 15 September 2003, providing a legal platform for the protection of traditional products with unique characteristics which are tied to their geographical origins by registering them.

Section 2(e) of the Act defines a geographical indication as such-

'S.2(e) "geographical indication", in relation to goods, means an indication which identifies such

*goods as agricultural goods, natural goods or manufactured goods as originating, or manufactured in the territory of a country, or a region or locality in that territory, where a given quality, reputation or other characteristic of such goods is essentially attributable to its geographical origin and in case where such goods are manufactured goods one of the activities of either the production or of processing or preparation of the goods concerned takes place in such territory, region or locality, as the case may be.*⁸

This emphasizes that handicrafts and industrial goods are a part of the definition of Geographical Indication. Section 11 to 19 of the Act describes the detailed process of registration of a specific GI, while Sections 20-24 establishes the rights of authorized GI users and the remedies available against infringement including false use and misrepresentation. Though the Act was enacted with the overall protection of Indian Geographical Indications in mind, its application extends only till the territorial limit of Indian subcontinent.

The formation of the many characteristics that give the goods their distinctive geographical origins is influenced by various factors. They can either be substances found in nature, like the soil, climate of each region, the raw materials available, the level of moisture, or maybe the method used to produce these goods which has been passed down through generations. They can also be human factors, like the concentration of a specific business in one region or the adherence of the crafters to a specific standard.

In their paper, *Geddam & Chandolia*⁹ takes this discussion further, and terms Section 8 to 24 of the GI Act as the core that initiated the registration of these products, provided rights to authorized users and penal remedies for the infringement of the same. But the primary thing that is to be noted is the territorial limit of the Act. Furthermore, the protection provided by the GI Act is simply in its name, that is, the Act does not protect the traditional knowledge or style that goes behind the production of these goods, just the registered names/ labels. This territorial limit prevents the Act from being enforced outside India, specifically in fashion and textile products, like Kolhapuri chappals.

In their paper, *Geddam & Chandolia*⁹ gives ample significance to the idea that GIs are not just limited to their names, but must also value the collective community, their efforts and reputation. However, the current limitations faced by the Act, leaves a structural gap between legal statutes and the reality of international markets.

⁸The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, No. 48 of 1999, § 2(1)(e) (India).

⁹Geddam, P. R., & Chandolia, L. (2024, July-December). Geographical indications – Balancing their protection and preserving cultural heritage. *IP Bulletin*, 96–112.

CASE STUDY: Prada & the Kolhapuri Controversy

Case Summary

The Kolhapuri chappal is a traditionally handcrafted leather sandals, created by artisans belonging to Kolhapur, Sangli, Satara and Solapur districts of Maharashtra and Bagalkot, Belgavi, Dharwad and Bijapur districts of Karnataka¹⁰, and got its GI Registration in 2019. This registration protects its name, “Kolhapuri Chappals”, but it’s unique T-strap design stays unprotected. This limitation exposes the local artisans to national and international exploitation wherein the aesthetic elements of the chappals are “borrowing” without due credits being given.

The Spring/ Summer 2026 menswear collection was revealed by Prada at the Milan Fashion Week in June 2025, that featured open toed leather sandals, which closely resembled the Kolhapuri chappal, a decades old traditional craft from the Kolhapuri village in Maharashtra. This feature created a spark among netizens against Prada as the luxury fashion brand failed to give recognition to the original Indian artisans, marketing it merely as “toe-ring sandals”. As the brand did not use the GI name, “Kolhapuri”, the design being presented as a generic sandal, avoided all claims of infringement under the GI Act.

After the above incident, six advocates, led by Adv. Ganesh S. Hingmire, filed a PIL¹¹ in the High Court of Bombay against the Italian luxury fashion brand and its Indian subsidiary, claiming that the product introduced by PRADA exploited the centuries old artisanal craft with no acknowledgement, authorization or proper credit given to the original Indian artisans. The PIL sought injunctions against the commercialization of the sandals, a public apology to the artisans, compensation for damages, investigations by state authorities and guidelines for international brands that use products with the GI tag.

Though this PIL was dismissed by the Hon’ble High Court of Bombay as the Petitioners were advocates who did not have direct proprietary interest, thus lacking locus standi, this case brought forth the legal vacuum present in the GI Act into the public eye. The court also clarified that this dismissal does not bar LIDCOM or LIDKAR (Sant Rohidas Leather Industries and Charmakar Development Corporation Ltd. (LIDCOM) of Maharashtra and Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram Leather Industries Development Corporation Ltd. (LIDKAR) of Karnataka), the registered proprietors of the Kolhapuri chappal, from pursuing civil suits against PRADA if infringement is perceived.

¹⁰Patil, A. (2019, June 21). Kolhapuri chappal gets GI tag after decade-long wait. The Times of India. Retrieved from <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolhapur/kolhapuri-chappal-gets-gi-tag-after-decade-long-wait/articleshow/69885776.cms>

¹¹Prof. Adv. Ganesh S. Hingmire & Ors. v. PRADA Group & Ors., 2025 SCC OnLine Bom 2681 (Bombay H.C. 2025).

Cultural and Economic Impact

The Prada-Kolhapuri chappal controversy created severe anxiety among the artisan community, who heavily depended on the production of traditional, authentic Kolhapuri chappals. Many artisans that resided in the south western Kolhapur region of Maharashtra had passed down the techniques of crafting these sandals through generations.

Critics who have dived into these artisans after the controversy has found that most of these artisans belong to marginalized communities who has faced racial discrimination historically, like the Dalit Community¹². This takes the cultural appropriation into a more severe level, ending in a form of caste-linked economic exploitation. Finally, though the luxury brand has initiated a project to manufacture sandals inspired by the Kolhapuri chappals by collaborating with the artisans¹³, the prior lack of acknowledgement, profit sharing or collaboration between the local artisans means that the recognition received during the Milan fashion week does little for the upbringing of the artisans whose craft and skills made the design possible.

Legal Vacuum

The GI Act protects the geographical indication of the product, that is, the name or symbol that signifies the origin of the product, not the actual designor cultural significance that exist with the design. Section 20 to 24 of the Act provides that the rights are given to the use of such indication. An injured party, therefore, can only seek relief if anyone who is unauthorized misuses the GI name, or mislead any consumer about the origin of the product. Prada, by totally excluding the use of the name “Kolhapuri”, though they used the same T-Strap design, put itself outside the ambit of the GI Act. No infringement arose from this, thus exposing a severe legal vacuum.

Critical Reflection

This controversy opens our eyes into how the structure of the GI Act actually enables global brands to appropriate traditional Indian designs, disrespecting not only the good, but also the ancient craftsmanship which has been handed down through generations. As law does not protect the traditional design, but only the name of the geographical origin, design imitations in international levels have no legal obstacle, as long as the product’s GI name is not included.

A legal loophole comes into existence because of this, often resulting in companies appropriating a traditional design under the guise of “inspiration”. Both the limits identified with the act, one with

¹² ‘Do They Have Gold in Them?’: The Indian Artisans Up in Arms over Prada’s Sandals, BBC News (July 4, 2025), <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/clj801q2pw7o>.

¹³ Prada to Launch \$930 ‘Made in India’ Kolhapuri Sandals After Backlash, BBC News (Dec. 12, 2025), <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/czxppe4q84do>.

regards to scope as designs is not covered, and the one with regards to territory as protection extends only till Indian territory, fail to meet the original purpose of the GI Act, that is, to safeguard local artisans, who are legally illiterate, and their products; providing ample scope for companies like Prada to take advantage of them. This controversy urges India to form a new and expanded framework that protects the name, design, which also enables cross border enforcement and benefit sharing. This controversy also stands as a reminder to the fact that these traditional Indian goods, can generate higher income for the craftsmen, if they are publicized properly.

Similar Cases

The Kota Doria fabric, unique for being lightweight, breathable yet strong, is manufactured by artisans from Kota, Rajasthan. While the GI tag given to it increases its value symbolically, the artisans do not receive its true economic gains as the GI Act is unable to prevent machine made replicas of these fabrics, thus reinforcing the inefficiencies¹⁴. The sufferings of Kolhapuri artisans can be drawn parallels along with this scenario of the Rajasthani weavers. Furthermore, alienation of these artisans linked with caste, little to no legal awareness among them and minimal access to a proper commercial platform, all lead to them being further excluded from the benefits assured by the GI Act.

The difference between cultural “inspiration” and “exploitation” is a line that is heavily blurred. The fundamental difference between the Western idea of GI protection and the traditional Indigenous Communities’ idea regarding the same is being utilised unjustly in the international fashion markets, wherein indigenous designs are adapted without due acknowledgement¹⁵. Indian GI law, at the same time lacks mechanisms against unauthorised use of these traditional designs¹⁶. This asymmetry exposes an urgent need for a framework with much wider scope to protect our cultural heritage.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Ruth L. Okediji in “Traditional Knowledge and the Public Domain” (Harvard International Law Journal, 2018), argues that the current global IP system, post colonialism, is dominated by the Western notion of formal registration, wherein one person or company registers a specific product, intended to commercialize it, whereas Indigenous communities value communal ownership of a product, with the primary goal to preserve the group’s identity, history and the techniques performed to manufacture that

¹⁴Suhag, N., & Sharma, N. R. (2022). Assessing the impact of GI on Kota Doria: Weaver’s viewpoint. *International Journal of Trend in Scientific Research and Development*, 6(2), 1313–1324. Suhag and Sharma

¹⁵CIIPR. (2025, July 24). Cultural inspiration or IP oversight? A legal take on the Prada controversy. Retrieved from <https://www.ciipr.org.in/post/cultural-inspiration-or-ip-oversight-a-legal-take-on-the-prada-controversy>

¹⁶Jumde, A., & Kumar, N. (2021). Protection of traditional art forms under geographical indications law: A case study of Madhubani and Sujini art forms of Bihar, India. *Journal of Intellectual Property Law & Practice*, 16(7), 647–665.

product. This observation made by Okediji questions the current IP framework for valuing the Western notion of ‘market rationality’, while totally ignoring artisanal knowledge rooted in collective traditions which has been handed down since decades before. Assessing the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 provides a clear pathway to establish whether the GI reform can decolonize the current IP regimes, while also giving Indian cultural heritage recognition it deserves in the global markets.

From the Indian legal perspective, the most efficient pathway that can be followed in India is to amend the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. Primarily, the scope of the domestic GI Act can be expanded to include clauses for design protection. This ensures that the visual heritage and the cultural value associated with the design is not appropriated. Secondly, the Act can be combined with selective international norms provided by WIPO, them being; (1) Mandating ‘prior informed consent’ and (2) Introducing provisions for profit sharing. *Artisan Consent and Profit-Sharing Boards* can be established under the Ministry of Textiles, to ensure that when traditional Indian crafts are commercialized abroad, the local artisans derive benefit from the same.

Moreover, India could also join the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement¹⁷, administered by WIPO. This Act modernizes the legal protection provided by Appellations of Origin by also including Geographical Indications (GIs), providing them global protection. Furthermore, India could also negotiate bilateral, or plurilateral agreements between countries to assure the cross-country enforcement of Indian GIs. Lastly, India could expand its TKDL Library (Traditional Knowledge Digital Library) to include the product designs. This expansion could support registries to file designs and block unauthorized “copies” or “inspiration” derived from traditional products.

Together, these reforms would align India’s GI regime with emerging global principles.

CONCLUSION

The current framework followed in our country fails to protect the traditional design, knowledge and the value associated to a particular GI product, particularly in the fashion or textile sector, enabling cultural appropriation of Indian goods in the international fashion arena. The Act fails to recognize the cultural significance of a traditional dress or footwear, or the effort and ancient techniques used to manufacture a footwear by limiting its scope to tangible goods. Further reforms that correct these failures are urgently required to prevent another “*Prada-Kolhapuri Sandal*” Controversy from

¹⁷*Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration, October 31, 1958, as revised at Stockholm on July 14, 1967, and as amended on September 28, 1979, <https://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/text/285856>*

happening. Such measures would not only provide protection from the appropriation of traditional cultural expressions embedded with various Indian communities, but also lays out a chance for the legacy of Indian craftsmanship to be in the international spotlight. Thus, an amended GI Act would provide a legal remedy and a moral vision.



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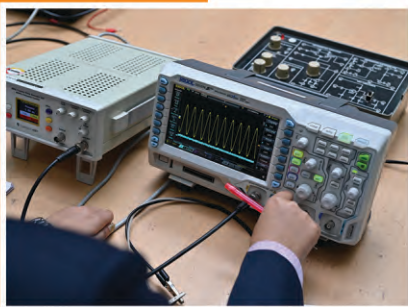
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ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

The ICFAI University, Tripura was established in 2004 through an Act of State Legislature. The University has been approved by the University Grants Commission, under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act, 1956. ICFAI University Tripura is a multidisciplinary University offering 60+ different programs.



ACCREDITATIONS

- University Grants Commission (UGC)
- National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)
- Bar Council of India (BCI)
- National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE)
- Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI)
- Tripura Nursing Council (TNC)
- Indian Nursing Council (INC)
- MSME(HI/BI), Govt of India has recognised as Host Institute to Support for Entrepreneurial and Managerial Development of MSMEs through Business Incubators

MEMBERSHIP

- Member of the Association of Indian Universities, New Delhi, India
- Member of the Association of Commonwealth Universities, London, UK.
- Member of Institute of Engineers (India)
- Members of Association of Management Development Institutions in South Asia (AMDISA)
- Registered Member with Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India
- Member of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
- Member of Vijnana Bharati.
- Member of Academy of Hospital Administration, Govt of India.
- National Cyber Safety and Security Standards (NCSSS)
- National HRD Network (NHRDN), Gurgaon
- Inter- University National Cultural Board (IUNCB)
- Amazon Internet services Pvt. Ltd for AWS (Cloud Computing) Program
- Oracle Academy
- Indo-Australian Chamber of Commerce

RANKING/ CERTIFICATES

- ICFAI University Tripura has been ranked 1st among Private Multidisciplinary University in Tripura by Education World India Higher Education Ranking 2023-24.
- ICFAI University Tripura has been ranked 35 in the year 2024 as the Best University all over India by India Today – MRDA
- Faculty of Science & Technology of ICFAI University Tripura has been ranked 148 as the Best Engineering College all over India Rank among private/government colleges by India Today – MRDA
- ICFAI Law School of ICFAI University Tripura has been ranked 35 as the Top Law School all over India by India Today – MRDA
- ICFAI Science School, Bachelor of Science(H) of ICFAI University Tripura has been ranked 175 as Best college all over India by India Today – MRDA
- Faculty of Liberal Arts, Bachelor of Arts of ICFAI University Tripura has been ranked 136 as Best college all over India by India Today – MRDA
- Faculty of Management & Commerce, Bachelor of Business Administration of ICFAI University Tripura has been ranked 70 as Best College all over India by India Today – MRDA
- Faculty of Science and Technology of ICFAI University Tripura has been ranked 113 among the top 160 Pvt. Engineering Institute in India by Outlook India.
- Faculty of Management & Commerce, Bachelor of Business Administration of ICFAI University Tripura has been ranked 59 among the Top 130 BBA institute in India by Outlook India in the year 2023.
- The ICFAI University Tripura has been ranked 18 by CSR-GHRDC as the Top Outstanding Engineering colleges of Excellence all over India category in the year 2023
- ICFAI University Tripura got AAA ratings as India's best Engineering Institute 2023 by Careers 360 Magazine.
- Established 'Institute Innovation Council (IIC) as per norms of Innovation Cell, Ministry of MHRD, Govt. of India
- Certified by ISO 9001: 2015
- ICFAI University Tripura certified by Directorate of Social Welfare & Social Education
- ICFAI University Tripura has been registered as a club under the Yuva Tourism Club an Initiative by the Ministry of Tourism in the year 2023
- Registered with NGO Darpan, Niti Ayog, Govt. of India
- Best Universities & Colleges 2018-19 awarded to ICFAI University Tripura in the special category by Rubber Skill Development Council (RSDC).

OUR EMINENT ALUMNI



Samaria Debbarma
Junior Engineers, TES
Govt. of Tripura



Deep Joy Das
Junior Engineers, TES
Govt. of Tripura



Akash Bhomik
Junior Engineers, TES
Govt. of Tripura



Sudipa Das Chowdhury
Junior Engineers, TES
Govt. of Tripura



Aparajita Acharjee
Junior Engineers, TES
Govt. of Tripura



Shibam Chakraborty
ICDS Supervisor
Govt. of Tripura



Rahul Das
Branch Manager
BANK OF INDIA



Bidyut Podder
Senior Manager
CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA



Ravi Theja Polluru
IBM



Yambem Indravhuson Sing
Inspector in Weight & Measures
Govt. of Manipur



Jasharaj Purkayastha
FCI
Central Govt. of India



Kundan Debnath
CISCO

WHY CHOOSE ICFAI UNIVERSITY TRIPURA

Recognized & Accredited

Established under the Tripura State Government Act (2004) and approved by UGC. Accredited by NAAC and recognized by BCI, RCI, and NCTE.

Modern Infrastructure

Wi-Fi 6 enabled campus with smart classrooms, AI labs, 3D printing, digital library, medical center, gym, and 24x7 ambulance.

Industry-Aligned Curriculum

Programs designed with industry input to match emerging technologies and professional standards.

Expert Faculty

Qualified professors from IITs, IIMs, NITs, and other top institutions.

Strong Placements

Top recruiters visit annually for internships and job opportunities.

Skill Development

Training in communication, personality development, and industry certifications.

Vibrant Campus Life

Exciting fests like ICARIA, NOVATOS & ICTHALON, plus sports and cultural clubs.

Innovation & Research

Focus on research projects, mentorship, and entrepreneurship support.

Scholarships

Merit-based and N.J.Y. Memorial Scholarships for deserving students.

Pan-India Alumni Network

Successful alumni across India and abroad strengthening the university's legacy.

Program	Duration	Eligibility	Career Prospects Employment Opportunities
B. Tech (CE, CSE, ECE, ME, EE)	4 Years	Pass in 10 + 2 (Phy/Chem/Math) with minimum 45%, (40 % in case of SC/ST/ OBC) aggregate marks	IT,ITEs, Manufacturing,Companies, Corporates, Telecom, Banks, Govt. Services
B. Tech - Lateral Entry (CE, CSE, ECE, ME, EE)	3 Years	Pass in 3 - year diploma course with minimum 45 % (40 % in case of SC/ ST/ OBC) aggregate marks	IT,ITEs, Manufacturing,Companies, Corporates, Telecom, Banks, Govt. Services
B.Sc. in Data Science & AI	3 Years	Pass in 10+2 examination with 45% marks in science/Arts/ Commerce with Mathematics/Statistics as one of the subjects.	Corporates, AI Researcher, Data Scientist, Machine Learning Engineer, Data Analyst, Business Intelligence Developer, AI/ML Product Manager
BCA	3 Years	Pass in 10 + 2 (any Discipline) examination	IT,ITEs, Corporates, Banks,Govt. Services, NGO's.
Integrated MCA	5 Years	Pass in 10 + 2 (any Discipline) examination	IT,ITEs, Corporates, Banks,Govt. Services, NGO's.
MCA	2 Years	Graduation in any discipline, with 40% and above aggregate marks.	IT,ITEs, Corporates, Banks, Govt. Services, NGO's,Research
M.Tech - Water Resource Engineering	2 Years	Valid GATE Scorer with B.Tech /B.E in Civil Engineering or B.Tech /B.E in Civil Engineering with 60% marks	Research, consultant to Pvt. Organization in the field of flood forecasting, flood inundation, flood disaster management, Entrepreneur.
M.Tech - Structural Engineering	2 Years	Valid GATE Score with B.Tech/B.E., in Civil Engineering or B.Tech/B.E. in Civil Engineering with 60% marks.	Structural Engineer,Project Manager, Researcher, Quality Control, Teaching, Entrepreneurship, and more.
M.Tech - Computer science & Engineering	2 Years	Pass with 60% aggregate marks in B.Tech. (CSE or IT or ECE or EEE) or MCA or M.Sc. (IT or Computer Science) or equivalent	Offers opportunities in cutting-edge technology-based research like AI ML, Cybersecurity, and software development roles in the ever-evolving field of computer science.

Program	Duration	Eligibility	Career Prospects Employment Opportunities
B.Sc. Physics (Hons.)	4 Years	Pass in 10 + 2 with 40 % marks in Physics & pass in Maths	Teaching in Schools/ Colleges/ Educational Administrator/ Corporate
B.Sc. Chemistry (Hons.)	4 Years	Pass in 10 + 2 with 40 % marks in Chemistry	Teaching in Schools/ Colleges/ Educational Administrator/ Corporate
B.Sc. Mathematics (Hons.)	4 Years	Pass in 10 + 2 with 40 % marks in Mathematics	Teaching in Schools/ Colleges/ Educational Administrator/ Corporate
M.Sc. Physics	2 Years	Graduate with 45 % (40 % in case of SC/ST/ OBC) marks in Physics	Teaching in Schools/ Colleges/ Educational Administrator/ Corporate
M.Sc. Chemistry	2 Years	Graduate with 40% marks in Chemistry	Teaching in Schools/ Colleges/ Educational Administrator/ Corporate
M.Sc. Mathematics	2 Years	Graduate with 40 % marks in Mathematics	Teaching in Schools/ Colleges/ Educational Administrator/ Corporate
B.Sc (Pass)	3 Years	Pass in 10+2 Examination (Science Stream) with 45% and above marks (40%in case of SC/ST/OBC).	Teaching in Schools/ Colleges/ Educational Administrator/ Corporate

Program	Duration	Eligibility	Career Prospects Employment Opportunities
B.A. English (Hons.)	4 Years	Pass in 10 + 2 (any Discipline) with 40 % marks in English	Jobs in Govt., Teaching in Schools/Educational Administrators/ Corporate, Banks, Telecom, Media, Journalism
M.A English	2 Years	Graduate in any Discipline with minimum 45 % in English (40% in case of SC/ST/ OBC) aggregate marks	Jobs in Govt., Teaching in Schools/Educational Administrators/ Corporate, Banks, Telecom, Media, Journalism/ Research
B.A. Psychology (Hons)	4 Years	Pass in 10 + 2 (any Discipline) with 50 % (45% in case of SC/ST/ OBC) marks	Teaching in Schools/ Colleges/ Educational Administrator/ Corporate
M.A Psychology	2 Years	Graduate with 45 % in Psychology(40 % in case of SC/ST/ OBC) marks.	Teaching in Schools/ Colleges/ Educational Administrator/ Corporate
B.Sc. Psychology (Hons)	4 Years	Pass in 10 + 2 (any Discipline, with Economics or Maths as a combination subject) with 50 % (45%in case of SC/ ST/ OBC) marks	Teaching in Schools/ Colleges/ Educational Administrator/ Corporate
M.Sc. Psychology	2 Years	B.Sc Psychology degree from a recognized university with 45 %(40% in case of SC/ST/ OBC) marks in Psychology.	Teaching in Schools/ Colleges/ Educational Administrator/ Corporate
BA (Pass)	3 Years	Pass in 10+2 Examination (any discipline) with 45% and above marks (40%in case of SC/ST/OBC).	Jobs in Govt., Teaching in Schools/Educational Administrators/ Corporate, Banks, Telecom, Media, Journalism

Program	Duration	Eligibility	Career Prospects Employment Opportunities
BA-LLB Integrated	5 Years	Pass in 10 + 2 with minimum 45 % (40 % in case of SC/ST, 42% in case of OBC) aggregate marks	Corporates, Banking, Judiciary, Legal Practice, NGO's IPR
BBA-LLB Integrated	5 Years	Pass in 10 + 2 with minimum 45 % (40 % in case of SC/ST, 42% in case of OBC) aggregate marks	Corporates, Banking, Judiciary, Legal Practice, NGO's IPR
LL.B	3 Years	Graduate in any Discipline with minimum 45 % (40 % in case of SC/ST, 42% in case of OBC) aggregate marks	Corporates, Banking, Judiciary, Legal Practice, NGO's IPR
LL.M	2 Years	Graduate with LLB degree (Recognised by BCI)	Corporates, Banking, Judiciary, Legal Practice, NGO's IPR,Research

Management & Commerce Studies

Program	Duration	Eligibility	Career Prospects Employment Opportunities
B.Com (Hons.)	4 Years	Pass in 10 + 2 examination in commerce or Science with 45% (40% in case of ST/ SC/OBC) marks	Banks, Financial Services, Corporates
BBA	3 Years	Pass in 10 + 2 (any Discipline) examination with minimum 40% marks	Banks, Financial Services, IT, Insurance, Telecom, Corporates, Consulting Companies.
B.A. Economics (H)	4 Years	Pass in 10 + 2 (any Discipline) examination with minimum 40% marks	Financial Analyst, Investment Banker, Risk Manager, Actuary, Economist, Policy Analyst, Management Consultant, Data/Market Analyst, or Entrepreneur.
B.Sc. Economics & Data Analytics(H)	4 Years	Pass in 10 + 2 with minimum 45 % marks along with Mathematics	Financial Analyst, Economist, Management Consultant, Data Scientist, Policy Analyst, Research/Marketing Professional, or Entrepreneur.
MBA	2 Years	Graduate in any discipline with minimum 50 % (45 % in case of SC/ST/OBC) aggregate marks	Banks, Financial Services, IT, Insurance, Telecom, Corporates, Consulting Companies, Research
MBA for Working Professionals	2 Years	Graduation in any discipline with 45% and above aggregate marks, with a minimum of three years of work experience.	Banks, Financial Services, IT, Insurance, Telecom, Corporates, Consulting Companies, Research
M.Com	2 Years	B.Com with 45%(40% in case of ST/SC/OBC) Marks	Banks, Financial Services, Corporates
M.A Economics	2 Years	BA/B.Sc. (Hons) in Economics with at least 45% marks.	Policy Analyst, Economist, Trade Specialist, Consultant, Professor, or Entrepreneur in policy-related fields.
M.Sc. Economics	2 Years	B.Sc (Hons) in economics with at least 45% marks	Data Scientist/ Financial Analyst/ Risk Manager/ Statistician/ Econometrician/ Research Consultant/ Actuary roles in think tanks of international organizations, and academic institutions.

Allied Health Sciences

Program	Duration	Eligibility	Career Prospects Employment Opportunities
B. Sc. in Health Information Management	4 Years	Pass 10+2 (Any discipline with English) with 50% marks (5 % relaxation for SC/ST/OBC candidates).	Opportunity in Government / Private hospitals, diagnostic centers, NRHM/ NUHM, legal firms, Healthcare consultancy .Eligible for Post Graduate courses.
Bachelors of Emergency Medical Technologist	4 Years	Pass in 10+2 (Science Discipline) with Physics, Chemistry and Biology	Opportunities in government/private hospitals (ICU/ITU/Critical Care), disaster management teams, armed forces, and eligibility for postgraduate studies.
B.Sc in Cardiac Care Technology	4 Years	Pass in 10+2 (Science Discipline) with Physics, Chemistry and Biology	Opportunity in Government /Private Hospitals in cardiology department, different cath- labs or diagnostic centers. Eligible for postgraduate courses.
Bachelors of Dialysis Therapy Technology (BDTT)	4 Years	Pass in 10+2 (Science Discipline) with Physics, Chemistry and Biology	Opportunity in Government /Private hospitals, NRHM, NUHM, NGO, clinics/ healthcare setup offering dialysis treatment. Eligible for Post Graduation courses in dialysis.
Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science - BMLS	4 Years	Pass in 10+2 (Science Discipline) with Physics, Chemistry and Biology	Opportunity in Government /Private hospital having ICU/ITU/Critical care unit, Demand in disaster management team for both state/central government, army/navy/airforce. Eligible for Post graduation courses.
Bachelor in Optometry	5 Years	Pass in 10+2 (Science Discipline) with minimum 50% marks PCB /M and English (5 % relaxation for SC/ST/OBC candidates)	Optometrists in hospitals and clinics, Vision care consultants in optical outlets, Eye specialists in multispecialty hospitals, Researchers in vision science, Corporate professionals in eyewear and lens industries
Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science - BMLS (Lateral Entry)	3 Years	Student must be having DMLT (Diploma in Medical Laboratory Technology) degree of minimum 2 years program from recognized institution	Opportunity in Government /Private hospital having ICU/ITU/Critical care unit, Demand in disaster management team for both state/central government, army/navy/airforce. Eligible for Post graduation courses.
Master of Medical Laboratory Science (MMLS)(MMLT)	2 Years	Pass in Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science from any recognized Indian University	Opportunity in Government / Private sector, Lab Technician, Medical Lab Incharge, Research and Development Manager (Laboratory), Technical Officer etc. Can pursue research or can flourish in academics as well
Master of Dialysis Therapy (MDT)	2 Years	Pass in Bachelor of Dialysis Therapy Technology from any recognized Indian University	Opportunity in Government /Private hospitals, NRHM, NUHM, NGO, clinics/ healthcare setup offering dialysis treatment. Eligible for Post Graduation courses in dialysis.

Pharmaceutical Sciences

Program	Duration	Eligibility	Career Prospects Employment Opportunities
Diploma in Pharmacy (D. Pharm)	2 years	10+2 (Science) with Physics, Chemistry, and Biology/Math, minimum 45% marks (40% for SC/ST).	Retail and hospital pharmacies, pharmaceutical companies, drug manufacturing units, medical representatives, and government health departments.
Bachelor of Pharmacy (B. Pharm)	4 years	10+2 (Science) with Physics, Chemistry, and Biology/Math, minimum 45% marks (40% for SC/ST)	Pharmaceutical companies, hospitals, research laboratories, drug regulatory bodies, quality control, clinical research, and opportunities for higher studies or entrepreneurship

Education

Program	Duration	Eligibility	Career Prospects Employment Opportunities
B.Ed	2 years	Graduate or post graduate in any discipline with minimum 50 % (45 % in case SC/ST/ OBC) aggregate marks	Teaching in Secondary level
MA - Education	2 years	Graduate in any discipline	Teaching in Schools/Educational Administrators/ Research
M.Ed	2 years	B.Ed. (1/2 years)/ B.EL.ED/B.Sc.B.Ed./B.A B.Ed./ D.EL.Ed. /D.Ed. with a Bachelors degree. 50% marks at all the levels	Teaching in Teacher Education

Physical Education

Program	Duration	Eligibility	Career Prospects Employment Opportunities
B.P.Ed	2 years	Pass in graduation in any discipline and as per university selection procedure.	Jobs in School/ College/ Physical Trainer
D.P.Ed	2 years	Pass in 10+2 or equivalent with 50% of marks in any stream	
BPES	3 years	Pass in 10 + 2 examination or equivalent from any recognised education Board/ University	
BPES(LE)	1 years	Pass in two years diploma in Physical Education	Jobs in School/ College/ University, Physical Trainer/Sports/ Job in Govt. and Private sector as teacher, instructor, coach etc.
MPES	2 years	Minimum 50% marks (Gen/OBC) and 45% (SC/ST) with B.P.Ed. (4-year integrated / 1-year or 2-year), B.P.E., B.Sc. (Physical Education), or B.P.E.S. degree.	

Yoga & Naturopathy

Program	Duration	Eligibility	Career Prospects Employment Opportunities
PGDYET	1 year	Any graduate	Yoga Teacher, Therapist, Psychologist, Inspector in MNCs, Health/Yoga Clubs, or pursue NET/JRF/SET, Ph.D., and Assistant Professorship in colleges and universities.

Special Education

Program	Duration	Eligibility	Career Prospects Employment Opportunities
B.Ed.Spl.Ed. (ID)	2 years	Graduate or post graduate in any discipline with minimum 50 % (45% in case SC/ST/ OBC) aggregate marks	Teaching in Secondary level and at special schools
M.Ed.Spl.Ed.(ID)	2 years	B.Ed. Spl. Ed (ID) / B.Ed. General with D.Ed. Spl. Ed (ID) with 50% marks (RCI).	Professional preparation of teacher educators- engaged in continuous professional development of teachers
Integrated B.A. B.Ed. Spl.Ed.(ID)	4 years	Pass in 10 + 2 with 50% marks	Teaching in Secondary level and at special schools
Integrated B.A. B.Ed. Spl. Ed. (Visually Impaired)	4 years	Pass in 10 + 2 with 50% marks	They can appear the CTET and TET exam i.e. for Central and State Level, RCI Registered Rehabilitation Professional in Clinic, Nursing home, Hospitals, Counseling centers, Special Educator or Children with Visual Impairment in Inclusive school, Special school and General school.

Clinical Psychology

Program	Duration	Eligibility	Career Prospects Employment Opportunities
B.Sc. Clinical Psychology (Hons.)	4 years	Pass in 10+2 (Science stream) or an equivalent examination with a minimum of 50% marks is required	Psychology Assistant / Research Assistant, Counsellor (Entry-Level / Assistant), Behavioral Therapist Assistant, Mental Health Educator / Advocate, Market Research Specialist
Professional Diploma in Clinical Psychology	1 years	M.A. or M.Sc. in Psychology (Counseling, Clinical, or Applied Psychology) from a UGC-recognized university with a minimum of 55% marks in aggregate (50% for SC/ST/OBC candidates, as per GOI norms).	
M. Phil in Clinical Psychology	2 years	M.A / M.Sc degree in the Psychology with 55% marks in aggregate, Preferably with special paper in Clinical Psychology .	

Nursing

Program	Duration	Eligibility	Career Prospects Employment Opportunities
ANM	2 years	Pass in 10 + 2 (any discipline) examination; Age 17-35 only Female (SC/ST 5 years relaxation).	Hospitals(Government /Private), NUHM, NRHM, NRLM, Healthcare consultancy firm, Hospitality industry, Medico-legal consultancy firm, Insurance sector (Government/ Private)
GNM	3 years	10+2 with English (Min. 40% aggregated for General, 35% for SC/ST, any stream), Age: 17-35 (SC/ST 5 years relaxation), Both genders eligible.	Hospitals(Government /Private), NUHM, NRHM, NRLM, Healthcare consultancy firm, Hospitality industry, Medico-legal consultancy firm, Insurance sector (Government/ Private)
B.Sc. Nursing	4 years	Candidates with Science (Physics, Chemistry, Biology) in 10+2 with at least 45%(40% in case of ST/SC/OBC) aggregate marks and pass in English.	Hospitals(Government /Private), NUHM, NRHM, NRLM, Healthcare consultancy firm, Hospitality industry, Medico-legal consultancy firm, Insurance sector (Government/ Private)

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- 24-hour power backup ensuring uninterrupted campus life.
- 60 plus state-of-the-art laboratory.

SCHOLARSHIP

Around **2,500 students** received scholarships of **12.5 CRORE** from 26 Different Government, ICFAI University, and UGC schemes Approx
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