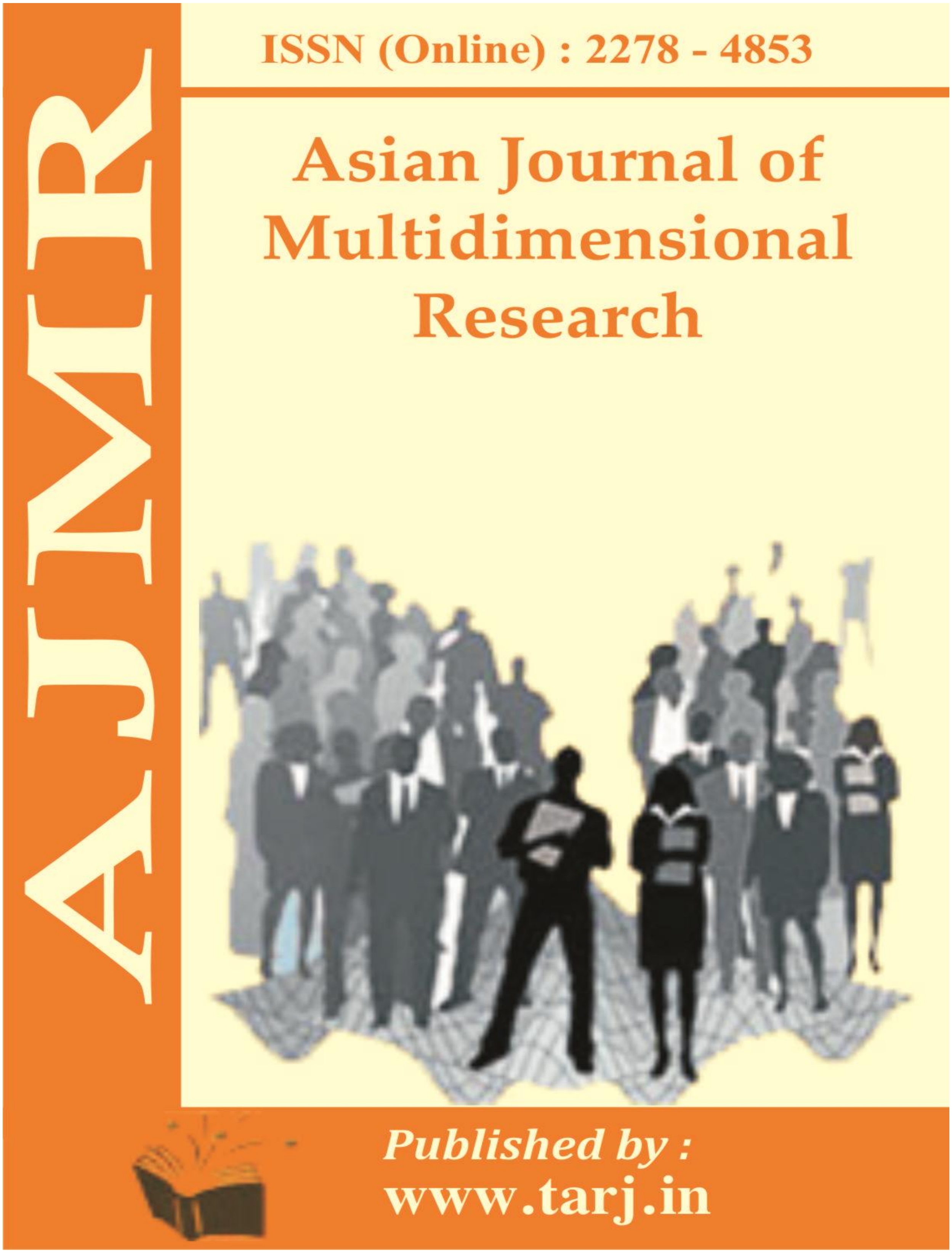
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VISION

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LINGUISTIC AND HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE NAMES OF AFRIGHID RULERS IN AL-BIRUNI'S WORKS

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ABSTRACT:

This article investigates the linguistic and historical significance of Afrighid dynasty rulers within the Khorezm region, utilizing Al-Biruni's "Chronology" as a central primary source. It employs a multifaceted framework encompassing primary source analysis, a critical literature review, comprehensive linguistic analysis, and in-depth historical analysis. The research elucidates the linguistic and cultural origins of the rulers' names, illuminating the multifaceted influences – including Persian, Turkic, and potentially other regional languages – that shaped this dynasty's reign from 305 to 995 AD.

KEYWORDS: *Afrig, Bagra, Sahhasak, Asjakamuk, Shovush, Bozahkar, Mazdak, Khorezm, Xshatra, Chjaowu.*

INTRUDUCTION

The Afrighid dynasty is considered to have ruled the Khorezm region, located in what is now Central Asia (parts of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Kazakhstan) from 305 to 995 AD. The analysis of the literature involved in this study shows that there are very few works and written sources dedicated to the early medieval history of Khorezm. As an explanation, we can cite a passage from Abu Rayhan Beruni's "Chronology," where he states: "Qutayba knew the script of Khorezm well, had studied their reports and traditions, and had destroyed those who taught knowledge to others, completely eradicating them" [7; P.122.]. From a historical perspective, the reign of this dynasty is considered complex, continuing against the backdrop of the emergence and strengthening of states such as the Sassanids, Hephthalites, Turkic Khaganate, Arab Caliphate, Tahirids, and Samanids on the international political stage. As a result of the Arab conquest of Khorezm, many historical works that could have illuminated the dark pages of history were completely lost, with only fragments of some surviving to this day. Therefore, the political, socio-economic, and cultural history of the Afrighid era remains one of the least studied and most problematic topics in the history of Khorezm.

METHODS

This study employs a multi-disciplinary approach to explore the linguistic and historical significance of the Afrighid rulers' names as recorded in Al-Biruni's "Chronology." The methodology is structured as follows:

1. **Primary Source Analysis:**

- *Analysis of Primary Source*: A thorough examination of Al-Biruni's "Chronology" is conducted to extract and analyze the names of Afrighid rulers, which are critical to understanding their historical and cultural contexts.
- *Transliteration of Names*: Careful transliteration of the names from the original texts into the chosen language for this article ensures accuracy and consistency in linguistic analysis.

2. **Literature Review:**

- *Critical Review*: An extensive review of existing literature by scholars such as M. Rajapov, J. Heravi, G. Boboyorov, E. O‘zjan, E. Vessyer, and O.I. Smirnova is undertaken to gather insights into the etymology and historical narratives surrounding these names.
- *Etymology and Linguistic origins*: Evaluation of the proposed etymologies and linguistic origins of the rulers' names provides a foundation for further analysis.
- *Historical Contexts*: Identification of historical contexts and connections within the reviewed literature aids in contextualizing the names within broader historical events.

3. **Linguistic Analysis:**

- *Etymological Breakdown*: Employing etymological analysis, each name is dissected to identify potential linguistic roots and their implications.
- *Cross-Referencing Linguistic Sources*: Cross-referencing with dictionaries of relevant ancient languages (e.g., Old Persian, Avestan, Turkic languages) enhances understanding of the name structures and their origins.
- *Phonetic Considerations*: Consideration of phonetic shifts and language change over time is critical to account for the various historical pronunciations or transliterations of names.

4. **Historical Analysis:**

- *Contextualization within Historical Periods*: The names are contextualized within the known historical periods and events of Khorezm during the Afrighid Dynasty, linking them to possible historical narratives or records.
- *Connections to Historical Figures*: Exploration of connections between names and potential historical figures or ruling titles offers insights into the socio-political structure of the era.
- *Examination of Cultural Influences*: An examination of cultural influences (Iranian, Turkic, etc.) reflected in the naming practices of the Afrighid rulers highlights the intercultural interactions and influences prevalent during their reigns.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Abu Rayhan Beruni lists 22 rulers of the Afrighids in his work, which serves as a primary source for researchers since no other source provides a list of Afrighid rulers. These are as follows:1) Afrig; 2) Bagra; 3) Sahhasak; 4) Askajamuk I; 5) Askajawar I; 6) Sahr I; 7) Shaush; 8) Xamgari (or Xangari or Hangiri); 9) Buzgar; 10) Arsamux (or Artamux); 11) Sahr II; 12) Sabri; 13) Azkajawar II (or Azkahvar); 14) Askajamuq II; 15) Shaushafar; 16) Turksabasa; 17) Abdullah; 18) Mansur; 19) Iroq; 20) Muhammad; 21) Ahmad; 22) Abu-Abdullah Muhammad.

Researcher M. Rajapov, relying on the works of Iranian researchers J. Heravi, J. Mufrad, and P. Azkai, has emphasized that the term "Afrig" originates from "Af/of/ob" meaning water, and "rig/riz" meaning to fill or pour, referring to people living downstream of a river. It is noteworthy that the ancient Iranians used the term Afrighids to collectively refer to the peoples living in the lower reaches of the Amu Darya, denoting those who live where the water flows. M. Rajapov suggested that this term might later have evolved into the name of the dynasty [5; P.331-332.].

Researcher J. Heravi, analyzing the second ruler **Bagra** mentioned in Beruni's work from a linguistic perspective, emphasized that Bagra (Bag‘ra) was the son of Afrig and that his name might mean "Given by God"[2; P.9-11]. G. Boboyorov, in his research, suggested that Bag‘ra (possibly Bo‘g‘ra) could be associated with the epithet "male camel", which is characteristic of the title system in the Turkic Khaganate [9; P-50-52]. Researcher E. O‘zjan has noted that Siyavush's conquest of Khorezm and subsequent rule by Kay Khusraw and his descendants, who were recognized with the title "shah", marked the end of the Persian family's rule with Afrighid **Bagra** coming to power, and from this ruler onwards, a Turkic dynasty governed Khorezm[4; P.11-13].According to J. Heravi, the third ruler listed by Beruni, **Sahhasak** (Saksafan), is derived from the words "Sak" and "shek", which could mean "king of the Saka". The author further analyzes the next ruler, Askajamuk I, suggesting the name is formed from Aska (Aškā) and Jamuk, linking Aska to the Parthian Arsacid kings (Aškānīān), with Jamuk possibly meaning "beauty" or "majesty", generally translating to "Ashkan the Beautiful" or "Saka Majesty"[2; P.10-11]. Researcher Vaissière É, on the other hand, interpreted Askajamuk as meaning "Highly Esteemed"[8; P.124].

G. Boboyorov has noted that the names of two rulers listed by Beruni as Aska Jamuk were from the Chjaovu household. According to the author, "Jamuk" in Turkic means "jewel" and was a title for nobles in the Turkic Khaganate during the early medieval period[9; P.50-52]. J. Heravi suggests that the name of the sixth ruler, Sahr, derives from the Persian word "Xshatra", implying meanings like "sovereign", "king", or "ruler of the city". The author proposes that the seventh ruler listed, Shovush (Chovush), is the Arabized form of the legendary hero "Siyavush". Additionally, the ninth ruler, Bo‘zgar, might be referenced by the epithet "Bozahkar" ("sinner") given to Yazdgird I during the Sasanian era [2; P.11]. If Bo‘zgar's era is considered to correspond with that of Yazdgird I, he might also have been called "Bozahkar" by Zoroastrian clergy due to possible Mazdakite inclinations, as Beruni notes that Mazdak was from the Nisa region of Khorezm. Thus, Bozgar might also have been inclined towards Mazdakism and thus named "Bozahkar" by the clergy. The tenth ruler, Arsamux, has a name that matches one found on coins in Khorezm. The first part of his name, "Art", means "order" and "justice", which is also found in other names from the Sasanian era, while the second part, "mux", means "appearance", "face", or "visage". Combined, these two parts may convey meanings like "Just Face" or "Holy Visage". The author suggests that "…this, unlike his father who might have been called ‘Bozahkar’, likely gained recognition in the country as a patron of the Zoroastrian religion, with this name possibly given by the Zoroastrian clergy…"[2;P.11] However, there is no information about his reign or governing style. Some studies indicate that Arsamux's name is similar to the toponym "Arsax" in the Azerbaijan region, associated with the name of the ancient Saka tribe, meaning "brave Saka", "valiant Saka", or "Saka man"[3].

Beruni’s list includes the 16th ruler, Turkasabos (or Turksabas/Turkasbos), who is considered to have been a member of the ruling family of the Turkic Khaganate that governed the western regions (around the Aral Sea) in 567 AD, identified in Greek sources as Turksanf. O.I. Smirnova proposes that Turkasbos literally means "owner of the Turkic army". Some researchers believe that Turksanf's original name in Turkic was Turk shad, and he was the son of Istami Khan [10; 425-428].

Analyses show that the linguistic examination of the names of Khorezmian rulers recorded in Beruni's data provides valuable information about their origins and meanings. These names offer deep insights into the history, culture, and societal complexities of Khorezm, reflecting changes across various periods. It should be noted that in foreign historiography, efforts have been made to prove that all the names mentioned above have Iranian roots to emphasize the Iranian lineage of the Afrighid rulers. However, in national and Turkic studies, special emphasis is placed on the Turkic origins of these rulers (except Afrig).

CONCLUSION

Overall, the linguistic and historical analysis of the names of Afrighid rulers recorded in Al-Biruni's "Chronology" reveals a complex and dynamic history of Khorezm during their reign. The diverse interpretations proposed by scholars such as M. Rajapov, J. Heravi, G. Boboyorov, E. O'zjan, E. Vessyer, and O.I. Smirnova highlight the ongoing debate surrounding the linguistic and cultural origins of the Afrighid Dynasty. The names appear to blend linguistic influences from Persian, Turkic, and possibly other ancient regional languages, suggesting a fusion of cultures within the Khorezmian power structure. While the term "Afrig" itself is widely considered to have Persian roots connected to water-based settlements, researchers have proposed various interpretations for subsequent rulers' names. Figures like Bagra, Sahhasak, and Askajamuk I have been linked to Persian, Saka, and even Parthian influences, reflecting Khorezm's historical position at the crossroads of empires. Conversely, names like Buzgar and Turkasabos suggest connections to Turkic rulers, titles, or structures, supporting the theory of a shift in power dynamics towards a Turkic lineage within the Afrighid Dynasty.

The possible connections drawn between some Afrighid rulers and historical figures or epithets, such as the links proposed between Siyavush and Shavush, Yazdgird I and Bozgar, or Turk Shad and Turkasabos, further illuminate the potential interplay of myth, history, and political power within their societal context. However, the lack of additional historical records for corroboration makes it difficult to establish definitive connections beyond the textual analysis of names.

The absence of consensus regarding the interpretations of these names underlines the challenges posed by the limited availability of historical records pertaining to early Khorezm. The loss of texts during the Arab conquest significantly hinders efforts to obtain a complete understanding of the Afrighid era. Despite this, Al-Biruni's work remains an invaluable primary source, and the linguistic investigations conducted on these names shed light on the multi-faceted nature of Khorezmian history.

This study highlights crucial areas for future research. Cross-analysis of Afrighid names with additional sources, such as archaeological discoveries like inscriptions or coins, could potentially provide further clues about the rulers' historical contexts and cultural influences. Comparative studies with names of rulers from the Sassanid and Turkic Khaganate periods may clarify relationships and reveal shared regional naming conventions or shifts in power. Moreover, a more extensive examination of possible Mazdakite connections within the Afrighid Dynasty could provide a clearer picture of religious and social dynamics.

Despite the inherent limitations, this comprehensive linguistic and historical analysis of the Afrighid rulers' names based on Al-Biruni's records contributes a valuable perspective to the ongoing scholarly exploration of Khorezm's intricate past. This research underscores the significance of interdisciplinary approaches and the critical examination of names as a means of understanding historical societies, cultures, and the complex power dynamics shaping them.

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SAVINGS TRENDS IN INDIA: EXPLORING THE ROLE OF MICROFINANCE, COMMERCIAL BANKS, AND CREDIT UNIONS

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ABSTRACT

The study is mainly focused on Indian savings habits during 2011 to 2022. Data is collected from the number of savings account held by commercial banks, credit union co-operatives and microfinance institutions. The study is used descriptive research methodology in which data is based on secondary form. Data is analysed with the help of ANOVA and Correlation technique. The results showed that subtle patterns in the Indian savings environment, paying particular attention to the consistency of cooperative and credit union deposits, which may point to a long-term preference. The study also examined how commercial banks and microfinance organisations help draw in and keep savers. Branch density dynamics are included in the research, which clarifies how accessible savings accounts are at various financial institutions. Considering the effect of various financial institutions and their impact on financial inclusion, this research provides insightful information about how savings habits are changing in India.

KEYWORDS: *Credit Unions, Financial Inclusion, Microfinance Institutions, Savings Trends.*

INTRODUCTION

A common goal across countries is to enhance national output to raise living standards and welfare generally. This is known as economic growth. Governments all over the globe employ various measures, such as encouraging saving and encouraging borrowing and investment to increase national output, to reduce poverty and raise national income levels. In this particular economic paradigm, saving plays a critical role in the link between investment and increase in aggregate wealth. It is a commonly held concept that increasing overall savings makes increasing capital and inventory investments possible, promoting economic development. Furthermore, empirical data points to a relationship between higher per-capita consumer spending, personal income growth, and economic expansion. The Keynesian theory of consumption states that as income levels rise, so do collective savings. Undeniably, a rise in total savings, sometimes prompted by increased income, can bolster investment possibilities and promote further national economic growth, even in the face of disagreements over the relationship between savings and economic growth. The amount of official regulated financial services the impoverished may access is significantly less than what is needed. Low-cost, straightforward, formalised approaches have become more popular recently, partly due to the formal sector's incapacity to offer goods and services that the impoverished most desire—such as closeness, flexibility, and in some situations, large returns. Savings groups are becoming increasingly common, as evidenced by the growth of these organisations. These individuals may find it challenging to deal with formal financial institutions due to a variety of factors, such as low cash balances, lack of access, illiteracy, or innumeracy, and a lack of funds to cover transaction costs, which can include anything from commissions and fees on savings accounts to the costs of travelling from remote rural areas to banks in market towns. The issues facing the impoverished go beyond money. Since the beginning, many microfinance companies have made it a top goal to provide goods and initiatives that improve well-being in non-financial ways. Human rights are advancing, education is being promoted, women are empowered, and marginalised communities are being improved. All of these objectives share the desire to influence some non-financial behavioural or cognitive shift. These adjustments might take many different shapes. The most notable benefit microfinance practitioners frequently mention is the educational advantages of joining a savings or credit programme. The majority of savings products demand at least a basic understanding of accounting; the potential rewards of involvement encourage impoverished individuals to acquire these abilities. **(Martin, 2013)**

Review of Literature:

Financial inclusion, mainly through savings, has been a key focus in various countries. In the UK and the US, asset-based welfare policies such as the Child Trust Fund and Individual Development Account initiatives have been implemented to encourage savings and tackle poverty. In Uganda, access to and useof formal financial services have positively influenced savings. Similarly, financial inclusion has been identified as crucial for economic growth and poverty reduction, focusing on encouraging saving habits in India. These studies collectively highlight the importance of financial inclusion in promoting savings and its potential to address poverty and inequality.

1) Niankara, et al., 2018

The paper provides a comparative analysis of the impact of financial inclusion on individuals' saving and borrowing behaviours in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the United States.The study found no significant difference in borrowing behaviour between residents of the United States and the United Arab Emirates. However, US residents are 31.4% more likely to save than their UAE counterparts. The results also revealed the absence of an income-based saving or borrowing gradient in both countries. Gender-based saving and borrowing inequalities were found in favour of males. The results reveal that US residents are 31.4% more likely to save than their UAE counterparts, highlighting a difference in saving behaviour between the two countries. The study also finds the absence of an income-based saving or borrowing gradient in both the UAE and the US, suggesting that saving and borrowing behaviours are not significantly influenced by income levels.

2) Prashant Bharadwaj, 2020

Financial inclusion is important for enhancing community welfare since it helps save and loan cooperatives; nevertheless, its influence on poverty reduction is limited to the usage dimension and not the access and service dimensions. Access to a bank account, debit cards, direct salary payments, and government transfer programmes are examples of financial inclusion tactics that greatly increase the possibility of borrowing and saving. Savings behaviour is influenced by financial knowledge, financial inclusion, and financial attitude, with financial attitude having the largest and most favourable impact. Use of mobile money promotes the use of mobile money as a tool to improve financial inclusion and raises savings and saving behaviour in Ghana, especially in rural regions. The possibility of saving and borrowing is greatly increased by financial inclusion methods such having access to a bank account, debit card ownership, direct pay and salary transfer rules, and government transfer programmes with direct deposit alternatives.

Additionally, having access to financial inclusion tools like bank accounts, debit cards, and direct income and salary transfer policies can improve borrowing and saving habits, which may draw in additional capital. One of the main problems with impoverished people's money management is that they occasionally make large, irregular (or "lumpy") purchases. These might be sporadic, like merchants who purchase wholesale goods monthly, or recurring, like weddings, funerals, or other costs brought on by life events. Results from the Global Findex, which show that 17% of individuals in the lowest income quartile saved for future expenses and 20% saved for emergencies, corroborate this picture.

3) Ibrahim Niankara, 2020: The paper examines the impact of financial inclusion on saving and borrowing decisions in the USA and UAE, using data from the 2014 Global Findex database and a semi-parametric bivariate probit specification. The results show that consumers in the US are more likely to save than their UAE counterparts, and there is a gender-based inequality in favour of males in both saving and borrowing. Financial inclusion strategies such as access to bank accounts, debit cards, direct salary deposits, and government transfer programs significantly increase the likelihood of saving and borrowing in both countries. The main result was that consumers in the US are 31.4% more likely to save than their UAE counterparts. There is a gender-based inequality in saving and borrowing, with males having a 12.4% higher likelihood of saving and a 13.8% higher likelihood of borrowing than females. The results do not show any income-based saving or borrowing gradient in the US and UAE. Financial inclusion strategies such as access to a bank account, debit cards, direct salary deposits, and government transfer programs significantly increase the likelihood of saving and borrowing in both countries.

3) **Richy Wijaya, 2021:** The Role of Financial Inclusion in Improving Community Welfare: A Study on Cooperative Business. By: Richy Wijaya, Hartini, Margaretha. The paper examines the impact of financial inclusion on community welfare through saving and loan cooperatives, focusing on the role of education level as a moderating variable. The research paper focuses on the role of financial inclusion in improving community welfare, specifically in the context of cooperative businesses.

Financial inclusion is identified as an essential financial intervention strategy for business entities, including cooperatives. The study aims to examine the impact of financial inclusion on community welfare through saving and loan cooperatives, focusing on the moderating effect of education level. The study employed a correlational research design and used a hypothesis-testing method to examine the role of financial inclusion in improving community welfare through saving and loan cooperatives. Primary data was collected through questionnaires distributed to saving and loan cooperative members in Jakarta and its surrounding areas. The sample consisted of 139 respondents who were chosen purposively, specifically cooperative members who had at least graduated from high school. Primary data is collected through questionnaires distributed to saving and loan cooperative members in Jakarta and its surrounding areas.

The study involves 139 purposively chosen respondents who are cooperative members and have at least graduated from high school. The study finds that financial inclusion significantly reduces poverty in the usage dimension, regardless of the education level. However, it does not significantly impact poverty reduction in the access and service dimensions. Financial inclusion has not significantly reduced poverty in the access and service dimensions. Financial inclusion significantly reduces poverty, particularly in the usage dimension, regardless of the education level. However, financial inclusion does not significantly impact poverty reduction in the access and service dimensions.

Objectives

1) To understand Trends in Financial Borrowing.
2) To evaluate Household Sector Loan Dynamics.
3) To assess Savings Trends in India

Hypothesis

1. To investigate whether stable trends in borrowers from credit unions and cooperatives imply a consistent preference for savings.
2. To examine if increased branch density for microfinance institutions and commercial banks indicates expanded accessibility for savings accounts.
3. To assess whether significant differences exist in the number of loan accounts among various financial institutions and sectors.
4. To explore how correlation patterns among loan accounts reflect diverse borrowing associations.

Methodology of the Study:

The study is employed descriptive research method in which data is collected by secondary form. Data is analysed with the help of ANOVA and Correlation technique.

The Background of Government Savings in India

In India, savings have been based on government bank legislation for about 130 years. According to some historians, the government founded the first savings bank in Calcutta in 1834, marking the beginning of the savings movement. On the other hand, the Government Savings Bank Act was approved in 1873, and the Post Office Savings Bank of India was established in 1882. The Government District Savings Banks and the Post Office Savings Bank (POSB) amalgamated in 1886. In addition, the Indian government established the "National Savings Central Bureau" during the British colonial era. Its goals were to encourage saving, rein in inflationary economic tendencies brought on by the Second World War, and raise money to support the conflict. However, it is stated that the lack of enthusiasm among the populace to support an extraterrestrial war effort prevented this initiative from gaining traction. The National Savings Organisation (NSO) (now known as NSI) was established in 1948 because the savings movement needed additional encouragement following the country's 1947 independence. In the framework of domestic savings as a force for national development, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the prime minister at the time, spoke remarks that indicated the critical role the national savings movement was intended to play. **(Sumi Goswami, 2022)**

"I consider the National Savings movement to be critical. It is significant because it reaches many people, but because we want people to save and use those funds for our growth ambitions.

It is insufficient only to make requests. It also has to be organised in order to reach every village. In addition to aiding in accomplishing our Second Five Year Plan, each individual who contributes to the savings during this campaign also becomes, in a way, a sharer in it. I hope this campaign is a huge success.

Small savings were seen as the government's top goal. The Post Office Savings Bank is listed in the Seventh Schedule, Item No. 39, of the Indian Constitution, which was approved in 1949. The Ministry of Finance (MoF) created several minor savings schemes under the Public Provident Fund Act of 1968 and the Government Savings Certificates Act of 1959. The nation's people's practice of thrift and saving has been one of the main goals of the modest savings project. As the phrase "small savings" implies, the focus is on enlisting small depositors in the savings movement. From its founding 123 years ago, the Post Office Savings Bank has served as the primary vehicle for these initiatives throughout India. In 1882, Post Office Savings Banks were established. Axis Bank, ICICI, HDFC, and three nationalised banks run minor savings programmes, including the Public Provident Fund and Senior Citizen's Savings Scheme.

Saving Programmes in India

1. Sukanya Samriddhi Yojna

As part of the "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" programme, the "Sukanya Samriddhi Yojna" is a modest deposit initiative for girls that offer an appealing interest rate and an income tax credit. 7.6% interest rate on deposits from 1.1.2023 to 31.3.2023). Annually compounded with the option to determine monthly interest payments based on the sum in completed thousands. The programme has been extended as appropriate under section 80C of the IT Act, 1961. Triple-exempt benefits include not paying taxes on the money invested, the interest earned, or the money withdrawn. Qualifications For up to two daughters under ten, parents or legal guardians may create deposits on behalf of female children (including adopted girls). When twin girls are born as a second birth or as the first birth, the outcome is three female children. For a girl child, just one account can be established. An initial deposit of at least Rs. 250 is required, followed by multiples of Rs. 150, with an annual cap of Rs. 1,500,000 in a fiscal year. The maximum amount to be deposited is fifteen years from the account's opening date. The account will mature 21 years from the date of account opening or, if it happens sooner, upon the account holder's marriage. Requiring the girl child's birth certificate before contacting Accounts can be opened at post offices and licenced bank locations. **(Vikaspeedia, 2023).**

2. National Saving Scheme, 1987

The National Savings Institute operates under the Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. Its main role is to encourage savings in various government schemes across the country, managed through post offices and designated banks. The institute engages in activities such as nationwide promotion of savings schemes, gathering and organising data, printing savings instruments at the India Security Press in Nasik, and distributing them to Circle Stamp Depots of the Department of Posts. It also trains officials from the Department of Posts, banks, state governments, and various agents. Additionally, the institute handles tasks like addressing investors' grievances and collaborating and coordinating with state governments, banks, the Department of Posts, and extension agencies. It also participates in international cooperation and offers policy inputs to the Ministry of Finance on matters related to National Savings. **(INSTITUTE, 2013)**

3. Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS)

A government-backed programme with guaranteed returns is the SCSS. Although it is adjusted regularly, the interest rate is set for the duration of the investment. The maximum deposit amount is Rs. 30 lakh, with a minimum of Rs. 1,000. Although it can be extended for three years, the maturity period is five years. After a year, people can take money out of their accounts, although doing so early is subject to fines. For older individuals searching for a safe and secure method to invest their money, the SCSS is a beautiful choice. The government supports the plan, which guarantees returns. There is no chance of losing money because the interest rate is set for the duration of the investment. In addition to being flexible, the SCSS allows users to withdraw money from their accounts after a year. But before investing in the SCSS, there are a few things to consider. The maximum deposit amount is Rs. 30 lakh, with a minimum of Rs. 1,000. Although it can be extended for three years, the maturity period is five years. After a year, people can take money out of their accounts, although doing so early is subject to fines. Elderly individuals searching for a safe, secure way to invest their money could choose the SCSS. The government supports the plan, which guarantees returns. But before investing in the SCSS, there are a few things to consider. **(Groww, 2020).**

4. Post Office Monthly Income Scheme (POMIS)

As its name implies, the Post Office Monthly Income programme provides fixed income in interest depending on the investor's lump sum investment. Investors seeking a regular guaranteed payment with a low-risk tolerance would find this programme suitable. Minors may also use this plan, even though resident individuals are eligible to participate in it. Indeed, minors who are older than ten years old can even use his account. The depositor may open more than one account under this monthly savings plan; however, the total net balance in all schemes must not surpass Rs 4.5 Lakh. With benefits for liquidity, investors can retrieve the invested corpus after a year from the first investment.

Nonetheless, please be advised that there is a 1% penalty for withdrawals made during the first and third years and a 1% penalty for withdrawals made after the third year. One significant drawback of POMIS is that it has no tax benefits, unlike other savings plans that provide the advantages of both wealth growth and tax savings. The monthly interest and deposit amounts are exempt from TDS; nevertheless, the interest will be included in the taxable income. **(Groww, 2020)**

TABLE NO. 1: COMPARE INDIAN SAVINGS PROGRAMS

Small Savings						
(₹ Crore)						
Scheme		**2021-22**	**2021**	**2022**		
			Dec.	**Oct.**	**Nov.**	**Dec.**
		1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
Post Office Saving Bank Deposits	Receipts	17581	2630	6	-393	3806
	Outstanding	188433	179437	196446	196053	199859
Sukanya SamriddhiYojna	Receipts	23748	1845	1394	1597	1890
	Outstanding	58783	47264	70176	71773	73663
National Saving Scheme, 1987	Receipts	-1524	-366	-20	-20	-22
	Outstanding	1894	3200	1701	1680	1659
National Saving Scheme, 1992	Receipts	-352	2	-2	-2	-2
	Outstanding	-177	150	-195	-198	-200
Monthly Income Scheme	Receipts	14441	1228	506	275	-125
	Outstanding	235820	232747	240671	240946	240821
Senior Citizen Scheme 2004	Receipts	22281	1929	1491	1256	935
	Outstanding	119333	114134	130652	131908	132843
Post Office Time Deposits	Receipts	43725	3926	1900	1547	527
	Outstanding	251282	241034	272186	273732	274259
PM Care for children	Receipts			0	3	2
	Outstanding			94	94	94
Saving Certificates	Receipts	45307	3978	2545	2564	2115
	Outstanding	333189	321027	353818	356308	358362
National Savings Certificate VIII issue	Receipts	19696	1860	791	627	446
	Outstanding	155043	150513	162152	162779	163224
Indira Vikas Patras	Receipts	-16	0	0	0	0
	Outstanding	143	158	142	142	142
Kisan Vikas Patras	Receipts	-1115	-426	-134	-165	-238
	Outstanding	-7891	-8455	-9302	-9466	-9704
Kisan Vikas Patras - 2014	Receipts	26619	2544	1888	2102	1907
	Outstanding	174560	168720	189654	191756	193663
National Saving Certificate VI issue	Receipts	92	0	0	0	0
	Outstanding	-22	-114	-22	-22	-22
National Saving Certificate VII issue	Receipts	31	0	0	0	0
	Outstanding	-44	-74	-44	-44	-44

Not able patterns emerge from analysing the data for Indian savings programmes for 2021–2022 and 2022. The Post Office Saving Bank Deposits had a notable revenue surge from October to November 2021, followed by a minor decline in December. The outstanding balances continued to rise throughout this period. Sukanya Samriddhi Yojna showed cyclical collections, with a notable uptick in December 2022 and steadily growing overdue sums. The National Savings Scheme saw varying but generally low outstanding balances in 1987, along with negative receipts showing that withdrawals exceeded deposits. Positive collections were recorded for the Monthly Income Scheme, with a dip in December 2022 and steady outstanding balances of about 240,000 Crore. The 2004 Senior Citizen Scheme showed a steady increase in outstanding amounts but a steady decline in collections in December 2021. The reception patterns for Post Office Time Deposits varied, showing a fall in December 2021 and a steady growth in the outstanding amounts. Savings Certificate receipts varied, with a large decline in December 2022 and continuously growing outstanding amounts, reaching 358,362 Crore in December 2022. In contrast, the PM Care for Children plan had consistent outstanding amounts at 94 Crore. The VIII and VI/VII National Savings Certificate releases showed different trends in receipts and a steady increase in the outstanding balances. While Indira Vikas Patras had little revenues and somewhat consistent overdue amounts, Kisan Vikas Patras and Kisan Vikas Patras - 2014 showed variations in receipts and outstanding amounts.

Data Analysis

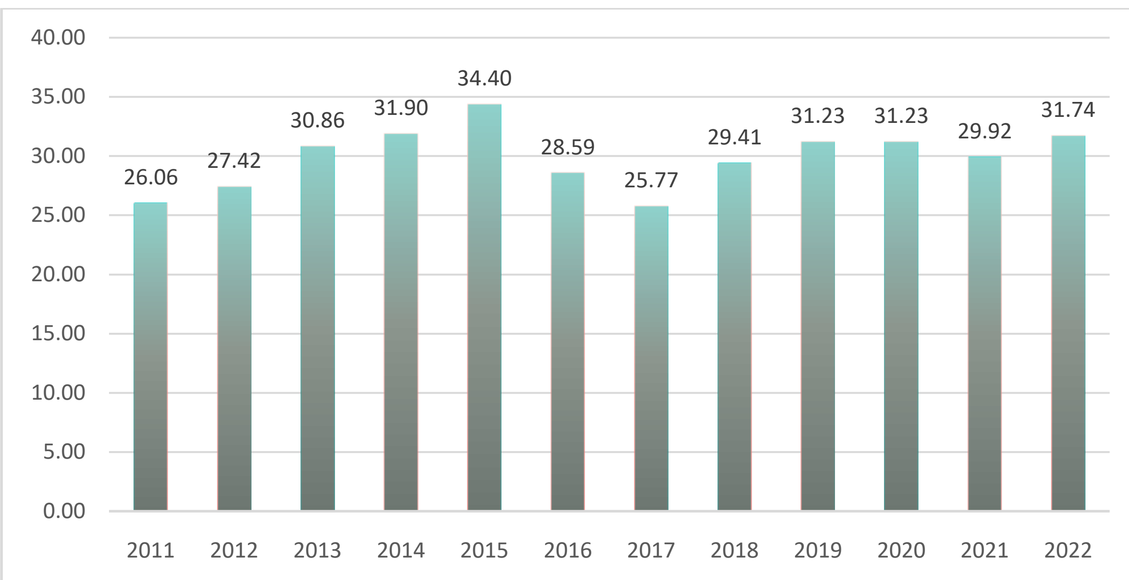

Figure 1: Number of borrowers from all microfinance institutions per 1,000 adults:

The number of borrowers from all microfinance institutions per 1,000 adults fluctuated from 2011 to 2022. Starting at 26.06 in 2011, it increased to 34.40 in 2015, signalling a growing engagement with microfinance services. However, subsequent years saw a decline, reaching 25.77 in 2017. The figures rebounded in 2018 and 2019, with 31.23 borrowers per 1,000 adults. 2020 and 2021 maintained the same level at 31.23 and 29.92, respectively. The latest data for 2022 shows a slight increase to 31.74, suggesting renewed interest in microfinance services. The analysis reflects the dynamic nature of microfinance participation, influenced by economic conditions and policy changes.

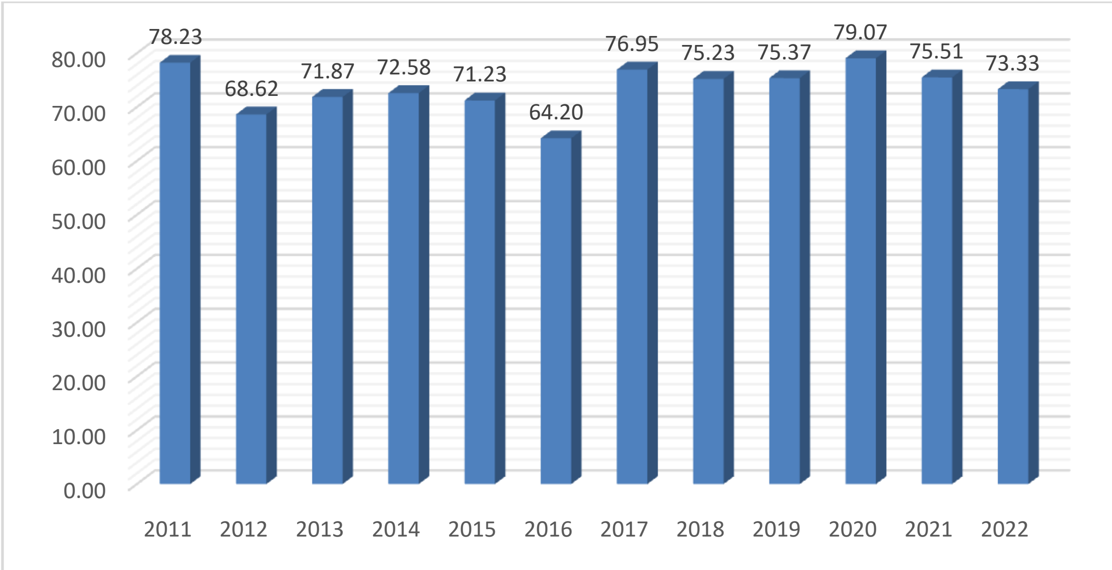

Figure 2: Number of borrowers from credit unions and credit cooperatives per 1,000 adults

The data from 2011 to 2022 shows the number of credit union and credit cooperative borrowers per 1,000 adults. The value decreased from 78.23 in 2011 to 64.20 in 2016, and then there was an increasing trend. The numbers were relatively stable at 75 in 2019 and 2020, rising a little to 75.51 in 2021 and falling slightly to 73.33 in 2022. In general, the data points to a variable trend but typically declining until 2016, when it stabilised and showed a modest improvement in the following years.

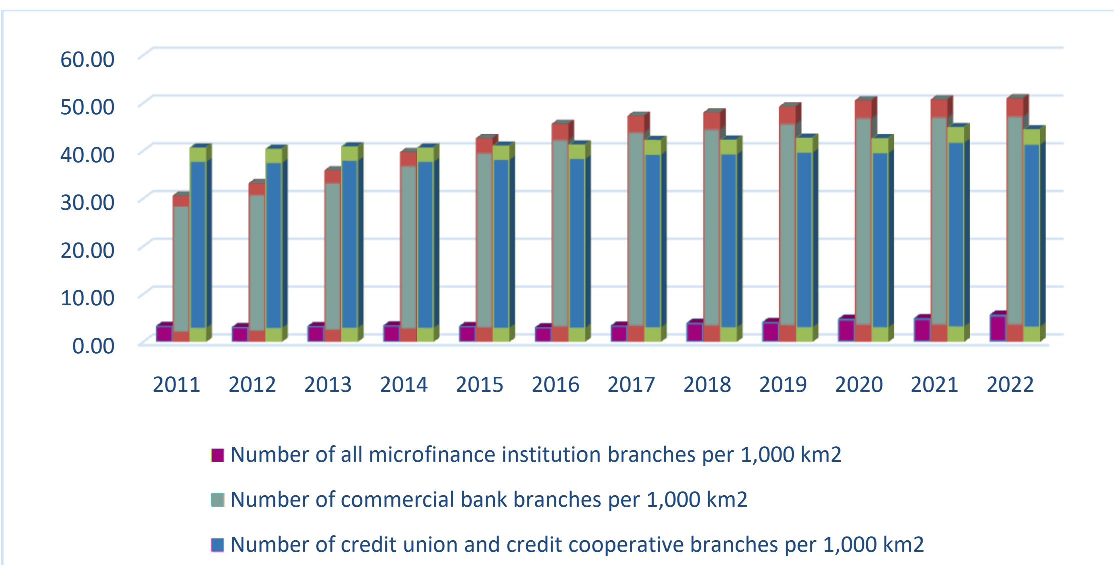

Figure 3: Branch Density of Financial Institutions (per 1,000 km2) from 2011 to 2022

Over the decade from 2011 to 2022, the data reveals a consistent increase in microfinance institution branches (3.33 to 5.70 per 1,000 km2) and commercial bank branches (30.61 to 50.96 per 1,000 km2), indicating significant expansion in their accessibility. Meanwhile, credit union and credit cooperative branches remained relatively stable, with a slight dip in 2020 but a subsequent rise to 44.51 per 1,000 km2 in 2022. This highlights a resilient and consistent presence of credit unions and cooperatives, contributing to financial inclusivity.

TABLE NO. 2 LOAN ACCOUNTS STATISTICS (2011-2022)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of loan accounts with all microfinance institutions per 1,000 adults	28.44	30.02	33.20	35.23	39.77	31.87	28.98	36.54	38.20	37.87	36.07	36.64
Number of loan accounts with commercial banks per 1,000 adults	138.19	146.88	141.18	149.78	152.78	168.75	175.81	197.34	228.80	264.13	285.22	303.10
Number of household sector loan accounts with commercial banks per 1,000 adults	20.04	22.89	137.47	146.16	148.82	164.68	171.11	189.29	221.25	255.58	275.55	292.80
Number of small and medium enterprise (SME) loan accounts with commercial banks (% of non-financial corporation loan accounts with commercial banks)	9.01	8.92	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
Number of loan accounts with credit unions and credit cooperatives per 1,000 adults	00	00	00	00	00	00	15.34	14.18	16.58	16.53	15.79	14.37

From 2011 to 2022, the data shows dynamic developments in the financial environment. Microfinance institution loan accounts fluctuated, reaching a peak in 2015 and a significant fall in 2016. On the other hand, during the same period, the number of loan accounts with commercial banks increased steadily and significantly, almost doubling by 2022 for every 1,000 persons. There was an odd upsurge in commercial bank loans to households in 2013, followed by a more moderate increase in the following years. Over time, loan accounts held by credit unions and credit cooperatives saw a minor decline, suggesting that consumer borrowing preferences may have changed. The trends point to changing financial borrowing habits, focusing on commercial banks and potential moves away from credit unions and microfinance companies.

TABLE NO. 3 ANOVA RESULT

Anova: Single Factor						
SUMMARY						
Groups	*Count*	*Sum*	*Average*	*Variance*		
	12	24198	2016.5	13		
Number of loan accounts with all microfinance institutions per 1,000 adults	12	412.816	34.40133	14.5765		
Number of loan accounts with commercial banks per 1,000 adults	12	2351.961	195.9967	3551.371		
Number of household sector loan accounts with commercial banks per 1,000 adults	12	2045.641	170.4701	7525.088		
Number of small and medium enterprise (SME) loan accounts with commercial banks (% of non-financial corporation loan accounts with commercial banks)	2	17.93471	8.967357	0.004065		
Number of loan accounts with credit unions and credit cooperatives per 1,000 adults	6	92.77712	15.46285	1.071962		
ANOVA						
Source of Variation	*SS*	*df*	*MS*	*F*	*P-value*	*F crit*
Between Groups	34479266	5	6895853	2822.705	4.99E-60	2.400409
Within Groups	122149.7	50	2442.995			
Total	34601416	55				

The one-way ANOVA was conducted to assess variations in the number of loan accounts among different financial institutions and sectors. The groups included loan accounts with microfinance institutions, commercial banks, household sectors within commercial banks, small and medium enterprise (SME) loan accounts, and credit unions and credit cooperatives. The results demonstrate a highly **significant** difference in means across these groups, as evidenced by a substantial F-statistic of 2822.705 ($p < 0.001$)the result is significant with a p-value less than 0.001.

TABLE NO. 4 CORRELATION TEST RESULT

		Number of loan accounts with all microfinance institutions per 1,000 adults	Number of loan accounts with commercial banks per 1,000 adults	Number of household sector loan accounts with commercial banks per 1,000 adults	Number of small and medium enterprise (SME) loan accounts with commercial banks (% of non-financial corporation loan accounts with commercial banks)
	1				
Number of loan accounts with all microfinance institutions per 1,000 adults	0.59296	1			
Number of loan accounts with commercial banks per 1,000 adults	0.942577	0.51389	1		
Number of household sector loan accounts with commercial banks per 1,000 adults	0.959813	0.6684	0.877981	1	
Number of small and medium enterprise (SME) loan accounts with commercial banks (% of non-financial corporation loan accounts with commercial banks)	-1	-1	-1	-1	1
Number of loan accounts with credit unions and credit cooperatives per 1,000 adults	-0.00414	0.225486	0.082735	0.091915	#DIV/0!

1) Number of loan accounts with all microfinance institutions per 1,000 adults:

- Positively correlated with the number of loan accounts with commercial banks (r = 0.59296) and household sector loan accounts with commercial banks (r = 0.959813).

2) Number of loan accounts with commercial banks per 1,000 adults:

   - A strong positive correlation exists between the number of loan accounts with all microfinance institutions (r = 0.942577), and household sector loan accounts with commercial banks (r = 0.6684).

3) Number of household sector loan accounts with commercial banks per 1,000 adults:

   - Strong positive correlations with the number of loan accounts with all microfinance institutions (r = 0.959813) and with commercial banks (r = 0.877981).

4) Number of small and medium enterprise (SME) loan accounts with commercial banks (% of non-financial corporation loan accounts with commercial banks):

   - The correlation matrix indicates a perfect negative correlation with the other variables, denoted as -1. This could be an error or require further investigation into the nature of the data.

5) Number of loan accounts with credit unions and credit cooperatives per 1,000 adults:

   - The correlation with other variables seems minimal, with a small positive correlation with the number of loan accounts with commercial banks (r = 0.225486) and negligible correlations with the other variables.

It's worth noting that a correlation of -1 for the SME loan accounts with commercial banks suggests a perfect negative linear relationship, which is unusual and may require validation or correction in the dataset.

Hypothesis testing

1) Credit Unions and Cooperatives Savings Stability Hypothesis:

Hypothesis: Stable trends in borrowers from credit unions and cooperatives imply a consistent preference for savings.

Result: Stable borrower trends support the hypothesis, suggesting a sustained preference for savings in these institutions.

2) Branch Density Expansion Hypothesis:

Hypothesis: Increased branch density for microfinance institutions and commercial banks indicates expanded accessibility for savings accounts.

Result: Data supports the hypothesis, revealing a continuous rise in branch density for enhanced savings accessibility.

3) Financial Institutions' Significance Hypothesis:

Hypothesis: Significant differences exist in the number of loan accounts among institutions and sectors.

Result: A highly significant ANOVA result (F-statistic of 2822.705, $p < 0.001$) supports the hypothesis, indicating distinct group means.

4) Borrowing Patterns Correlation Hypothesis:

Hypothesis: Correlation patterns among loan accounts reveal diverse borrowing associations.

Result: Positive correlations affirm the hypothesis, while a perfect negative correlation for SME loan accounts suggests a potential anomaly requiring investigation.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this comprehensive analysis sheds light on the intricate dynamics of savings and borrowing trends within the Indian financial landscape from 2011 to 2022. Several key insights have emerged by exploring various financial institutions, saving strategies, government savings programs, and data analysis. The study highlights individuals' diverse saving strategies, from traditional home savings to modern approaches such as mobile banking. It underscores the importance of understanding the advantages and disadvantages of each plan in pursuing financial well-being. The analysis delves into the institutional organizations facilitating savings in India, emphasizing the role of both formal and informal entities. It elucidates the challenges formal institutions face in competing with informal ones and underscores the need for cost-effective measures to enhance financial inclusion.

Furthermore, the study provides a detailed examination of government savings programs, such as the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojna and the Senior Citizen Savings Scheme, showcasing their objectives and benefits for different segments of society. The data analysis section reveals intriguing trends in savings and borrowing behavior, including fluctuations in microfinance participation, steady growth in commercial bank loan accounts, and stable trends in credit union borrowing. The correlation analysis highlights the interconnectedness of these variables and underscores the need for further investigation into anomalies, such as the perfect negative correlation observed for SME loan accounts. The hypotheses testing confirms several hypotheses, including the stability of credit unions' and cooperatives' savings trends, the expansion of branch density enhancing accessibility for savings accounts, the significance of differences in loan accounts among institutions and sectors, and diverse borrowing associations. Overall, this study provides valuable insights into India's evolving landscape of savings and borrowing, offering implications for policymakers, financial institutions, and individuals alike. By understanding these dynamics, stakeholders can make informed decisions to promote financial inclusion, stability, and prosperity for all segments of society.

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FIRM SIZE AND THE PERFORMANCE OF NEPALESE NON-LIFE INSURERS: A MODERATION ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the direct effect of Premium Growth Rate (PGR), Solvency Ratio (SR), Inflation (INF) and Gross Domestic Growth Rate (GDP) along with moderating effect of Size of business in terms of Total Assets (TA) in Return on Assets (ROA) and Return on Equity (ROE). The sampling method used is purposive and data of five non-life insurance companies from 2015 to 2022A.D. has been taken for study. The statistical analysis method used is descriptive statistics, correlation and multiple regression analysis. The result showed that PGR, INF and GDP has positive and significant effect on ROA whereas insignificant effect on ROE. The solvency ratio has negative and significant effect on ROA but insignificant effect on ROE. TA moderated the effect of solvency ratio on ROA.

KEYWORDS: *Financial Performance, Non-Life Insurance, Premium, Solvency Ratio.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Financial institutions are the financial intermediaries that channelize funds and transfer funds from deficit unit to surplus unit which contributes in fund mobilization. Their efficiency results in economic growth whereas insolvencies can bring negative consequences in the economy. In the line for contributing economic growth of the county, insurance industry is taken as one of the significant part as nations financial system, Its performance has significant impact on other sectors of the country and also on the development of the country (Gunawardhane et al., 2022). Performance represents a complex concept. It is the output of the activity and measures of assessing corporate performance is decided on the basis of types of an organization and reasons or objectives of evaluation. There are various models to study and analyze the performance. But there is no universal set for performance evaluation. Abebe and Abera (2019) suggest that the financial performance of insurance companies is influenced by both internal factors, such as firm-specific characteristics, and external factors, including the macroeconomic environment.

Banarjee (2018) identified the significant impact of leverage, size and growth in gross written premium on the firm profitability, GDP has a positive and significant whereas inflation has a negative and significant impact on profitability and a significant effect of premium growth rate on ROA but Daree (2016) identified premium growth rate is negatively correlated with ROA. The negative and negligible impact of growth rates on the ROA has been noted by Boyjoo and Ramesh (2017), but Daree's findings in 2016 show GDP to have a positive correlation with return on investment.

The debt ratio with ROA and ROE was shown to be negatively correlated by Morara and Bongani in 2021. Mazviona et al., (2017), Sumaira and Amjad (2013) and Lee (2012) stated that financial leverage is positively related with profitability in non-life insurance companies. Ayalew 2019 results have shown that leverage and the rate of inflation are negatively and significantly related to profitability. This type of contradictory results seeks for further study and investigation. Also, the studies of effect of moderating variables on financial performance of non-life insurance companies are rarely done. The aim of the study is to fill this gap by looking at PGR, SR, INF and GDP as a key factor for nonlife insurance companies' profitability. The sizes of business, as well as the overall assets, are considered to be moderate variables.

2. REVIEWOF LITERATURE

In the context of relevant theories, a significant contribution was made by Markowitz in 1952, which has since played a pivotal role in financial institutions, particularly in banks, non-bank financial institutions, and insurance (Nzongang & Atemnkeng, 2006). According to Markowitz's theory, there exists a positive correlation between the risk and the expected return of a financial asset. Consequently, investors are encouraged to select portfolios that offer the highest return while minimizing risk to the greatest extent possible.

The MM theory advocates that the value of firm tend to be independent on debt balance of the company and is instead mainly affected by the number of project investments with positive net present value (Obim, Anake & Awara , 2014). Theory second was developed due to limitations in theory I which had the assumptions of perfect capital market, brokerage cost, tax absence and symmetric information. It was developed as a suit to real world situation which included the better assumptions of tax payment by companies, bankruptcy and information is not symmetrical. It stated that cost of equity has direct correlation with the leverage level (Corporate Finance Institute, 2021)

In their research, Abebe and Abera (2019) identified several key determinants of financial performance, including capital adequacy, liquidity, size, age, loss, and leverage. They observed positive correlations between size, capital adequacy, age, and liquidity with Return on Assets (ROA), while loss ratio, leverage, GDP, and inflation showed negative correlations with ROA. On the other hand, when examining Return on Equity (ROE), they found that capital adequacy, liquidity, loss ratio, leverage, GDP, and inflation were negatively correlated, except for size and age, which showed positive correlations with ROE. Ultimately, the study emphasized the significant positive impact of company size, measured by total assets, on both ROA and ROE.

In the study conducted by Daare (2016), the significant factors influencing the profitability of insurance companies in India were examined, including company size, liquidity, and inflation. Among these variables, size, loss ratio, liquidity, age, and GDP exhibited positive correlations with Return on Assets (ROA), while capital adequacy, premium growth, and inflation displayed negative correlations with ROA. The study underscored the importance of firm-specific factors, such as age and liquidity, as the most influential determinants of insurance companies' profitability in India, with inflation also identified as a statistically significant macroeconomic factor impacting ROA.

Septina's (2022), proved that the claims ratio has a notable impact on both Return on Assets (ROA) and Return on Equity (ROE). Additionally, the risk-based capital ratio significantly influenced ROA. However, the premium growth ratio, GDP, and inflation did not demonstrate a significant effect on ROE. On the other hand, Ayalew's (2019) research findings concluded that company size, liquidity ratio, and efficiency showed statistically significant and positive relationships with profitability, while leverage and inflation exhibited negative and significant relationships with ROA.

Thirupathi and Balamurugan (2022) evaluated the performance of Indian public non-life insurance companies, considering variables such as capital adequacy, assets quality, risk retention ratio, management soundness, earning and profitability analysis, and financial soundness. The study highlighted the need for improvements in liquidity management and emphasized that the financial performance of these companies largely depended on policyholder assurance and trust.

Tsvetkova et al. (2021) discovered that Return on Assets (ROA) displayed a positive correlation with the size of the company, liquidity ratio, and claim ratio, while inflation and premium growth rate exhibited negative correlations with ROA. Risal (2020) established that higher leverage was linked to lower performance, and liquidity fluctuations had no impact on the financial performance of Nepalese non-life insurance companies. Meanwhile, Pradhan and Dahal (2021) demonstrated that insurance premium, current ratio, and solvency ratio showed positive relationships with earnings per share, and premium growth rate had a positive association with ROA. However, solvency ratio, size of the firm, and current ratio exhibited an inverse relationship with ROA.

As per the discussion of the above section and to explore the financial performance of Nepalese insurance companies, ROA and ROE as Dependent variables, premium growth rate, solvency ratio, inflation, gross domestic product as independent variables are set for conceptual framework. In addition, size of the insurance companies (total assets) has considered as moderating variable the following conceptual framework has been developed relative to objective of the study:

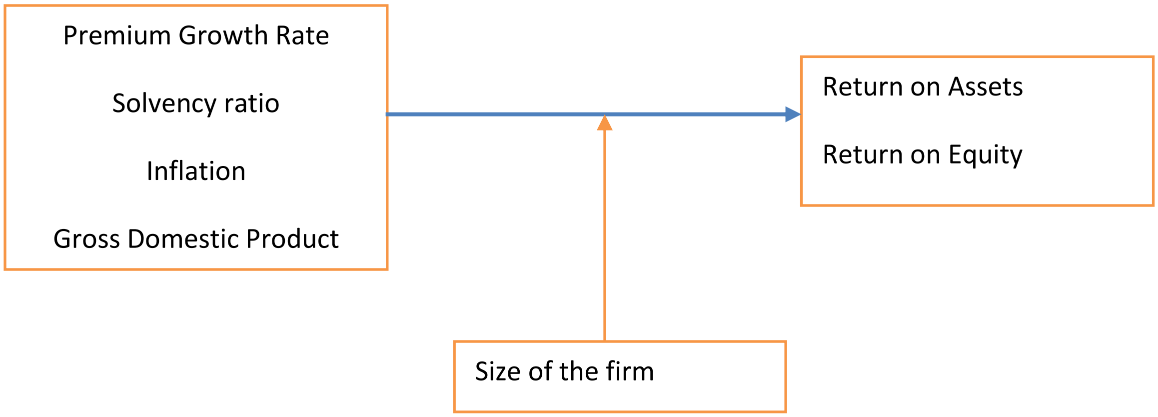

Figure 1: conceptual framework of the study

Definition of variables

Table 1 Summary of variables used in the study

Study variables	Definition
Return on Assets (ROA)	Net Income/Total assets
Return on Equity (ROE)	Net Income/Total equity
Premium Growth Rate(PGR)	$\frac{\text{Premium (cuurent year} - \text{last year)}}{\text{last year premium}} * 100\%$
Solvency Ratio(SR)	Total liabilities/Total Assets
Inflation (INF)	General annual inflation rate
Gross Domestic Growth Rate(GDP)	yearly gross domestic product
Size of Firm(SIZ)	Natural logarithm of total asset

3. METHODOLOGY

The study employed purposive sampling to select the sample units from a seven-year period, resulting in a final sample of 5 non-life insurance companies. Secondary data were collected by reviewing their annual reports. The dependent variables used to measure financial performance were return on assets and return on equity. The study considered firm-specific factors, such as premium growth rate and solvency ratio, along with external variables like inflation and GDP growth rate, as independent variables. Additionally, moderating variables, including the age of the firm and the size of the firm in terms of total assets, were included.

The gathered data form insurance companies has been analyzed by using descriptive statistics, correlations analysis, and multiple linear regression with help of SPPS software. Based on hypothesis without moderating effect multiple regression model is:

$$ROA = \beta_0 + \beta_1 (PGR)_{it} + \beta_2 (SR)_{itt} + \beta_3 (IFR)_{it} + \beta_4 (GDP)_{it} + e_{it} \ldots\ldots. \ (Model\ 1)$$

$$ROE = \beta_0 + \beta_1 (PGR)_{it} + \beta_2 (SR)_{it} + \beta_3 (IFR)_{it} + \beta_4 (GDP)_{it} + e_{it} \ldots\ldots. \ (Model\ 2)$$

Based on hypothesis with moderating effect multiple regression model is:

$ROA = = \beta_0 + \beta_1\,(PGR*SZ)_{it} + \beta_2\,(SR*SZ)_{it} + \beta_3\,(IFR*SZ)_{it} + \beta_4\,(GDP*SZ)_{it} + e_{it}$…….(Model 3)

$ROE = = \beta_0 + \beta_1\,(PGR*SZ)_{it} + \beta_2\,(SR*SZ)_{it} + \beta_3\,(IFR*SZ)_{it} + \beta_4\,(GDP*SZ)_{it} + e_{it}$….(Model 4)

Where,

β0 = coefficient of Intercept (Constant) β1 = coefficient of premium growth rate

β2 = coefficient of solvency β3 = coefficient of inflation rate

β4= coefficient of GDP growth rate e = The Error Term

ROA = Return on Assets Ratio ROE = Return on Equity Ratio

SR = Solvency Ratio PGR = Premium Growth rate

IFR = Inflation rate GDP = Gross Domestic product rate

SZ = company size

4. RESULTSAND ANALYSIS

The result derived from the study has been presented for discussion in the following sections:

4.1. Descriptive Analysis of Study Variables

Table 2: Descriptive statistics of study variables

Variables	PGR	SR	INF	GDP	ROA	ROE
Mean	23.409	2.56	5.67	5.45	7.778	12.32
Median	15.852	2.906	4.6	6	7.74	12.94
Std. Dev	16.869	2.56	0.79	0.88	1.63	2.71
Max	54.72	3.33	9.5	8.2	10.45	16.11
Min	7.262	1.48	3.5	2.12	5.406	8.64

Table 2 shows the summary of descriptive statistics which is presents the mean, median, standard deviation, maximum and minimum of independent Variables (premium growth rate, solvency ratio, inflation, GDP) and dependent variables (ROA and ROE) from 35 Observations (Five non-life insurance data of seven years 2072/73-2078/79).The descriptive statistics of premium growth rate presented in the Table 2depicts the mean value 23.409 and median 15.852. The maximum and minimum current ratio were 57.42 and 7.262 respectively. Whereas a standard deviation of 7.262 was available in the selected period of the study. The second independent variable was solvency ratio and its descriptive statistics indicate an average of 2.56 during the selected period. The solvency ratio are ranging from the maximum of 3.33 to minimum 1.49.The standard deviation of solvency ratio indicated in the above table was 2.56. The third variable was inflation rate and the above table depicts a mean value of 5.67 and median 4.6 under the study period. The minimum and maximum values of variable inflation are 9.5 and 3.5 respectively, and standard deviation is 0.79. The next variable was Gross Domestic Growth. Its mean, median, standard deviation, maximum and minimum values were 5.45, 6, 0.88, 8.2 and 2.12 respectively. The average ROA and ROE for the non-life insurance sector as a whole was 7.778 and 12.32 respectively. Median were 7.74 and 12.94 respectively. The standard deviation, maximum and minimum values of ROA were 1.63, 10.45 and 5.406 respectively. And standard deviation, maximum and minimum ROE were 2.71, 16.11 and 8.64 respectively.

4.2. Correlation between variables

Correlation coefficients indicate the strength and direction of relationships between variables. Larger values represent stronger relationships, while smaller coefficients suggest weaker relationships. The sign of the coefficient reveals the direction of the relationship: a positive sign indicates a positive relationship, while a negative sign signifies an opposite relationship.

Table 3: Correlation between variables

	ROA	PGR	SR	INF	GDP	ROE
ROA	1.000					
PGR	0.601	1.000				
SR	-0.4548	0.304	1.000			
INF	0.5524	0.644	0.3791	1.000		
GDP	0.519	0.1753	-0.619	0.0403	1.000	
ROE	0.895	0.6559	-0.444	0.384	0.645	1.000

(Source: SPPS Software)

As indicated in Table 3, the correlation test shows that return on assets (ROA) is positively correlated with the premium growth rate, with a value of 0.601. This positive correlation suggests that higher premium growth rates are linked to lower return on assets. On the other hand, solvency displays a negative correlation with return on assets, with a value of -0.4548, indicating that an increase in the firm's solvency leads to a decrease in return on assets. Furthermore, inflation exhibits a positive correlation with ROA, with a value of 0.5524, implying that higher inflation rates correspond to an increase in return on assets. Similarly, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) demonstrates a positive relationship with return on assets, represented by a value of 0.519, suggesting that higher GDP growth is associated with higher return on assets.

Furthermore, ROE demonstrates positive correlation with premium growth rate, as indicated by a value of 0.6559. This positive relationship signifies that higher premium growth rates are linked to higher return on equity. Conversely, solvency shows a negative relation with ROE, with a value of -0.444, implying that an increase in solvency results in a decrease in return on equity. Moreover, inflation and GDP both display positive relationships with ROE, with correlation coefficients of 0.384 and 0.645, respectively. Lastly, ROA and ROE themselves found positive relationship, with a correlation coefficient value of 0.895.

4.3. Regression results

The regression results in Table 4displays the effect of internal and external factors on the financial performance of non-life insurance companies in Nepal.

Table 4: Model summary of Model 1

Model	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. error of estimate
ROA	0.986319	0.9863	0.33093

(Source: SPPS Software)

Table 5: ANOVA Table of Model 1

	df	*SS*	*MS*	*F*	*Sig.*	*Remarks*
Regression	4	15.79131	3.947827	36.04832	0.027174	Sig
Residual	2	0.21903	0.109515			
Total	6	16.01034				

(Source: SPPS Software)

Table 6: **Regression output of ROA Model without moderator**

Variables	Coefficient	Std. error	t-statistics	Sig.
Constant	10.03	0.966	10.385	0.009145
CR	0.055	0.011	4.92	0.0388
SR	-2.04	0.274	-7.465	0.0174
INF	0.434	0.087	4.95	0.0383
GDP	-0.14	0.084	-1.65	0.2402

(Source: SPPS Software)

Based on Table 6, the output of first model is:

ROA= 10.03 + 0.055*PGR- 2.04 *SR+0.434*INF -0.14*GDP+0.33093

The effect of premium growth rate on general insurance's ROA can be seen from the regression coefficient value of PGR (β1) of 0.0055, a significance of 0.038 (<0.05). Thus premium growth rate effect on general insurance's ROA, so hypothesis H1 is accepted.

Effect of SR on ROA can be seen from the regression coefficient value of SR (β2) of -2.04 with a significance of 0.01 (<0.05). Thus SR affect the general insurance's ROA, and the hypothesis H3 is accepted.

Similarly, the effect of INF on ROA can be seen from the regression coefficient value of INF ((β3) of 0.434 with a significance of 0.03 ((<0.05). Thus INF affect the general insurance's ROA, and the hypothesis H5 is rejected. And the effect of GDP on ROA can be seen from the regression coefficient value of GDP (β4) of -0.14 with a significance of 0.24 (> 0.05). Thus GDP does not affect the general insurance's ROA, and the hypothesis H7 is rejected.

In addition, Table 4shows the model summary of Model 1. The value of R Square (R^2) 0.9863 or which means that the variability of the dependent variable that the independent variable can explain is 98.63%. This shows that PGR, SR, INF and GDP (together) explained the non-life insurance company's ROA by 98.63%. In comparison, the rest (100% - 98.63% = 1.37%) is influenced by other variables outside this regression equation or variables that are not examined.

In ANOVA result in Table 5value of F is 36.048 which reaches significance with the value 0.027 less than 0.05. Hence, significant relationship exists between ROA and selected variables.

Table 7*: Model summary of Model 2*

Model	R Square	Adjusted R Square	St. error of estimate
ROE	0.907286	0.721859	1.432714

(Source: SPPS Software)

Table 8*: ANOVA Table of Model 2*

	df	*SS*	*MS*	*F*	*Sig.*	*Remarks*
Regression	4	40.17438	10.0436	4.892944	0.176832	Insig.
Residual	2	4.105339	2.052669			
Total	6	44.27972				

(Source: SPPS Software)

Table 9: Regression output of ROE model without moderator

Variables	Coefficient	Std. error	t-statistics	Sig.
Constant	13.913	4.183	3.326	0.079
PGR	0.12	0.048	2.469	0.132
SR	-2.38	1.188	-2.009	0.18
INF	0.202	0.379	0.533	0.646
GDP	0.103	0.366	0.2809	0.805

(Source: SPPS Software)

Based on regression Table 9, the output of second model is:

ROE= 13.919+0.12*PGR -2.387 *SR+0.202*INF+0.103*GDP+1.4327

The impact of PGR on ROE can be seen from the regression coefficient value of PGR (β1) of 0.12, a significance of 0.132(>0.05). Thus, PGR has no effect on general insurance's ROE, so hypothesis H2 is rejected. The impact of SR on the non-life insurance company's ROE can be seen from the regression coefficient value of SR ((β2) of -2.387 with a significance of 0.182 (> 0.05). This result resulted SR does not affect the general insurance's ROE, and the hypothesis H4 is rejected.

The effect of INF on ROE can be seen from the regression coefficient value of INF ((β3) of 0.202 with a significance of 0.646 (> 0.05). Thus INF does not affect the general insurance's ROE, and the hypothesis H6 is rejected.

The effect of GDP on the non-life insurance company's ROE can be seen from the regression coefficient value of GDP ((β4) of 0.103with a significance of 0.805 (>0.05). Thus SR does not affect the general insurance's ROE, and the hypothesis H8 is rejected.

Table 7shows the model summary of Model 2. The value of R Square (R^2) 0.907 or which means that the variability of the dependent variable that the independent variable can explain is 90.7%. This shows that PGR, SR, INF and GDP (together) influence the non-life insurance company's

ROE by 90.7%. In comparison, the rest (100% - 90.7% = 9.3%) is influenced by other variables outside this regression equation or variables that are not examined. In ANOVA result in Table 8value of F is 4.89 which reaches significance with the value 0.176 more than 0.05. Hence, insignificant relationship exists between ROE and selected variables.

Table 10*: Model summary of Model 3*

Model	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Standard error of estimate
3	0.9803	0.9410	0.3966

(Source: SPPS Software)

Table 11: ANOVA Table of Model 3

	df	*SS*	*MS*	*F*	*Sig.*
Regression	4	15.69565	3.923912	24.93839	0.038924
Residual	2	0.314688	0.157344		
Total	6	16.01034			

(Source: SPPS Software)

Table 12: **Regression output of ROA model with size of the firm as moderator**

Variables	Coefficient	Std. error	t-statistics	Sig.
Constant	9.5404	1.202	7.936	0.015
PGR*TA	0.0115	0.003	3.657	0.067
SR* TA	-0.217	0.039	-5.505	0.031
INF* TA	0.049	0.012	4.022	0.056
GDP* TA	-0.011	0.0015	0.725	0.543

(Source: SPPS Software)

Based on regression Table 12, the output of third model is:

ROA= 9.540+0.011PGR*TA-0.217SR*TA +0.049INF*TA-0.011GDP*TA+0.3966

The size of the insurance company (TA) moderates the effect of PGR on ROA by 0.067(>0.05). Thus TA do not moderate the effect of PGR on ROA, so hypothesis H9 is rejected. TA moderated the relationship between SR and ROA by 0.031(<0.05). Thus TA moderate the effect of SR on ROA, so hypothesis H11 is accepted. TA moderates the effect of INF on ROA by 0.056 (>0.05). Thus, TA do not moderate INF on ROA, so Hypothesis H13 is rejected. And TA moderated the effect of GDP on ROA by 0.543(>0.05). So, TA do not moderate the effect of GDP on ROA and hypothesis H15 is rejected. Table 10 shows the model summary of Model 3. The value of R Square (R^2) 0.9803 or which means that the variability of the dependent variable that the independent variable can explain is 98.03%. In comparison, the rest (100% - 97.51% = 1.97%) is influenced by other variables outside this regression equation or variablesthat are not examined. In ANOVA result in Table 11value of F is 24.938 which reaches significance with the value 0.038 less than 0.05. Hence, significant relationship exists between ROA and moderated variables.

Table 13*:* Model summary of Model 4

Model	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. error of estimate
4	0.9153	0.7460	0.1368

(Source: SPPS Software)

Table 14: **ANOVA Table of Model 4**

	df	*SS*	*MS*	*F*	*Sig.*	*Remarks*
Regression	4	40.53197	10.13299	5.407502	0.162113	Insig.
Residual	2	3.747753	1.873877			
Total	6	44.27972				

(Source: SPPS Software)

Table 15: Regression output of ROE model with size of the firm as moderator

Variables	Coefficient	Std. error	t-statistics	Sig.
Constant	16.190	4.148	3.903	0.05
PGR*TA	0.029	0.0109	2.709	0.113
SR* TA	-0.319	0.136	2.346	0.1435
INF* TA	0.021	0.042	0.502	0.665
GDP* TA	-0.015	0.052	0.290	0.793

(Source: SPPS Software)

Based on regression Table 15, the output of sixth model is:

ROE= 16.190+0.029PGR*TA-0.319SR*TA +0.021INF*TA-0.015GDP*TA+11.94241

The size of the non-life insurance company (TA) moderates the effect of PGR on ROE by 0.113 (>0.05). Thus TA does not moderate the effect of PGRR on ROE, so hypothesis H10 is rejected. TA moderated the relationship between SR and ROE by 0.1435 (>0.05). Thus TA do not moderate the effect of SR on ROE, so hypothesis H12 was rejected. TA moderates the effect of INF on ROE by 0.665 (>0.05). Thus, TA do not moderate INF on ROE, so Hypothesis H14 is rejected. And TA moderated the effect of GDP on ROA by 0.793(>0.05). So, TA moderates the effect of GDP on ROE and hypothesis H16 is also rejected. Table 13shows the model summary of Model 4. The value of R Square (R^2) 0.9153 or which means that the variability of the dependent variable that the independent variable can explain is 91.53%. In comparison, the rest (100% - 91.53% = 8.47%) is influenced by other variables outside this regression equation or variables that are not examined. In ANOVA result in Table 14 value of F is 5.407 which reaches significance with the value 0.162 more than 0.05. Hence, insignificant relationship exists between ROE and moderated variables.

4.4. DISCUSSIONS

The current study's findings revealed a positive relationship between Premium Growth Rate (PGR) and Return on Assets (ROA), which aligns with the results of Tsvetkova (2018) and Banarjee (2018). Moreover, PGR demonstrated a positive and significant relationship with profitability. However, the study also indicated a negative correlation between the Solvency Ratio (SR) and ROA, consistent with Ayalew's (2019) findings. Similarly, the positive relationship between inflation and ROA in Nepalese non-life insurance companies is in line with the results of Daare (2016), and the positive association between GDP and ROA aligns with studies by Doumpal (2015) and Banarjee (2018) conducted in an international context.

Regarding Return on Equity (ROE), the correlation coefficient between PGR and ROE showed a positive relationship, while the correlation between the Solvency Ratio and ROE demonstrated a contrasting relationship. These results are consistent with the findings of Morara and Bongani (2022). Additionally, inflation's positive correlation with ROE is in line with the results of Septina (2022), and the positive relation between GDP and ROE aligns with Banerjee's (2018) findings.

In terms of regression moderation analysis, when examining the moderating effect of total assets using regression, it was found that total assets moderated the effect of SR on ROA, with a significant p-value coefficient. However, total assets did not moderate the effect of PGR, GDP, and inflation on ROA. Similarly, using regression analysis, it was revealed that total assets did not moderate the effect of premium growth, solvency ratio, inflation, and GDP on ROE.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

The main objective of the research was to analyze the impact of Premium Growth Rate (PGR), Solvency Ratio (SR), Inflation (INF), and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on the financial performance of non-life insurance companies in Nepal, specifically focusing on Return on Assets (ROA) and Return on Equity (ROE). The results revealed that PGR, inflation, and GDP positively and significantly influenced ROA, while they had a positive but insignificant effect on ROE. Conversely, the solvency ratio had a negative and significant impact on ROA but a negative and insignificant effect on ROE. Moreover, the study found that the size of the firm played a moderating role in the relationship between the solvency ratio and ROA.

The implications of these findings are of great importance to various stakeholders, particularly insurance companies and regulatory bodies. For insurance companies, understanding the factors influencing their financial performance is crucial in making informed decisions, including the introduction of new insurance products to maintain competitiveness in the market. Policyholders will also benefit from gaining insights into the drivers of financial performance in general insurance companies in Nepal, which will aid them in making better economic decisions.

As for future research, the study suggests considering qualitative factors and other quantitative variables such as efficiency, compliance with regulations, number of policyholders, age of the firm, interest rate, loss ratio, claim ratio, liquidity ratio, and capital adequacy. Moreover, employing different sampling methods, extending the study period, and utilizing additional statistical tools are recommended for more comprehensive and in-depth analysis.

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NARRATIVE TECHNIQUE AND COMMUNICATIVE CONTEXT OF A MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY IN KIRAN DESAI'S NOVEL THE INHERITANCE OF LOSS

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ABSTRACT:

The architectonic and structural quality of the narrative technique in postmodern Indian English novel has undergone a metamorphosis, and it has made the novels more sophisticated in structure and unity. The objective of studying the use of the narrative techniques in a text is to analyse the forms of narratives regarding the common features, the divergent elements, and the combinations of features employed by the narrator to skillfully connect them into a fabric that the reader or spectator recognizes as a narrative. The present paper aims to explore how the words and phrases from the Indian languages that Kiran Desai uses in her novel The Inheritance of Loss are culture specific and go a long way in conveying certain aspects of the Indian culture and ethos to the readers.

KEYWORDS: *Narrative Technique, Inheritance, Linguistic, Similes.*

INTRODUCTION:

Narrative technique refers to the way an author presents the content by using different techniques of narrating the story and styles to express the subject matter. It involves a careful selection of the plot, character and setting in the construction and communication of narrative. With the imaginative and accumulative experience a writer may create the narrative believable to the readers. The success of the narrative depends mostly on the narrative technique and style employed by the author. In the reception of narrative and the kind of impression it creates on the reader's mind, the role of narrative technique is vital. Christopher Cascio in his article "Literary Definition of Narrative Techniques" (education.seattlepi.com) has defined narrative technique as

> … The methods and devices writers use to tell stories, whether in works of literature, film, theater or even oral stories. Many techniques work upon specific uses of phrases, punctuation or exaggerations of description, but nearly every storyteller, regardless of genre or style employs a few foundational techniques….point of view …flashbacks…foreshadowing… similes and metaphors ... evoking the imagination,… dialogue….

The narrative technique is a critical tool which helps in unraveling the varied layers of the narrative. It is an exciting area of enquiry and keeps the reader actively involved in the story. It belongs to the field of narratology and stylistics and analyses the structural, narrative, stylistic and linguistic aspects of the text. When properly applied to the study of a literary text, it is the science, enabling a more comprehensive understanding of the narrative's entirety. Mark Schorer in his essay “Technique as Discovery” says:

> When we speak of technique, then we speak of nearly everything. For technique is the means by which the writer’s experience, which is his subject matter, compels him to attend to it; technique is the only means he has of discovering, exploring, developing his subject, of conveying its meaning, and finally, of evaluating it. (67)

The objective of studying the use of the narrative techniques in a text is to analyse the forms of narratives regarding the common features, the divergent elements, and the combinations of features employed by the narrator to skillfully connect them into a fabric that the reader or spectator recognizes as a narrative. The architectonic and structural quality of the narrative technique in postmodern Indian English novel has undergone a metamorphosis, and it has made the novels more sophisticated in structure and unity.

Kiran Desai’s novel *The Inheritance of Loss* is written in a down-to-earth, everyday language and gives a realistic picture of the various events described. She has experimented freely with language and combined fact and fiction. The use of sentence construction, experiment in the arrangement of words and use of linguistic devices are reflected in the novel. Her novel is filled with charming phrases, elegant sentences, felicitous expressions and throbbing sentiments. The novel illuminates the rich and powerful nuances of the English language. Her use of Indian vocabulary, metaphors and imagery etc. is quite effective in the context of her narrative skill.

The novel is written in the third person narrative. The ideas and opinions presented in the novel, in general, are of the omniscient third person. With simple linear narrative structure, with shifts in time and sometimes with the use of flashback technique, the author has brilliantly delineated the highly stratified societies of USA and India and the various personal, familial, social, political issues engulfing the people of these two countries. Narrative threads loop forward and backward as the story jumps continents, and the reader is deftly introduced to a notably idiosyncratic cast of characters. Omniscient narrative technique enables the writer to control and manipulate the novelist’s world in such a way as to control and sustain her reader’s interest in the problems and pangs of her characters and the narrative movement. Being a third person omniscient narrator, the writer is able to dive into the minds of her characters, explain their acts and also to present the characters’ views or thoughts on men and the matters handled in the novel. By making the narrative move backward and forward she explores and presents very deftly the inner world of her characters’ dreams and desires and their search for identity. While narrating the present she goes into the past. For dealing with the past, Desai has used technique of flashback. This particularly we see in projecting the life and character of the judge Jemubhai Patel who is triggered by a present situation, is lost in the past; his life moves in front of him, right from his childhood, education, journey to England and back, service as a Magistrate etc. Sometimes the judge himself reveals his past; at times the cook is shown to narrate the life of the judge and his wife.

Kiran Desai uses wide range of words and expressions to enrich the communicative context of a multicultural society. Her use of Hindi language and songs as “Mera joota hai japani…” and “Bombay se aaya mera dost—Oi!”(53) and mention of Indian actors gives a touch of authenticity to the characters. She uses both gentle (Namaste, Dhanyawad, Shukria etc.) and sometimes vulgar (behenchoots) colloquial, vernacular expressions in Hindi. Some of the popular slangs, abuses of various regions, and frequently used Indian expressions are: nakhara, huzoor, mia-bibi, mithai, pitaji, Angrezi Khana, salwars, Baapre! ladoos, dhotis, Budhoo, Neps, Namaste, atta, srikhand, kundan, peepal, phata phat, Bilkul Bekar, Jai Gorkha, saag, bhai, fucking oil, jamun, gadhas, parathas, tamasha, chappals, desi, etc. Postcolonial writers often take this liberty to have the flexibility of using English language along with native words according to the socio-cultural situations where their characters are put in and to express the emotions, feelings and issues confronted by them. The words and phrases from the Indian languages that Kiran Desai uses are culture specific and go a long way in conveying certain aspects of the Indian culture and ethos to the readers.

Desai has mastery in saying so much in a few sentences in a terse style. For example the typical Indian attitude towards foreign returned diaspora is realistically projected by the novelist through the ironic, witty and suggestive arguments given by Mr. Kakkar (an Indian), a travel agent in America to whom Biju goes to buy a ticket to India :

> ‘Going back?’ he continued, don’t be completely crazy – all those relatives asking for money! Even strangers are asking for money – maybe they just try, you know, maybe you shit and dollars come out. I’m telling you, my friend, they will get you; if they won’t , the robbers will; if the robbers won’t , some disease will ; if not some disease, the heat will ; if not the heat, those mad Sardarjis will bring down your plane before you even arrive.(269)

Through these remarks of Mr. Kakkar, Desai has given the true depiction of the fate of many Indian diaspora (legal/illegal) who come to America (transnational land), to earn money to fulfil their American dream which they do by working hard but on return to their homeland many of them meet the fate of Biju, remaining poor subalterns – having nowhere status.

Desai has made many new innovations in her narrative. She has used Indian imagery and metaphors like “cheeks like two Simla apples” (262) to give a feel of the locale. Whenever Desai aims to emphasize an expression, she adopts different methods like the sizes of the letters go on increasing or decreasing: “paaaaaWWW!”(49). Kiran Desai uses another device in which she skips the punctuation marks “Cups plates beds chairs wiring light fixtures...” (43). Her language is marked by precise and pithy expressions. The other innovations of Kiran Desai’s include use of Hyperbaton, “Mutton curry muttonpulao vegetablecurry vegetablepulao...” (207). It is used in the novel as the speech of a busy restaurant waiter who is struggling hard to make money in the alien land.

Hundreds of similes used in the novel express the creative potentiality of Desai. Some similes from the text are:

> The Nepali insurgents who come to take the judge’s hunting rifles are described as screaming “like a bunch of school girls.” (4)
>
> Mom Ami’s vegetable patch is described as a
>
> hut (that) come up like a mushroom on a newly cut gash. (240)

Besides the innovative use of language, Desai also uses multiple question marks???, multiple exclamation marks!!!. Her use of italics, periphrasis, insertions of simile, analogy in all the descriptions, and the intermingling of three worlds with ease make her novel amazing and unique. Further there are wide and generous uses of capital letters to give special emphasis to the speech and to attract reader's attention to certain issues that are important. This we can see through the communication between the cook and his son Biju over the telephone:-

> Are you alright? biju shrieked on the new york street. Don't worry about me don't worry about anything here. Are there proper arrangements for eating at the hotel? is the restaurant giving you accomodation? Are there any other people from uttar pradesh there?(231)

Thus through capitalizing these sentences and asking such questions the novelist wants to attract readers towards the feeling of unrest experienced by the father and the son. Another aspect of Desai's novel is her concern with Indian history. The novel is set against the backdrop of the insurgency with the rise of Nepalese movement during the 1980s India. The incidents described in the novel cover up the entire period of Indian history from 1920s to 1980s and the national and international relationships between India and the other countries are successfully portrayed by the novelist. She has successfully attempted with the technique of stream of consciousness. In the novel the characters move between their present and past all the time in a perfect way. The cook's past memories are presented in the novel with this technique. At many places with the use of this technique brilliantly Desai takes the readers to wherever she wants.

She has mixed two different styles in her novel to portray the spaces occupied by two different classes -high and low- elite and non-elite. For portraying the former category she generally uses traditional English and for the latter, generally the popular oral is used. We can note a typical Indian color in several places in the novel as;

> Standing at the threshold…Biju sang loudly O yeh ladki zara si deewani Lagti hai… Old songs best songs. (51)

The novel also abounds in rich and sensual descriptions. There are beautiful images of the flourishing of nature in spring, beautiful descriptions of Mount Kanchenjunga and the landscape. The novel begins with-

> All day, the colors had been those of dusk, mist moving like a water creature across the great flanks of mountain possessed of ocean shadows and depths. Briefly visible above the vapor, Kanchenjunga was a far peak whittled out of ice, gathering the last of the light….(1)

The title of the novel *The Inheritance of Loss* is also very suggestive and suits very well with the central theme of the novel. Through the characters, the novelist wants to give message to the readers that everyone in this world has inherited loss, whether it is the loss of love, loss of faith, loss of relations, loss of life, loss of peace, loss of humanity for the immigrants, loss of feelings and emotions, and the loss of identity. It also suggests that the characters featured in the novel inherit the loss of the Indian national identity during the British empire, and even after India's independence from the colonial rule there is instability and unsettledness among the free citizens living in Indian nation, and the loss of dignity is inherited by the Indians who have crossed the borders to settle in their land of their dreams- America.

To sum up, Desai's *The Inheritance of Loss* is written in a highly original style and her narrative skills and stylistic craftsmanship have helped her convey multiple concerns effectively. With her second novel, Desai has secured her place in the list of great contemporary Indian authors. The magazine *The New Yorker* states about the book (included in the section mentioned in the beginning of the novel *The Inheritance of Loss)*:

> Briskly paced and sumptuously written, the novel ponders questions of nationhood, modernity, and class, in ways both moving and revelatory.

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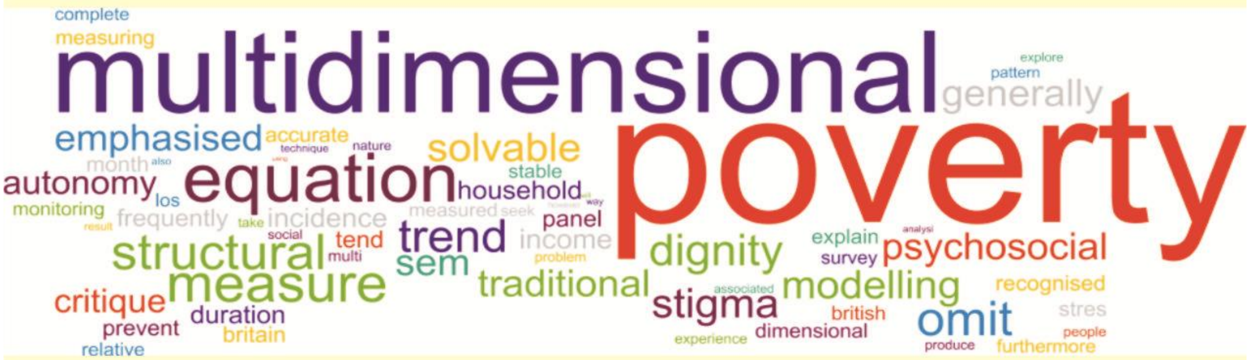

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