

India: Materializing the Vision of Bose?

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Abstract: Development – a change from one state to another normally associated with positive movement is a holistic concept. The idea of Bose regarding Self-reliant Bharat had a strong inclination towards industry, defence, scientific temper and strong leadership. He valued non-discrimination and perceived the problems of poverty, unemployment, discrimination, caste, class as some of the major problems that Independent India had to face. This is true today. The present paper is an attempt to explore the opinions of the Indian residents regarding the developed India as projected in the vision of Bose. 35 respondents were part of the study. Their selection was done using convenience sampling. One-way ANOVA was used to examine the difference in the mean scores across several population variables. The results show that the opinions regarding development vary across the groups of majority and minority affiliation. However, the other independent variables of age, gender, geographical community had no effect on the peoples' perception regarding development. The present study shows that though quantitatively India is showing development especially in the areas of defence and industry, the problems like poverty, increasing gap between rich and poor, discrimination, unemployment and underemployment hamper the holistic development of the country as visualized by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. Thus, steps must be taken to improve the quality of life of all the residents of India, including the poorest of the poor and the most vulnerable.


1 INTRODUCTION AND LITERATURE REVIEW

India has remained in the clutches of the British for around 200 years and Post-independence, the governance of the country became a big challenge. Many renowned freedom fighters have shed their blood for the independence of the country and many others had a big role in shaping the Independent India. However, all great leaders had dreamt of the Independent India, the ideal India. One such visionary was Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was a great freedom fighter whose death has gained more popularity than his work. 'Netaji' the title best suits him as he was a true leader. His ideology differed from that of the Father of the Nation – Mahatma Gandhi. Netaji believed in egalitarianism and inclusive prosperity. Bose envisioned financial and economic strength of

India. In his opinion every citizen of free India should have same rights and should deliver same duties. This is where, he was a true socialist. He believed that prosperity will prevail only if capital and power is distributed and not limited in the hands of few. He believed that the idea state of India will be where all religions co-exist peacefully. He also affirmed that youth are the country's future and they must prioritize nation over and above all, only then, the nation will flourish (The Economic Times, 2022).

India to emerge as powerful nation in terms of defence was another strong opinion of Bose. Especially women also must be involved in combat and leadership roles in the armed forces. This is reflected in the reality today. Bose's ideas were towards freeing the country from foreign dominance, aiming at a truly Atmanirbhar country. The measures like Make in India and the PLI schemes are creating a favourable ecosystem making India as the manufacturing hub of Asia. However, this needs to be

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reflected in the rates of poverty, unemployment and agricultural indebtedness as well. Netaji always felt that labour rights must be protected and appropriate support must be provided by the state by the means of yojnas, social welfare schemes and other social sector programmes. The vulnerables must be provided with social security to absorb economic shocks (Dalmia, 2022).

Not just a socialist, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was also believed in authoritarianism. Authoritarianism as a general set of attitudes includes dogmatism, a preference for conformity, willingness to coercively enforce behavioral standards, punitiveness toward perceived enemies, and a strong concern with hierarchy (Costello et al., 2022). According to Bose the young men and women form the core human energy which is needed to rise and rebel against the forces somehow restraining us from attaining true liberation (Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and Economic Planning in India, n.d.).

The major initiatives of the present Indian Government depicted in the PM India (Government of India, n.d.) website are –

[1] Make In India – It is an impetus to manufacturing in India and make India a Global Manufacturing Hub. The “Make in India” initiative is based on four pillars - New Processes: The aim is to de-license and de-regulate the industry during the entire life cycle of a business; New Infrastructure: develop industrial corridors and smart cities to provide infrastructure based on state-of-the-art technology with modern high-speed communication and integrated logistic arrangements. Innovation and research activities are supported through fast paced registration system and accordingly infrastructure of Intellectual Property Rights registration set-up has been upgraded; New Sectors: ‘Make in India’ has identified 25 sectors in manufacturing, infrastructure and service activities and detailed information is being shared through interactive web-portal and professionally developed brochures; New Mindset: The Government will partner industry in economic development of the country. The approach will be that of a facilitator and not regulator.

[2] Swachh Bharat Abhiyan – On 2nd October 2014, Swachh Bharat Mission, the cleanliness campaign, was launched throughout length and breadth of the country as a national movement.

[3] NITI Aayog – Transforming India’s Development Agenda –NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) was set up in place of the erstwhile Planning Commission, as a means to better serve the needs and aspirations of the people of India.

[4] Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana - one of the biggest financial inclusion initiatives in the world, was announced by Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on 15th August 2014. The scheme ensures access to a range of financial services like availability of basic savings bank account, access to need based credit, remittances facility, insurance and pension. Guinness World Records certified that "Most bank accounts opened in one week as part of the Financial Inclusion Campaign is 18,096,130 and was achieved by the Department of Financial Services, Government of India."

After examining the views of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and the major initiatives by the Government of India, the question becomes as to whether these steps really result in the opinion formation of the citizens and if yes, then in which direction and up to what magnitude? Allport (1935) described the basic contours of opinion formation in his definition of attitude as "a mental and neural state of readiness, organized through experience, exerting a directive and dynamic influence upon the individual's response to all objects and situations with which it is related". Bartels (2001) in his work details that an opinion survey with several hundred randomly selected respondents can provide a reasonably accurate representation of the preferences and beliefs of millions of ordinary citizens—public opinion.

There are 4 stages in the process of public opinion formation - 1. The salience of some problem for a number of people, 2. The discussion of the problem resulting in increased salience, 3. The formulation of alternative solutions and narrowing the alternatives, 4. Final mobilization of opinion to affect the collective decision which further strengthens the mobilized opinion (Katz, 1966). Hartley et al. (1955) and Thurstone (1928) opine that opinions are "verbal expressions of attitudes in concrete situations." McNemar (1948) concludes that though No one has ever seen an attitude; an attitude, however real to its possessor, is an abstraction, the existence of which is inferred from nonverbal overt behavior, or from verbal or symbolic behavior. The term opinion is frequently defined as the verbal expression of an attitude.

The present article aims to examine the opinions of the respondents and basically focuses on the following objectives –

- [1] To examine the opinions of Indian citizens regarding materialization of Bose’s Vision of India
- [2] To compare these opinions across gender
- [3] To compare these opinions across urban and rural communities

[4] To present a view of the ideal India and ideal Indian Governance

Also, the following hypotheses are formulated for testing –

H1: Belongingness to a minority group affects peoples’ perception regarding country’s development.

H2: Gender affects peoples’ perception regarding country’s development.

H3: Age affects peoples’ perception regarding country’s development.

H4: Geographical location affects peoples’ perception regarding country’s development.

2 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study follows mixed method i.e., both qualitative and quantitative methods were used in the study. The sample comprises of 35 respondents who were selected using convenience sampling. The self-designed tool was administered to the participants using Google Form. The tool comprised of 22 items on Likert scale to measure participant opinion and 6 questions on nominal scale were for demographic details. Moreover, 2 open ended questions were also included in the tool. Cronbach’s alpha value was examined to test the reliability and validity of the tool.

Table 1: Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	N
.815	22

A general accepted rule is that Cronbach’s Alpha value of 0.8 or greater a very good level (Ursachi et al., 2015). Thus, the tool is reliable and valid. The scale statistics are presented in Table 2

Table 2: Scale Statistics

X	Var	SD	N
58.3143	94.987	9.74610	22

Further, the data was examined for normality which is a condition for running ANOVA.

Table 3: Tests of Normality

	Kolmogorov-Smirnov ^a			Shapiro-Wilk		
	Statistic	df	p value	Statistic	df	p value
Sum	.089	35	.200*	.969	35	.419

*. This is a lower bound of the true significance.
a. Lilliefors Significance Correction

For a small sample size like the one in the study n = 35, Shapiro-Wilk test is processed. As depicted in Table 3, the p-value is .419, null hypothesis is rejected and it can be concluded that the data comes from a normal distribution (Ifham, 2019).

A normal distribution allows for running parametric test. One-way ANOVA test was performed to see how the means differed across the different groups significantly. For the study, peoples’ perception regarding country’s development is taken as the Dependent Variable and the Population variables of religion, gender, region, and age are taken as Independent Variables.

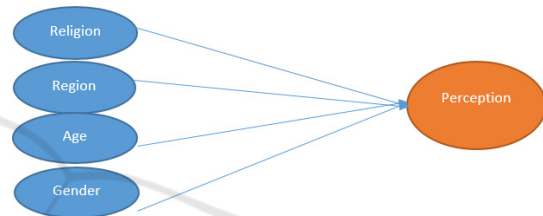


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

3 DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Data was clubbed according to the various nominal categories in the demographic details.

An analysis across the minority and majority groups based on religion was performed and the results are presented in Table 4.

H1: Belongingness to a minority group affects peoples’ perception regarding country’s development

Table 4: Minority Group ANOVA

	df	Mean Square	F	p value
Between Groups	1	416.484	4.886	.034
Within Groups	33	85.244		
Total	34			

From table 4 it is observed that there is a significant difference between the two groups – majority and minority on peoples’ perception regarding country’s development.

$$F(1,33) = 4.86, p = .034$$

As $p < .05$, therefore the null hypothesis is rejected.
 H2: Gender affects peoples' perception regarding country's development.

Table 5: Gender Group ANOVA

	<i>df</i>	<i>Mean Square</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>p value</i>
Between Groups	1	65.610	.684	.414
Within Groups	33	95.877		
Total	34			

From table 5 it is observed that there is no significant difference between the two groups based on gender i.e, affiliation to the groups of males and females has no effect on peoples' perception regarding country's development.

$$F(1,33) = 0.684, p = .414$$

As $p > .05$, therefore the null hypothesis is accepted.

H3: Age affects peoples' perception regarding country's development.

Table 6: Age Group ANOVA

	<i>df</i>	<i>Mean Square</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>p value</i>
Between Groups	2	96.430	1.016	.373
Within Groups	32	94.896		
Total	34			

From table 6 it is observed that there is no significant difference between the groups based on age bracket, i.e, age has no effect on peoples' perception regarding country's development.

$$F(2,32) = 1.016, p = .373$$

As $p > .05$, therefore the null hypothesis is accepted.

H4: Geographical location affects peoples' perception regarding country's development.

Table 7: Geographical Community ANOVA

	<i>df</i>	<i>Mean Square</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>p value</i>
Between Groups	1	1.376	.014	.906
Within Groups	33	97.823		
Total	34			

From table 7 it is observed that there is no significant difference between the groups based on area of

residence, i.e, affiliation to a particular geographical community has no significant effect on peoples' perception regarding country's development.

$$F(1,33) = .014, p = .906$$

As $p > .05$, therefore the null hypothesis is accepted.

Table 8: Summary Table

Hypothesis	Path coefficients	F	p-value	Hypothesis Supported
H1	Religion -> Per	4.886	.034	Yes
H2	Gender -> Per	.684	.414	No
H3	Age -> Per	1.016	.373	No
H4	Region -> Per	.014	.906	No

Out of the 35 responses received, percentage analysis was carried on to understand the responses of the participants.

Table 9: Percent Analysis

Items	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
In my opinion, India is moving towards a classless society	14.29	45.71	22.86	17.14	0.00
In my opinion, India is moving towards a casteless society	8.57	60.00	8.57	20.00	2.86
In my opinion, in India, today there is no discrimination	48.57	37.14	2.86	11.43	0.00
In my opinion, India must not tolerate any kind of discriminatory practice	2.86	11.43	8.57	25.71	51.43

In my opinion, in India, the difference between the rich and the poor is reducing	40.00	37.14	8.57	11.43	2.86
In my opinion, India suffers from poverty	0.00	2.86	5.71	71.43	20.00
In my opinion, Indian youth are facing numerous livelihood issues	0.00	0.00	5.71	54.29	40.00
In my opinion, in India, women are treated equal to men	8.57	68.57	11.43	11.43	0.00
Minorities are ignored in India	5.71	20.00	22.86	34.29	17.14
Oppression of the weak prevails in India	0.00	17.14	37.14	22.86	22.86
Certain specific groups are oppressed in India	0.00	5.71	20.00	45.71	28.57
In my opinion, in India, only the big companies are flourishing	0.00	20.00	25.71	31.43	22.86
In my opinion, in India, the small scale industries are flourishing	2.86	28.57	34.29	34.29	0.00
In my opinion, in India, startups are flourishing	0.00	11.43	37.14	48.57	2.86

In my opinion, India has strong authority figures	2.86	11.43	40.00	34.29	11.43
In my opinion, the decisions of Indian Government are enforced as undeniably true	5.71	17.14	25.71	34.29	17.14
In my opinion, India today has become intolerant towards others	2.86	25.71	28.57	28.57	14.29
In my opinion, the oppositions against the Government decisions have to face serious consequences	5.71	14.29	22.86	31.43	25.71
In my opinion, those opposing the Government should be strictly punished	34.29	22.86	17.14	22.86	2.86
In my opinion, India is showing an upward trajectory in Industrial Growth	2.86	11.43	40.00	42.86	2.86
In my opinion, India is showing an upward trajectory in defense	2.86	11.43	37.14	40.00	8.57

In my opinion, India has developed a scientific temper	2.86	8.57	37.14	45.71	5.71
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The highest percentage of responses are highlighted for a better clarity. The overall perception of the masses regarding development in India is not very promising. The areas of industry, defense and scientific temper though are indicated as flourishing, still there are several issues prevalent which the respondents feel should be considered while understanding development as perceived by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. Discrimination, caste, class, oppression of the weak, intolerance, poverty, livelihood problems and rigidity of the Government are some of the prime areas needing attention.

From the two open ended questions, the responses present the ideal state of India and the ideal state of Indian Governance, word clouds of the text were generated using online software on <https://monkeylearn.com/> The results are presented below –



Figure 2: Ideal India: Word Cloud

Ideas related to discrimination, caste, job, religion, state, religion, reservation had the highest frequency. Overall, upon running sentiment analysis on <https://www.danielsoper.com/>, the following result was obtained –

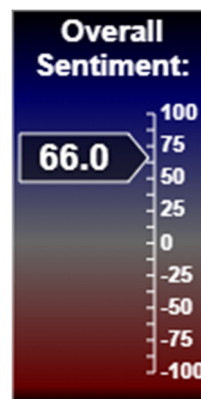


Figure 3: Ideal India: Sentiment Analysis

The descriptive responses on Ideal India had a sentiment score of 66.0. This means that the overall sentiment or tone of this text is quite positive / enthusiastic.

The respondents describe ideal Indian governance to fight against corruption, reduce the increasing cost, harness youth potential and prospering public institutions. This is shown in the word cloud below –



Figure 4: Ideal Indian Governance: Word Cloud

Upon running sentiment analysis on <https://www.danielsoper.com/>, the following results were obtained -

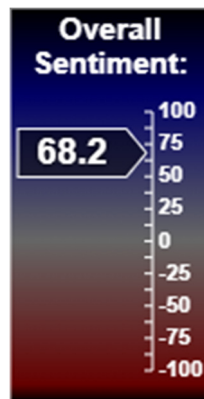


Figure 5: Ideal Indian Governance: Sentiment Analysis

The descriptive responses on Ideal Indian Governance had a sentiment score of 68.2. This means that the overall sentiment or tone of this text is quite positive / enthusiastic.

The above analysis, shows that the respondents have positive sentiments towards the ideal state of the Country and Indian Governance. They are hopeful about the bright future of the country once the pressing issues are addressed.

4 CONCLUSIONS

The findings of the study indicate that opinions are personal subject matter and may or may not depend over the projections made on media platforms. It was found that affiliation to the majority and minority groups had a statistically significant effect on the general opinions formed about the country's development. Overall, the vision of Bose is accomplished to a lot extent when it comes to the quantitative realization but there is a lot to be done to improve the quality of life of the Indian citizens particularly towards the prevailing social evils, women empowerment and discrimination.

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