

Global Perspectives for Working in India

Rough Draft 1

Date: 11/4/21

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For: Engr-200

Section 002

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Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an understanding of the influences that allow for effective problem-solving within a community in India. The first concept is etiquette, which explains all the factors of doing business in India. It touches on the ease of doing business in India and the climate of investment of both citizens and foreigners. Meeting preparation and conducting business are also important aspects of etiquette. You will begin to understand their negotiation style and the environment of the meetings. Dining and socializing are also something that occurs often in India. Indians intentions are to make everyone feel welcome with dinner and ask more personal questions. One of the last concepts covered in the etiquette section is avoiding offense, what topics and gestures to avoid when in India.

The second concept covered is culture. The first section addresses traditions, values, and roles of Indian culture. What you should take away from this section is that India is a very diverse but welcoming country, and the people value collectivism and harmony. This brings us to the next section of roles. Roles in India are important because a person of higher class typically gives them out and the person given the role is expected to follow through with it. The final section in culture is discussing the caste system which was India's past social structure.

The next concept covered is politics. In this section, we address the fact that India is the largest democracy in the world. We also discuss India's constitution, which was established once India was free from Britain's rule in 1950, and the power it establishes in the president, supreme commander, the council of ministers, and the two houses of the legislature. You also should now be able to understand the roles of the president, supreme commander, and the council of ministers in depth. Parliament is also explained in how it impacts the president and other officials, and the power difference between the houses and their roles. The last area covered is the judicial branch and the rights it enforces for the citizens of India.

Another concept is economics, which has been slowing since the start of COVID in early 2020. We explain the inflation rate, which has gone up by 4% since 2000, and the fluctuation in the GDP. From 2013 to 2018 the GDP has gone up by 8% but after COVID ruined India's economy it is down -19%. It is also important to understand that the poverty crisis in India is not because of unemployment, but because of underemployment. We also explain the average cost of living, which is

between 15,000 to 20,000 dollars. It is also important to take into account India is also responsible for producing a lot of greenhouse gases, and having extreme climate-changing rates.

The final section we cover is infrastructure, which is essential for the overall progression of India. The first essential part of the infrastructure in India is power, which is heavily dependent on coal and making fuels from coal. However, there have been a lot of issues with the production of energy in greenhouses from the lack of coal and other natural resources required to make the fuels. We also explain the large bridges and their construction, which India uses to make transportation faster with their dense populations. However, there have been a lot of flaws found in the architecture and construction of the bridges in India, which cannot withstand the natural disasters that occur, such as flooding. The last part of the infrastructure we explain is the dams that are built in India. Even though these dams have been really helpful to India, they are also costly and can cause a lot of issues with pipelines. Overall, India is a diverse and lively country, every region is different and unique in its way.

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide an understanding of the influences that allow for effective problem-solving within a community in India. India is the world's largest democracy and contains the world's second-largest population which means conducting business or making interpersonal connections within this vast country can seem daunting. Our report focuses on proper business etiquette and how culture, economics, and politics shape collaboration. Overall, this report will identify key factors that shape the realities of people in India to effectively collaborate and build lasting connections.

Proper etiquette is critical to building lasting business and individual connections. Acceptable behavior and actions need to be understood to prevent an outsider from offending anyone in India and ruining any interaction before it has even started. To understand proper etiquette our report will identify any investment or working barriers foreigners need to overcome, how to adequately prepare for a meeting, how to conduct business respectfully, proper dining practices, and how to avoid offense in daily interaction. It is imperative for anyone conducting business in India to understand the proper etiquette of the region to make effective and lasting connections.

Proper etiquette is shaped by a regional culture that encompasses all interactions and behaviors. Culture is the foundation of a community. Outside collaborators must identify and respect key aspects of a region's culture to understand how to implement compatible solutions. Understanding culture through our report will help shape meaningful collaboration to yield necessary solutions to perform business more efficiently. Our report will address traditions, values, religions/beliefs, roles based on gender and age, and how any social hierarchies support systematic discrimination. Culture shares a symbiotic relationship with politics: Culture shapes politics and politics supports culture. Outside business partners need to understand political happenings in India with as much fervor as they would in their home country. Politics determine how power and influence are distributed and how policies, along with their enforcement, affect India's citizens and foreign collaborators. This report will identify how India's governing body is structured and how the people that make up the government use (or abuse) their power. This report will identify the type of government, its stability, if any corruption affects political influence, how natural rights are addressed, and how global influences affect policy. National, and regional, politics affect all aspects of Indian life and anyone wanting to conduct business in India must be aware of legal requirements.

Economics plays a major role in determining how businesses can address community problems. The distribution of wealth is important to understand to identify who outside partners work with and what projects are deemed necessary for a community. This report will identify key aspects of economics like

economic stability, wealth distribution, unemployment or underemployment rates, the cost of living and its influence on the standard of living, and how human-created problems are addressed. Outside workers need to understand how India's economy drives business decisions and dictates how problems need to be addressed.

Additionally, our report will address how India's infrastructure supports its population and provides a physical structure for the culture, economy, and political makeup of the country. This report will determine how physical infrastructure like houses, roads, and other buildings provide shelter, locations of business, and a means of travel for India's citizens. Furthermore, this report will comment on how accessible critical infrastructure is to India's residents and how entities can address problems with existing (or lack thereof) infrastructure.

With over a billion people claiming India as home, outsiders need to recognize and adapt to a multitude of different cultures and socioeconomic statuses. The purpose of this report is to provide information to foreign business partners so they may successfully collaborate with India's permanent residents to provide meaningful products and/or services. This report identifies proper etiquette and information on cultural practices, economic mobility, and political influences to help outside collaborations make lasting connections.

Etiquette

The Climate of Investment & Doing Business

The ease of doing business in India is not easy. India still lags behind many other countries. What hurts them the most are the tariffs and trade regulations because trade regulations are often unpredictable and it leaves many U.S. investors and exporters with limited access to the market (Luthra and Koshy, 2021). These roadblocks have not been improved recently. India has also placed limits on foreign countries owning businesses and has very firm regulations for potential investors. Additionally, rules vary from state to state which often presents a challenge to investors and businesses (Luthra and Koshy, 2021). Without a solid understanding of the issues, businesses are left with tax penalties and potentially criminal litigation (Khatry, Manokara and Harris, 2020).

For business meetings in India, it is important to schedule meeting arrangements at least a few days in advance. Make sure to include a brief overview of who you are, the objective of the meeting, and your organization (Cultural Atlas, 2021). A typical work week in India is working 9:30 am-5:30 pm, 5 days a week (Luthra and Koshy, 2021). The best time for a meeting in India would be around 11 am or earlier in the afternoon. It is also important to keep your schedule flexible because Indian culture tends to be slower and informal (Cultural Atlas, 2021). Things may not always go according to plan which is why it is important to be flexible.

Meeting Preparation

When planning for a meeting you must know how to dress. For men, they typically wear a button-down shirt, pants, and a jacket or tie depending on how formal the event is (Business Culture, 2019). For women, the dress code has changed significantly over the years. Earlier women would wear traditional Indian clothes like a sari or perhaps the Salwar Kameez (Business, Culture, 2019). Now women often wear pants-suits or skirts and tops with a high neckline. If invited to a formal event foreigners should wear traditional Indian wear. Wearing traditional wear is seen as a gesture of friendship and is greatly appreciated (Shira and Devonshire-Ellis, 2012). Every once in a while it is okay to dress casually at social gatherings.

Hindi is the official language of India but English is the business language of India so you most likely will not need a translator. In southern India, you will find people more fluent in English, while in the north you may run into more trouble of people not being able to understand you. When arriving at a

meeting come on time but expect the meeting to start a few minutes late or have some interruptions (Shira and Devonshire-Ellis, 2012). When people start arriving at the meeting you might see them greeting each other with the traditional Indian greeting known as “Namaste” in which the individual has their hands pressed together, fingers are pointed upwards, in front of the chest with a bow of the head (Shira and Devonshire-Ellis, 2012). It is also common to shake another colleague's hand. Although men and women are treated the same it is important to only shake a woman's hand if she initiates it. It is also common to use “Mr.” and “Mrs.” when meeting each other (Shira and Devonshire-Ellis, 2012).

Conducting Business

Making conversation is a strong part of conducting business in India. Many businesses are relationship-based. It is not uncommon for Indians to ask a lot of personal questions. Discussing family and personal life is seen as a sign of friendliness and showing interest (Shira and Devonshire-Ellis, 2019). Besides talking about personal life, Indians also like to talk about politics, cricket, and films. Indians tend to be very accepting of others because of the country's diversity. When conducting business it is also important to keep in mind to respect the elders and hierarchy (Shira and Devonshire-Ellis, 2012). People of power and authority are also highly appreciated. Indians are quite conscious of social order.

Negotiation in India takes time. It is a slow process because Indians like to process the information and consider all options (Shira and Devonshire-Ellis, 2012). Indians usually focus on long-term commitments or expectations. They also like to spend time collecting information and discussing details before the bargaining stage. By communicating openly and being transparent is a great way to gain trust. During negotiation, Indians ask an overload of questions to understand and they also go in random order so it is important to not show irritations. Decisions are reached by the person with the most authority which causes frequent delays. Patience is key in Indian negotiation.

Dining and Socializing

It is very common for a foreigner to be invited for dinner at the home of an Indian business partner or at a restaurant. Indians are delighted to host guests. If you are invited to a dinner it is recommended to bring a box of sweets, flowers or a household item as a gift (Shira and Devonshire-Ellis, 2012). If the host has children bringing a small gift for the child such as a book is also appreciated. When arriving at an Indian home, remove your shoes before entering. At a home, you'll typically see floor mats made for eating but if you are at a restaurant you would see a table and chairs. Much of their

food in India is eaten without utensils. It is mostly eaten with fingers and the right hand only (Cultural Atlas, 2021). It is also important to look out for food sensitivities. Some Indians have dietary restrictions because of their faith. For a large number of Indian Hindus eating meat is prohibited. Indians might also abstain from drinking alcohol but if a host offers it is okay to accept.

Avoiding Offense

In India, certain things are considered offensive such as talking about Pakistan. It is best to avoid discussing issues between India and Pakistan (Shira and Devonshire-Ellis, 2012). In addition to not talking about Pakistan and India, you should also not talk about the country's poverty if you are a foreigner (Cultural Atlas, 2021). Even though Indians do openly discuss the country's poverty, if a foreigner brings it up it is considered criticism (Shira and Devonshire-Ellis, 2012). In general, if a foreigner criticizes it is seen as unwelcome and comes across as an insult. It is also important to keep in mind not to swear as Indians may take offense. When using your hands as gestures make sure to not point directly at someone (Cultural Atlas, 2021). Instead, gesture with your chin. In addition, always use your right hand to perform tasks because the left is seen as unclean.

Culture

Traditions, Values, and Religion

The culture in India is very diverse and the country of India takes pride in that fact. In different regions of India, languages, religious practices, and social standards differ. Because of India's massive population of about 1.5 billion citizens (Worldmeter), this description of India's culture is not meant to represent every citizen because every family's practices differ. Furthermore, families practice different traditions, some are practiced by almost all Indians, while other traditions may be traditions of a single family. But India as a whole takes pride in the traditions that they have practiced for centuries, as well as all the different discoveries they have made in science and engineering (Pier). Traditions that India takes pride in are based on their fine arts, spirituality (yoga), a diverse range of music, and literature (Pier).

Another crucial factor of India's culture is its values. In India, people value collectivism and harmony. Families are very codependent on each other. Each family member has daily roles that uphold the well-being of the family. Community members will go to the jati, a person of higher class that leads the community/tribe, and will then follow the roles given to them (Pier). Indians also are very aware of how their actions can reflect on their families and communities, so they usually consider how others will be affected (Pier). Towards the northern region of India, communities are usually run with their system of rules that address the issues they may have in those areas to keep everything harmonious. Although most people assume communities are run by those of higher class, it is found that those of lower class may lead the community depending on the area (Pier). It is also common knowledge in India that you can depend on the people you have social ties with. When there is an issue, people are quick to help and reassure. However, this does cause some separation anxiety and fear of isolation which can result in people being very co-dependent. Another reason why India prioritizes harmony is because of how close in proximity people live. Because of the high population in some regions, it is very hard to survive independently (Pier).

Another crucial value in India is conservativeness. They are not only conservative in the way they dress but in most areas of their lives, especially in rural areas (Pier). It is not uncommon for strangers to avoid physical contact when first meeting out of respect for the other person. Especially if the strangers are of the opposite sex. Men and women usually do not touch unless they are family or married. Furthermore, when speaking Indians usually avoid speaking too loudly and use little body language. It is also common to wear clothing that fully covers the legs and arms, it is very uncommon to see very immodest clothing. Even though traditional clothing is commonly worn in India, it is also common to see men and women in western clothing in some urban areas (Pier).

Historically, Religion has had a large impact on India's political, cultural, and economic society. The main religion practiced in India is Hinduism. The long history of the traditions practiced in India has helped keep Hinduism as the most followed religion. About 79.8% of India's population identifies as Hindu (Kramer, 2021). Other religions practiced in India include Islam (14.2%), Christianity (2.3%), and Sikhism (1.8%) (Kramer, 2021). Religion is very prevalent in day-to-day life in India, because there are many historical buildings that are viewed as sacred; citizens will visit these places daily. Hinduism is a diverse religion that can be interpreted in various ways. It affects the day-to-day life of those that practice Hinduism, whether it be going to the temple daily, festivities based on significant religious days, or practicing daily traditions that stem from Hinduism. It is also very common to see images and murals of the gods in private and public places (Pier).

Caste System & Systematic Discrimination

The social structure in India is a prevalent part of the culture. In India, they follow a traditional social structure known as the Caste System (Jones, 2017). The Caste System was created in India in the early 1500s and was followed for centuries. However, the Caste System is not legally enforced anymore, and discrimination based on caste is outlawed. Also, a common misconception is that the caste system is only one term, but it's two different systems of stratification (Pier, 2018). The first system is the most commonly known and it is called the "*varna*" system (Pier). The Caste System (*varna*) consists of four structures, *brahmin* (priestly), *kshatriya* (nobility), *vaishya* (merchant) and *shudra* (artisan or labourer) (Pier, 2018). Over time, this system became disliked because those of the lower class were constantly oppressed by those of the higher class. The second system is more small-scale and is referred to as the "*jati*" system (Pier, 2018). The *jati* system comprises 2,000 *jati* categories of future jobs and roles. Through the *jati* system, families of higher class pass down their current careers to their kin. Usually the careers passed down consist of doctors, politicians, lawyers, and other important jobs needed in the community. By passing down careers to the next generation, it is easier to sort out people who will have very important jobs and are of high class. By utilizing the *jati* system, arranged marriages between wealthy families' children can be decided at a very young age. This is because the career path and the future of the children has already been decided by the parents at a young age. Even though the Caste system is no longer legal, the caste system still causes issues in today's society. People of different social classes are still staying separated and oppressed in some ways. (Jones, 2017) Those in the lower-class find it extremely difficult to change their class without the aid of others that are considered a higher class. So

even though the caste system is no longer in use, it has had a lasting effect on the social structure of India's culture today.

Roles

In India families follow a patriarchal ideology, adopting traditional gender roles and the 'Joint family' structure, in which three or four generations of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and grandparents reside under one roof. Living together leads to a stronger willingness to collaborate with family members and extended kin on decisions that touch most elements of life, such as career choices, mate selection, and marriage. (Suri, 2020)

When a girl gets married in India, she becomes a member of her husband's family and lives with them. Daughters are not expected to help their birth parents when they reach old age, according to custom. Instead, they are part of a new family with their spouse and are expected to care for their parents. There are often very strict rules barring marriages between members of different castes, even if the bride and groom come from similar level castes. (Suri, 2020) Arranged marriage and child marriages have traditionally been set up in part to ensure the caste system status quo. Hypergamy is a system that allows women to marry men of a higher caste but not a lower caste. Hindus that marry Muslims are often ostracized by their families. (Suri, 2020)

In India, the children do not get to decide their spouse. Instead, the parents will set up an arranged marriage with a spouse for their child of a similar status. (Suri, 2020) When the women get married they have to change their last name to the husbands. However, today arranged marriage is not as popular as it was in the past. Now, women and men are beginning to choose their own spouses. Even though not all of the older generations of India agree with having a choice in marriage, the younger generations have been starting to see this as more socially acceptable. In the past there were restrictions which prevented the kin from having a choice. However, today these restrictions are no longer in place, and more people are beginning to choose who they love. (Suri, 2020)

In India, families have to eat together every meal. Because of that, it helps if the family always sticks together. If one family member has an issue, another family member will always be there to help the other one out. Each member of the family is very important to each other. Indians believe in buying goods or diamonds and giving it back to their sons and daughters because goods and diamonds don't lose their value over time. This is the value the parents wish their kids will have for the rest of their lives.

Families like to do the same activities together, go on walks, eat as a family, go on long trips, or volunteer to help the people who are of the lower class. They keep visiting other family members if they have the other house and usually bring the gift when they have the meeting at the weekend. On the holiday, festival, or special day of the family, the woman will dress up in traditional clothing.

Politics

Political Leadership Structure

India is considered the world's largest democracy with almost 1.5 billion people who reside in the country. India describes itself to be a "sovereign socialist secular democratic republic with a parliamentary form of government" (National Portal of India, 2021). In 1950, when British rule of India ended, India adopted the Constitution of India to shape and govern the new nation.

The constitution allows for a president to preside over the country and allocates powers for the president. The president serves as India's head of state and is recognized as the supreme commander of India's military. The supreme commander not only has command over all of India's armed forces but even has the power to declare war or conclude a treaty. In addition, the president appoints governors of states, judges on high and the supreme courts, and even appoint members to the council of Ministers.

Furthermore, the president is needed to nominate certain members of both houses of the legislative branch and has the power to accept or reject motions sent by the council of ministers (Refayi, S). The president plays an important role in the Indian government but is widely viewed as a ceremonial position of power. While the position is responsible for appointments and the military, the president does not have the power to make or enforce laws allocated by the constitution for the Council of Ministers and the legislative body.

The president is responsible for appointing the council of ministers. This body's main role is to advise the president on policy decisions. The council of ministers serves as the true executive branch of India's government and is currently made up of 77 members. The body is currently made up of 30 cabinet ministers and 47 ministers of state. While the council is numbered at 77 the membership will regularly vary with an election cycle (Jha A, 2021).

Similar to the US, England, and other democratic nations India's constitution dictates the need for a legislative body made up of elected representatives. The Parliament of India serves as the nation's primary legislative body and power is divided between two bodies. The Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha serve as the two legislative bodies. The upper and lower house respectively are each composed of elected officials that draft and construct laws and policies on behalf of the government.

The Rajya Sabha is better known as the Council of State. This legislative body is currently made of 245 members out of which 233 members are representatives of the State and Union territories and 12 are nominated by India's president. Elected officials serve 6-year terms that are subject to bi-annual retirements (Rajya Sabha Secretariat, 2021). Similar to the US Senate, a third of the body is up for reelection every two years. The Rajya Sabha shares equal legislative power with the Lok Sabha but special powers are set aside by the constitution in cases of emergency. In cases of emergency, the

president must declare a state of emergency and is therefore given executive power to issue proclamations...that must be approved by both houses. If the lower house is not in session during this time the upper house can approve proclamations on its own.

India's lower house, officially known as the Lok Sabha or the people's house, is parliament's second governing body. Members are elected by popular vote in each state. The constitution maximizes the Lok Sabha's membership to 552 members. 530 members represent the states, 20 members represent the Union territories, and 2 members of the Anglo-Indian community are nominated by the president (Lok Sabha Secretariat). A state's population determines the number of delegates sent to the house where elected members serve 5-year terms.

Finally, India's constitution provides guidelines for a Judicial branch that enforces fundamental rights, issues directions, and directs the transfer of civil and criminal cases (globalEDGE and the Eli Broad College of Business at Michigan State University. 2021). The Supreme court is composed of a chief judge and 30 other judges: all appointed by the president. Similar to the US supreme court the Indian Supreme court rules on the constitutionality of laws. The Supreme Court serves as the highest court of the land and has the final say on all rulings.

Political Conditions and Realities

Unlike the American two-party system, India supports many political parties on all levels of government. Hundreds of political parties jockey for political power nationwide. While India supports numerous and diverse parties, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is the most influential national political party with members dominating national representation.

According to Transparency International, an international political corruption watchdog, India ranks 86 out of 180 countries in political stability and corruption. With a score of 40 out of 100 possible points India is tied with Morocco, Turkey, Trinidad and Tobago, Burkina Faso, and Timor-Leste which slightly ranks below China for national stability. A score of 40 indicates a moderately high level of political corruption indicating a breakdown or failure of governmental structure to serve and protect India's citizens (Transparency International, 2021). Political corruption makes conducting business in India difficult as it can mean business deals may contain hidden prices, competition may not be what it seems, and partnerships may rapidly break down (Hartman L. 2018). India's political structure is on track for rapid improvement however corruption plays a major role in slowing down or halting progress.

Unfortunately, India has a widespread problem with poverty and socio-economic differences divide the nation. Despite high poverty levels, India is trying to pass laws and enforce policies to help disparities. The constitution recognizes necessities, like the right to food, and personal freedoms as fundamental rights and requires the state to secure these rights (National Human Rights Commission India, 2018). Groups, like India's National Human Rights Commission, are tasked with addressing chronic poverty and providing services to help secure rights safeguarded by the constitution (National Human Rights Commission India 2018). Programs like the National Human Rights Commission give hope to citizens that the country is trying to protect its citizens and adhere to their needs. National recognition of human rights can help to alleviate political corruption and improve business and daily life in India.

Economics of India

Economic Stability and Inflation

Since the year 2000, the economy of India has improved vastly but began to slow down before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and even more so after the onset of it. From 2000-2019 India's economy was growing very rapidly, creating more jobs and raising the average income per capita. Over the past 20 years, the inflation rate has increased from 4% in the year 2001 to 6.6% percent in 2020. From 2008 to 2013 the inflation rate was on average sitting over 10% and India was in a poor place economically. But from 2013 to 2018 the GDP growth rate averaged 8%, a high mark, showing great economic growth. However, since the onset of Covid-19, the India GDP growth has decreased from 7% to -12%, a -19% change. Covid 19 destroyed India's economic stability and according to *Fortune* India may experience a very delayed recovery in regards to its economy. Despite this delayed recovery, India's economy is still projected to grow at a strong pace, which will soon lead India to be one of the top economic powers in the world.

Annual Income, Income/Wealth Distribution, and Poverty

The income per capita in India, in 2021, is around \$1,950 or 146,000 Indian Rupees according to *Trading Economics*. This is about 18 times less than the average income in the United States, which is \$35,000, and about 15 times less than the average income in the U.K. Wealth disparity is a huge issue in India, in the 1960's the top 10% of India, income-wise, only controlled about 40% of all of India's wealth. But today the top 10% is accountable for around three-quarters of India's wealth, while the bottom 50% is only accountable for 2.8% of India's wealth, down 10% from 1960. This drastic decrease gives a better insight into India's poverty issue. While the average income in India is 146,000 rupees a year, the median income is only 16,000 rupees. This gives a better insight into income disparity in India, according to "*Sochilchildrensvillage*," "two-thirds of India lives in poverty," which is less than \$2 a day. Around 30% of India lives in extreme poverty, which is less than \$1.25 a day. This statistic makes India one of the poorest countries in the world. At the same time, it is not men who suffer the most from poverty, it is women and children who cannot get good-paying jobs that would cover the cost of basic needs.

According to *Zolostays*, "the average cost of living in India is between 15,000 to 20,000," just for necessities such as food, water, and housing. This is an issue because as stated before, the median income in India is a mere 16,000 rupees, meaning that half the population of India barely makes enough, or not

enough for basic needs. While the cost of living in India is 75% cheaper than living in the U.S, due to the very low average income someone can't achieve the same standard of living that is normal in developed countries. According to *TravelGumbo*, "up to 93% of people living in do not have DLS," (decent living standards) and in 2015 at least 50% did not have decent living standards. According to the *Indian National Sample Surveys*, at least 110 million people, or 10% of India, live in homes with mud walls, and dirt floors, with very little to no electricity or running water. This 110 million consists of 72% of people living in rural areas, and 18% of people living in urban areas. Furthermore, 75% of households lack a latrine in the house. Overall, the living conditions in India are well below what they should be in a developed country and while they are slowly improving, it will still be a long while before a majority of India has decent living conditions.

Unemployment & Underemployment, Availability of Skilled Labor

The main issue causing this extreme poverty is not unemployment, but underemployment. The unemployment rate is considerably low, sitting at 9.76% for urban employment and 7.64% for rural unemployment. This number has started to rise due to the second wave of Covid, but before the second wave, it sat at around 6.5%. The underemployment rate however is much worse. Although there are no clear-cut statistics on underemployment, according to "edexlive" college engineering graduates are only making around 10,000 rupees a month, and people with other college degrees and skills can not find jobs that pay the amount they should. According to *"Times of India"*, "India only has a skilled labor force of 21%, ranking 129th out of 161 countries." This means only 21% have an "intermediate or advanced level of education," Not only does this mean that there is a shortage of skilled workers but there also is a shortage of jobs for those with skills. 45.5% of people with intermediate or advanced don't have jobs in the sectors they are skilled in. This causes a majority of people, whether skilled or not, to work in agriculture which results in low incomes and high underemployment rates.

One huge issue that is pressing not only in India but the entire world is climate change. India, having such a large population is responsible for 7% of the Earth's total greenhouse gas emissions. According to *DownToEarth.org* India was rated as "highly insufficient" by *Climate Action Tracker*. While India has claimed that its emissions fall under the 2 degrees standards stated in the Paris Climate Agreement, experts at *Climate Action Tracker*, say that "Under India's current targets and policies, emissions will continue to rise and are consistent with 4°C." This is due to India's heavy reliance on coal as a part of its economy and production. According to *Indian Express*, "India may lose anywhere around 3

to 10 percent of its GDP annually by 2100 and its poverty rate may rise by 3.5 percent in 2040 due to climate change,” these statistics further support the idea that unless strict policies and changes occur, India’s economy is in grave danger. India is already feeling the effects of climate change, heavy rainstorms, cyclones, and other natural disasters are occurring at a higher rate than ever before in India. In 2020 Cyclone Amphan caused nearly \$13 billion in damages alone. While India is making progress on its greenhouse emissions, its policies are not progressive enough to counteract the number of emissions it puts out. Unless India makes serious efforts in the next couple of years it is facing an economic crisis.

Infrastructure of India

India has been trying to develop their infrastructure to be more suitable for its increasing population. Even though many aspects need improvement, India's infrastructure is the "key driver" for the Indian economy (Infrastructure Sector, 2021). Infrastructure in India is also said to be essential for the overall development of the country. There have been several development plans enacted to try and combat the issues of overpopulation, low power quality, insufficient water supply, and poor construction. However, the government has been trying to give a massive push to help aid the development of modernized infrastructure. The Union Budget of 2021 is the biggest implementation to improve India's infrastructure with a \$32.02 billion budget. The total market size of India's infrastructure is \$26.08-27.72 billion dollars between April 2000 and March 2021 (Urban Growth, 2021).

Power

The first aspect of infrastructure that India focuses on is power. In India, the majority of power is fueled by coal. India is the world's largest importer of coal even though they are home to the fourth-largest coal reserves in the world. Many power plants that typically rely on imports have been increasingly more dependent on India to supply them with coal. Power consumption in September and October has increased by 17% since 2019 due to the high demand for power after a fatal second wave of Covid-19 struck India. Meanwhile, global coal prices have increased by 40%, and India's imports fell to a two-year slump. Furthermore, 70% of India's electricity is generated using coal, which is a major concern since the economy is still recovering from the pandemic. Since the pandemic took a toll on the economy, there are approximately 135 coal-fired power plants that are running on barely any coal (Mukharji, 2021). Undoubtedly, coal stocks are critically low in India and it takes months to produce a usable amount of coal to fuel the country. Dr. Aurodeep Nandi, an Indian economist and Vice President at Nomura, said, "We have seen shortages in the past, but what's unprecedented this time is coal is really expensive now." If coal prices continue to skyrocket, it is likely the effects will be felt by consumers (Mukharji, 2021). Speaking with Maharishi Patel, our representative, who is an Indian citizen, states that coal consumption can hopefully be reduced and that maybe hydropower can replace it. Power is a massive driver for India to get out of the rut they fell into due to Covid-19. If they fix coal production rates or switch to

hydropower, India will be successful in business and foreign affairs. India's coal mines are appealing to other countries and if the country repairs their funds, they will be the top hub for coal again.

Bridges

India is home to many long bridges that have helped reduce its heavily congested roadways. One example is the Dhola-Sadiya bridge built over the Lohit River. This one bridge reduces travel "distance from Rupai on NH-37 in Assam to Meka/Roing on NH-52 in Arunachal Pradesh by 165 KM." In other words, the Dhola-Sadiya bridge reduces this trip from six hours to one hour. Maharishi Patel said that these bridges are very complex and from his experience reduce travel time drastically. However, under the bridges are susceptible to flooding easily which causes complications with transportation. In 2016, India's bridge and road systems were valued at a little over 16 billion U.S. dollars (Sun, 2021). A core part of India's bridge plan is included in the Arunachal Package of Roads and Highways. This package is under the Ministry's Special Accelerated Road Development Program for the North East. Bridges in India drastically cut down on transportation time and help to keep the busy roadways more efficient (Dhola-Sadiya Bridge, 2017). Bridges help business travelers

Dams

India is also home to many dam systems as a part of its essential infrastructure development. Dams in India have reduced groundwater tables, prolonged droughts, and floods due to heavy rainfall. Dams in India have increased water conservation, but storage for the water that is conserved is a major concern. To help start the building of dams in India, the National Water Mission was launched in 2011. Looking at specific dams in India, the Tehri Dam is a multi-purpose rock and earth-filled embankment on the Bhagirathi River which is near Tehri in Uttarakhand. This dam is used primarily by the Tehri Hydro Development Corporation which has a municipal water supply and generation of 1,000 MW of hydroelectricity. The Tehri Dam has 2,400 MW of hydropower generation and the potential to irrigate 2.7 lakh hectares. However, the dam was built in a seismically sensitive zone, which could, in turn, displace many people. Next, the Temghar Dam, which is included in the Rs 314 crore reservoir is now empty because it was drained to facilitate an Rs core repair. The Rs core repair was to stop the dam from leaking 10-12% of its contents due to poor construction. Therefore, the contractors had to be blacklisted by the developmental company. Similarly, the Sardar Sarovar Dam in Gujarat has had many protests by people who have been displaced by the project and are waiting for compensation and rehabilitation. Many dams have flooding issues such as the Lower Subansiri Dam (A look at 6 Indian Dams, 2017). Speaking with

Mahrishi Patel, he states that when legal action occurs to handle the protests, many misunderstandings occur, which causes more uproar. He suggests that the people should find another place to live and most dams are built away from the city, so there is not a vast majority of residents near dam building sites. A reason that contractors build away from the city is to also combat suicides that happen at the dams.

Roads

India's road system is likely the worst aspect of India's infrastructure. "Fortune" even said, "India's roads are so bad, a third of produce rots in transit." Cows and other animals are also known to wander the roads (Mukherji, 2021). Additionally, New Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru are in the top 10 for global traffic congestion (Dash, 2021). It's a known problem that India needs to work on its road system, so there have been projects introduced to combat this issue. For example, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana Project started on December 1, 2000, and is predicted to be finished on March 31, 2025. The cost of this massive infrastructural project is \$49.72 billion. The government has issued an investment of \$350 billion towards road infrastructure in the North East of India during the years 2020-2025 (Soni). Delhi is also working on a project that will stretch from Delhi to Mumbai which is India's two largest cities. The goal is to make the trip 1,380 km (840 miles) which is half the time it takes now and four hours less than making the journey faster than a passenger train. Currently, on this route, four lanes are 300 km longer than the project had originally planned for. However, the pandemic reduced the congestion for the first time in at least 10 years due to the city being on lockdown. The total road network in India is 6.4 million km that is made up of both national and state highways, urban and rural roads. Under the National Infrastructure Pipeline, \$275 billion is to be invested between 2019 and 2025. Fortunately, the government of India has started to work on 60 road projects that are worth over \$10 billion to improve India's road quality and systems (Soni, 2021). Maharishi Patel says that the roads in India are of bad quality and the traffic is almost unbearable. Patel also says that since families have several cars that just adds to the congestion. Since the roads are so bad, many people take passenger trains instead. However, the trains are overcrowded and fill up fast. Transportation as a whole in India is not ideal.

Urban Development

Urban development has been increasing due to the increase in population. In the March 1, 2011 census, the total population of India was 1210.2 million and the growth rate of the population in urban areas was up 31.8%. New Delhi is the most urbanized city in India with a 97.5% urban population, followed by Daman and Diu which is 75.2%, and Puducherry with 68.3%. Maharshi Patel said that there is always urban development going on and the most popular form of urban development is people buying land and then selling it for profit. Something that the media misses is that politics play a big role in the urbanization of India. In other words, urbanization development is based on rich vs. poor. To overcome these political constraints, the Ministry of Urban Development has initiated institutional, fiscal, and financial reforms (*Urban growth: Ministry of housing and urban affairs ...* 2021).

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