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Fund Utilization in Development Schemes

Happy Pant

India's total public spending (combined budgetary spending by Centre and States) every year on social sectors is less than 7 percent of GDP. During the last decade, i.e. since 2005-06, the Union Government's budgetary spending on these sectors has increased (though it is still less than 2 percent of GDP). This gradual increase has not translated into any visible increase in overall public spending (in the country) on these sectors as the priority for social sectors in the State Budgets has not increased much over the last decade. When compared with other countries, India's public spending on social sectors as percentage of GDP has been much lower not only than most developed countries but also some of the developing countries for decades now. The average level of budgetary spending on social sectors in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries (excluding their social security payments) has been roughly around 14 percent of GDP over the last decade, i.e. more than double the level of budgetary spending on social sectors in India. In this scenario, the present level of public spending on social sectors in India cannot be considered adequate.

However, several policymakers and development policy analysts have

observed in the past few years that the main problem in social sectors in India is not of inadequate budget outlays but rather poor utilization of those. It is true that unspent balances continue to be high in many of the Centre's flagship social sector schemes, but the notion that the problem lies only with inefficient implementation is not correct, as it overlooks the causal factors underlying the trend of poor utilization of funds in social sector programmes/ schemes. It does not take into consideration some of the key aspects of the federal fiscal architecture in India and the weaknesses that have emerged in this complex architecture over the last decade.

A research study in 2013, 'What Ails Utilization of Funds in Development Schemes?', which tracks the utilization of funds in six development schemes at the district level in select States notes that almost all States showed noticeable levels of under-utilization of budget outlays. The study analyzed Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, National Rural Health Mission, National Rural Drinking Water Programme, Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana and MGNREGS in select districts spread across 11 States and found that the extent of utilization of available funds and its quality of utilization varied across the six schemes - with MGN-

REGS (in Tamil Nadu) presenting a relatively better picture on utilization of funds, followed by RKVY (in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh), and the NRDWP (in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra) showing the highest levels of under utilization of funds as well as problems in terms of violation of guidelines. The factors affecting the extent and quality of fund utilization in different schemes differ to some extent. Some common factors that are the biggest hurdles in utilization of funds were cited as - staff shortage, poor planning and delayed flow of funds.

Under-utilization of Plan outlays by the States can be attributed to the institutional and procedural bottlenecks in the process of implementation of Plan schemes and deficiencies in the planning process being followed at the district level. These factors listed below need to be addressed in order to strengthen States' ability to better utilize higher magnitudes of allocations for the social sectors : The deficiencies in decentralized planning being carried out in the schemes, resulting due to insufficient staff for undertaking planning activities, inadequate attention to their capacity building and minimal role for community participation in the planning process. Bottlenecks in budgetary processes in the schemes, such as delay in the flow of funds, in releasing

sanction orders for spending, decision-making in the States being centralized, insufficient delegation of financial powers to the district/ sub-district level authorities and uniform norms of Centrally Sponsored Schemes for all States. Further, lack of need based budgeting in the schemes, which is often carried out without proper analysis of unit costs on the ground, implied allocations for some of the schemes being decided in a top-down and unrealistic manner and Systemic weaknesses, manifested as shortage of trained, regular staff for various important roles like programme management, finance/accounts and frontline service provision; this contributed to weaken the capacities of the government apparatus in the States for implementation of Plan schemes.

Regarding the systemic weaknesses in the government apparatus in the States, it can be argued that Non-Plan expenditure by the State plays an important role in improving the overall capacity of the government apparatus. It affects the capacity of the State Government apparatus in terms of the availability of regular qualified staff and adequacy of government infrastructure for implementing Plan schemes. However, over the past decade, Non

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JOB HIGHLIGHTS

HSNC

- Headquarters Southern Naval Command, requires 110 Chargeman, Lascar, Topaz, Multi Tasking Staff, Painter etc.

Last Date : 21 days after Publication

DAYAL SINGH COLLEGE

- Dayal Singh College, New Delhi requires 109 Assistant Professors.

Last Date : 07.03.2014

LAKSHMIBAI COLLEGE

- Lakshmbai College, Delhi requires 61 Assistant Professors

Last Date : 21 days after publication

BANK

- Reserve Bank of India, requires 23 Junior Engineer (Civil/Electrical)

Last Date : 20.02.2014

NBCC

- National Building Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, requires 16 General Manager, Addl. General Manager, Dy General Manager etc.

Last Date : 05.03.2014

WEB EXCLUSIVES

Following item is available in the **Web Exclusives** section on www.employmentnews.gov.in :

1. Fourteenth Finance Commission.

TOURISM AS A CAREER

Prof. Manjula Chaudhary

"The World is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page". (St. Augustine)

Tourism is considered a niche area for pursuit of careers that finds favour with travel enthusiasts though much has changed on the tourism scene in the past 25 years since the opening of India's economy in the 90's. It has grown fast and big with International tourist arrivals crossing the 1 billion mark in 2012 that reached 1.087 billion in 2013 and contributed 1075 billion US\$ in receipts. United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) estimates that 1 among 11 jobs in the world has been created by tourism and its allied industries. This sector has created immense opportunities of income, employment, preservation of culture and meeting of people. It has the potential to propel changes in the global economies and societies.

India though a late entrant on the formal global tourism map has leaped forward and is witnessing increasing awareness and engagement at all levels towards tourism. In 2013, it received 6.85 million international tourists that contributed US\$ 17.74 billion in revenues and generated 10.5 % of India's total employment. The domestic tourism stood at 1087.3 million in 2012. This has seen opening of new destinations and new forms of tourism. A consciousness is emerging that tourism can lead to development in a bottom up manner through community participation and small entrepreneurs. Tourism is no longer confined to old approach of getting more and more tourists but is moving towards sustainability.

The growth of tourism and change in approach towards tourism has created many areas of employment not thought of earlier. People at tourist destinations are coming forward to offer home stays or to arrange meals for the tourists. This can be win-win situation for both the hosts and the guests through proper planning and management. Moreover tourism has all the ingredients to leverage the demographic advantage of India's young population. This sector favours employment of young, engagement of small entrepreneurs and participation of manpower at the destination level.

Young population of the country can explore careers in tourism as jobs are plenty and demand ranges from unskilled to highly skilled professionals. A report by IMAcS for National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) projects demand of 7.22 million trained persons in tourism industry by 2022. This is an indicator of huge employment potential in the sector.

It is important to understand that tourism as a business and industry is different from other sectors as it is based on networks integrated together. Professionalism in each network and in the integration is the key to a satisfying tourist experience. Besides tourism is experienced in the general landscapes and is impacted by the overall ambience of a nation or the city.

Tourism industry is based on three main planks of destination/attraction, transportation/access and accommodation. Destinations and attractions offer opportunities in areas such as a private museum, old heritage style home, tourist walks, a theme park or a restaurant. Similarly all forms of transportation such as taxis, trains, airlines or cruises need people to run the businesses. For instance a business of car rental company will need managers, drivers and mechanics. Same is the case with the accommodation sector. The number of hotel rooms in the country is not enough and there is shortage of trained manpower too. There is plenty of scope to work in the formal hotels or to offer the alternate accommodation.

There are opportunities for entrepreneurs, managers, supervisors and workers. This industry offers plenty of choices to entrepreneurs and people with innovative and new ideas. Some of the important areas where careers can be planned are-

Tour operations- These include product and package designing, itinerary development, file handling, ticket bookings, marketing, tour escorting and tour management. Linkages with tourism service providers such as transportation, hotels and others are part of tour operations. The

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TOURISM ...

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expected abilities from an aspirant for this kind of job are good communication, pleasant personality, destination knowledge and basic knowledge about ticketing software.

Travel journalism and Writing - This area is emerging fast with the use of social media for search and reference of tour related information. People with good writing skills can share their experiences through articles and travel blogs. Travel guides and travel magazines look for good travel writers. In future it is expected that more and more dedicated travel channels for television and talks for radio will open new career avenues.

Travel Photography- Those who have a passion for photography can make their careers in this tourism industry by joining travel magazines and by specializing in photographic segments such as wild life, heritage, adventure and food.

Accommodation Sector - This includes both formal hotels and alternate accommodation and is a labour intensive sector. With the emergence of various categories of hotels, motels and other accommodations, the career opportunities for the job seekers have increased. The growth of Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, Events (MICE) and business travel has generated an entirely different domain of jobs. Many entrepreneurial opportunities exist in the area of hotel management and operational areas of food production, food services and house-keeping.

Guiding for tours - Guide is also known as the tourism ambassador of a destination and holds the importance in imparting destination knowledge to the tourists. A person who is good in communication, presentation, destination/monumental knowledge can easily pursue career in this field. In India a three tier system is followed for the guides i.e. regional, state and local. Regional guides are licensed by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and are trained by the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management (IITTM). State and local guides are trained and licensed by respective governments through their own or chosen institutes. Guides are freelancers. To become a guide potential candidates shall have to undertake the training and certification.

With the growth of niche tourism, guiding is becoming highly specialized in the areas of bird watching, desert safari, adventure tours and heritage walks. Knowledge of Indian and foreign languages adds value to guiding.

Transportation companies- Tourism transportation emerged as an area that offers great career opportunities for the beginners as well as for the experienced. There are caravans, cruises, taxis, trains and many more.

Restaurants and food courts- Destinations often associate with cuisines and while all travellers savour the food, there is segment of tourists who travel for food tours. Youngsters who have passion for food can plan careers in food courts, take aways, point casting outlets, stand alone specialized outlets etc. The choice is vast and opportunities galore.

Cultural centres- These are the places where local community can perform their art, folk dances, theatres and cultural programme and can be part of tour itineraries. These provide good opportunity for the youngsters, artists and the local community to live their passion, preserve the arts and earn their livelihoods.

Bird watching tours- India is a land of diversity and its dense forests and climatic conditions attracts many species of migratory birds. Many small travel companies are now starting hiring people who have good knowledge of birds and this has created an employment opportunity for bird watching guides who have knowledge about birds, handling of groups, location knowledge and guiding skills.

Opportunities in Adventure Tourism; Hot air ballooning, Skydiving, Scuba diving and other Water sports- Several institutes in India offer various short term and advanced courses and trainings for variety of adventure sports activities. This kind of tourism is growing in India and is creating large opportunities of employment for the youngsters. The National Institute of Water Sports (NIWS), Goa regularly runs training programmes in water sports. This centre of IITTM offers highly subsidised programmes to support water sports enthusiasts. Good swimming skills are pre-requisite for admission in its courses.

Handicrafts- By learning skills of souvenir designing and local handicraft making, one can easily start a small entrepreneurial unit. The emporiums located on tourism circuits and tourist destinations have demonstrated the potential for handicrafts and folklore products.

Rural tourism- Around 70% of the India falls under rural area and most of which are still un-explored creates an opportunity for the young entrepreneur to cover this market by providing specialised packages to urban tourists. Rural tourism also covers other forms of tourism like farm and agro, which gives an additional opportunity to the

small as well major companies targeting this section.

The above is just a snap shot of career options as every day new avenues are opening. To equip people for this sector various options of training and education are available ranging from graduate, post graduate level courses to skill level training. Many institutes in India are providing skill development training through vocational courses. Higher education in tourism is offered by many institutes, colleges and universities.

Indian Institute of Travel and Tourism Management (IITTM) is the apex institution under Ministry of Tourism, Government of India offering Post Graduation in different tourism related courses along with skill level development courses through its five campuses. The twenty one different Institutes of Hotel Management (IHMs) of Ministry of Tourism offer education opportunities in hospitality.

Colleges and Courses

Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, Gwalior Campus (Head Office), Govindpuri, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh - 474011
Phone : 0751 2344055, 2437302
Mobile : 09425407607, 07205146285, 09039051004, 08871801017
Fax : 0751 2344054
Email : iittm@sancharnet.in; iittmadmission@gmail.com
Website: www.iittm.org

Details of Courses
Three regular courses are run here. All courses are approved by All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) and Association of Indian Universities (AIU). The intake of each course is 93 and reservation rules apply as per Government of India norms.

- Post Graduate Diploma in Management (Tourism and Travel)
- Post Graduate Diploma in Management (International Business -focus International tourism)
- Post Graduate Diploma in Management (Services)

Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, Bhubaneswar Campus, Dumuduma, Bhubaneswar, Odisha - 751019
Phone : 0674 2472014, 2472016
Mobile : 09437228457, 09496332406, 09090158029
Fax : 0674 2472013
Email : iittmb@gmail.com, iittmadmission@gmail.com
Website: www.iittm.org

Details of Courses
Two courses are run here. All courses are approved by All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE). The intake of each course is 93 and reser-

vation rules apply as per Government of India norms.

- Post Graduate Diploma in Management (Tourism and Travel)
- Post Graduate Diploma in Management (International Business -focus tourism and logistics)

Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, Noida Campus
Plot no. A 35 & 36, Sector - 62, NOIDA, UP - 201309

Phone : 0120 2459144
Mobile : 099777400881, 09990050707
Fax : 0120 2975144
Email : iittm.noida@gmail.com; iittmadmission@gmail.com;

Details of Courses
One course is run here that is approved by All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE). The intake of each course is 93 and reservation rules apply as per Government of India norms.

- Post Graduate Diploma in Management (Tourism and Leisure)

Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, Nellore Campus
Parthasarathi Nagar, NC Factory BO, Muthukur Road, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh - 524004

Phone : 0861 2353199
Fax : 0861 2353299
Email : iittmnlr@gmail.com; iittmadmission@gmail.com;

Details of Courses
One course is run here that is approved by All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE). The intake of each course is 60 and reservation rules apply as per Government of India norms.

- Post Graduate Diploma in Management (Tourism and Cargo)

National Institute of Water Sports, Goa Campus
Sundial Apartment, A S Road, Altinho, Panjim, Goa - 403001

Phone : 0832 2436400
Mobile : 09423885189
Fax : 0832 2436400
Email : babspillai@gmail.com; iittmadmission@gmail.com;
Website: www.niws.nic.in

Details of courses
Around 25 courses are run on boat handling, para sailing, beach security etc. These are short term courses that involve training, certification and licensing. (This is only an indicative list)
Youngsters who want career in this industry must have comfort in travelling, exploring new places and meeting people. The other requirements such as communication skills, domain knowledge, servitude and business acumen can be acquired through education and training.
(The writer is Professor, Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, Gwalior, E-mail :manjulachaudhary@gmail.com)

Fund Utilization in...

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Plan expenditure in social sectors has been checked by many States due to the emphasis of the prevailing fiscal policy on the reduction of deficits through the curtailment of public expenditure. Consequently, the capacity of the government apparatus to implement Plan programmes/schemes has been constrained.

An assessment of functioning of different Plan schemes shows that efficient utilization of the available funds in the Central schemes is a concern and there is scope for improving the effectiveness of these schemes by way of revisiting some critical factors like the design of scheme, flow of funds etc. The institutional and procedural bottlenecks in planning, fund flow and fund utilization processes need to be removed through concerted efforts by both the Centre and the States. The restructuring of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) as being carried out now by the Union Government for the current Five Year Plan by following the roadmap suggested for this purpose by the B. K. Chaturvedi

Committee can help take care of some of the deficiencies related to planning and budgetary processes. This includes bringing down the total number of CSS significantly, transferring some of the schemes to States, and doing away with the practice of Central funds being routed outside the State Budgets and State Treasury system. Moreover, there is also a need for imparting a lot of flexibility to the States vis-à-vis the norms, guidelines and unit costs in the Central schemes. However, the underperformance regarding fund utilization in the Central schemes is also rooted in the fact that some aspects of the fiscal policy being followed over the last decade have resulted in systemic weaknesses in the government apparatus in social sectors across many States. The country's fiscal policy needs to shift its focus in order to enable the State Governments to increase Non-Plan spending in the social sectors along with Plan spending on the same so that the problem of shortage of staff could be addressed effectively.

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