

Questions of Social Reforms and Social Justice: Challenges in the Context of Structural Changes and Sustainable Economic Development in Bihar

Kamal Kumar Datta¹, Uttam Kumar Bhattacharya²

How to cite this article:

Kamal Kumar Datta, Uttam Kumar Bhattacharya. Questions of Social Reforms and Social Justice: Challenges in the Context of Structural Changes and Sustainable Economic Development in Bihar. *Ind. J Agri Busi* 2024;10(1):39–48.

Abstract

Social reform and social justice are important in the context of a fair and inclusive sustainable development in a caste and class divided economy. Economic development can be described in terms of output and employment. Structural change almost always corresponds to a change in the sectoral shares. The process affects output and employment. The processes of changes are crucial for generating sufficient wealth to improve human well-being. The changes could also generate inequality. Government policies are essential to counteract upward pressure on inequality and spread the benefits of development wider, from dynamic, modern activities to other sectors of the economy. To echo Lewis, this means 'trickle-along' rather than trickle-down will be the fundamental perspective to justify the development with justice. Government of Bihar has introduced vigor in promoting social reforms and social justice in the economy.

The growth process in Bihar is due to stepped-up development expenditure which was almost doubled. This growth is to garner resources for public investment either for service delivery or for economic transformation. The nature of structural transformation can be visualized by the movement of workers from lower-productivity to higher-productivity activities which has long been regarded as an essential feature of rapid and sustainable growth. It will shift towards integrated and inclusive governance and the emergence of functional, societal accountable public institutions at all levels. Mission-oriented science and innovation do not end at proposing the implementation of transformative action, but must be actively engaged in the tracking, analysing, understanding and course-correcting of changes set in motion, so that the dynamics of change can be nudged in overall desirable directions. The present study aims at analyzing the complex issues around implementing the policies of inclusive sustainable development with social justice and social reforms.

Keywords: Agriculture; Bihar; Employment; Justice; Health; Social reforms.



Author's Affiliation: ¹Professor (Retired), Department of Agri Business Management, Manipur University, Imphal, Manipur 795003, ²Former Faculty Member, Institute of Development Studies Kolkata 700107, West Bengal, India.

Coresponding Author: Uttam Kumar Bhattacharya, Former Faculty Member, Institute of Development Studies Kolkata 700107, West Bengal, India.

E-mail: uttam.bhattacharya@gmail.com

Received on: 12.03.2024

Accepted on: 15.05.2024

INTRODUCTION

Government of Bihar has introduced a new vigor in campaigning (the *abhiyans*) for certain social reform programme, the *Samaj Sudhar Abhiyan* and extending social justice for promoting quality livelihood of the people of Bihar. Enforcement of strict prohibition, abolition of the sad social evils, such as dowry system and child marriage, were some of the major schemes under the social reform measures of the Government of Bihar.



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0.

Along with those social reform steps, government has also introduced certain civic facilities towards promoting justice to the people of Bihar, through *Har Ghar Nal Ka Jal Yojana* (tap water supply to all and every households), *Lohiya Swachh Bihar Yojana* (toilet construction for every household), paddy procurement schemes and etc.

Lahiri (2022) observed that, '(t)he diversity of India has been charted along multiple cross-cutting axes, for example linguist, regional and religious and two of the important axes are based on tribe and caste' (p. 69). Both class and caste systems, in India play significant roles towards economic inequality and social justice. The levels of a decent livelihood depends to a great extent on "birth lottery" (the chance of being born in a upper caste rich family). The State of Bihar in India is in no way an exceptional example. Dreze and Sen (2013) and different Economic Survey Reports have stated, how the State of Bihar was lagging behind in terms of various economic indicators, such as health, education and poverty. (See also, India Human Development Report 2011, 2022). During 2021, Bihar ranked 34 position with Human Development Index (HDI) 0.571 points.

Even if, it might not be possible, "to achieve a perfectly just world" it is always possible "to remove clear injustice" (to quote Sen, 2009), to a large extent. "Different voices from diverse sections of the people" can be heard. It is claimed that, engaging people in "reasoned" discourses and active interactive discussions in a "democratic" environment, might lead to a fairer situation with enhanced justice removing injustice. A simultaneous actions or two pronged approach towards pursuing justice and social reforms might place the economy on a higher level of growth with inclusive sustainable development. Following the Rawls's idea, we could consider any development process with Justice as a "Fairness" approach (Rawls, 1971, 2001).

The present paper aims to examine the complex issues related to the economy of Bihar in the context of implementation of sustainable inclusive development along with the path of social reforms and social justice. We have used secondary data from government sources to present our study.

THE BACKGROUND

During the last 75 years in India since Independence, infrastructure development has moved on a consistent growth curve building the assets required by the nation across sectors such as

transportation, housing, commercial development, telecom and most recently, sanitation. As a key enabler of socioeconomic enhancement of a region, the government has used 'social overhead capital' to push development in the remotest areas of the country through dedicated budgetary allocation, cross-subsidising revenue-generating infrastructure and focused programme delivery. This has helped in expanding physical transportation and connectivity, providing services at point-of-use and deepening digital penetration. Such kind of structural transformation which is the needs of the day can be visualized by the movement of workers from lower-productivity to higher productivity activities which has long been regarded as an essential feature of rapid and sustained growth but has been historically associated with rising income inequality.

An inclusive growth is possible with a steady, or even falling, inequality, with the benefits of economic growth shared broadly, and especially with the poorest. The development process might start with the potential trade-off between structural change and inclusive growth. The medium term guiding vision in 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), and beyond that, are the ecological, economic and social pillars of sustainability, i. e. a dignified, thriving existence for all within planetary boundaries. Delivery of science missions may be the ultimate guiding force to contribute for the long-term transformation of economic and financial systems towards being fairer, more inclusive and ecologically sustainable.

Recent trends of Development:

The process of structural transformation is basically a compositional shift that entails transfer of surplus labour from agriculture to sectors where productivity (output per worker) and average incomes are higher particularly manufacturing and modern services. Basically it is a transformation in relation to the agriculture and manufacturing sectors. The NSSO's latest annual Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) report for 2021-22 (July-June) shows the farm sector's share in the country's employed labour force was around 45.5%. It was down from 46.5% in 2020-21, but still higher than the 2018-19 (which was 42.5%). Clearly, the effects of the pandemic-induced economic disruptions, which had forced a reverse migration to the farms, have not fully subsided.

Over a longer time period, based on previous years' PLFS reports (also called 'Employment and Unemployment' surveys until 2011-12), the share of agriculture in the total work force fell from 64.6%

in 1993-94 to 42.5% in 2018-19. The biggest decline, from 58.5% to 48.9%, happened between 2004-05 and 2011-12. During this seven-year period, the workforce engaged in farming registered, for the first time in India's history, a fall even in absolute terms from 268.6 million to 231.9 million. The share of the labour force employed in manufacturing too, peaked at 12.6% in 2011-12. Since 2011-12, this structural transformation has slowed, with the share of agriculture in employment not falling fast enough and, in fact, rising after 2018-19. The share of manufacturing has dropped behind even that of construction and trade, hotels & restaurants; in 2017-18, the latter two sectors accounted for 11.7% and 12% of the total work force respectively, as against manufacturing's 12.1%. But in 2021-22, manufacturing's share, at 11.6%, was below that of construction (12.4%) as well as trade, hotels and restaurants (12.1%).

Interestingly if we look the NSO's revised estimates of national income (which contains estimates of 'output' and 'value-added' by different sectors of the economy) for 2021-22, it can be seen that value addition is the highest in agriculture. For every Rs 100 worth of produce coming from Indian farms, Rs 80 is the value generated by those owning and working the lands. In 2021-22, the gross value of output from agriculture, forestry and fishing was estimated at Rs 50.71 lakh crore. After deducting the value of intermediate consumption (Rs 10.05 lakh crore), the gross value added for the sector worked out to Rs 40.66 lakh crore. On the other hand, value addition is the lowest, at just over a fifth, for manufacturing. The gross value added by manufacturing, at Rs 33.97 lakh crore in 2021-22, was way below agriculture's. The reason is mainly due to purchased inputs are very little in agriculture, unlike manufacturing. The value produced comes mostly from the land rather than the seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, diesel and electricity that farmers consume. It will be more visualised/ cleared/observed if we look the agricultural scenario in the eastern region of India and more especially for Bihar.

Link with employment high value-addition is a key reason why agriculture is able to employ so many people. The sector's share in GVO the total value of all goods and services produced by the country was only 11.4% in 2021-22. When measured in terms of value-added or GVA though, the share rose to 19%. It was the other way round for manufacturing: its share in overall GVO was as high as 35.4%, while being just 15.8% relative to GVA. However, even taking into account high value addition, a sector

generating 19% of income accruing to the primary factors of production, namely the owners of land (farmers), labour (agricultural workers) and capital but cannot support 45% of the country's population. An agricultural sector may be adding more value to every unit of input it consumes than a manufacturer. But productivity is a function of output per worker or per unit of land which is low in agriculture compared to modern manufacturing and services. It explains why the average farmer earns less than his urban counterpart. To earn more, the farmer's productivity has to go up which means producing more on the same land with fewer hands. At the end of the day, there's no escaping the fact that India has too many people in agriculture. They need to be enabled to find employment in other sectors, which will, in turn, raise agriculture's productivity.

Transforming the economy in order to achieve high growth and ensuring equity are the needs to be focused for achieving development with justice. In terms of broad trends, we find that India, and the states which started with a largely agricultural and stagnant economy at the time of her independence, achieved significant structural change during this period. However, the extent of industrialisation, particularly in the manufacturing sector, was limited. Most of the transformation was in the business and non-business services sectors and to a certain extent in utilities and construction. These structural changes and the resultant growth helped the economy bring down poverty rates, making it somewhat more inclusive. The extent of inclusiveness was, however, limited to poverty reduction, with inequality rates going up significantly over time.

The decomposition of growth rates indicate that the contribution of the agricultural sector diminished remarkably where as the shares of non-business services and business services both went up. Overall, there is a clear indication of shift from the primary and secondary sectors to the tertiary sector in terms of value added but less successful in terms of employment share. Though there is evidence of some industrialisation but the increase in share is very small. This is true for both the manufacturing sector and the utilities and construction sector. Amirapu and Subramanian (2015) have found that India has achieved only partial success in attaining multidimensional structural transformation. Kochhar *et al.* (2006) focus on the nature of the manufacturing sector in India, which has been skill-intensive rather than labour intensive. According to them, together with the low scale of production compared with world

averages, this has led to manufacturing absorbing less labour than in other countries. The government needs a strategy to create more formal jobs through the expansion of high-productivity activities. While this strategy is important in terms of structural transformation and inclusive growth, it could also have a positive effect on raising the government revenue that is much needed in order to pursue development policies.

Keeping in view of the complex situation, our major objectives of the present study were to explore avenues for further inclusive and sustainable growth and employment in the Bihar, where the agriculture and allied sectors play a significant role. Our aim is to evaluate the ways which the Bihar economy follows, its path towards justice with development or development with justice? We have tried to explore some strategies to convert the agricultural sector of the region into an enterprise by transforming agric business to agro-business in the form of monetization of farmers' produce, and to extend a demand-led sustainable economic growth.

Agricultural Sector: Structural Transformation of Bihar

The thrusts area of Bihar Government have been to attain a 'rainbow revolution' with simultaneous development of the crop and non-crop sectors besides giving emphasis towards attainment of food and nutrition security, increasing farmers' incomes, and promoting organic farming. Following the implementation of the roadmaps, agricultural performance in Bihar has revealed signs of improvement (Hoda et al., 2021; Kannan, & Pohit, 2019; NCAER, 2019). While annual growth of NSDP accruing from agriculture and allied sectors during the pre-agriculture roadmap period (2001-08) has been about 2.0 per cent, the same during the First Agriculture Roadmap period (2008-12) increased to 3.1 per cent. However, such a growth momentum could not be sustained post-2012 thereby raising the question of stability of agricultural growth in the state.

The policy impact at the macro-level after 2005-06, if any, has very little positive implications for agriculture which is the lifeline of the bulk of the workforce in Bihar. Contrary to assertions of community based bottom-up empowerment of the agrarian social base through political alliances reflects the attempts to reconcile the conflict and change within the regime of accumulation between the traditional upper castes landed ruling classes.

Building the digital infrastructure for farmers will

help agriculture move towards higher efficiency and inclusiveness. Also setting up the Agriculture Accelerator Fund, focusing on horticulture value chains, giving a *big thrust to millets mission*, setting up storage facilities for farmers at the cooperative level, and targeting overall credit disbursement of Rs 20 lakh crore definitely moves the agriculture in the new direction. Investment in the sector must be encouraged through an affordable, timely and inclusive approach to credit delivery. The digital infrastructure created over the years in rural areas ensured transparent and timely payments to the beneficiaries directly into their account.

Farmers in the state previously grew millets, such as *jowar* (sorghum), *bajra* (pearl millet) and *madua* (finger millet) but, of late, they have focused on growing mainly two crops, rice and wheat. In the recent past, Bihar witnessed a 'maize revolution'. Although maize is an all season crop, it is cultivated more in the flood-prone areas of North Bihar in the *rabi* season to get protection from the vagaries of weather in the heavy-rainfall monsoon months. Bihar today is one of the largest producers of maize and it acts as the main supplier of maize to other states. Since millets are termed as 'miracle crops' as it can grow under harsh circumstances and also drought-resistant. Health experts say most of the millets are non-acid forming, non-glutinous, highly nutritious and easily digestible. Due to low glycogenic index (GI) are gluten-free, millets help in slower release of glucose over a period of time, thus reducing the risk of diabetes mellitus. Apart from being rich sources of minerals like calcium, iron, zinc, phosphorus, magnesium and potassium, millets also contain significant amount of dietary fibre and vitamins while availability of high amounts of lecithin is considered very useful in strengthening the nervous system. Tulika Kumari and K. M. Singh (2023), examined the growth of area, production and yield of *rabi maize* in the recent past and estimated the TFP of maize. They found that the growth rates of area, production and yield of *rabi maize* have been positive. The yield of *rabi maize* has been increasing over the years due to improved input use efficiency and technological improvement. The TFP has been positive, and it is directly correlated with the yield, indicating that technological advancement has been responsible for high growth of yield and production of maize in the state. On this basis, the authors recommend for greater adoption of the technology to improve the farmers' condition for which necessary awareness-building and provision of quality extension services would be required.

Between 1999-2000 and 2008-09 in Bihar, about

74 percent of the growth in GSDP contributed by agriculture and allied activities, construction, communication, and, trade, hotels and restaurants while the rest of the sectors together account for just a quarter in the growth process. The contribution of construction in overall growth saw a remarkable rise from 11% between 1999-2000 and 2004-05 to 29% between 2004-05 and 2008-09. However, the peak period of share of construction in the overall growth process seems to have been in 2004-05. In the three years between 2006-07 and 2008-09, the contribution of construction to overall growth declined to 21%. Thus the growth spurt in construction precedes the policies adopted in and after 2005-06.

While, the contribution of communication to Bihar's overall GSDP growth doubled from 4% between 1999-2000 and 2004-05 to 9% between 2004-05 and 2008-09. However this leap seems to be concentrated in the year 2004-05 and remained at that level in subsequent years. This has also been one of the less volatile sectors of the economy all through the decade under consideration. The expansion in communication would find a more plausible explanation in the "telecom boom" in India since 2004-05 than to any particular state specific policy after 2005-06.

The contributions of trade, hotels and restaurants to economic growth in Bihar in the CSO data are equally important. Those were reflected over every period in the last decade. Bihar's growth needs to take on board this self restraint secular expansion of trade despite the structural constraints of Bihar's economy and the overall volatility of the agrarian economic base.

The growth path represents the resumption of a long, fluctuating and volatile movement towards a trade-led higher growth continuum that had started in 1994-95 but was interrupted by the impact of bifurcation of Bihar in 2001. A preliminary proposition is that the process of movement to a higher growth continuum since 1994-95 in Bihar follows from the diversified patterns of accumulation through the agency of new entrants to accumulation as an outcome of the social justice movement in Bihar. It was argued that "security plus road and telecom expansion have incubated a boom in small business and domestic construction" (Aiyar, 2010).

The new political economy propositions on the role of the State soon found their way into the post-Washington Consensus on good governance adding sophistication to the earlier neoliberal

world view in which the state simply was a barrier to the free-market (Byres,1998). This theoretical consensus on the role of the State found a key formulation in the *World Development Report* (World Bank 1997). The focus was on building "effective states" built on the logic of the market, in which the state is conceptualised as a set of institutions conceived on behavioural economics. It means making the state more responsive to people's needs, bringing government closer to the people through broader participation and decentralisation. Good governance (*sushasan*) with "peace and confidence" has not only been able to provide service delivery but also ensure that the development paradigm "percolate down to the masses". The role of the state is to create the right investment climate for private capital. It should protect private property rights, should subject society to the rule of law, should not intervene in the market and should provide key services to facilitate the market, and in certain extended versions, should be anti-corruption and pro-democracy (North 1990; Hall and Jones 1999; Kauffman, Kraay and Zoido- Lobatón 1999; Knack and Keefer 1995; Mauro 1995; Barro 1996).

Khan (1995) points out that far from being a service providing institution, the State is an instrument in the hands of "contending classes, groups and political entrepreneurs" each attempting to capture resources for accumulation and steer the process of social transformation in specific directions. State institutions and policies are always the outcome of conflict and negotiation between contending socio-political forces. In spite of a range of literature that pointed out the theoretical fallacy of propositions deriving from what Hirschman (1981) had described as *mono economics*; and provided evidence of the process of accumulation mediated by market exchange and political power being closely associated with the specific nature of corruption and social power (Harriss-White, 1996; Mukherjee Reed 2001), the structure and processes defining the "service delivery state" were formalised in the post-Washington Consensus on "good governance". Through the convergence of so-called expertise on institution-building within the larger climes of such techno-managerial approaches that claimed to be.

Since the Bihar is mainly dependence on agriculture and allied activities, comprising over 80 percent of the region's gross domestic product, it is imperative to promote improved methods of cultivation to raise productivity levels. The improvements in productivity can be tied directly to faster innovation and more investments in human capital. As such, they advocate for government and

private sector institutions to nurture innovation initiatives and offer incentives for individuals and businesses to be more creative. Bihar should follow an 'agri-centric growth model' involving the private corporate sector and inviting the agri-tech firms and start-ups to promote food value chains and value addition, and market its products in best paying domestic and export markets (Chand, 2023).

Jha (2023), has shown that the issues relating to the impact of migration on agricultural productivity. His main conclusion is that the migration of landowners from the hinterland where the rigid farm laws prohibit the tenancy of agricultural land is hurting productivity in agriculture. Jha (2023) has observed that significant improvement of productivity in agriculture is difficult to infuse in a system that is dominated by small landholders, farmers are engaged in multiple activities and the farms are managed by the 'absent landowners' and informal lessees of land.

From the above mentioned review of literature clearly indicates that agriculture alone itself is unable to justify the development for justice. Good governance with the convergence of Bihar's growth and development through the building of the institutions of the service delivery is the needs of the day.

Understanding Economic Justice in the context of Bihar:

Economic justice aims to create equal opportunities for all members of the economy. If all citizens can earn an income for themselves, they will spend more, which will stimulate the economy further. Modern economics revolves around the concept of distributing capital and labor in such a way that everyone is better off. Therefore, economic justice is rooted in the idea that an economy will be more successful if all market participants are treated fairly. As such, the goal is to create opportunities for everyone to potentially thrive and prosper. In the case of Bihar, there is no scope of shifting land from one activates to other. It goes against the concept that it should "make everyone better off." Although there is more overall wealth, most of the wealth disproportionately ends up in the hands of the land owners. We should also keep in mind that growth does not necessarily leads to a better way of living of the farming community in other words the development process may not lead towards justice.

We need to recognize that agriculture as an enterprise by converging agri-business to agro-business in the form of monetization of farmers'

produce, and to provide demand led, evidence based policy advice to Indian policymakers for the promotion of a sustainable economic growth. Enhancing farm income requires efficiency in terms of input use which will help to reduce cost of production, shifting from low value to high value commodities, increase cropping intensity, improve efficiency in irrigation, seed replacement, balance fertilizer use and convert the agriculture into a business model. To achieve the goals it is necessary to develop proper infrastructural facilities such as connectivity of roads, digital access, and access to clean energy, financial inclusion through different Governmental funded schemes. The constraints of the development of the region have been categorized under four different heads, namely, *socio-cultural, physical, infrastructural and technological*. The socio-cultural factors include inappropriate land tenure systems, private property rights, persistent structural inequality in agriculture has created barriers in achieving the desired goals, and the current policy regime together with the bureaucratic apathy and biases caused an unending agrarian distress in Bihar.

At the all India level, the average size of land holdings is barely 1.08 ha, which in Bihar is a paltry 0.39 ha. Resultantly, the size of marketable surplus is very low. This leads to poor bargaining power for the small and marginal farmers in fetching favourable price for their produce as well as in procurement of inputs at a reasonable cost. The problem is further aggravated due to a long marketing chain and presence of a large number of middlemen between the producers and consumers. To overcome these problems, the Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) have been established in recent years to organise the farmers into a collective to facilitate aggregation of their produce for collective marketing and better price realisation. Sunil Kumar (2022) discusses alternative institutional models of the FPOs and looks into the present status of FPOs in Bihar. He observes that the FPOs in Bihar have made a modest beginning with formation of 728 FPOs till 31st March 2021 with the institutional support of NABARD, SFAC, Agriculture Department of Bihar, NAFED, etc. Despite the potential of organic farming in the region, mass involvements of the farmers are missing. Similarly, strength of farming system to harness the benefit from the complementarities of crop livestock system through intensive integration could not be fully explored. Taking into consideration the resources of the community and their utilization and up-gradation for ensuring food and nutritional

security, at the household and community level are lacking.

How risk and uncertainty can be addressed?

The challenge is now that how could we make strategy, preferring a short-term reactive approach over a more coherent long term sustainable approach towards inclusive *growth*, a laid out policy framework for development with justice. Our motto should be to expand and strengthen the network to protect the interests of small farmers. One of our study (Singh and Datta; 2013) in the Indian diary sector where our major concern it's sustainability justified on the ground that it realizes the needs of the production base by the masses and self sustaining. It generates income, employment to cover their better way of living with self respect. In this kind of social business, part of the surplus is invested in expanding the business, and part is kept in reserve to cover uncertainties. By fulfilling the inclusiveness it is not moving towards efficiency but also the achieving a social goal '*Sab-ka sath-sub ka bikas*'. The new ways of defining *Atmanirvoar Bharat* already committed towards the resilience at multiple levels at an individual (dairy farmers') level, dairy industrial level as well as national level. For example, the government has indicated that it would provide various forms of incentives and protection to key industries. Resilience also applied to small and marginalised dairy farmers' like other individuals and vulnerable social groups, calls for the creation of safety nets. Being vocal for "local" can be a stepping stone to a self-reliant India and an India that will add its own unique glow and charm to the vast array of products in the global marketplace. It is essential to transform traditional supply chains from linear, sequential processes into adaptive supply chain networks in which communities of customer centric, demand driven, intelligently adapt to changing market conditions, and proactively respond to shorter, less predictable life cycles. It must do so on an *ex-post* basis that can be justified with legitimate national interest arguments rather than on an *ex-ante* basis that prevents flow of fund from coming into the extent it can and wants to be. Focus should be on boosting competitiveness building infrastructure and creating conditions for companies to compete in global markets (Datta, 2022).

Lesson from 'Local to vocal'

In the context of Vocal for Local gaining momentum, there is a huge increase in local apps,

local kirana stores, local artisans and brands. We need to recognize that agriculture as an enterprise by converging agri-business to agro-business in the form of monetization of farmers' produce, and to provide demand-led, evidence-based policy advice to Indian policymakers for the promotion of a sustainable economic growth. Enhancing farm income requires efficiency in terms of input use which will help to reduce cost of production, shifting from low value to high value commodities, increase cropping intensity, improve efficiency in irrigation, seed replacement, balance fertilizer use and convert the agriculture into a business model.

It is high time that the various stakeholders in the discussions relating to retailing in India start making a serious effort to understand how efficient or inefficient India's retailing infrastructure is today. And then how to make it more efficient for the consumers, the producers of consumer goods, those whose livelihood rests upon the retailing value chain and, finally, the state and central governments who have to expand their tax revenue base to meet their revenue needs to provide better physical and social infrastructure to India's masses.

Government Policy:

The Economic Survey highlighted that "cash transfers" under the central schemes like PM-KISAN were "a big relief" for all the "adversely affected masses. Intervention by the Government through PM Kisan to provide income support, strengthening of institutional finance and insurance through the PMFBY and the push given to Kisan Credit Cards as also access to machines and tools that improve productivity have been significant. The number of persons demanding work under MGNREGS was seen to be trending around pre-pandemic levels from July to November 2022. This could be attributed to the normalisation of the rural economy due to strong Agricultural growth and a swift recovery from Covid induced slowdown, culminating in better employment opportunities (Economic Survey 2022-23). According to the Survey, a total of 5.6 crore households availed employment and 225.8 crore person-days employment have been generated under the Scheme till January, 2023. "When majority of the work force reverse Migrated to rural areas in search of livelihoods, agriculture (3.4 percent growth in FY20-21) as well as the world's largest employment scheme MGNREGA supported the domestic economy"

(Economic Survey, 2022-23).

Ways towards a sustainable goal:

What is needed at this juncture is capturing social inclusion by means of investment of effort and resources to the promotion, capacity building and improvement of governance even though there were various difficulties that were crept in i.e., human assets, fund, show casing, administration and organization. It is not a charity, but a business in every sense. For this we need to recognize that agriculture as an enterprise by converging agri-business to agro-business in the form of monetization of farmers' produce and to provide demand-led, evidence-based policy advices for the promotion of a sustainable economic growth. Social business would be conducted and operated with pleasure as it holds a purpose, self satisfaction, and self-sacrifice.

Exploring the Government Schemes towards sustainable inclusive growth

An enabling policy regime, proactive government initiatives and supportive regulatory administration allowed the private and public sector entities in the financial sector to overcome longstanding challenges of exclusion of a large part of the population (World Development Report, 2023). In rural Bharat, the government has allowed providing financial assistance effectively and transparently to farmers with lower transaction costs be it for fertilisers or any of the other schemes including the *PM Kisan Samman Nidhi*, *PM Fasal Bima Yojana*, and *PM Krishi Sinchayi Yojana* becoming the backbone for supporting the growth of the agricultural economy. The benefits received under the *Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act* and *Public Distribution System* drive the rural demand supply chain.

To protect the life and livelihood, it is necessary to assessed that how some financial assistance and insurance and pension schemes under the *Garib Kalyan Yojana* could be extended. Even more glaring is the *Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)*, which provides a cover of Rs 5 lakh per family per year for medical treatment in empanelled government as well as private hospitals. While 10.35 crore *PM-JAY Cards* have been issued since the launch of "the world's largest health assurance scheme" in September 2018, the lack of hospital infrastructure itself has been the single biggest deterrent to the success of this programme.

Sum up and concluding remarks:

Development for socio-economic justice require broad base economic transformation where ordinary people can befits directly from improvements in productivity associated with the incentives of market incentives through supply chain management may be the guiding force/example to address how such risk and uncertainty of the world economy can be an opportunity to restructure the economy. We do hope that reinforcing at least some of the proposed measures could place in a superior position in terms of sustainable development goals and inclusive growth. We have suggested adapting diversification of agriculture, developing value chain, agro-business, agric-tourism, community management and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Secondly, perspective towards social protection policy for the poor households including programmes for social assistance, insurance and welfare measures can help the development process. The major focus should be on moral imperative for economic growth which calls for stability at the microeconomic level rather than having a steady state at the macro-economic level. The successful implementation of an inclusive growth strategy based on the policy of justice and equity, along with a wide movements for social reforms might yield desired results. A democratically elected effective governance can lead the economy towards the path of development with justice.

REFERENCES

1. Aiyar, S A (2010) "Bihar's Economic Miracle: Real But Fragile", *The Times of India*, 21, February.
2. Amirapu, A and A. Subramanian (2015) *Manufacturing or Services? An Indian Illustration of a Development Dilemma*. Working Paper 409. Washington, DC: Center for Global Development.
3. Barro, R (1996) "Democracy and Growth", *Journal of Economic Growth*, 1(1): 1-27.
4. Bhaumik, Sankar Kumar (Ed.) (2023) *Enhancing Agricultural Productivity and Farmer Incomes in Bihar*, New Delhi, Sage /Spectrum.
5. Sk. Abdul Rashid (2023) "Growth Performance of Agriculture During 2000-2020", in Bhaumik (Ed.), Pp 33-69.
6. *Bihar Economic Survey: 2021-22 and 2022-23*, Finance Department, Ministry of Finance, Government of Bihar.

7. Byres, T J (1998) "Introduction" in T J Byres (ed.), *The Indian Economy: Major Debates since Independence* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press).
8. Chand, Ramesh (2023) "Enabeling Agriculture to Drive Faster and Inclusive Growth", in Bhaumik (Ed.)Pp. 3-9.
9. Datta, K. K, (2022) Navigating risk and uncertainty- The way forward of agribusiness for the Indian economy, pp43-48, Lead paper, In Souvenir-cum-Abstracts Book: National Seminar on "Converging Agribusiness Acumen for Growth, Profitability and Sustainability through Agripreneurs & Agri Start-ups", 2022, Sabour Agri Incubators (SABAGRIs), Directorate of Research, Bihar Agricultural University, Sabour-813210, Bhagalpur University website: www. bausabour. ac. in
10. Dreze, J and Sen, A (2002) *India, Development and Participation*, New Delhi, Oxford.
11. (2013) *An Uncertain Glory*, London, Allen Lane, Penguin.
12. *Economic Survey, 2022-23*, (2023) Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs, Economic Division, North Block.
13. Gulati, A, R. Roy and S. Saini (Eds.) (2021) *Revitalizing Indian agriculture and boosting farmer incomes*, Springer India.
14. Hall, R and C Jones (1999) "Why Do Some Countries Produce So Much More Output Per Worker Than Others?" *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 114(1): 83-116.
15. Harriss-White, B (1996) "Liberalisation and Corruption: Resolving the Paradox", *IDS Bulletin*, 27(2), April.
16. Hoda, A., Gulati, A., Jose, S., & Rajkhowa, P. (2021) "Sources and drivers of agricultural growth in Bihar", in A. Gulati, R. Roy and S. Saini (Eds.)
17. Hirschman, A O (1981) "The Rise and Decline of Development Economics", *Essays in Trespassing: Economics to Politics and Beyond* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).
18. Jha, Brajesh (2023). "Development, Migration and Productivity in Agriculture", in Bhaumik (Ed.)Pp335-352.
19. Kannan, E., & Pohit, S. (2019) *Growth and structural transformation of agriculture in Bihar* (Policy Brief No. 1), NCAER.
20. Kauffman, D, A Kraay and P Zoido-Lobaton (1999) "Governance Matters", World Bank Policy Working Paper No 2196, Washington DC.
21. Khan, M H (1995) "State Failure in Weak States: A Critique of New Institutional Explanations" in J Harriss, J Hunter and C M Lewis (ed.), *The New Institutional Economics and Third World Development*, London, Routledge.
22. Knack, S and P Keefer (1995) "Institutions and Economic Performance: Cross-Country Tests Using Alternative Institutional Measures", *Economics & Politics*, 7(3): 207-27.
23. Kochhar, K., U. Kumar, R. Rajan, A. Subramanian, and I. Tokatlidis (2006) 'India's Pattern of Development: What Happened, What Follows?', *Journal of Monetary Economics*, 53: 981-1019. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmoneco.2006.05.007>.
24. Kumar, Arun (2023) Economic Survey: Bihar Bounced Back in 2021-22, *Hindusthan Times*, February 27.
25. Kmari, Tulika and K. M. Singh (2023) Enhancing productivity of Rabi Maize through technological change, in Bhaumik (Ed.) Pp. 70-78.
26. Lahiri, Asok, K (2022) *India in Search of Glory, Political Calculus and Economy*. New Delhi, Business Penguin Random House.
27. Mauro, P (1995) "Corruption and Growth", *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 110(3): 681-712.
28. Mukerjee Reed A (2001) *Perspectives on the Indian Corporate Economy: Exploring the Paradox of Profits*, NY, Palgrave Macmillan.
29. NCAER (2019); *Study on agricultural diagnostics for the State of Bihar in India*. New Delhi, NCAER.
30. North, D (1990) *Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance*, NY, Cambridge University Press.
31. Rawls, John (1971) *A Theory of Justice*, Cambridge MA, Harvard University.
32. (2001) *Justice as Fairness: A Restatement*, Cambridge MA, Harvard University.
33. SBI's Group report on 11th October, 2022 on The One District One Export - District as Export Hubs (ODOF-DEH).
34. Sen, Amartya (2009) *The Idea of Justice*, London, Allen Lane, Penguin.
35. Singh Shiv Raj and Datta, K. K. (2013) Future of small holders in the Indian Dairy Sector- Some Anecdotal Evidence, *Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics* Vol 68, No 2, Pp 182-194.
36. Singh, Shiv Raj and K. K. Datta (2013) Futuristic Outlook to Ensure Food Security Through Broad-based Livelihood Activities Chapter 12, in *Agrarian Crisis in India*, Academic Foundation, Pp. 321-336.
37. World Bank (1997) *World Development Report*

- 1997: *The State in a Changing World*, Washington DC, World Bank (WB).
38. (2022) *World Development Report 2022: Finance For Equitable Recovery*, Washington DC, WB
39. (2023) *World Development Report 2023: Migrants, Refugees and Societies*, Washington DC, WB.