

Indian Community Development – A bottom-to-top Prospective

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ABSTRACT

This research explores community development in India from a bottom-up perspective, focusing on grassroots initiatives, local governance, and community participation. The study investigates how bottom-up approaches can effectively address socio-economic challenges and foster sustainable development in Indian communities. This research explores the dynamics of community development in India through a bottom-up perspective, emphasizing the role of grassroots initiatives, local governance, and community participation. Utilizing a mixed-methods approach, this study combines qualitative and quantitative methodologies to comprehensively understand how bottom-up strategies can effectively address socio-economic challenges and promote sustainable development in Indian communities. The qualitative component involves case studies and interviews with key stakeholders, including community leaders, local government officials, and beneficiaries of grassroots initiatives. This provides in-depth insights into the experiences, challenges, and successes of various community-driven projects. The quantitative aspect involves surveys and statistical analysis to measure the impact of these initiatives on socio-economic indicators such as income levels, education, health outcomes, and infrastructure development. The purpose of this research is to identify successful models of community development that can be replicated or adapted in different contexts within India. By highlighting the strengths and limitations of bottom-up approaches, the study aims to offer actionable recommendations for policymakers, development practitioners, and local communities. The usefulness of this research lies in its potential to inform and enhance community development practices in India. It provides empirical evidence on the effectiveness of bottom-up approaches, which can guide the design and implementation of future development projects. Furthermore, the research offers valuable insights into how community participation and local governance can be strengthened to ensure more inclusive and sustainable development outcomes. This study ultimately seeks to contribute to the broader discourse on development by demonstrating that community-led initiatives, supported by effective local governance and robust policy frameworks, can lead to significant improvements in the quality of life for marginalized and underdeveloped communities in India.

KEYWORDS

Indian Community Development, Bottom-up Approach, Grassroots Initiatives, Local Governance, Community Participation, Sustainable Development, Socio-economic Challenges, Policy Analysis.

INTRODUCTION

Community development in India has traditionally been managed through top-down methods, characterized by

centralized planning and implementation. However, India's diverse and complex socio-economic landscape necessitates a more inclusive and participatory model. This research aims to investigate the effectiveness of bottom-up approaches in fostering sustainable community development in India. By focusing on grassroots initiatives and local governance, this study seeks to understand how community participation can drive meaningful and lasting change. India is home to a vast array of communities, each with unique needs and challenges. Traditional top-down development strategies have often failed to address these specificities, leading to uneven development and persistent socio-economic disparities. In contrast, bottom-up approaches emphasize the involvement of local communities in the planning and execution of development projects, ensuring that initiatives are tailored to the local context and needs. This research delves into various grassroots initiatives across India, examining their impact and potential for scalability (Dutt et al., 2020).

1.1 Community Development and Economic Growth

Community development has emerged as a critical pathway for fostering inclusive growth and enhancing GDP in economies around the world. In the context of India, a nation characterized by its diverse population and varying levels of socio-economic development, community development offers a promising approach to achieving broad-based economic growth. Unlike traditional capitalism, which often concentrates wealth among a few, or socialism, which can sometimes stifle individual initiative, community development seeks to empower local communities, encouraging participation and harnessing local resources for sustainable development. This approach not only improves the socio-economic conditions of communities but also contributes significantly to national GDP growth (Hill, 2022).

1.1.1 Addressing Disparities

India's economic growth has often been uneven, with significant disparities between urban and rural areas, and among different socio-economic groups. Traditional economic models have not fully addressed these disparities. Capitalism has led to impressive GDP growth but has also exacerbated income inequality and left many communities behind. Conversely, socialism has attempted to redistribute wealth more evenly but has sometimes resulted in inefficiencies and reduced economic dynamism. Community development provides an alternative, focusing on local empowerment, capacity building, and sustainable use of resources. This model emphasizes participatory planning, where communities identify their needs and priorities, and work collectively to achieve them. By involving local stakeholders in decision-making and implementation, community development projects are more likely to be sustainable and effective in addressing the specific needs of different communities (Geekiyana et al., 2020).

1.1.2 The Promise of Community Development

By focusing on community development, India can achieve more inclusive and sustainable economic growth. This approach leverages local knowledge and resources, ensuring that development efforts are tailored to the unique needs of each community. Unlike the capitalist model, which can lead to significant inequality, or the socialist model, which may limit individual initiative, community development fosters empowerment and collective action. This research aims to provide a roadmap for scaling up successful community development initiatives, ultimately contributing to enhanced GDP growth and a more equitable distribution of economic benefits across the country (Arora, 2024).

1.1.3 Historical Context and Successes

Community development has long been recognized as a vital driver of economic growth and social well-being. This approach holds particular promise in India given the country's diverse socio-economic landscape and historical precedent. Unlike the often inequitable outcomes of capitalism or the restrictive nature of socialism,

community development promotes inclusive growth by empowering local communities and leveraging local resources. This paper explores how community development can enhance GDP growth in India while fostering a more inclusive economy, drawing on historical examples and modern applications. India has a rich history of community-based development that has contributed to its prosperity over the centuries. Traditional village economies were self-sufficient, with local governance structures like the Panchayati Raj system playing a crucial role in managing resources and resolving disputes. These systems encouraged participation and cooperation among community members, ensuring that the benefits of development were shared widely. In more recent history, the principles of community development were evident in various rural development programs initiated post-independence. The Green Revolution, for instance, significantly boosted agricultural productivity through community involvement in adopting new farming techniques. Similarly, cooperative movements in sectors like dairy (e.g., the Amul model) have shown how collective action can lead to substantial economic gains and improve livelihoods (Samajdar, 2023).

1.1.4 Modern Applications

Community development has historically played a significant role in India's economic prosperity and continues to hold great potential for driving inclusive growth in the modern context. By empowering local communities and leveraging local resources, community development fosters participation, cooperation, and sustainable use of resources, leading to broad-based economic growth. This research provides a detailed analysis of the historical and contemporary impact of community development in India, offering valuable insights and policy recommendations for scaling up successful initiatives. Through this approach, India can achieve enhanced GDP growth and a more equitable distribution of economic benefits, avoiding the pitfalls of traditional capitalist and socialist models (Van Niekerk, 2020).

1.2 Research Scope

The scope of this research includes:

- Analysis of grassroots initiatives and their role in community development.
- Examination of the role of local governance in facilitating bottom-up development.
- Evaluation of community participation and its impact on the success of development projects.
- Identification of challenges and barriers to bottom-up development in India.
- Formulation of policy recommendations to support and enhance bottom-up approaches in Indian community development.

1.3 Research Questions

1. How do grassroots initiatives contribute to community development in India?
2. How does community participation influence the success of development?
3. What are the main challenges and barriers to implementing bottom-up development strategies in India?

1.4 Research Objectives

1. To analyze the contribution of grassroots initiatives to community development in India.
2. To evaluate the impact of community participation on the success and sustainability of development.
3. To identify the challenges and barriers hindering the implementation of bottom-up development strategies.

2.SURVEY OF LITERATURE

2.1 Contribution of Grassroots Initiatives to Community Development in India:

Grassroots initiatives play a pivotal role in fostering community development across India. These initiatives, often led by local organizations, community groups, and NGOs, address pressing socio-economic challenges at the grassroots level. For instance, organizations like SEWA (Self-Employed Women's Association) empower women through vocational training and microfinance, thereby enhancing household incomes and economic stability in rural areas. Similarly, the Kudumbashree program in Kerala promotes women's self-help groups, leading to poverty reduction and improved social indicators. These initiatives not only address immediate community needs such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure but also empower communities to drive their development agendas. By involving local stakeholders in decision-making processes, grassroots initiatives ensure that development efforts are contextually relevant and sustainable, thereby fostering long-term socio-economic growth (Menon et al., 2020).

2.2 Impact of Community Participation on Development Success and Sustainability in India:

Community participation is integral to the success and sustainability of development initiatives in India. When communities are actively involved in project planning, implementation, and decision-making, initiatives are more likely to meet local needs and priorities. For example, the Swachh Bharat Mission leverages community participation to promote sanitation and hygiene practices, resulting in significant reductions in open defecation and improvements in public health. Moreover, initiatives like the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) empower rural communities through self-help groups (SHGs), fostering economic self-reliance and social cohesion. Community participation enhances ownership of development outcomes, leading to better maintenance and sustainability of infrastructure projects such as water supply systems and rural roads. By building social capital and strengthening local governance structures, community participation not only accelerates development but also ensures equitable distribution of benefits, contributing to overall socio-economic progress in India (Szetey et al., 2021).

2.3 Challenges and Barriers Hindering the Implementation of Bottom-Up Development Strategies in India:

Despite their potential benefits, bottom-up development strategies face significant challenges and barriers in India. Bureaucratic hurdles, including complex approval processes and administrative delays, often impede the timely implementation of community-led projects. For instance, initiatives under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) have encountered bureaucratic red tape, resulting in delays in housing construction and dissatisfaction among beneficiaries. Moreover, funding constraints pose a major challenge, as grassroots organizations struggle to secure adequate financial resources for sustainable development initiatives. Social and cultural barriers such as caste discrimination and gender biases limit the participation of marginalized groups in decision-making processes, undermining the inclusivity and effectiveness of development efforts. Political interference and lack of transparent governance further exacerbate these challenges, diverting resources and priorities away from community-driven agendas. Addressing these barriers requires strengthening institutional capacities, enhancing transparency, and promoting inclusive policies that empower communities to lead their development agendas effectively. Grassroots initiatives play a vital role in community development in India by leveraging local knowledge, resources, and participation to address specific needs and challenges within communities (Kaiser et al., 2022). Here are several ways in which grassroots initiatives contribute to community development as shown in Table 1:

Table 1 – Grassroot Indian Initiatives

<p>Empowerment and Participation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grassroots initiatives often involve the local community in decision-making processes, empowering them to take charge of their development. - By involving community members, these initiatives ensure that development projects are tailored to the specific needs and preferences of the community. -The Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), which empowers women through employment and self-reliance programs - This initiative was launched by Parmarth Samaj Sevi Sansthan to address water scarcity in the drought-prone region of Bundelkhand. - Women, called Jal Sahelis, are trained to manage water resources, construct check dams, and promote water conservation practices. - The initiative has resulted in improved water availability and empowered women by involving them in leadership roles (Yadav et al., 2022).
<p>Sustainable Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grassroots initiatives promote sustainable development by utilizing local resources and knowledge. - They focus on long-term solutions that can be maintained by the community even after external support is withdrawn. - The Barefoot College, trains rural people to become solar engineers and educators, enhancing their communities' access to sustainable energy and education (Mininni, 2022).
<p>Capacity Building</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - These initiatives often include training and education programs that build the skills and capacities of local people. - This helps community members to better manage their resources and projects independently in the future (Möslinger et al., 2023).
<p>Social Cohesion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grassroots initiatives can strengthen social bonds within the community by encouraging collaboration and mutual support. - They often address social issues such as gender equality, education, and health, which helps to create a more cohesive and resilient community (Poland et al., 2021).
<p>Economic Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many grassroots initiatives focus on economic development by promoting local entrepreneurship, improving agricultural practices, and providing microfinance options. - This leads to increased income, job creation, and economic stability within the community.

	<p>Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) works to empower women through entrepreneurship and leadership development in disaster-prone areas of Maharashtra and Bihar.</p> <p>The organization trains women to start and manage small businesses, promote health and nutrition, and take on community leadership roles. The initiative has increased women's income, improved health and nutrition, and enhanced community resilience to disasters (Jadhav et al., 2024).</p>
Advocacy and Policy Influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grassroots movements can influence local and national policies by raising awareness about community issues and advocating for change. - They can bring attention to marginalized communities and ensure their voices are heard in broader policy discussions (Christens et al., 2021).
Health and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grassroots initiatives often address gaps in healthcare and education by setting up local clinics, schools, and training centers. - These efforts improve access to essential services and enhance the overall well-being of the community - DEF has launched several initiatives to bridge the digital divide in rural India. One such project is the Wireless for Communities (W4C) initiative, which provides internet connectivity to remote areas using low-cost wireless technology. - By offering digital literacy training and access to information, these projects have enabled better educational opportunities, improved access to government services, and fostered local entrepreneurship (Ollerenshaw et al., 2021).
Environmental Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many grassroots initiatives focus on environmental conservation and sustainable practices, such as reforestation, water conservation, and waste management. - These projects help protect the environment and ensure the long-term viability of local ecosystems (Marini Govigli et al., 2022).

Developed by the Author

Grassroots initiatives contribute to the growth of the Indian economy in several significant ways as illustrated in Table 2:

Table 2- Contribution to Indian Economic Growth

Increased Productivity and Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By empowering local communities with skills and resources, grassroots initiatives enhance productivity. For example, initiatives like Gram Vikas' MANTRA program improve sanitation and health, reducing illness-related absenteeism and increasing productivity. - Programs that focus on entrepreneurship, such as those by Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP), enable women to start businesses, thereby creating jobs and generating income locally (Pittz et al., 2021).
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Human Capital Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initiatives like Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation provide education to children in remote areas, contributing to a more educated workforce in the long term. Education is a key driver of economic growth as it enhances individuals' skills and productivity. - Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) projects bridge the digital divide, increasing digital literacy and access to information, which are crucial for participating in the modern economy (Ashram et al., 2024).
Improved Health and Well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Projects like Project Chhaon by Goonj, which focus on menstrual hygiene, improve the health and well-being of women, enabling them to participate more fully in economic activities. - Better health outcomes from initiatives like the Jal Sahelis' water management lead to a more capable and less absentee workforce, boosting economic productivity (Sommer et al., 2021).
Improved Education and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ekal Vidyalaya operates single-teacher schools in remote and tribal areas to provide basic education to children who lack access to formal schooling. - The initiative focuses on primary education, vocational training, and digital literacy. - Ekal schools have significantly increased literacy rates and educational attainment in underserved communities (Lall et al., 2022).
Enhanced Social Capital & Community Cohesion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grassroots initiatives often strengthen community ties and foster a spirit of cooperation and mutual support. This social cohesion can lead to more effective collective action in economic activities, such as cooperative farming or collective bargaining. - Strong community networks can also attract more investment, as external investors often look for stable and cohesive communities (Musavengane et al., 2020).
Market Expansion and Consumer Base Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As grassroots initiatives improve the standard of living and income levels in rural areas, they expand the consumer base for goods and services. This stimulates demand and opens up new markets for businesses. - Increased disposable income in rural areas can lead to higher consumption, driving growth in various sectors like FMCG, retail, and services (Venkatesha, 2021).
Infrastructure Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initiatives that focus on infrastructure, such as the construction water conservation structures by Jal Saheli, improve the overall economic environment. Better infrastructure facilitates trade, reduces costs, and enhances connectivity, leading to economic growth. - Digital infrastructure improvements through DEF projects also contribute to better market access and opportunities for e-commerce and digital services (Gayathri, 2023).

Policy Influence and Better Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Grassroots movements can influence policies to be more inclusive and beneficial for local economies. Improved governance and policies that support local development can create a more favorable environment for economic growth.- Effective advocacy can lead to better allocation of resources and more targeted development programs that address specific community needs (Leider et al., 2020).
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These examples illustrate the diverse ways in which grassroots initiatives have positively impacted community development in India over the past decade, addressing issues ranging from water scarcity and sanitation to digital inclusion and women's empowerment. By addressing fundamental issues such as education, health, infrastructure, and sustainable practices, grassroots initiatives lay a strong foundation for robust economic growth. They enable communities to become more self-reliant and productive, ultimately contributing to the overall growth of the Indian economy (Mandal et al., 2021).

HYPOTHESES

H1: There is a significant influence of Individual factors on the Indian Economic Growth factors

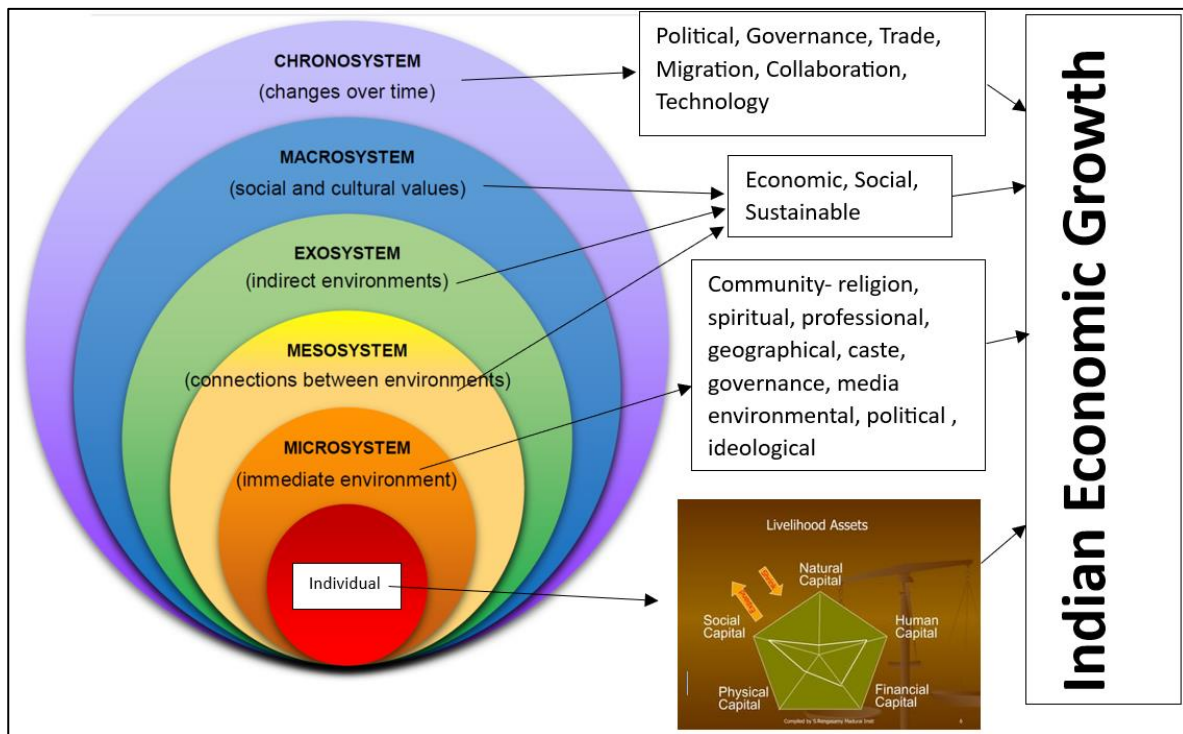
H2: There is a significant influence of Community factors on the Indian Economic Growth factors

H3: There is a significant influence of Economic, Social, and Sustainability factors on the Indian Economic Growth factors

H4: There is a significant influence of Dynamic factors on the Indian Economic Growth factors

Conceptual Model developed using Sustainable Framework Theory, Community Economic Development (CED) Theory, and the Ecological Systems Theory integration (Figure 1)

Figure 1- Conceptual Model



Developed by the Author

3.METHODOLOGY

The researchers employed a mixed methodology to test the conceptual model and obtain consensus on it. This approach integrated both quantitative and qualitative research methods, providing a holistic understanding of the data. For the quantitative analysis, a range of statistical tools was utilized. ADANCO 2.3 was used to test the construes for validity and reliability, and inferential statistics, such as correlation and regression analysis, were used to explore relationships between different variables and to make predictions based on the data. These quantitative techniques facilitated the efficient analysis of a large data set, providing a broad overview of the trends and patterns within the data. However, the quantitative approach had limitations, particularly its inability to delve deeply into the reasons behind participant's choices and responses. To address this limitation, the questionnaire included open-ended questions to 15 interviewees (Iyer et al., 2024). These questions allowed participants to provide more detailed feedback, offering richer, qualitative insights into their perspectives and experiences. This dual approach enabled the researchers to complement the numerical data with detailed qualitative information, enhancing the overall depth of the analysis. To mitigate potential biases and ensure the representativeness of the findings, the study utilized a diverse and representative sample size of 425 participants from various countries. This diversity helped capture a wide range of perspectives, making the findings more generalizable. The questionnaire was meticulously structured,

encompassing all relevant aspects of the research topic. The questions were crafted to be clear and concise, facilitating accurate and meaningful responses from the participants. The mixed methodology approach provided a comprehensive understanding of the research topic. While the quantitative data allowed for statistical analysis and identification of broad trends, the qualitative data provided detailed insights into individual experiences and viewpoints. The qualitative component of the study involved a thematic analysis of data obtained from interviews. The researchers meticulously transcribed and reviewed the interview responses to ensure accuracy and comprehensiveness. By coding the data and identifying patterns based on similarities, the researchers were able to discern main themes and sub-themes within the responses (Factor et al., 2023). The findings from the thematic analysis were effectively summarized and presented using Table 3, which outlined the main themes and sub-themes uncovered in the study. This detailed presentation of qualitative data complemented the quantitative findings, offering a nuanced and well-rounded understanding of the research topic. Through this mixed methodology, the study was able to provide both a broad statistical overview and deep qualitative insights, ensuring a thorough examination of the conceptual model and its implications (Iyer et al., 2024)

3.1 Qualitative Methodology

Table 3. Interview Summary

Interviewee no, (Experience in years), Designation, Location	Main Comments on “Indian Community Development – A bottom-to-top Prospective” (Other Interviewees agreeing to these comments)
1. (10) CEO, Transportation & Logistics, Mumbai	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Grassroots initiatives in India are vital for community development, addressing local needs, and leveraging resources.- Led by local communities, NGOs, and grassroots leaders, these initiatives understand specific challenges and opportunities.- Emphasize local participation in decision-making, ensuring projects meet community needs and priorities.- Include training and capacity-building programs to empower individuals and improve socio-economic status.- Focus on sustainable livelihoods through vocational training, microfinance, and small business support, enhancing economic independence, especially for rural women.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve agricultural practices, market access, and fair pricing to boost rural economies, with organizations like Barefoot College promoting sustainability. - Sanitation and hygiene programs, like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, have improved community health by reducing disease prevalence related to poor sanitation (Interviewees 4, 8, 9, 10, 11) (Singh et al., 2023)
<p>2. (12), CEO, Investment Bank, New Delhi</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grassroots health initiatives improve access to healthcare in remote and underserved areas through mobile clinics, community health workers, and awareness campaigns. - Address gaps in education with supplementary education, adult literacy programs, and vocational training, significantly impacting rural and urban slum areas (e.g., Pratham). - Advocate for marginalized groups (women, Dalits, tribal communities) to ensure social justice, reduce discrimination, and promote equality. - Provide legal aid and support to marginalized communities to help them assert their rights and seek justice. - Focus on conserving natural resources, protecting biodiversity, and promoting sustainable practices through community-led efforts (e.g., Chipko Movement). - Play a vital role in disaster preparedness and response, with community-based programs training locals in emergency response and resilience-building (Interviewees 3, 6, 10, 12), (Aruna, 2023); (Sharma et al., 2022).
<p>3. (14), Senior General Manager, IT Solution Company, Mumbai</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Post-disaster, grassroots organizations lead rebuilding and rehabilitation efforts for swift, sustainable community recovery. - Limited financial and material resources can hinder the scale and impact of grassroots initiatives. - Lack of adequate support from government institutions and policies can impede grassroots efforts.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ensuring long-term project sustainability is challenging, especially when reliant on external funding or short-term grants.- Scaling successful grassroots initiatives while maintaining a community-centered approach is difficult.- Local governance in India is structured through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in rural areas and Municipalities in urban areas.- The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments Act of 1992 decentralized power to local governance institutions, empowering Panchayats and Municipalities for development decisions.- These amendments granted local bodies greater autonomy to plan and implement development programs, promoting a bottom-up approach (Interviewees 1, 4, 8, 9) (Agarwal, 2023); (Ballal et al., 2023)
4. (15) Senior Vice President, NGO, Chennai	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Local governance structures promote inclusive decision-making, ensuring all community voices, including marginalized groups, are heard.- Grama Sabhas (village assemblies) and Ward Committees in urban areas enable direct community participation in governance and development planning.- Religious organizations provide essential services (schools, hospitals, orphanages) to underprivileged communities, promoting values like honesty, integrity, and compassion.- Religious gatherings offer community support, helping individuals cope with personal and social challenges.- Local governments understand and address their communities' unique needs, leading to more effective and relevant development initiatives.- Decentralized governance allows targeted and efficient resource allocation based on local needs, reducing wastage and ensuring maximum impact.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local bodies execute various central and state government schemes, such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Interviewees 1, 2, 4, 13) (Lynshiang et al., 2023).
<p>5. (9)</p> <p>HR Director Education sector, Kolkata</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local governance institutions monitor and evaluate development programs, ensuring accountability and transparency. - Local governments engage in capacity-building initiatives, training community members and officials to improve governance and development outcomes. - Providing technical support and resources enhances local bodies' ability to plan and implement development projects effectively. - Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and women in local governance ensures representation and addresses their issues. - Local governance promotes equitable development by focusing on the needs of the most vulnerable sections of society. - Local governments promote sustainable development practices, such as water conservation, waste management, and afforestation. - Effective management of local resources, including land, water, and forests, is facilitated by local governance structures. (Interviewees 3, 7, 9, 13), (Samajdar, 2023); (Ricciardelli, 2022).
<p>6. (10)</p> <p>Public Sector Administration Vice President, Mumbai.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Insufficient funding and limited revenue-generating capacities hinder local governance effectiveness. - Lack of training and technical expertise among local officials impacts governance quality. - Local governance bodies face undue political interference, affecting autonomy and decision-making.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Coordination between central, state, and local governments can be challenging, impacting program implementation.- Community participation in planning ensures development projects address actual needs and priorities, leading to more relevant and effective interventions.- Engaging diverse community members, including marginalized groups, promotes inclusivity and ensures benefits reach all population segments.- Utilizing local knowledge and insights helps design culturally appropriate and context-specific solutions.- Active community involvement in project implementation fosters ownership and responsibility, enhancing sustainability.- Community participation mobilizes local resources, supplementing external funding and support.- Engaged communities are more likely to adapt to challenges and changes during implementation, ensuring project continuity and success (Interviewees 2, 8, 12, 13), (Gauthaman, 2023).
7. (14) General Manager Consultant Services Hyderabad	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Projects with community involvement in planning and decision-making are more successful, reflecting actual needs and priorities. The World Bank found such projects are 28% more likely to achieve objectives.- Community involvement ensures project maintenance and sustainability. USAID study showed community-managed water projects had a 70% success rate, compared to 30% for government-managed projects.- Community participation fosters social cohesion and empowerment. UNDP reported that community-driven initiatives enhanced social cohesion by 34%, leading to more resilient and cooperative communities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- India's MGNREGA emphasizes community participation through Gram Panchayats. Studies show villages with active participation saw better implementation and higher job creation.- Development projects with active community involvement achieve better outcomes in relevance, efficiency, and effectiveness. This participation builds social capital by fostering trust, cooperation, and collective action.- Engaging in development projects empowers community members, enhancing skills, knowledge, and confidence, leading to broader social and economic benefits (Interviewees 1, 5, 9,13), (Nichols, 2021)
8. (9) Head of University, Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under NRLM empower women economically and socially through microfinance, skill development, and entrepreneurial opportunities, leading to improved income and social cohesion.- Social hierarchies and power imbalances can affect inclusive participation. Sustaining community engagement long term can be challenging, especially after external support is withdrawn.- Gram Vikas' MANTRA program involves communities in constructing water and sanitation facilities, resulting in sustained 24-hour water supply, 100% toilet coverage, improved health outcomes, and reduced medical expenses.- Adequate funding and financial autonomy for local governance bodies enable effective planning and implementation of development projects.- Training and capacity-building programs for local leaders and community members enhance skills and knowledge for more effective participation.- Reducing bureaucratic hurdles, enhancing transparency, and combating corruption improve efficiency and trust in local governance systems.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Inclusive participation of marginalized groups in decision-making leads to more equitable and representative development outcomes.- Investing in infrastructure development addresses logistical challenges and improves access to essential services, facilitating effective implementation of projects.- Raising awareness and educating communities about their rights and the importance of participation enhances engagement and empowerment.- Developing coherent and consistent policies aligned with local needs and priorities streamlines development efforts and improves impact.- Increasing the autonomy of local governance bodies by granting more decision-making powers and reducing bureaucratic interference.- Implementing continuous training and capacity-building programs for local officials and community leaders improves governance and administrative skills.- Establishing robust accountability mechanisms ensures transparency and reduces corruption in local governance (Interviewees 3, 6, 8, 13), (Ibrahim et al., 2024)
9. (13) International Consultant, Lucknow	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Empower local bodies to generate revenue through local taxes, fees, and other means, reducing dependence on state and central government funding.- Provide financial management and budgeting training to local officials to ensure efficient resource use.- Community involvement in monitoring and evaluation promotes transparency and accountability, as community members can hold project implementers accountable for outcomes.- Continuous community feedback helps identify and address issues promptly, improving project performance.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Projects involving communities in monitoring and evaluation tend to have better sustainability, as they are more likely to be maintained and supported by locals after external support ends.- Create policies to ensure the active participation of marginalized groups (women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and other vulnerable communities) in decision-making processes.- Facilitate community mobilization and awareness campaigns to educate citizens about their rights and the importance of participation in local governance.- Establish formal mechanisms for community participation, such as Grama Sabhas (village assemblies) and Ward Committees, to ensure regular and structured engagement.- Encourage self-reliance in the manufacturing and processing of products and services.- Encourage local bodies to adopt sustainable development practices, such as water conservation, renewable energy use, and waste management.- Support initiatives like the Self-Employed Women’s Association (SEWA), which provides vocational training and support to women in the informal sector, enabling them to start businesses or improve employability. SEWA has helped over 1.5 million women, increasing household incomes and economic independence, with members’ average annual income increasing by 25%.- Implement policies supporting the sustainable management of local resources, including land, water, and forests, to ensure long-term community benefits (Interviewees 2, 4, 8, 9, 13) (Ghatak et al., 2023)
10. (12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Develop programs to enhance community resilience to climate change and natural disasters through local planning and preparedness initiatives.

Vice President Airport Services ITC, Bangalore	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Prioritize investment in essential infrastructure, such as roads, electricity, water supply, and communication networks, to improve accessibility and support development initiatives.- Promote digital inclusion by enhancing internet connectivity and providing digital literacy programs to bridge the digital divide in rural and remote areas.- Establish mechanisms for better coordination between central, state, and local governments to align development policies and programs.- Encourage public-private partnerships to leverage additional resources and expertise for local development projects.- Foster collaboration with NGOs and civil society organizations to enhance community development efforts and provide additional support and resources. (Interviewees 5, 8, 9, 15), (Bansal et al., 2024); (Sindakis et al., 2024).
11. (16) Vice President, Environmental Agency, Pune	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Develop integrated and coherent development plans aligned with local needs and priorities, ensuring consistency across sectors and government levels.- Establish a system for regular policy review and adaptation based on feedback and evolving community needs to maintain relevance and effectiveness.- Invest in educational programs tailored to local communities, including vocational training and adult literacy programs.- Implement skill development initiatives to boost employability and economic independence, focusing on youth and women.- Promote community-based monitoring and evaluation of projects for accountability and transparency.- Conduct regular impact assessments of development initiatives to gauge effectiveness and make necessary improvements.

	(Interviewees 1, 5, 7, 9, 15), (Kandpal et al., 2023); (Subramanian et al., 2023).
12. (10) Senior President, Corporate Services Mumbai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish innovation hubs and support local entrepreneurs to develop and implement solutions to community challenges. - Facilitate the sharing of best practices and successful case studies across regions to inspire and guide local development efforts. - Community-led total Sanitation (CLTS) under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan has significantly reduced open defecation by involving communities in awareness, toilet construction, and promoting hygiene practices, leading to behavioral changes and improved public health outcomes. - Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), designed to provide crop insurance, faces challenges like low awareness and delayed claim settlements. - Farmers in states like Maharashtra and Karnataka report issues with claim delays and lack of scheme awareness, impacting participation (Interviewees 1, 6, 8, 13), (Adlakha et al., 2022); (Tiwari et al., 2020).
13. (8) Senior Logistics Consultant, Visakhapatnam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Digital India initiatives face challenges in remote and rural areas due to a lack of internet connectivity and digital literacy, hindering efforts to bridge the digital divide. - Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), aimed at providing affordable housing, often experiences delays due to bureaucratic red tape, slowing progress and frustrating intended beneficiaries. - Kudumbashree empowers women through microfinance, entrepreneurship, and social development activities, reducing poverty in Kerala by 7% and improving health and education indicators for over 4 million women. - Watershed Development Programs in states like Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra involve local communities in soil and water conservation,

	increasing groundwater levels by up to 2 meters and agricultural productivity by 50%, benefiting over 2 million farmers according to a NABARD report (Interviewees 2, 7, 9, 11, 14), (Protection, 2024)
14. (4) Vice President, Healthcare Group, Odisha	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Swachh Bharat Abhiyan promotes community involvement in cleanliness and sanitation, resulting in over 10 crore toilets built across rural India.- Villages with active community participation show a significant reduction in open defecation and waterborne diseases, with up to 70% fewer cases reported according to the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.- Community contributions of resources, labor, and local knowledge reduce project costs by about 20%, as indicated by research in the International Journal of Project Management.- Events and programs organized by places of worship unite diverse communities, fostering national unity and social stability towards collective national development goals. (Interviewees 3, 5, 12, 13) (Sharma et al., 2022); (Negi et al., 2023); (Mahapatra, 2023).
15. (12) Start-up Entrepreneur in Entertainment, Bangalore	<p>Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) promotes transparency and accountability in politics, enhancing governance for more effective and equitable policies conducive to development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Chipko Movement engages communities in forest conservation in Uttarakhand, ensuring environmental sustainability for long-term natural resource availability crucial for economic growth.- The Golden Temple's Langar provides free meals, promoting communal harmony and support, enhancing social cohesion and resilience to economic and social shocks for stable development.- Organizations like Bandhan Bank began as microfinance institutions, providing small loans to underserved communities to start and expand

	businesses, fostering financial inclusion and grassroots economic growth contributing to national development (Interviewees 1, 6,10, 13, 15), (Muhammed Shafi et al., 2024); (Shah, 2021); (Bhushan et al., 2020)
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Source: Developed by the Author

Experts stress the importance of establishing a Holistic Indian Economic Growth Model that integrates sustainable practices and community involvement for equitable development. They emphasize the need for strategic foresight in shaping the future, leveraging technology to drive innovation, enhance products and services, and optimize operational efficiency. Indian Governance must remain proactive in adopting the latest technological advancements to benefit all citizens effectively. However, it is equally crucial for governance to uphold ethical standards and values in the deployment of technology, ensuring transparency, accountability, and inclusivity in its operations. While technology presents vast growth opportunities, governance must approach its implementation thoughtfully, considering potential risks and impacts to effectively mitigate challenges and maximize benefits for sustainable development and societal well-being. Technology is capable of ensuring individual, community, and national level self-reliance which enhances the Indian economic development and growth (Mishra et al., 2023).

3.2 Quantitative Analysis using ADANCO Output Analysis of the Measurement Model

The study utilized Dijkstra-Henseler's rho (ρ_A) coefficient and AVE values to ensure construct validity, along with discriminant validity analysis to confirm the distinctiveness of the constructs. The discriminant validity analysis revealed that correlations within each construct were higher than those between different constructs, confirming good discriminant validity. Structural equation modeling (SEM) was also employed, a robust statistical technique that tests hypotheses and explores relationships among constructs. SEM's ability to handle complex models and examine multiple relationships simultaneously made it an apt choice for the study. Its application provided a comprehensive understanding of the connections between the constructs. Overall, the study applied established methods to assess construct validity, convergent validity, and discriminant validity. The use of SEM allowed for an in-depth investigation of the relationships among the constructs, offering valuable insights into the Holistic Indian Economic Growth Model (Iyer et al., 2020).

Table 4: Analysis of Measurement Model

Latent Variables	Convergent Validity		Construct reliability	
	AVE >0.50	ρ_A reliability >0.70	Pc reliability >0.70	Cronbach's alpha(α)>0.70
Individual Factors	0.5045	0.7256	0.8157	0.7653
Community Factors	0.5245	0.7765	0.8459	0.7549
ESS Factors	0.5493	0.8098	0.8286	0.7963
Dynamic Factors	0.5369	0.8764	0.8653	0.8254
Indian Economic Growth Factors	0.5766	0.8379	0.8377	0.8289

Source: ADANCO result, 2024

In PLS path modeling, construct validity is often assessed using indicator variables and their outer loading values. This widely recognized approach considers a standardized outer loading value of 0.70 or higher to be acceptable, indicating that the indicator variable effectively represents the construct being measured. In this study, Table 4

presents the outer loading values for each indicator variable, providing a clear and concise overview that facilitates easy comprehension and interpretation of the data. This method significantly enhances the assessment of construct validity. Overall, the appropriate and successful use of indicator variables and their outer loading values is demonstrated in this study, with results showing that the indicator variables reliably measured their respective constructs, surpassing the 0.7 thresholds (Sarstedt et al., 2022).

Table 5 shows the Discriminant Validity heterotrait-monotrait ratio

Construct	Individual Factors	Community Factors	ESS Factors	Dynamic Factors	Indian Economic Growth Factors
Individual Factors					
Community Factors	0.7235				
ESS Factors	0.7198	0.7986			
Dynamic Factors	0.7121	0.7643	0.8066		
Indian Economic Growth Factors	0.6986	0.7190	0.7765	0.8214	

Source: ADANCO results, 2024

Table 6 Discriminant Validit

Construct	Individual Factors	Community Factors	ESS Factors	Dynamic Factors	Indian Economic Growth Factors
Individual Factors	0.5903				
Community Factors	0.5661	0.6594			
ESS Factors	0.5250	0.6256	0.7354		
Dynamic Factors	0.5045	0.5908	0.6876	0.7892	
Indian Economic Growth Factors	0.4943	0.5894	0.6371	0.7461	0.8169

Source: ADANCO results, 2024

Table 7 presents the discriminant validity measures, which assess the degree of correlation between a variable and other variables in the structural model. These measures are evaluated using the Fornell-Larcker criterion and cross-loadings. The diagonal bold figures in the table represent the highest values in both the rows and columns, indicating strong evidence of discriminant validity. The analysis was conducted using ADANCO 2.3 output, as described by Sarstedt et al. (2022).

Table 7 Loadings of Indicator Loadings

Indicator	Individual Factors (IF)	Community Factors (CF)	ESS Factors (ESSF)	Dynamic Factors (DF)	Indian Economic Growth Factors (IEGF)
(IF1)	0.6543				
(IF2)	0.6981				
(IF3)	0.6765				
(IF4)	0.7653				
(IF5)	0.7541				
(CF1)		0.8065			
(CF2)		0.7213			

(CF3)		0.7278			
(CF4)		0.7651			
(CF5)		0.7854			
(CF6)		0.7831			
(CF7)		0.7765			
(CF8)		0.7619			
(CF9)		0.6984			
(CF10)		0.6871			
(ESSF1)			0.7875		
(ESSF2)			0.7321		
(ESSF3)			0.6982		
(DF1)				0.7982	
(DF2)				0.6876	
(DF3)				0.7097	
(DF4)				0.7654	
(DF5)				0.7652	
(DF6)				0.6897	
(IEGF1)					0.7098
(IEGF2)					0.7214
(IEGF3)					0.7534
(IEGF4)					0.7663
(IEGF5)					0.7713

Source: ADANCO results, 2024

Table 8 shows the cross-loadings to see the impact of the variables on each other. The coefficient of determination (R²) explains the construct relationship to all the constructs in the research study. The minimum requirement of R² was 0.25, and the construct was relevant and significant if the value of R² exceeded 0.25 (Memon et al., 2021). Based on the result, the value of R² of the Indian Economic Growth Factors was 0.759, which means that the construct is relevant and significant, and considered high in explaining all the variables in the research.

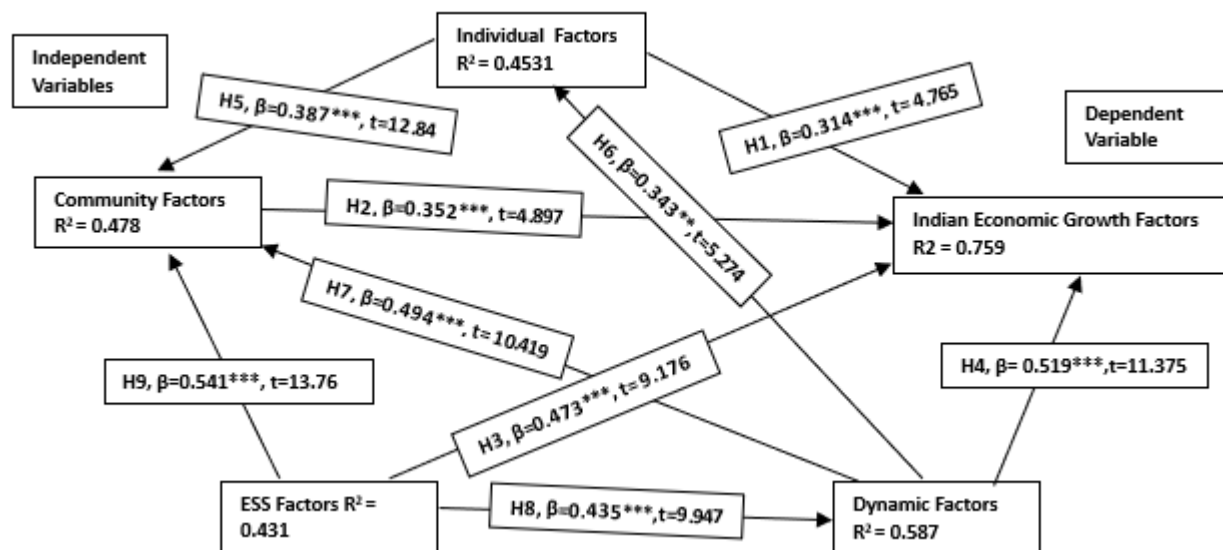
Table 8 R- Squared

Construct	Coefficient of determination (R ²)	Adjusted R ²
Individual Factors	0.453	0.4256
Community Factors	0.478	0.436
ESS Factors	0.431	0.402
Dynamic Factors	0.587	0.555
Indian Economic Growth Factors	0.759	0.723

Source: ADANCO results, 2024

Figure 2 shows the PLS-SEM Validation framework given by the ADANCO software.

Figure 2 PLS-SEM Validation



All hypotheses are supported and $t > 2.59$, β^{***} , $R^2 > 0.25$

The research framework developed and tested for validity and reliability using PLS-SEM has significantly contributed to this research paper, supported by the consensus of 425 respondents from the economic, social, and sustainability sectors. This methodology addresses the scarcity of relevant data for future researchers and paves the way for further research by refining this model or developing similar ones. While the cited theories are important in contexts of stable economies, equal education opportunities, and available infrastructure, they fall short in explaining many factors during periods of recession, the COVID-19 pandemic, and sanction regimes. Consequently, a concrete, research-based framework has been developed to contribute to future work (Memon et al., 2021)

Table 9 shows the Direct Relationships

Hypotheses no	Construe Description	β- value	t-value	Significance $t \geq 2.59$ $1.96 \leq t \leq 2.59$	Hypotheses Supported or not supported
H1	Individual Factors -> Indian Economic Growth Factors	0.314	4.765	Strong	Yes
H2	Community Factors -> Indian Economic Growth Factors	0.352	4.897	Strong	Yes
H3	ESS Factors -> Indian Economic Growth Factors	0.473	9.176	Strong	Yes
H4	Dynamic Factors -> Indian Economic Growth Factors	0.519	11.375	Strong	Yes

Table 10 Indirect relationships

Hypotheses No	Construe Description	β - value	t-value	Significance $t \geq 2.59$	Hypotheses Supported or not supported
H52	Individual Factors -> Indian Economic Growth Factors through Community Factors	0.136	5.151	Strong	Yes
H61	Dynamic Factors -> Indian Economic Growth Factors through Individual Factors	0.108	5.327	Strong	Yes
H72	Dynamic Factors -> Indian Economic Growth Factors through Community Factors	0.174	4.990	Strong	Yes
H84	ESS Factors -> Indian Economic Growth Factors through Dynamic Factors	0.226	6.143	Strong	Yes
H92	ESS Factors -> Indian Economic Growth Factors through Community Factors	0.190	5.953	Strong	Yes

The third-level relationships are not relevant as the β value tends to be below the 0.01 levels hence not considered for this study(Sarstedt et al., 2022).

The research framework outlined above has undergone extensive validation and reliability testing using PLS-SEM, representing a significant contribution to this study. Insights from 425 respondents, who are stakeholders in the Energy Sector, were instrumental in this process. This methodology not only addresses the scarcity of relevant data but also provides a foundation for future researchers to refine or develop similar models. While established theories are pertinent in contexts with stable economies and equitable access to education, they fall short during economic downturns, COVID-19 outbreaks, or under sanction regimes. Therefore, developing a robust, evidence-based research framework, as demonstrated by Guenther et al. (2023), is essential to elucidate various factors in such circumstances and facilitate further exploration.

3.3 Hypotheses

H1- Individual Factors -> Indian Economic Growth Factors (H1), $\beta_{INDVF-IEGF} = 0.314$, $t=4.765$, indicates a Strong relationship. Natural capital, which includes India's vast natural resources, provides the raw materials necessary for industrial growth and export activities, driving GDP and attracting FDI. Human capital, characterized by the skills, education, and health of the workforce, is essential for enhancing productivity, fostering innovation, and supporting industrial development. Financial capital, encompassing access to financial resources and markets, enables investment in businesses and infrastructure, stimulating economic activities and facilitating trade. Physical capital, including infrastructure such as transportation, energy, and communication networks, underpins industrial

development and trade by improving efficiency and connectivity. Social capital, reflected in the quality of institutions, governance, and social networks, creates a conducive environment for economic activities by fostering trust, cooperation, and effective policy implementation. Together, these capitals synergistically enhance India's economic capabilities, driving growth across various sectors and contributing to the overall economic development of the country.

H2- Community Factors -> Indian Economic Growth Factors (H2), $\beta_{CF-IEGF} = 0.352$, $t = 4.897$, indicates a Strong relationship. Religious and spiritual communities shape consumer behavior and ethical business practices, attracting FDI. Professional communities drive innovation and productivity through knowledge sharing. Geographical communities influence regional development and infrastructure investment. Caste-based communities affect social mobility and human capital development. Governance structures impact policy formulation and implementation, affecting industrial and infrastructure projects. Media shapes public opinion and investor perceptions, influencing FDI and market dynamics. Environmental groups promote sustainable practices, influencing industrial policies. Political and ideological groups shape legislative agendas and economic policies, impacting trade, industrial regulations, and infrastructure priorities. Together, these factors create a dynamic socio-economic landscape that drives India's economic growth and development.

H3- ESS Factors -> Indian Economic Growth Factors (H3), $\beta_{ESSF-IEGF} = 0.473$, $t = 9.176$, indicates a Strong relationship. Economic, social, and sustainability factors collectively influence Indian economic growth factors such as GDP, industrial development, FDI, trade and export, and infrastructure development. Economic factors, including fiscal policies, market dynamics, and investment climates, directly impact GDP growth and industrial development by fostering a conducive environment for business operations and attracting FDI. Social factors, such as education, healthcare, and social equity, enhance human capital, driving productivity and innovation, which are crucial for industrial growth and competitive trade. Sustainability factors, encompassing environmental regulations and sustainable practices, influence long-term economic stability and attract green investments, ensuring sustainable industrial development and infrastructure projects. Together, these factors create a balanced and resilient economic framework that supports robust growth, diversified industrial activities, increased foreign investment, and sustainable trade and infrastructure development in India.

H4- Dynamic Factors -> Indian Economic Growth Factors (H4), $\beta_{INTF-IUIAP} = 0.519$, $t = 11.375$, indicates a Strong relationship. Dynamic factors such as political stability, governance quality, trade policies, migration patterns, collaboration, and technological advancements significantly influence Indian economic growth factors like GDP, industrial development, FDI, trade and export, and infrastructure development. Political stability and effective governance create a favorable environment for economic activities, enhancing investor confidence and attracting FDI. Progressive trade policies and international agreements expand market access, boosting trade and export opportunities. Migration influences labor market dynamics, providing a skilled workforce that supports industrial development. Collaboration, both domestic and international, fosters innovation and resource sharing, driving industrial growth and infrastructure projects. Technological advancements enhance productivity, streamline operations, and enable the development of modern infrastructure. Together, these dynamic factors create a synergistic effect that propels India's economic growth, diversifies its industrial base, increases foreign investments, and supports sustainable trade and infrastructure development.

H5- Individual Factors -> Community Factors (H5), $\beta_{IF-CF} = 0.387$, $t = 12.84$, indicates a Strong relationship. Natural capital, comprising a region's natural resources, shapes the livelihoods and cultural practices of geographical and environmental groups. Human capital, reflecting the skills and education of individuals, affects professional communities by determining workforce quality and innovation capacity. Financial capital, which includes access to financial resources, empowers different community groups to fund initiatives, support development projects, and influence governance and political activities. Physical capital, encompassing infrastructure and technological assets, impacts the connectivity and operational efficiency of all community groups, enabling better collaboration and

growth. Social capital, representing networks and relationships, enhances trust and cooperation among community groups, including religious, spiritual, and ideological groups, fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose. Together, these individual factors create a robust framework that supports the diverse needs and aspirations of various community groups, driving social cohesion, economic development, and collective progress.

H6 - Dynamic Factors -> Individual Factors (H6), $\beta_{DF-IF} = 0.343$, $t = 5.274$, indicates a Strong relationship ($t > 2.59$). Dynamic factors such as political stability, governance quality, trade policies, migration trends, collaboration, and technological advancements profoundly influence individual factors like natural capital, human capital, financial capital, physical capital, and social capital. Political stability and effective governance ensure the sustainable management of natural resources (natural capital) and create environments conducive to economic growth, impacting financial and physical capital. Trade policies open markets and facilitate the flow of goods, services, and investments, enhancing financial capital and driving the development of physical infrastructure. Migration trends affect human capital by introducing diverse skills and knowledge, enriching the workforce, and promoting innovation. Collaboration, both domestic and international, fosters partnerships and resource sharing, strengthening financial, physical, and social capital. Technological advancements drive efficiency and productivity across sectors, optimizing the use of natural resources, enhancing human skills through education and training, and improving infrastructure. Together, these dynamic factors create an interconnected system that enhances the development and utilization of all forms of capital, promoting overall economic and social well-being.

H7 - Dynamic Factors -> Community Factors (H7), $\beta_{DF-CF} = 0.494$, $t = 10.419$, indicates a Strong relationship ($t > 2.59$). Dynamic factors such as political stability, governance quality, trade policies, migration patterns, collaboration, and technological advancements significantly influence various community groups, including religious, spiritual, professional, geographical, caste-based, governance, media, environmental, political, and ideological groups. Political stability and effective governance foster trust and participation within these groups, facilitating cohesive and inclusive community activities. Trade policies shape the economic opportunities available to professional and geographical communities, impacting livelihoods and regional development. Migration patterns bring cultural diversity and skill sets that enrich religious, spiritual, and caste-based communities, promoting social integration and economic productivity. Collaboration between community groups and institutions enhances knowledge sharing and resource pooling, benefiting professional, environmental, and ideological groups. Technological advancements revolutionize communication and media, enabling better connectivity and information dissemination across all community groups. These dynamic factors collectively shape the social fabric and operational dynamics of various community groups, driving socio-economic progress and fostering a more interconnected and resilient society.

H8 - ESS Factors -> Dynamic Factors (H8), $\beta_{ESSF-DF} = 0.435$, $t = 9.947$, indicates a Strong relationship. Economic, social, and sustainability (ESS) factors profoundly influence dynamic factors such as political stability, governance quality, trade policies, migration trends, collaboration, and technological advancements. Economic stability and growth create a conducive environment for effective governance and political stability, which in turn fosters robust trade policies and international agreements. Social factors, including education, healthcare, and social equity, enhance human capital and social cohesion, influencing migration patterns by either retaining talent or attracting skilled immigrants. A strong emphasis on sustainability drives the development and implementation of environmentally friendly technologies and practices, shaping trade policies towards greener standards and fostering international collaboration on sustainability initiatives. Additionally, sustainability considerations encourage technological innovations aimed at reducing environmental impact and promoting resource efficiency. Together, these ESS factors create a holistic framework that supports dynamic political, governance, trade, migration, collaboration, and technological processes, driving comprehensive and sustainable development.

H9 - ESS Factors -> Community Factors (H9), $\beta_{ESSF-CF} = 0.541$, $t = 13.76$, indicates a Strong relationship. Economic, social, and sustainability (ESS) factors significantly influence various community groups, including religious,

spiritual, professional, geographical, caste-based, governance, media, environmental, political, and ideological groups. Economic conditions shape the resources and opportunities available to these communities, affecting their development and capacity to contribute to society. Social factors, such as education, healthcare, and social equity, impact the cohesion and well-being of communities, enhancing human capital and fostering inclusive growth. Sustainability initiatives promote environmental stewardship and long-term resource management, influencing the priorities and activities of environmental groups and encouraging other communities to adopt sustainable practices. Governance and media communities are particularly impacted by economic and social policies, which shape their roles in policymaking, information dissemination, and public engagement. Religious and spiritual groups may integrate sustainability into their teachings, while professional and ideological groups advocate for practices and policies that align with ESS principles. Together, these factors create a dynamic interplay that shapes the evolution and impact of diverse community groups, fostering a more equitable, sustainable, and resilient society.

All the above findings accepting the hypotheses, not only ensure that the Indian Economic Growth is eminent but also ensure that the Indian sub-continent will thrive. This would lead to individual entrepreneurs and startups taking off.

4.CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

4.1 Implications of This Research

This research study on "Indian Community Development – A Bottom-to-Top Prospective" has several significant implications for policymakers, community leaders, and researchers. By adopting a bottom-to-top approach, the study emphasizes the importance of grassroots participation and local initiatives in driving sustainable and inclusive development across India. This approach suggests that empowering local communities and leveraging their unique strengths and resources can lead to more effective and context-specific solutions for development challenges. For policymakers, the study highlights the need to create policies that support and facilitate community-led development initiatives. This involves decentralizing decision-making processes, providing adequate funding and resources, and fostering an environment where local voices are heard and valued. Such policies can lead to more tailored and impactful interventions that address the specific needs and aspirations of different communities. Community leaders can draw from this research to better understand the potential of local assets and capabilities in driving development. By fostering collaboration, promoting education and capacity building, and encouraging sustainable practices, community leaders can play a pivotal role in harnessing the collective efforts of their communities towards achieving broader development goals. Researchers can benefit from the insights provided by this study by exploring further the dynamics of community-driven development. This includes investigating the various factors that contribute to successful community initiatives, understanding the barriers to effective local participation, and developing frameworks that can be replicated in different contexts. The bottom-to-top perspective in community development underscores the critical role of local communities in shaping their development pathways. By prioritizing local needs and solutions, this approach can lead to more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient development outcomes for Indian communities ().

4.2 Limitations and Future Research

The research study faces several limitations and offers clear avenues for future research. Firstly, its generalizability across diverse Indian regions and communities may be constrained by varying socio-economic, cultural, and political contexts not fully addressed in the study. Secondly, the limited availability of comprehensive, updated data at the grassroots level may have restricted the depth of analysis and conclusive insights. Methodologically, potential biases

in participant selection and reliance on self-reported data pose challenges, suggesting a need for more rigorous sampling methods in future studies. Moving forward, researchers could benefit from comparative analyses across different states or community types to discern effective development strategies. Longitudinal studies tracking sustained impacts and qualitative research exploring community experiences would provide deeper insights. Additionally, policy analyses on national and state-level policies' alignment with bottom-to-top approaches, and the development of impact assessment tools tailored for community-level outcomes, would enhance understanding and support for community-led development initiatives in India.

4.3 The Contribution and Originality

4.3.1 value of the research

The research study makes significant contributions to the field by emphasizing the value of grassroots participation and local empowerment in driving sustainable development in India. Its originality lies in advocating for a bottom-to-top approach, which prioritizes community-led initiatives and recognizes the unique strengths and contexts of Indian communities. This approach offers a novel perspective compared to top-down development models, highlighting the importance of local knowledge, resources, and community cohesion in achieving development goals. The study's value lies in its potential to inform policymakers, community leaders, and researchers about effective strategies for inclusive and sustainable development tailored to diverse Indian communities. By emphasizing community empowerment, the research underscores the importance of building resilient, self-reliant communities capable of driving their development agendas. Overall, the study contributes to advancing understanding and practices in community development, advocating for approaches that foster local ownership, sustainability, and socio-economic resilience in India.

4.4 conclusion

In conclusion, this study emphasizes the pivotal role of grassroots initiatives in fostering community development in India from a bottom-to-top perspective. Through comprehensive analysis of diverse socio-economic and cultural contexts, the study highlights the significant contributions of local participation in driving sustainable outcomes, including improved resource management, social cohesion, and capacity-building. It effectively achieves its objectives: firstly, by analyzing and documenting the diverse contributions of grassroots initiatives to community development; secondly, by demonstrating how community participation enhances the success and sustainability of development efforts through active engagement in decision-making and implementation processes; and thirdly, by systematically identifying challenges such as limited resources, inadequate policy support, and socio-political constraints that hinder the full implementation of bottom-up strategies. These findings provide crucial insights for future research and policy, emphasizing the need to overcome barriers, strengthen local governance, enhance financial support, and foster inclusive policy frameworks to empower communities effectively and advance sustainable development agendas across India. Furthermore, the integration of Sustainable Framework Theory, Community Economic Development (CED) Theory, and the Ecological Systems Theory in the conceptual model underpinning this study underscores its relevance. This integrated approach provides a comprehensive framework for understanding and promoting community-led development, aligning environmental sustainability, economic viability, and social equity within local contexts, thereby offering a holistic perspective to guide future initiatives and policy interventions in India's development landscape.

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Annexures

Developing the Questionnaire and the Interview Questions

Demographic profile

This section is a collection of demographics of the participants for further analysis.

1. Please specify your age group (in years)

- 16-25
- 26-40
- 41-50
- 50-60
- 61 +

2. Please specify your gender

- Male
- Female
- Don't want to reveal

3. Please specify your highest qualification achieved

- Undergraduate
- Bachelors
- Masters
- Professional
- Doctorate

4. What is your Profession (which profession do you associate yourselves with) ?

- Self Employed
- Trader
- Salesman
- Entrepreneur
- Housewife
- Student
- Teacher
- Advertiser
- Social Media User

5. Please specify your Income Group

- < 5001 AED
- 5001-10000 AED
- 10001- 20000 AED
- > 20001 AED

Relation study between the independent variables and the dependent variable

6. Individual Factors (IF) - Natural Capital, Human Capital, Financial Capital, Physical Capital, Social Capital

I believe that the Individual Factors (IF) that will influence Indian Economic Growth Factors are: (Express your opinion on the statement by marking the most appropriate one)

Individual Factors (IF)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neutral (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)
Natural Capital (IF1)					
Human Capital (IF2)					
Financial Capital (IF3)					
Physical Capital (IF4)					
Social Capital (IF5)					

7. Community Factors (CF) - Religion, Spiritual, Professional, Geographical, Caste, Governance, Media, Environmental,

Political, Ideological.

I believe that the Community Factors (CF) that will influence Indian Economic Growth Factors are: (Express your opinion on the statement by marking the most appropriate one)

Community Factors (CF)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neutral (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)
Religion (CF1)					
Spiritual (CF2)					
Professional (CF3)					
Geographical (CF4)					
Caste (CF 5)					
Governance (CF6)					
Media (CF7)					
Environmental (CF8)					
Political (CF9)					
Ideological (CF10)					

8) ESS Factors (ESSF) – The ESS Factors are a major issue as they depend on Economic, Social, Sustainability I believe that the ESS Factors (ESSF) that will influence Indian Economic Growth Factors are: (Express your opinion on the statement by marking the most appropriate one)

Cultural Dimension Factors (CDF)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neutral (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)
Economic (ESSF1)					
Social (ESSF2)					
Sustainability (ESSF3)					

9. Dynamic Factors (DF) - The Dynamic Factors are a major issue as they depend on Political, Governance, Trade, Migration, Collaboration, Technology

I believe that the Dynamic Factors (DF) that will influence Indian Economic Growth Factors are: (Express your opinion on the statement by marking the most appropriate one)

Dynamic Factors (DF)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree (5)

			(3)	(4)	
Political (DF1)					
Governance (DF2)					
Trade (DF3)					
Migration (DF4)					
Collaboration (DF5)					
Technology (DF6)					

10. Indian Economic Growth Factors (IEGF) – Indian Economic Growth Factors will depend on Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Industrial Development, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Trade and Exports, Infrastructure Development

I believe that the factors for Indian Economic Growth depend on: (Express your opinion on the statement by marking the most appropriate one)

Indian Economic Growth Factors (IEGF)	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neutral (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)
Gross Domestic Product (IEGF1)					
Industrial Development (IEGF2)					
Foreign Direct Investment (IEGF3)					
Trade and Exports (IEGF4)					
Infrastructure Development (IEGF5)					

Interview Questions

1.How do the Individual Factors (IF) - Natural Capital, Human Capital, Financial Capital, Physical Capital, and Social Capital influence the Indian Economic Growth Factors OF Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Industrial Development, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Trade and Exports, Infrastructure Development?

2.How do the Community Factors (CF) of Religion, Spiritual, Professional, Geographical, Caste, Governance, Media, Environmental, Political, and Ideological influence the Indian Economic Growth Factors of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Industrial Development, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Trade and Exports, Infrastructure Development?

3.How do the ESS Factors of Economic, Social, and Sustainability influence the Indian Economic Growth Factors OF Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Industrial Development, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Trade and Exports, and Infrastructure Development?

4.How will the Dynamic Factors of Political, Governance, Trade, Migration, Collaboration, and Technology influence

the Indian Economic Growth Factors of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Industrial Development, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Trade and Exports, and Infrastructure Development?

5.How will the Indian Economic Growth Factors depend on Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Industrial Development, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Trade and Exports, and Infrastructure Development?