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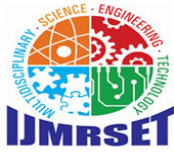
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International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research in Science, Engineering and Technology (IJMRSET)

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Viksithbharat@2047: Status and Challenges of Social Sector in India

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ABSTRACT: India on its path from a developing nation to a "Developed Nation "is committed to provide Economic, Social and Institutional benefit to its people. India adapting programmes and policies that will transform India by 2027 not only economically but in terms of human development. With large and diverse population, culture, languages, geography it is a challenge to provide better healthcare, education, clean environment, proper Sanitation facility etc. both at central and local level. If we see govt's expenditure it has been showing rising trend since the year 2016. There has been a sustained rise in the total expenditure over these years-from ₹45.15 lakh crore in 2017-18 to ₹90.45 lakh crore in 2023- 24 (BE). This shows the increasing investment in the public expenditure for the emerging development of the nation. Health expenditure increased substantially, particularly from 2020-21 onwards due to the COVID-19 pandemic and has thus required higher investment in the health sector. It has increased from ₹ 2.43 lakh crore in 2017-18 to ₹5.85 lakh crore in 2023-24. The Government of India has initiated different social welfare schemes for eradication of poverty, food security, and upliftment of the weaker sections of society. The MGNREGA and PMAY have been two such schemes which have reshaped the lives of millions for good living. standards. India has seen massive development in different social sectors over the last couple of decades. Sectors of utmost importance such as education, healthcare, and social welfare, have been massively subsidized by the government with high investment and strategic policy interventions. This has ensured varying outcomes in the improvement of the literacy rate, rise in life expectancy, and reduction in the incidence of poverty. These sectors have in turn, been critically assisted by various initiatives by the government.

I. INTRODUCTION

As India moves towards 2047-a year that completes a century of independence-the country contemplates a future marked by economic wellbeing, social equity and sustainable development. The road ahead towards this aspirational future is fraught with enormous opportunities but it is also ominously threatened by several challenges, more so in the social sector. The Indian Economy, one of the fastest-growing in the world, becomes the epicentre of this transformation. India has seen massive development in different social sectors over the last couple of decades. Sectors of utmost importance like education, health care, and social welfare have been massively subsidised by the government with high investment and strategic policy interventions. This has ensured varying outcomes in the betterment of the Literacy rate, increase in life expectancy and poverty-reduction. Increase in enrolment rates in primary, secondary, and higher education in last decade. The government has given much importance to digital education and skill development as well as vocational training programs so far to bring up a working population apt for the economic growth of the country. Yet, Improvement of quality education especially in rural areas is yet the big challenge areas. The difference in educational standards between the urban and rural areas continues to be one of the most persevering hinderances in the path of inclusive growth. In the last two decades, there has been a marked improvement in the infant mortality rate and increase in life expectancy in India. The COVID-19 pandemic merely accelerated investments into healthcare infrastructure such as Ayushman Bharat, with ambitious coverage for health care for over half a billion people. Despite such progress, inequalities in health access and quality persist, particularly in rural and underprivileged areas. Both communicable and non-communicable diseases are currently burdensome and dual. Many social welfare schemes for poverty alleviation, food security, and upliftment of the weaker sections of societ have been started by the Indian government. The MGNREGA and PMAY have been two such schemes that have reshaped the lives of millions towards better living-standards.



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II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Literature on Viksit Bharat@2047 resonates that the challenges of the social sector in India revolve around health and education, besides domains of social justice. The key issues are to ensure improvement in health infrastructure, equity, and quality education at every level, the fostering of social equality, and enhancement in human development index. The New Education Policy and Health Sector Vision 2047 cover government initiatives and policies that will be pursued by the country for better improvement in these gaps. Yet, there is immense work to be done to address the big challenges of poverty and inequality, social exclusion, and poor governance to achieve inclusive growth by 2047. These challenges demand a high degree of institutional reforms and investments.

III. METHODOLOGY

The methodology also entails a review of some government reports, academic journals, and policy papers qualitatively to identify social sector challenges and solutions. The percentage method was used for analysis. Percentages were obtained from GDP and total expenditure.

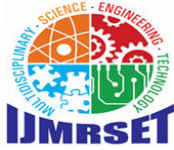
IV. OBSERVATION AND ANALYSIS

The table -1 below presents years from 2017-18 to 2023-24, all-India total expenditure and expenditure on social services by key sectors such as education, health and others. It also gives data regarding the share of such expenditure as per cent of GDP. There has been a sustained increase in the total expenditure over these years—from ₹45.15 lakh crore in 2017-18 to ₹90.45 lakh crore in 2023-24 (BE).It shows rising investment by the Government in public spending for the emerging development of the nation. Social services expenditure denotes the amount spent for education, health, and other social services, which has been increased consecutively from ₹11.39 lakh crore in 2017-18 to ₹23.50 lakh crore in 2023-24 BE. It indicates strong emphasis is being given towards social infrastructure development and human development.

TABLE -1 Trends in social services expenditure by general Government (in Rs. Crore)

Items	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (RE)	2023-24 (BE)
Total Expenditure	45,15,946	50,40,747	54,10,887	63,53,359	70,98,451	83,76,972	90,45,119
Expenditure on Social Services²	11,39,524	12,78,124	13,64,906	14,79,389	17,87,019	21,49,346	23,50,584
<i>of which:</i>							
Education³	4,83,481	5,26,481	5,79,575	5,75,834	6,39,436	7,68,946	8,28,747
Education (MoE's estimates)*	6,621,51	7,36,581	8,63,118 (RE)	9,19,145 (BE)			
Health⁴	2,43,388	2,65,813	2,72,648	3,17,687	4,56,109	5,12,742	5,85,706
Others	4,12,655	4,85,829	5,12,683	5,85,868	6,91,474	8,67,659	9,36,131
As per cent of GDP							
Expenditure on Social Services	6.7	6.8	6.8	7.5	7.6	8.0	7.8
<i>of which:</i>							
Education	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.9	2.7
Education (MoE's estimates)*	3.9	3.9	4.3 (RE)	4.6 (BE)			
Health	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.9	1.9	1.9
Others	2.4	2.6	2.6	3.0	2.9	3.2	3.1

Source-Economic Survey of India 2023-24

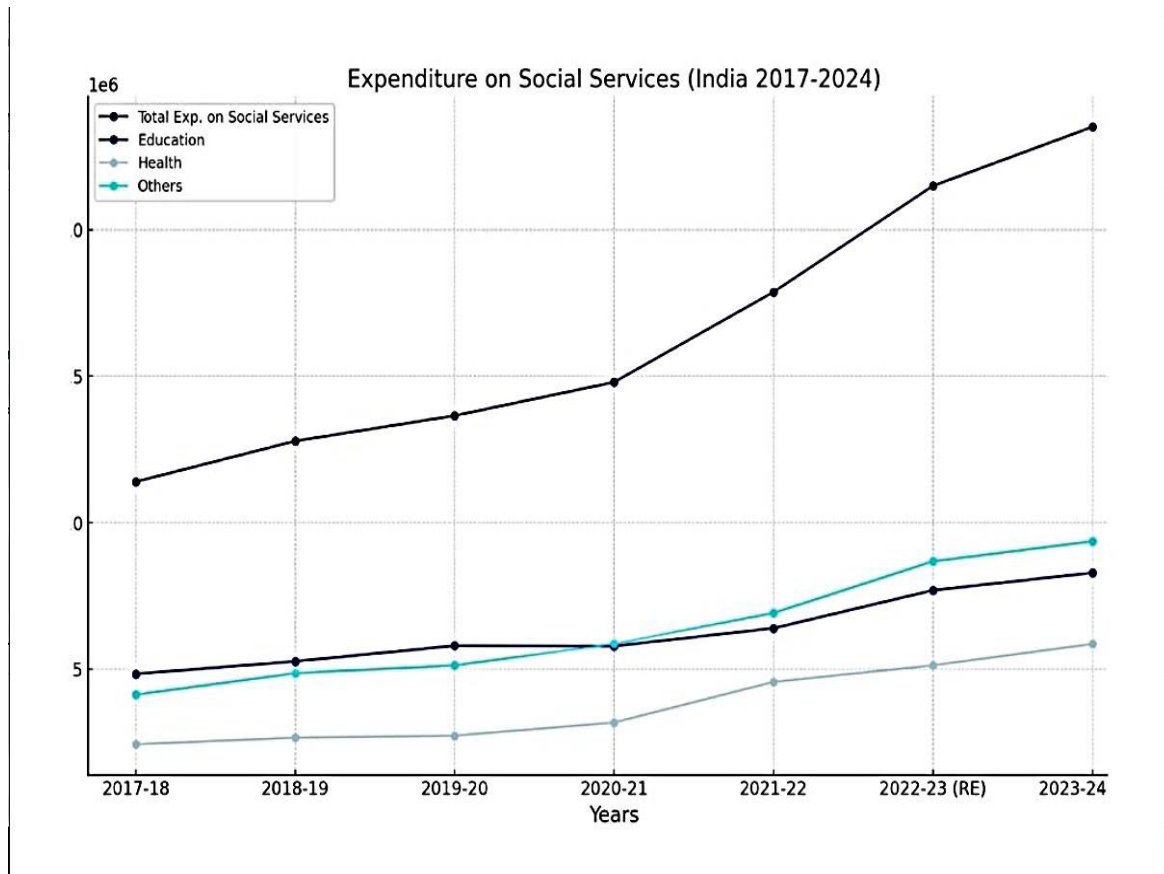


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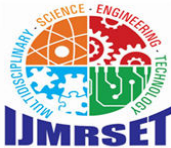
Expenditure on education, that was ₹4.83 lakh crore in 2017-18, is estimated at ₹8.28 lakh crore in 2023-24 (BE). However, as a percentage of GDP, the expenditure on education changes very little: 2.8% to 2.9%. This means that though absolutely, more money is being spent, relatively - that is, with respect to the whole economy - investment in education has not risen significantly. The health expenditure increased substantially, especially from 2020-21, forward, which coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic, there had to be more investment in the health sector. Spending rose from ₹ 2.43 lakh crore in 2017-18 to ₹5.85 lakh crore in 2023-24 (BE). As a proportion of GDP, health spending has risen from 1.4% in 2017-18 to 1.9% in 2023-24. The % increment in spending in all the other social sectors is also very similar. The services excluding education and health also shows very high increase upwards, from ₹4.12 lakh crore in 2017-18 to ₹9.36 lakh crore in 2023-24.

FIGURE-1



Trends in social services expenditure by general Government (Combined Centre and States)

from 2017-18, this has oscillated between 6.7% and 8.0% of GDP. The maximum was achieved in the year 2021-22, when expenditure on social services at 8.0% of GDP could be due to the high spending during pandemic. The trend for both data sets of the total government expenditure and that amount used to spend on social services is upwards and steep, showing the commitment of the government to the development of education and health amongst other social infrastructures. Spending in absolute terms is growing, quite high in all sectors, with education and health being the biggest beneficiaries. That would suggest that perhaps more emphasis needs to shift to education if the growing requirements of the people are to be fulfilled, especially concerning quality and equitable education. What the trend indicates is that the government accord priority to human capital development, essential for long-term sustainable growth.



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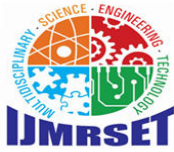
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TABLE-2 Trends in social services expenditure by general Government (in Rs crore).

Items	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (RE)	2023-24 (BE)
As per cent of total expenditure							
Expenditure on Social Services	25.2	25.4	25.2	23.3	25.2	25.7	26.0
<i>of which:</i>							
<i>Education</i>	10.7	10.4	10.7	9.1	9.0	9.2	9.2
<i>Health</i>	5.4	5.3	5.0	5.0	6.4	6.1	6.5
<i>Others</i>	9.1	9.6	9.5	9.2	9.7	10.4	10.3
As per cent of social services							
<i>Education</i>	42.4	41.2	42.5	38.9	35.8	35.8	35.3
<i>Health</i>	21.4	20.8	20.0	21.5	25.5	23.9	24.9
<i>Others</i>	36.2	38.0	37.6	39.6	38.7	40.4	39.8

Source-Economic Survey of India 2023-24

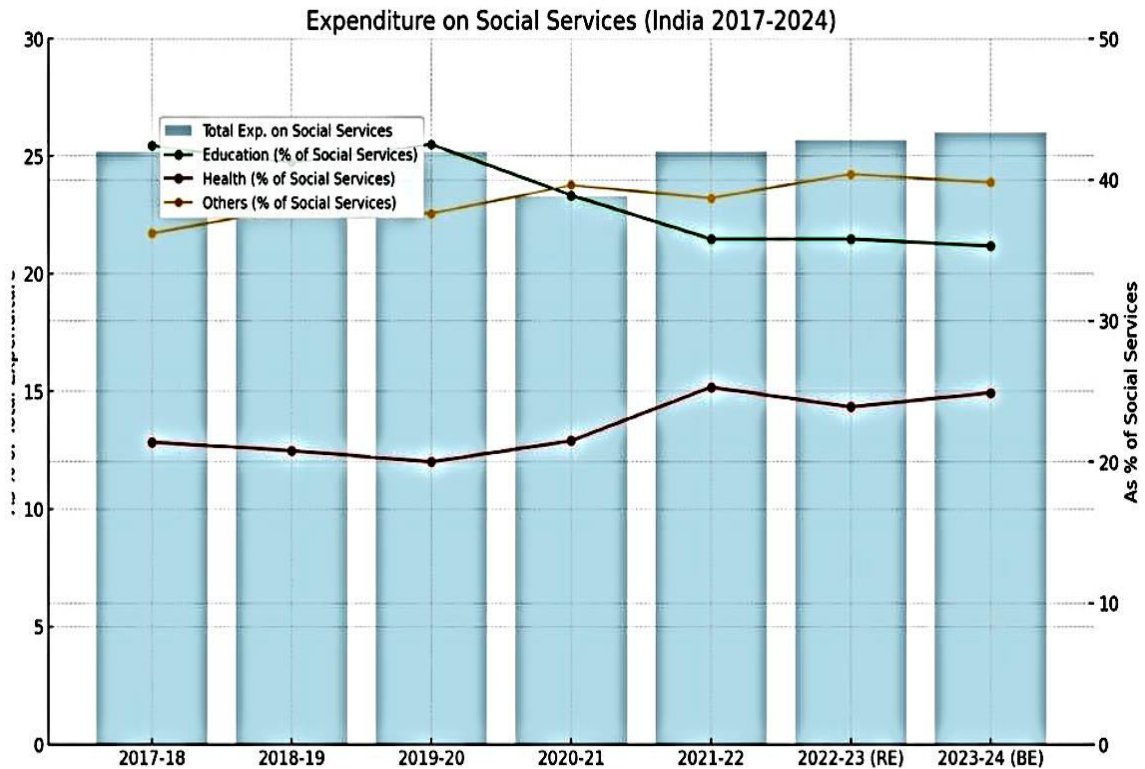
Table-2 below has made available data relating to expenditure on social services in percent to the total expenditure and break-up under the social services sector into education, health and other services from 2017-18 to 2023-24 (BE). During this period, percentage of total government expenditure on social services has remained more or less the same and stood in a range between 23.3% to 26.0%. The data reflects the general upward commitment Towards social services peaking at 26.0% in the 2023-24 Budget Estimates. In the social services, the share of education, though considerable has declined marginally as a percentage the share of the total expenditure on social services-from 42.4% in 2017-18 to 35.3% in 2023-24(BE)-thus showing a redistribution of resources within the social sector.



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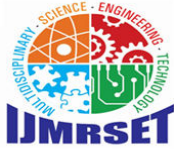
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FIGURE-2



Source: graph from table-2

Expenditure share of Health in the total social services spending increased from 21.4% in 2017-18 to 24.9% in 2023-24 (BE). This would suggest an increasing awareness of health within the overall social welfare approach, influenced no doubt by the COVID-19 pandemic and the emphasis that has been accorded to healthcare infrastructure and services. While the 'Others' category also went up-from 36.2% in 2017-18 to 39.8 % in 2023-24 (BE)-this broad category has always accounted for a big chunk of social services spending due to the diversified needs addressed under social welfare schemes. Aggregative data thus reveals the fine strategy of GOI in its social sector spending, striking a balance between sustaining high investment in education and increasingly responding to health and other social services. The distribution shows changing priorities in the social sector across the country as it is opening up itself to development imperatives, emphatically with a clear tilt toward better health and greater satisfaction of social welfare needs in conjunction with education.

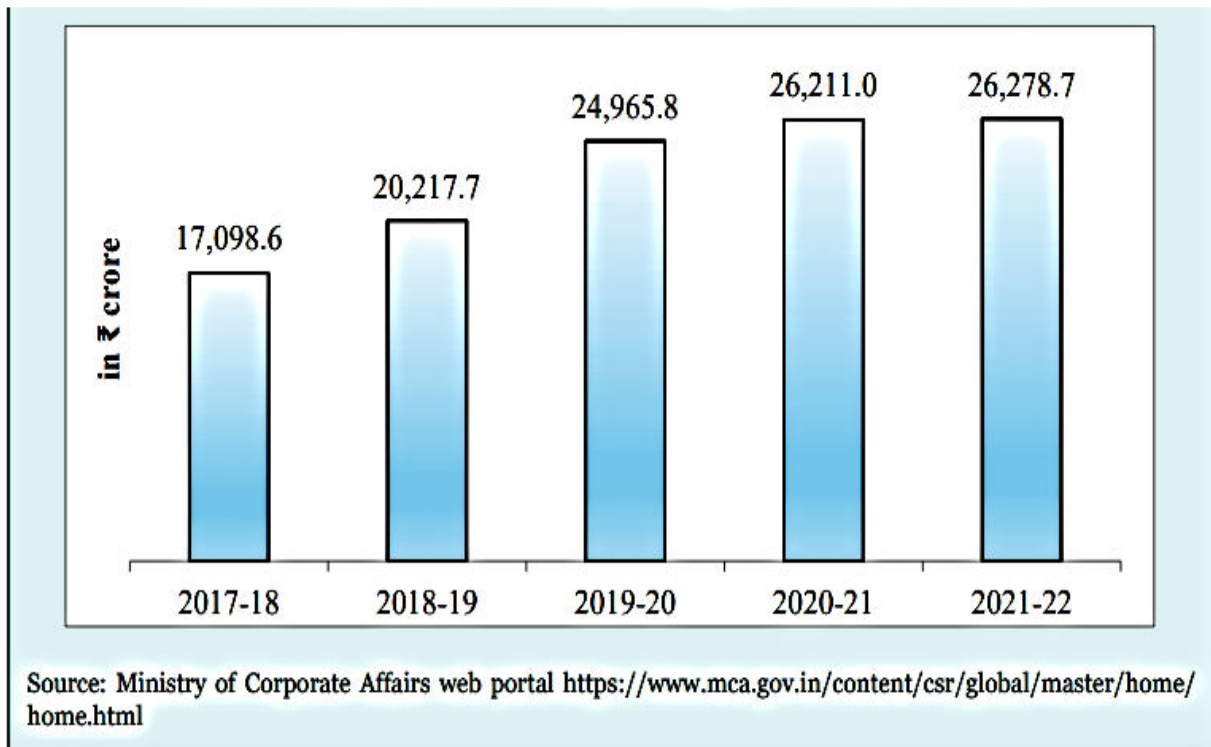


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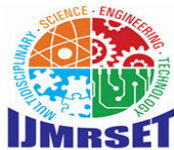
FIGURE-3

Corporate Social Responsibility – Building bridges between profit and purpose Annual CSR spending in India (in ₹ crore)



Source: Economic Survey of India 2023-24

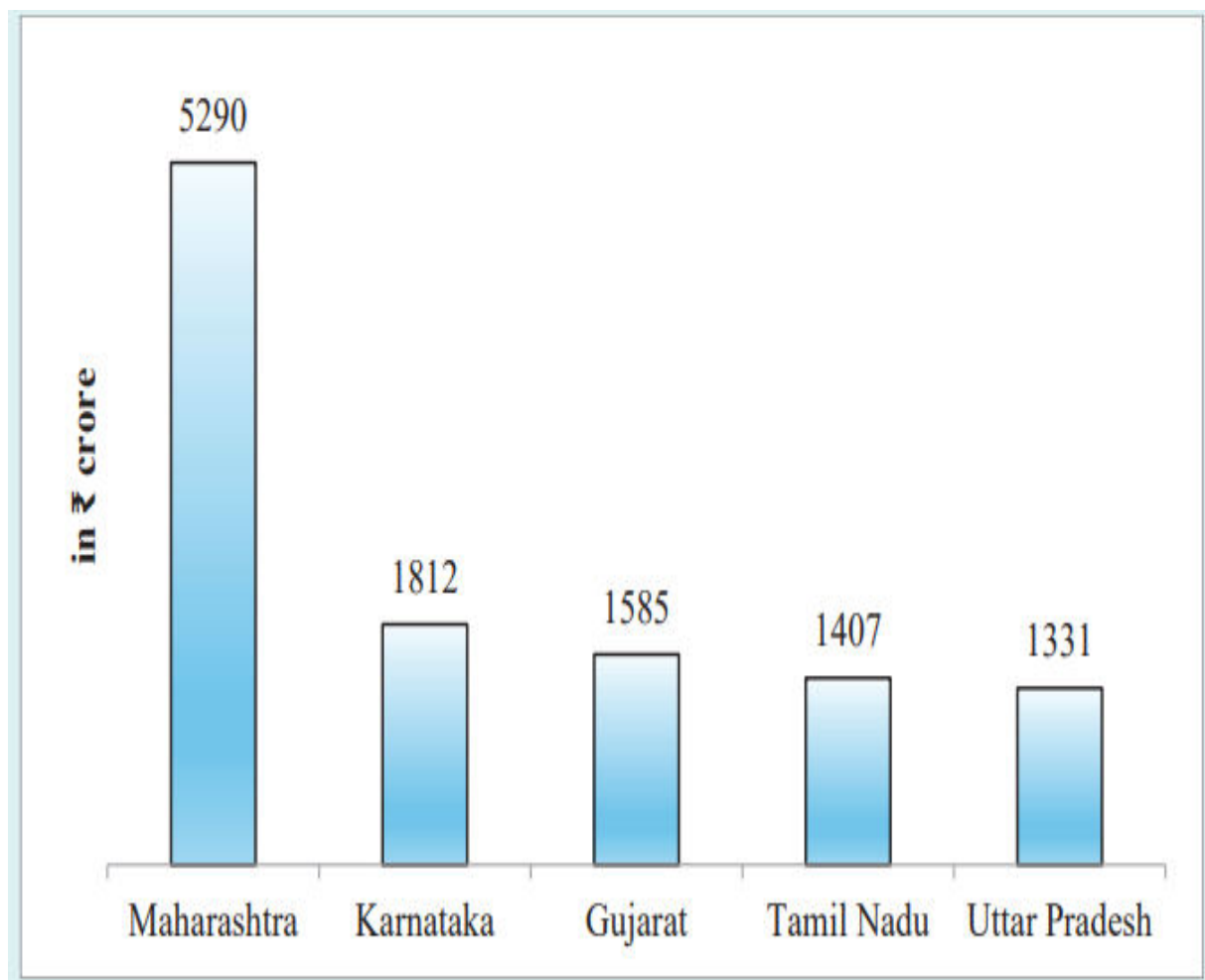
Figure 3 represents that from 2014 until the present date, ₹1.53 lakh crore had been spent on CSR. Further, the spending during the last three years constitutes more than 50 per cent of the total amount spent towards CSR from 2014. Similarly, one could see increasing tendencies towards adhering to it, as in any particular year, more than half the companies would go beyond obligation. Annual spends under CSR have crossed more than ₹ 25 thousand crore for the last three years, while annual spends under CSR went up 1.5 times in eight years. Public sector units, while constituting about 2 per cent of the companies under CSR mandate, contribute to almost 17 per cent of the total CSR amount. c) Sector-wise, more than three-fourths of total CSR spend is in the top four development sectors i.e., Education (32.4%), Healthcare & Sanitation (38.4%), Rural Development (6.9%), and Environment Animal Welfare Welfare and Conservation 10.9 per cent). Figure 4 depicts the top five states in CSR spending is Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh.



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FIGURE-4 Total CSR spent: Top five States, FY2

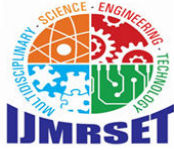


Source: Economic Survey of India 2023-24

V. DISCUSSION

INITIATIVES, PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES OF GOVERNMENT

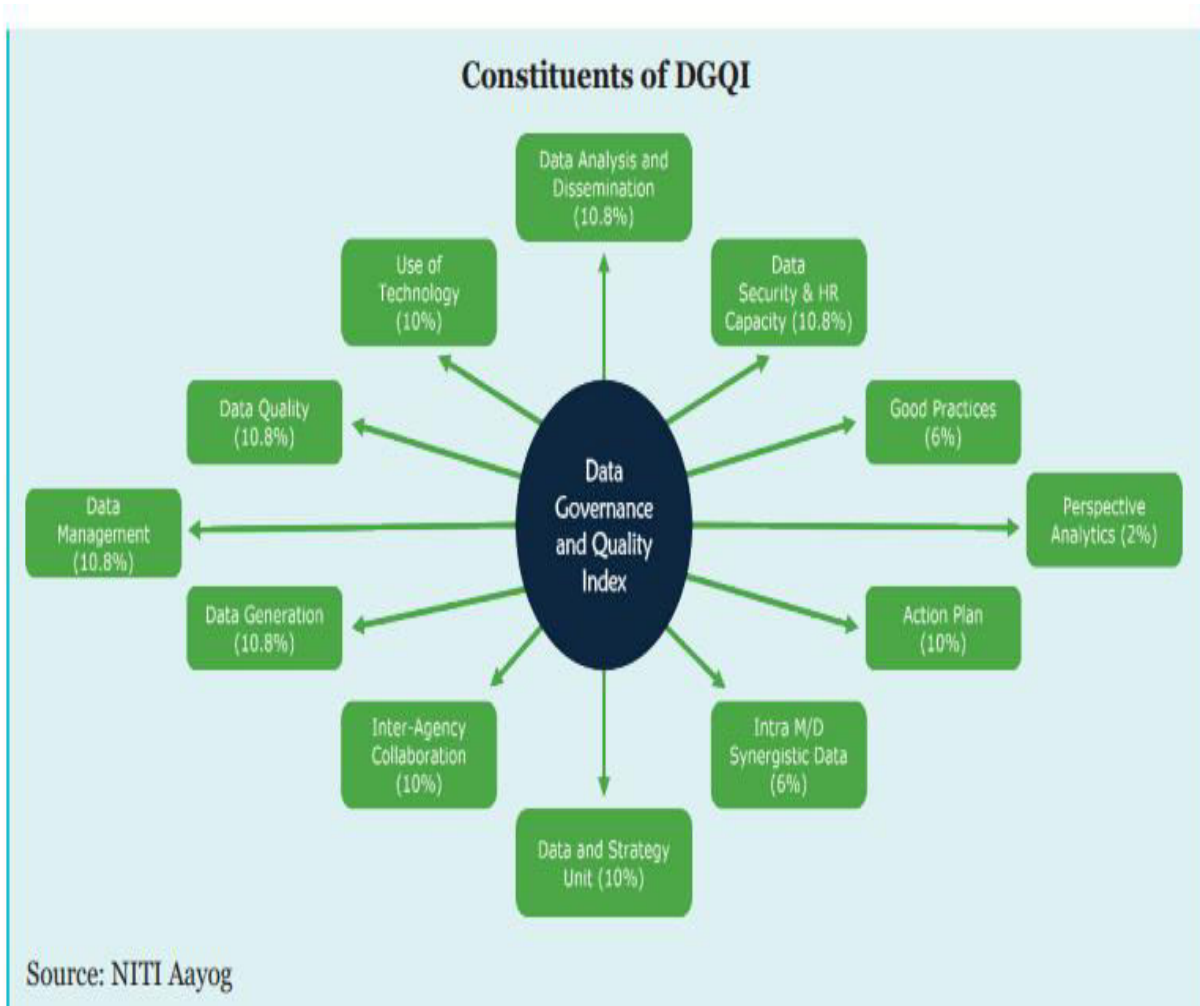
The Government of India has walked a long distance in these past decades in effectively managing and putting to use information. Through MIS, centralized access to data, policies as well as portals. For example, the national policy on data sharing and accessibility, data.gov.in, digitization has happened during the recent decades. Transparency in public policy is done via the dashboard system or the likes of DISHA, Prayas, and Output Outcome Monitoring Framework. If, in this Digital age, the flow of data within governments at various levels of data management units becomes seamless, then actionable insight into decision-making, course correction, and interoperability by government data units will be highly critical. objectives of India's Data strategy towards Viksit Bharat. It is in this backdrop that the DGQI exercise was commissioned to evaluate the data preparedness of different M/D on a standard framework with the objective of inculcating healthy competition among them and sharing of best practices that we can see in figure 5.



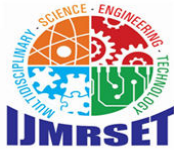
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FIGURE-5 Data Governance Quality Index (DGQI)



India has launched several flagship programs in the health and education sectors to improve quality of life. In the Health Sector, National Health Mission (NHM) was launched in the Year 2013 aimed at providing universal access to equitable, affordable, and quality healthcare services to the vulnerable and most deprived sections of population. Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) was launched in the Year 2018 with an aim to provide health insurance cover of up to ₹5 lakh per family per year to poor and vulnerable families. Mission Indradhanush was Launched in the year 2014 which was designed to ensure full immunization to all children in India. National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) was launched in the year 2020 which aimed at creating National Digital Health Ecosystem by developing support to Universal Health Coverage. In the education sector, National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is an integrated scheme that will provide a holistic approach and guide the development and improve the quality of Education in India which Focuses on the major reforms initiated from early childhood care and schooling to higher Education and vocational training. Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, launched in 2018, is a Scheme for School Education as an intervention, covering pre-school to Senior Secondary Levels (Age 6-18 years). Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) was launched in 2015 which aimed in Vocational skill development for employability enhancement among youth. SWAYAM: Study Webs of Active–Learning for Young Aspiring Minds.



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VI. RESULT

Expenditure on education, which was ₹4.83 lakh crore in 2017-18, is estimated at ₹8.28 lakh crore in 2023-24 (BE). As a percentage of GDP, expenditure on education varies marginally. 2.8% to 2.9%. This indicates that while there is an absolute increase in spending, the relative Investment in education, relative to the general economy, has not seen any significant rise, Health expenditure increased significantly, more so from 2020-21 onwards, which coincides with the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, it has required more investment in the health sector. Spending in the health sector has increased from ₹ 2.43 lakh crore in 2017-18 to ₹5.85 lakh crore in 2023-24 (BE). As a proportion of GDP, health spending increased from 1.4% in 2017-18 to 1.9% in 2023-24. The percentage increase in spending all other social services excluding education and health is also very high, going up from ₹4.12 lakh crore in 2017-18 to ₹9.36 lakh crore in 2023-24. As India embarks on 2047, a set of social sector problems will continue to hamper the realisation of holistic economic growth and development for the country.

CHALLENGES IN EDUCATION AND HEALTH SECTOR

Quality of Education: While the quantity of people having accessed education has gone up, the quality of education, especially in government schools, remains a huge challenge.

Inequity in Healthcare: While progress is achieved, health facilities and services are not yet available in most remote parts of this country. Most rural and remote areas lack health centers and staff, this gap need to be filled to achieve good health status and a healthy workgroup.

Poverty and Inequality: The country has been experiencing a reduction in poverty levels, but then again, the disparities in the income classes and societal levels remain huge. Such a resolution calls for targeting social welfare programs in ways that assure the specific population in greatest need is genuinely served.

Employment: With the growing population at an increased rate, there is an urgent need to have enough and decent employment created. This shall be developed with great emphasis on skill development, entrepreneurship, and employment opportunities in emerging areas such as technology, renewable energy and service industries

VII. CONCLUSION

So many initiatives in social sector have made the lives of average Indians better than a decade ago. More than 10.3 crore free-of cost gas connections provided under PM Ujjwala Yojana, 11.7 crore toilets built under Swachh Bharat Mission, opening of 52.6 crore Jan Dhan accounts, pucca houses built for 3.47 crore poor people under the PM-AWAS Yojana, 11.7 crore households provided tap water connections under Jal Jeevan Mission and hospital admissions made to the tune of 6.9 crore. Under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme. Behind these numbers, there are a host of stories about better lives. The DBT scheme and JAM trinity have been boosters of fiscal efficiency and reduction of leakages, with over ₹ 38 lakh crore having been transferred under DBT since its inception in 2013. How India addresses these social sector challenges shapes going forward into 2047. A strong and A sustainable social sector for inclusive development is important not only for improving the quality of life for all Indians but also becomes necessary from the economic growth point of view. This is because investment in education, health care, and welfare, coupled with addressing the disparities within these sectors, would help the country in realizing its vision for an economically prosperous yet equitable society by 2047.

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