

# PROBLEMS OF EMPLOYMENT DURING COVID-19 WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO INFORMAL SECTOR IN INDIA: A QUALITATIVE ENQUIRY

**Sanjib Dutta**

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics,  
Digboi Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Assam, India

## ABSTRACT

*An qualitative enquiry has been made to find out the employment vulnerability in rural and urban informal economy of India. Focus is also given on government responses towards it. The analysis is presented in four parts. Firstly an overview of Indian formal sector is presented followed by covid-19 pandemic impact on both rural and urban informal economy of the country. The study period is taken from 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020 to 31st July. The informal sector is going through a very tough stage due to this pandemic. As the unorganized sector in India accounts for 93% of the workforce. Fall down in economic activities have pushed the works into the trap of poverty. Workers like daily wage earners, household-helps, MGNREGA workers etc. are severely affected. Government policy responses may help in short-run but may not be effective in the long-run. In the area of labour economics, the study will be helpful. It can provide information separately for rural and urban informal economy and may help in policy designing.*

**Key words:** Unorganized sector, Corona-Virus, Poverty, Employment, Lockdown, Informal sector.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic is wreaking havoc in nearly every country in the world. In the absence of confirmed medicinal treatment, countries are adopting the social distancing measure by shutting down some major cities and, in some cases, the entire nation to prevent contamination of the virus. On January 30, 2020, the first confirmed case of Covid-19 was detected in the Thrissur district of Kerala in India. The country, which is one of those affected by this pandemic, is also adopting the same mechanism to fight against an unprecedented

situation. Moreover, the Indian government has gradually adopted a blockade strategy. The first block phase began on March 25 and continued until April 14, 2020. The second, third and fourth block phases were queued from April 15 to May 3, from May 4 to May 17 and from 18 to 31 May 2020 respectively. Severe restrictions have been imposed on the movement of people and the operation of vehicles, industries, offices, institutions, etc. Starting from 1 June, with some loosening of the blocking rules, the release phases have started and will end on 31 July, 2020. While the main objective of the blockade is to hinder the spread of the pandemic, at the same time this blockade is also producing some external effects.

The commercial activities like bazaar traders, restaurants and manufacturing in small ad hoc factories are included under the domain of informal sector. Geertz(1967) have argued that these activities may or may not have a clear organizational structure. These informal economic activities are not eligible for applying formal credit and also have restricted access to public goods. Moreover the operations under informal sector rarely invest in tools that can advance productivity, enhances skill of the workers. Furthermore these activities are often unable to achieve economies of scale and they also have a propensity to operate their activities at a very low margin. They cannot seek legal protection if their clients default on payment and cannot offer any form of security to their employees, pay no taxes, and ignore minimum wage regulations. It is again defined as the sector consists of all private unincorporated companies owned by individuals or families that are engaged in the sale and production of goods and services operated on their own or in association and with fewer than ten workers in total (Report on Working Conditions and the Promotion of Livelihoods in the Unorganized Sector, 2017). The terms "unorganized sector" and "informal sector" are used interchangeably. Throughout the paper we will use both words synonymously.

The unorganized sector in India accounts for 93% of the workforce (India, 2020). But the informal or unorganized sector has seen an unprecedented slowdown and unemployment in recent months; This was compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic crisis and closure. The social group most affected during the current imprisonment are workers, and more particularly migrants who had left their homes to seek casual work in various places, both urban and rural, in industries, services, construction and even in agriculture(The Hindu,2020).

In the weeks following the implementation of the first lockdown, just over a quarter (28%) or 285 million people worked out of a total working-age population of 1,003 million, well below the corresponding figure (40 percent) or 404 million workers before closing. This indicates that within the two-week period of the first closure, some 119 million workers lost their jobs in the country. The CMIE report also points to a significant increase in the unemployment rate of 8.7% in March 2020, which is much higher than the government's estimate of 45-year high unemployment of 6.1% in 2017-18. In June 2020, after the four-phased lockdown, the estimated job loss is more than this 119 million. Even before the Covid-19 crisis, India had been experiencing slower economic growth and rising unemployment. However after lockdown it is estimated that the number of workers vulnerable to this situation could reach 364 million or more, including those in casual work, self-employment and unprotected regular jobs, i.e., lacking social protection coverage (ILO, 2020). These numbers understandably indicate that the national blockade has been the biggest job destroyer in the country's history. The unemployment rates in April and May were over 23% in India, which was three times higher from the value last year (Vyas, 2020). But these figures are applicable during the lockdown period only and should not be seen as a permanent loss of livelihood for those people. On the other hand, many informal workers who returned to their villages and employed in contractual or casual activities may not be able to get back their jobs in unlock phases.

In addition to that latest CMIE estimates have many problems as they are based on telephonic interviews with a smaller sample. The other sources of information on employment such as estimates from government, the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) need to be examined for better understanding the likely impact of the lockdown on informal workers. On this backdrop this piece of work wants to enquire the situation of unemployment in the informal sector due to this novel outbreak.

## **2. MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The study is based on secondary data sources like published government reports, newspapers articles, blogs, academic papers etc. It is an explanatory paper based on qualitative research analysis. Depending on the objectives the results and discussion section of the paper is organized as follows-Firstly, an overview of informal sector of India is discussed; secondly the impact of the novel outbreak is analyzed in detail with respect to different sectors of informal sector as well as urban and rural informal economy; Thirdly challenges ahead of the informal sector due to the covid-19 outbreak is highlighted; Finally policy responses of government of India for informal sector is also discussed.

## **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **3.1. Informal Sector of India: An Overview**

Needless to say, the economic and growth and development in general and livelihood and wages of the vast majority of workers in India crucially depend on the economic viability of the informal economy. Breman (2016) also find that the creation of informal household enterprises is the common resort for non-agricultural employment for those who lack education or who are geographically disadvantaged. Benjamin et al. (2015) point out the role of the urban informal sector in absorbing rural migrants. A notable characteristic of the informal sector is the strong female presence. 60% of working women in the developing world are in the informal economy.

Table 1 depicts a good sense of the significance of the informal economy of the country industry-wise. The agriculture sector accounts for 97.03 % of GVA from the informal sector during the considered period. This sector accounts the highest contribution from the informal sector, followed by Trade, Repair, Accommodation & Food Services (86.6 percent) and Real Estate, Ownership of Dwelling & Professional Services (56.4 percent).

### **3.1. The Novel Out-Break and Informal Economy**

In total, 1.25 billion workers in informal sector industries, more than a third (37.5%) of the world's workers are at high risk due to the novel outbreak. The condition of low-paid and low-skilled informal workers is very worrying in the low and middle-income countries where industries and services employ a large proportion of these workers, who account for 61% of the global workforce or 2 billion people and lack social protection or a safety net. COVID-19 is already affecting tens of millions of informal workers. In India, Nigeria and Brazil, the number of workers in the informal economy affected by the lockdown and other containment measures is substantial (Economic Times, 2020).

The ILO (2020) report have revealed another striking fact that the countries experiencing fragility, protracted conflict, recurrent natural disasters or forced displacement will face a multiple burden due to the pandemic .Moreover they are less equipped to prepare for and respond to COVID-19 as access to basic services, especially health and sanitation, is limited; decent work, social protection and safety at work are not a given; their institutions are weak; and social dialogue is impaired or absent. Because of this social distancing and policies like halt in economic activities were taken by the governments.

The lockdown (a form of halting economic activities) has already started showing us the adverse effects on the informal sector workers. The exodus of migrant workers as widely seen over social media and reported in various news reports is the fallout of the crisis. Since businesses are closed and establishments are shut, migrant workers have run out of work and are seen returning to their native places. Some have reportedly died returning on foot due to the suspension of buses and trains. Some are stuck in places of their work. With no work, no income or savings, it is extremely difficult for them and their dependent families to survive. A recent survey of migrant workers by a Delhi-based NGO Jan Sahas has found that 90 percent of those surveyed have already lost their only source of income. Moreover the Centre for Monitoring of Indian Economy (CMIE), in March 2020 has reported an unfortunate fact that the labour force participation rate has fallen to an all-time low and the unemployment rate has risen sharply after the announcement of lockdown. Now to analyze the present context of employment scenario in informal sectors and workers by these different stages of restriction, we have discussed about some of the most affected and vulnerable occupations in urban areas. In addition, the impact of this new outbreak on the informal rural economy is also analyzed in detail.

### 3.2. Urban Informal Economy

The total lockdown on March 24 was announced with only four hours' notice. This was an immediate shock for many urban casual workers who made up 15 per cent of urban employment. Not only did these workers suddenly lose their only employment and income, they were at risk of losing their accommodation if this was in their work premises or arranged for them by contractors. PLFS 2017-18 shows that, in urban areas, about 93 million informal workers are involved in five sectors that are most affected, namely-manufacturing (28 million);trade, hotel and restaurant (32 million);construction (15 million);transport, storage and communications (11 million);and finance, business and real estate (7 million).

Over recent years, Indian manufacturing had already experienced a hit hard. On top of this trend, COVID-19 hit Indian manufacturing hard. A UNIDO survey of 85 enterprises in April 2020 showed that many had stopped production which includes manufacture of automotive components, bicycles, paper, textiles, and ceramics, as well as foundries, tea factories and rice milling. Full closure on March 24 was announced just four hours early. These workers not only suddenly lost their only job and income, but they also risked losing their housing if it was on their working premises or if it was arranged by contractors.

A gain approximately 50 percent of informal workers are self-employed, 20 percent are casual workers with daily wages, and 30 percent are employed or contract workers with no social safety net (Mehta et al, 2020). According to recent data from the CMIE, the unemployment rate for the first week of April rose to 23%. This unemployment scale is the largest ever recorded, even during the Great Depression (Mishra, 2020). The 2017-18, Periodic Workforce Survey showed that 71% of regular / salaried employees in the informal (non-farm) sector do not have a written employment contract. 49.6 percent of them don't even apply for social security plans, and 54.2 percent don't get paid vacation.

Many freelancers, such as street vendors and other small business owners, may not be left with the capital to restart their businesses, and many may not return from their places of origin. Additional precautions such as social distancing, contact tracing and strict health checks on entering the world of work and the market would also affect the employer-worker relationship, thus proving a huge departure from the usual business approach. Aside from these occupations, the impact of COVID-19 on the agricultural sector and on those working as day farm workers is complex and varies between different regions Wedding planners, florists, tailors, fishermen, coal loaders, security guards, folk artisans, salon owners, among other

small business owners and artisans and those with seasonal jobs, prepare for the impact of the break in their means of subsistence. There will be a shortage of workers, especially day workers who have migrated back to their home states. Industries such as automobiles, textiles, and engineering are highly dependent on their manufacturing facilities, and most of the workforce has day workers working in their companies. Considering the lack of support that companies have provided to these migrant workers, many of them will not show up for work once the closure is over and the factories become operational. Considering the chaos that occurred on March 25 and the subsequent exodus, it is unlikely that there are adequate means of transport to get these workers back to work, which will also be one of the reasons for the increase in unemployment and lack of workforce in manufacturing industries. The labor sector under MGNREGA, 2005 is the most affected as no work is provided due to the blockade (ET govt, 2020).

Cleaning staff and those involved in the biomedical waste disposal and treatment process are also those exposed to the vulnerabilities of the COVID-19 crisis. First, the risk associated with their work that could have health implications due to close contact with waste. Secondly, these workers are looking for facilities like financial assistance and insurance coverage that deserve to be provided while on the job, to ensure their safety, survival and vital interest. However, it also puts thousands of jobless domestic workers where they are fighting coronavirus and hunger simultaneously. These workers have daily, weekly or monthly jobs. They are in a sorry state because they also face problems such as domestic violence in their homes, where they are forced to quarantine. Recent studies also show that there has been an increase in domestic violence cases across the country and many cases are still not reported because women are unable to leave their homes. People who worked in private homes, temporarily, at fixed hours or "residents", are forced to leave their jobs because of the fear that exists in the minds of their employers. Therefore, they are at great risk of unemployment with no other sources of income to survive this pandemic. Domestic workers and housework represent a significant part in the informal sector. According to government data, we have a total of 40 lakhs of domestic workers in India and 65% of them are women. Issues like these need to be addressed with utmost urgency and the government needs to ensure that the rights of these people are not violated (Verma , 2020).

### 3.3. Rural Informal Sector

In magnitude, there are almost 2.5 times more informal workers in rural areas (298 million) than in urban areas (121 million) in India. The share of workers by percentage in the informal sector in rural areas (95 percent) is significantly higher than in urban areas (80 per cent). This is primarily because large number of informal workers is engaged in farm or agricultural activities (62 per cent) in rural areas ,which is likely to have less impact on their livelihood and employment by the lockdown than informal workers engaged in urban areas in non-farm sectors i.e. 92 per cent.

Many of these rural families are marginal farmers and small artisans. They also face difficulties as millions of families face suspension of economic activities in the midst of the COVID-19 epidemic. Even if only a proportion of casual work are considered, a fifth of the family population extremely vulnerable and fragile to face the economic tsunami. According to a Business Standard report, only 30.8 million jobs were provided under the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee National Act (MGNREGA) from 15-29 April 2020, compared to 273.96 million in the corresponding 2019 period. MGNREGA's work has also stalled to reduce transmission of the virus and this comes at a huge cost to poor rural workers.

Another factor that induces vulnerability is low wages. The average salary that a casual worker reported receiving in 2017-18 is 254.83 rupees, and the average salary of a self-

employed person is 276.09 rupees, while that of a regular person is 530.76. It is reported that approximately 68 percent of all workers earn wages (or income in the case of self-employed workers) below the national recommended minimum wage of Rs 375. Of this, 84.62 percent of casual workers alone and 52.83 percent of regular workers do not earn more than the national minimum wage. Not only that the gap between salary / earnings and the recommended minimum is on average 41 percent. In other words, they earn 41 percent below the minimum set. This minimum wage was recommended by the expert committee formed by the Indian Government's Ministry of Labor and Employment in 2019.

**Table 2** Share of workers earning <375 MW in 2017-18

Labour Status	Rural	Urban	Total Persons
Casual	88.22	69.23	84.62
Regular	62.34	47.34	52.83
Self-Employed	75.40	48.72	67.90
Combined(C+R+SE)	77.61	50.94	68.07

Source: Sekhar et.al,2020

When it comes to statistics, so far to show how much of this decline in employment and the workforce is due to the informal sector, we have no data. However, given the fragility of the informal sector in terms of its low capital base and the lack of employment protection for workers, it is clear that the informal sector has received the largest share of the current economic crisis. The loss of an informal worker's livelihoods will certainly jeopardize the survival prospects of the entire family.

### 3.4. Challenges Ahead for the Informal Sector

India faces a longer-term labor market challenge, including a slow and uncertain structural transformation. In 2017-18, 85% of workers were in the informal sector (ILO, 2020; Nag, 2020) and another 5% were employed in the formal sector but under informal conditions, as they lacked social or other protection of work. related benefits. Again, the informal sector accounts for around 40% of GDP (Nag, 2020). It is imperative that public spending on agricultural families, migrant workers and their employers continues. Therefore, to further ensure that banks continue to lend, interest rates must be lowered by at least 200 basis points from current levels (Moitra, 2020).

As informal workers struggle to survive in the current crisis, there is good reason to believe that the post-crisis period will put further pressure on the already fragile sector. The consequences of the COVID-19 outbreak for the informal economy will continue. Faced with a protracted crisis, the global economy is likely to depress the demand for products and services from informal sector companies (Sekhar et al, 2020). These workers may face working time cuts, layoffs, leave and pay cuts, and for some, this could continue beyond the lockdown. Building on stimulus packages and other policy responses, economic recovery will require a strategy that restores jobs and sustains incomes for both businesses and workers, restoring supply lines and rebuilding demand, while health , the rights and income of workers and their families are protected, in particular for migrant workers and those in the informal economy (ILO, 2020)

### 3.5. Policy Response of Government of India

It is the need of the hour that government of India not only rapidly improve the public health care system, but also take utmost care of the most affected sectors of the economy. Among which informal sector is highly imperative. The Indian government announced a \$22.6 billion

(around 1% of the GDP) economic stimulus package to provide direct cash transfers and food security measures to millions of poor people hit by a nationwide lockdown triggered by the corona-virus pandemic (CNBC Asia Economics, 2020). The proposed financial package emphasizes on providing food security and direct bank transfers for poor households, and daily wage earners, who need immediate help (CNBC Asia Economics, 2020). The government also announces some current economic measures. By current economic measures we mean the actions and measures implemented by the Indian government in response to the COVID-19 virus attack. However, with the increasing number of active cases to 8,988 and deaths toll rising to 339, the lockdown eventually got extended till May 03, 2020 (BBC News, 2020a). The lockdown was further followed by the \$22.5 billion stimulus package announced on March 26, 2020 (CNBC Asia Economics, 2020). Recently in unlock 1.0 (in the month of June), government of India has further announced some measures. Farmers currently receive INR 6,000/- every year through the PM-KISAN scheme (minimum income support scheme) in three equal installments. The government will now be giving the first installment upfront for fiscal year starting April 2020. About 86.9 million farmers are expected to benefit from this immediately. MNREGA workers' wage increase from INR 182/- to INR 202/-. Such increase will benefit 50 million families. The wage increase will amount into an additional income of INR 2,000/- per worker. State governments have been directed to use the welfare fund for building and construction workers. The District Mineral Fund, worth about INR 310 billion, will be used help those who are facing economic disruption because of the lockdown.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

A stretched economic downturn, both globally and nationally, will cause a substantial increase in unemployment, underemployment and in-work poverty and reduce earnings, profits and business competitiveness. While no up-to-date data on the Labor Force Survey is available, this report considers the potential impact of the crisis on businesses and workers' livelihoods and incomes: regular and irregular, protected and unprotected. Those most likely to lose their jobs and income are casual workers and the self-employed. About three quarters of employment in India are not regular, whether they are self-employed or casual workers. These workers suffer the consequences of both the immediate restrictions on circulation and the consequent economic recession. The total is likely to increase even if those in regular employment lose their jobs due to the closure of the industry. Young people are particularly more vulnerable during a crisis, they are often the first to lose their jobs and face stiff competition for fewer jobs in the labor market. The result will be a sharp rise in unemployment, especially in urban areas and among young people, so better global coordination and cooperation in the field of public health and economic development is essential, particularly to prevent the spread of these diseases over time (Sharma et al., 2020). As informal workers struggle to survive amid the current crisis, there is a good reason to believe that the post-crisis period will put additional pressure on the already fragile sector. The consequences of the COVID-19 outbreak for the informal economy will continue (Sekhar et al., 2020).

#### **5. LIMITATIONS AND STUDY FORWARD**

It is the need of the hour that researches should focus on impact of COVID-19 on different segments of informal sector, as it is the highest employment generating sector of the counter. Secondly statistics on employment scenario of informal sector should be made available from the government side so that more rigorous research can be able to taken by the researchers.

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# RELATION BETWEEN TELE-COMMUNICATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ASSAM

**Sanjib Dutta**

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics,  
Digboi Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Digboi, Assam, India

## ABSTRACT

*Importance of telecommunication on economic growth of an economy is known to all. In this study The role of telecommunication technology which is measured in terms of tele-density is investigated on the economic growth of Assam over the time period 2001-2017. Here different sectoral components of economic growth like industry, manufacturing, service and banking & insurance is also taken into consideration to explore the causal relationship between these with tele-density of the state. For this Granger-Causality test has been applied and desired outcomes are attained. Moreover structural breakpoint analysis is also done to see whether any structural changes occurred in the relationship among the variables under study. Results are also found that policy changes in the national and state level has brought about the structural changes in the variables over the time period.*

**Key words:** Economic growth, Structural Changes, Tele-communication

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Information and communication technology being a part of economic infrastructure has a significant contribution towards the economic growth of a particular country. It can foster industrial activity, helps in financial operations of different banking and non-banking financial organizations or in other services like transportation, health, education and so on. While Telecommunication technology also as a crucial part of ICT has a significant role in economic development of a country or region. From the traditional development literature to every discipline the importance of tele-communication technology is discussed intensively (For e.g. Jipp1963, Moss 1981, Saunders et al, 1994; Greenstein & Spiller,1996 etc.).

Telecommunication affects productivity by lowering the costs of collecting information and thereby cost of doing business. So it has positive externalities.

A plethora of studies has been found regarding the influence or impact of telecommunications on economic development. Specifically this study has found research works on macro level, i.e., at country level, International level or even in cross-country level. But there are very few or negligible amount of studies has been conducted so far at micro level, i.e., at intra-country or state level. This needs attention because to know the linkage between the Tele-communication technology and state level economic growth as it directly contributes to the national economy. Therefore adopting this issue and on this backdrop this work tries to fill the gap in this aspect.

### 3. DATA SOURCE AND METHODS

The study is based on secondary data. The data has been collected from Telecom statistics 2006 to 2017, Ministry of telecommunications, Government of India. The data on economic growth has been collected from Handbook on Indian economy, RBI for the respective years.

The study has considered the time period from 2006 to 2017 as per the availability of information. Telecommunication technology has been measured in terms of outcome variables Tele-density which measures number of telephone user per 100 persons. Secondly the variable economic growth has been proxies by Per capita Net state domestic product. We didn't consider gross state domestic product as it includes the depreciation.

In India the base year for estimation of national income and its related aggregates has been changed from 2005-06 to 2011-12. In the data-set of the study we have information on NSDP and different components on the base of two different base years. Hence the base year for all these variables has been shifted from 2005-06 to 2011-12 for the years from 2006 to 2010. Moreover the Stationarity of the series have been tested by applying Augmented Dicky Fuller test. Again lag selection is has very much importance on time series analysis. The lag selection of the series has been based on AIC, HQIC, L.R. and AQIC. After lag selection Granger –Causality Test was conducted to see the causality between the selected variables of the study. Specifically between Tele-density and different components of economic growth. Finally chow test is applied to identify whether any structural break is there in the series or not.

### 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The preliminary step in a time series analysis is to check the presence of unit root in each individual time series over the sample period. ADF unit root test has been applied to investigate it. If there is an unit root then the series will be termed as non-stationary otherwise stationary. The ADF unit root test estimates the following regression model-

$$X_t = \alpha + \beta t + \rho X_{t-1} + u_t$$

Where,  $\alpha$  is the intercept,  $\beta$  is the co-efficient of lagged term,  $\rho$  is the number of lagged term and  $u$  is the error term where  $u_t$  is a white noise. The optimal lag length is chosen by using the Akaike Information Criteria (AIC). The hypotheses of the test are

$H_0$ : the time series is non-stationary.

$H_1$ : the time series is stationary.

Results of the ADF test is presented in the table-

**Table 1** Results of ADF test

Series	ADF test statistics	Critical Values	Accept/Reject	Stationarity	Order of integration
Teledensity	-0.624*	-1.950	Reject	Stationary	I(0)
NSDP per capita	-0.972*	-1.950	Reject	Stationary	I(0)
Industrial growth	-0.619*	-1.950	Reject	Stationary	I(0)
Growth of Banking and insurance	-1.008*	-1.950	Reject	Stationary	I(0)
Growth of services	-1.349*	-1.950	Reject	Stationary	I(0)
Growth of manufacturing activities	-0.606*	-1.950	Reject	Stationary	I(0)

\*indicates significant at 5 percent and 10 percent level of significance.

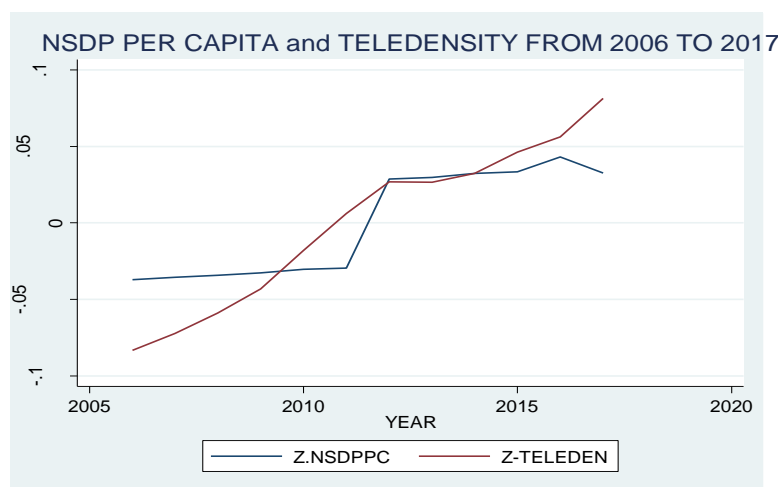
The results of ADF unit root test show that the null hypotheses of the presence of a unit root is rejected for all the series. It means they are at level stationary and hence the order of integration is zero. Now the study can proceed for causality analysis.

#### 4.1. Relationship between Telecommunication Technology and Economic Growth: A Causal Analysis

The studies conducted by Cronin et al. (1991, 1993a, b) are the earliest attempts to use causality tests to investigate the causal relationship between telecommunications and economic growth. They discover a two-way relationship between telecommunications infrastructure and economic growth in the United States. But it was regarding the input variable of the telecommunication technology whereas the present study focuses on outcome variable.

##### 4.1.1. Tele-density and NSDP per capita

The retrieved information on Tele-density and NDP per capita shows trend depicted in the figure 4.1.1. Both have fluctuations over the years which is obvious. Up to 2010 both has a converging pattern while from 2015 onwards it showing moving into different directions. But only the causality analysis can if there any causality which can attribute to this.



**Figure 1** Growth of NSDP per-capita and Tele-density, 2006-2017

The results of Granger causality test between these two variables is presented in the table 2. It shows there is bi-directional causality between tele-density and NSDP per capita. It means tele-density granger causes NSDP per capita and vice-versa in the state. Table 4.2 reveals that the calculated value of p-statistics is significant at 5 % in case of causality from Tele-density to NSDP per capita and at 10% level in case of causality from NSDP per capita to Tele-density.

**Table 2** Causality analysis between NSDP per capita and Tele-Density

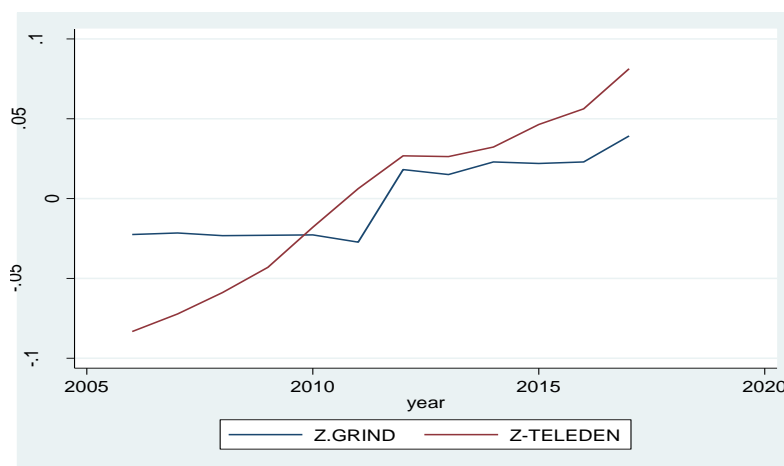
Direction of causality	No of lags	F-value	P-value	Decision
Tele-density → NSDP per capita	1	8.61	0.01*	Accept
NSDP per capita → Tele-density	1	4.33	0.07**	Accept

\*implies significant at 5 percent level

\*\* implies significant at 10 percent level

**4.1.2. Industry and Telecommunication**

Any kind of communication technology is indispensable for industrial growth. Communications can not only help in production but also exchange in the markets, gathering market information etc. Telecommunication is one of the fundamental ways of enhancing industrial growth. In Assam the growth of industrial sector along with the Tele-density is presented in the figure



**Figure 2** Growth of industrial sector and Tele-density, 2006-2017

Reflection of the figure 4.1.3 implying that growth of industries has a sharp rise from 2010 despite of low growth than Tele-density. But by looking at the figure one conclusion can be drawn that after 2010 a sharp rise in Tele-density is associated with sudden jump of growth in industrial sector of the state. Moreover the casual relation between these two series depicts the following results-

The results in table show that there is bi-directional causality from Tele-density to industry as well as from industry to Tele-density with single lag. The calculated value of p-statistics is significant at 5% in case of causality from Tele-density to industry and at 10% level in case of causality from Industry to Tele-density.

**Table 3** Causality between growth of industrial sector and Tele-density.

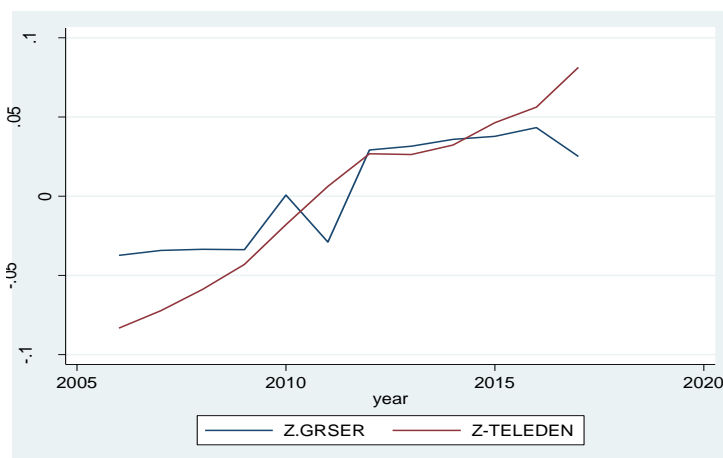
Direction of causality	lags	F-value	P-value	Decision
Tele-density → industrial growth	1	8.771	0.01*	Accept
Industrial growth → tele-density	1	4.533	0.06**	Accept

\*implies significant at 5 percent level

\*\* implies significant at 10 percent level

**4.1.3. Growth of Services and Tele-density**

Different services like transportation, health, education is largely affected by telecommunication technology. In this Globalized era the communication system has foster the growth of different services. The following figure 4.1.4 reflects the growth trend of service sector from 2007 to 2017 in the state of Assam. We can clearly see a flattered trend meaning slow growth till 2008 or 2009. But after this it has a steeply rise and also a fall. The reason is not known unfortunately. While after 2010 it has again rose sharply immediately after it follows a slow growth. It may be because of some intra sectoral shocks. Interestingly till 2010 the service sector grows more than the Tele-density. After that it falls down than the growth of Tele-density. Even if it grows more than Tele-density from 2012-13 to 2014-15, but the growth is not very big.



**Figure 3** Growth of service and Tele-density, 2007-2017

Now, if we examine the causality for services and Tele-density, the results of the table indicate that there is unidirectional causality from Services to Tele-density with single lag. The calculated p-value is significant at 5% level.

**Table 4** Causality between growth of service and Tele-density

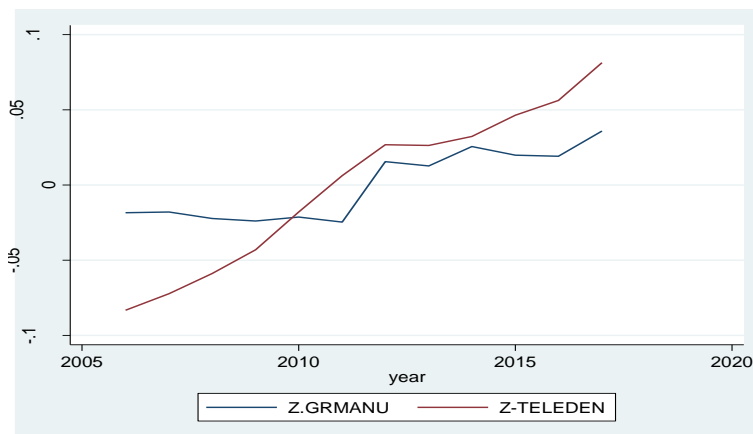
Direction of causality	lags	F-value	P-value	Decision
Tele-density → Growth of services	1	13.18	0.006*	Accept
Growth of services → Tele-density	1	1.92	0.20	Reject

\*implies significant at 5 percent level

Therefore here we have a one-directional causal relationship among the variables.

**4.1.4. Growth of Manufacturing Activities and Tele-Density**

A survey conducted by TRAI in 2012 showed that mobile phone allowed the Small and Medium Enterprises sector a more convenient and customized service for clients, improvement in quality of work through better monitoring, retention of better quality staff. Moreover, it also helps in saving time and cost from avoidance of travel to co-ordinate work or supplies. Assam being a part of the country is also having the benefits. Figure reveals the fact-



**Figure 4** Growth of manufacturing activities and Tele-density, 2006-17

There may be also a structural break in the relationship of growth of manufacturing and Tele-density. Until 2010 the growth of manufacturing is more than the Tele-density. While there is a jump of Tele-density in 2010 onwards it has growing more than the manufacturing sector. The manufacturing sector even if had a lower growth than Tele-density, but after 2015 it has also take a turn keeping parity in the direction of growth with Tele-density. It may because of the findings that TRAI revealed.

Furthermore the examination of causality between growth of manufacturing activities and Tele-density reveals the results in table

**Table 5** Causality between growth of manufacturing activities and Tele-density.

Direction of causality	lags	F-value	P-value	Decision
tele-density → manufacturing	1	4.6	0.06**	Accept
manufacturing → tele-density	1	8.5	0.01*	Accept

\*implies significant at 5 percent level

\*\* implies significant at 10 percent level

The calculated value of F-statistics is significant at 5 percent in case of causality from Tele-density to Manufacturing and at 10 percent level in case of causality from Manufacturing to Tele-density. Therefore the study encountered bi-directional causality from Tele-density to Manufacturing as well as from Manufacturing to Tele-density with single lag.

**5. STRUCTURAL BREAK ANALYSIS AMONG THE TELE-COMMUNICATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**

From all of the above figures it can be said that All the components are depicting almost same trend with Tele-density, however, it can be seen from graphs that after 2010, there is sudden

steeply increase in Tele-density. Again the growth of the other sectors have also shown to some extent variations after that period.. We may say that there is a structural break in data due to sharp increase in Tele-density. For this we will investigate in the year 2010, after 3 years of policy implementation. The results are presented in the table

**Table 6** Results of Chow Breakpoint Analysis

Period	2010	
Variables	F -statistics	P-value
Tele-density and NSDP per capita	4.672	0.001*

*\*implies significant at 5 percent level*

The null hypothesis for the chow test is-

H<sub>0</sub>: There is no structural break in the series

As tabulated value is less than the calculated values at 5 percent and 10 percent level which indicates that relationship between Tele-density and other variables representing economic growth has undergone structural change over a period of time. After 2011 the growth of Tele-density is much faster which is evident from the graphs. As The reasons behind this may be policy changes like NEIIP 2007, reduction of tariff to Rs 1 per minute in 2005, Investments in telecom sector etc. Therefore Chow breakpoint test reveals that there is structural break in case of relationships among tele-density and \ economic growth in the state. It is also expected that this break is due to lagged impact of policies like North East Industrial & Investment Promotion Policy 2007, One India plan 2005 etc.

## 6. CONCLUSION

The above discussion revealed that Tele density has a causal relation with economic growth and also with the sectoral level of the state. However the direction of these relationships is different in case of some components. Except services, the study has found two-way or bi-directional causality in case of all the components of economic growth. It may be different in case of national level or in other states. Furthermore the study also found a structural break in the data in 2010 which indicates significant impact of Tele-density as a proxy of telecommunications on development of various sectors of the state economy. Hence the need of the hour is to attract more investments in the telecommunication technology so that the state can rip out maximum benefit from it.

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## John Dori's Critique on Aristotle's Moral Character Formation

Dr. Manik Konch<sup>1</sup>

**Abstract:** *This paper delves into John M. Doris critique on Aristotle's notion of the formation of moral character. For Aristotle; a moral character could be developed by inculcating virtues through habitual action. The habitual action is not only undertaken on a regular basis but also is personalized which has moral significance when we evaluate action and personality. There are two ways to interpret this Aristotelian theoretical position; namely the naturalistic or behaviouristic perspective and the non-naturalistic perspective. The naturalistic thesis maintains that habit and character formation is inherently present in the form of disposition in human beings and could be causally related to the neurophysiological function of the brain process. On the other hand, the non-naturalistic thesis upholds a teleological account of the formation of moral character which is grounded on the power of will. But in this paper would like to explicate and examine the John Doris notion of moral character is juxtaposed with the situationists conception of the moral character rather than to explain Aristotelian notion of character formation.*

**Keywords:** *character formation, Aristotle, Moral Psychology, neurophysiological function, personalty.*

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<sup>1</sup> Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Digboi Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Digboi-Assam

## Introduction

Aristotle's notion of habit and its role in the formation of moral character. The habitual action is not only undertaken on a regular basis but also is personalized which has moral significance when we evaluate action and personality. For Aristotle, a moral character could be developed by inculcating virtues through habitual action. There are two ways to interpret this Aristotelian theoretical position; namely the naturalistic or behaviouristic perspective and the non-naturalistic perspective. The naturalistic thesis maintains that habit and character formation is inherently present in the form of disposition in human beings and could be causally related to the neurophysiological function of the brain process. On the other hand, the non-naturalistic thesis upholds a teleological account of the formation of moral character which is grounded on the power of will. We would like to explicate and examine these two theoretical perspectives in order to substantiate the relationship between habits and moral character. Further, the Aristotelian notion of moral character is juxtaposed with the situationists conception of the moral character. This juxtaposition shows that situationists notion of moral character fails to explain the moral significance of character, particularly, Doris notion of local traits in contrast to traditional global traits. The chapter is divided into five major sections. In the first section, we try to illustrate the Aristotelian notion of three stages of development of habit. In the second section, the naturalistic interpretation is explicated with reference to the notion of instinct and other behaviouristic viewpoints on the explanation of habitual behavior. This behaviouristic account though scientific in its enterprise, seems to provide a narrow conception of habits; especially pertaining to the relationship between habit and moral character. The non-naturalistic account, in the third section, integrates Aristotle's teleological account of explanation of habitual action. Doris criticism of Aristotelian notion of global character traits and its responses is discussed in the fourth section of this chapter. The fifth section of this chapter will discuss the relationship between virtues and moral habit to form a moral character from Aristotelian perspective.

One of the major debates concerning the notion of moral character is in connection with the situationists response. The situationist like John Doris and others<sup>2</sup> who vehemently rejected the Aristotelian

notion of moral character. For many technical reasons, we evaluate someone's character or personality. This evaluative process usually assumes that particular behaviour is being necessarily brought by the agent of which he/she is held responsible. The relationship between agent and his action thus holds a substantial relation. A virtuous person, as we have discussed in this chapter, is habituated to perform a good action. The performance of action reveals the character trait of the agent. A virtuous person *attracts* the attention of others by performing good deeds, while a vicious person *repels* the attention of good people, but may not fail to attract the attention of some vicious persons. The character is emitted through action that relates the person to the world. However, the character is divided as *in character* and *out of character* on the basis of the agent's action performed in different situations. The agent possesses certain natural traits by birth and also by upbringing through the proper inculcation of habits which refers to the notion of *in character*. For example, honesty could be someone's *in character* trait. An honest person might develop this trait through the proper inculcation of virtuous action over a period of his/her upbringing. Honesty is a virtue. On the other hand, if the action is performed by the agent on the basis of the situation, rather than traits that he/she possesses. Here, the mode in which action is brought out by the agent shows that it is *out of* his *character*. For example, caring parents sometimes are forced to act dishonestly or compelled to tell a white lie when their children demand to undertake some vicious action. The parents in this situation are forced to neglect their own moral character for the well-being of their children. In a societal setup, often such changes in the character traits are found. Considering this Aristotle had introduced the *evaluation* of character with regard to their performance of the habitual action and more importantly how the character traits are developed by integrating with the unity of virtue.

According to Aristotle, behavioural reliability of

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*global character traits* in alternatively they adopted the *local traits*. Philosopher like, Doris, M. John, *Lack of Character: Personality and Moral Behavior*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002., Marrit, M. Marriar & Harman, Gilbert, "Character", *Handbook of Moral Psychology* (edit) John M. Doris, New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 355-401, 2010. , Marmodoro, Anna , "Moral Character versus Situations: an Aristotelian contribution to the Debate", *Journal of Ancient Philosophy* Vol. V, No. 2, 2011., Wielenberg, Erik J., "Saving Character," *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, Vol. 9, No. 4, pp. 461-491, 2006.

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<sup>2</sup>See the books and articles by different situationists and their writings on Aristotle's moral character who has rejected the Aristotelian notion of global or

agents with respect to their performance of virtuous action strongly forms the character traits. This conception of a trait is understood as settled and integrated dispositional feature of the agent in order to have appropriate judgment and appropriate feelings with response to a given situation. In the *Nicomachean Ethics*, he writes:

It is not possible to be good in the strict sense without practical wisdom, nor to be practically wise without moral virtue. But in this way we may also refute the dialectical argument whereby it might be contended that the virtues exist in separation from each other; the same man, it might be said, is not best equipped by nature for all the virtues, so that he will have already acquired one when he has not yet acquired another. This is possible in respect of the natural virtues, but not in respect of those in respect of which a man is called without qualification good; for with the presence of the one quality, practical wisdom, will be given all the virtues. (1999: 1144b32-1145a2)

A virtuous person is treated as morally wise because s/he performs an action that is morally desirable. And, this performance as we have discussed in the last chapter refers to the notion of practical wisdom. But, moral virtues are necessary for strengthening practical wisdom and as well as the moral will of the person. Character of the agent much depends upon these two elements; practical wisdom and moral virtues. A practically wise person tries to integrate virtues while performing an action which exhibits agent's robust character. This is also termed as global character traits. 'This character speaks about moral virtue and its relationship with choice that the agent makes or considers as something desirable to undertake. The agent's decision here is product of contemplative thinking. Thus, intellectually the agent tries to comprehend the truth in agreement with the desirable action' (Aristotle 1999: 1139-a20-30).

This above realistic conception of Aristotle moral virtue and character has been criticised by the situationists. The situationists' examine the relevance of agent's physical and psychological well-being taking into account the ethical behaviour. John Doris is one of the well-known situationists<sup>3</sup> along with

<sup>3</sup>Situationists referred by John M. Doris in his book *Lack of Character* (2002) such as Walter Michael-Stanford Prison-role, Stanley Milligram-Authority of Obedience, Ross and Nisbett who holds that behavioral differences are due less to individual dispositional differences than to situational ones; that

Marrit M. Marriarand Gilbert Harman argue against the Aristotelian idea of character formation. Doris claims in his book *Lack of Character: Personality and Moral Behavior* (2002) that character-based ethical theories manifest greater 'psychological realism' than their competitors', in the context of their discussion of moral psychology maintained by virtue ethicists like Anscombe (1958: 1-15) and Williams (1985:206). On the contrary to virtue ethics, Doris and other situationists claim that current character based philosophical approach is skeptical and empirically inadequate (Doris: 2002: 4). This goes against Aristotle's realistic conception of moral character traits – *global character traits* (globalism) on the basis of various psychological experiments such as Stanford Prison-role playing (1973), Stanley Miligram-authority (obedience) (1974), Methews and Cannon (1975), etc. Doris writes:

Four related observations tell against globalism ... (1) Low consistency correlations suggest that behaviour is not typically ordered by robust traits. (2) The determinative impact of unobtrusive situational factors undermines attribution of robust traits. (3) The tenuous relationship found between personality measures and overt behaviour leaves globalist accounts of human functioning empirically undersupported. (4) Biographical information often reveals remarkable personal disintegration. Individually, each type of evidence is perhaps only suggestive, but the collective import is unquestionably awkward for globalism (2002:65).

Firstly, the global character traits reflect consistency between the character of moral agent and his/her behaviours. For Doris, the correlation that gives the impression of such consistency is found to be low. Hence, the global character traits lack a sound ground in order to maintain a robust character trait. Secondly, the robust character trait is also weakened by some of the moral agents who failed to exhibit virtuous character in certain situations. In this connection, Doris is of the opinion that it is difficult to hold a deterministic relationship between moral character and its response to the situational demands.

“to a surprising extent,” people behave similarly in similar situations; that people “typically” behave without the consistency required for trait attributions; that evaluatively inconsistent dispositions may co-habit in a single personality. *Lack of Character: Personality and Moral Behavior*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Thirdly, there is lack of empirical support to map the agent's personality. Every person has a private or *first-person account* of the experience of their own thoughts and feelings which is connected with their character. In this regard, the source of decision and choice is empirically difficult to measure. The first person account of character is often expressed in autobiography or sometimes reported by the biographers where there is evidence of deviation in character traits. An honest person, for example, at the end of his professional career, is found taking bribe which presents a case of personal disintegration. Sometime this episode may not be known to the public, but the agent is found to confess them in their own biography. All these points taken together act against the globalism of character trait.

Doris brought up the criticism on the basis of the various experiment that social psychology has conducted taking into account of people's and their responses to certain respective situations. Although the situations demand for performance of virtuous action still ultimately the agents have shown lack of moral character. In this connection, he says, if we accept Aristotle's globalist or prudential character traits, then the experiments result must be in support of Aristotle's proposed thesis on moral character. In other words, if behaviour is typically ordered by global character traits; systematic observation will reveal behavioural consistency (2002: 385). On the contrary, Doris finds that systematic experiment does not reveal the behavioural consistency. And, inconsistency in the exhibition of moral character is nothing but an evidence of *lack character*.

Doris draws a distinction between character traits into two types, such as global character and local character. Character traits that are developed and shown *stable, consistent* and *integrated characteris* called global character. This character traits are constitutive of certain traits that are reliably manifested in pertinent cases, "over iterated traits of similar trait-relevant eliciting conditions," but also "across a diversity of trait-relevant eliciting conditions, that may vary widely in their conduciveness to the manifestation of the trait in question" (Doris: 2002: 66). This statement of Doris reflects that a temperament person will act temperately on varying situations: with his/her friends, colleagues or any strangers. On the other hand, local character traits are indexed to the specific kinds of situation in which the agents exhibit trait relevant behaviours such as closed-friend-honesty and good-mood-compassion. Doris writes, "Local traits are likely to be extremely fine-grained; a person might be repeatedly helpful in iterated trials of the

same situation and repeatedly unhelpful in iterated trials of another, surprisingly similar situation." (2002: 65). There is no integral connection between an agent and character traits because we don't have empirical evidence for it; thus, all there is to character aggregation of local traits. That means character traits are not integrated with each other. Therefore, his overall conclusion is that "people typically lack character" (2002: 2).

The central argument on *people typically lacks characteris* based on three dominant conceptions of global character traits – *globalism* such as consistency, stability and evaluative integration through which Doris interprets personality as an integrated evaluative association of robust traits. Let's define the following three theses:

**Consistency:** The consistency thesis claims that character and personality traits are reliably manifested in trait-relevant behaviour across a diversity of trait-eliciting conditions that may vary widely in their conduciveness to the manifestation of the trait in question (2002:18-20).

**Stability:** The stability thesis claims that character and personality traits are reliably manifested in trait relevant behaviours over iterated trials of similar trait-relevant eliciting conditions (2002: 22).

**Evaluative integration:** The evaluative integration thesis upholds that a given character or personality where the occurrence of a trait with a particular evaluative valence is probabilistically related to the occurrence of other traits with similar valences. (2002: 22)

Doris' argument is primarily against thesis (i) and (iii). The first two claims are about the nature of moral character traits, while the third is a claim about the relationship among traits within a particular individual. Thesis (i) implies that a compassionate person, for instance, will reliably help others in a variety of situations. A compassionate person is one who values the well-being of others, and this virtue will express itself across a variety of morally challenging situations. A person with this kind of virtue will extend help to others when she has plenty of time and is in a good mood. The same person might not extend help when she is rushed or in a bad mood. Thus, it shows the person lacks consistency in her behaviour. In this regard, Doris claims that lack of consistency would affect the global personality traits as it has been upheld by the consistency thesis. Inconsistent behaviour, for Doris, affects the natural dispositional character trait. Similarly, thesis (iii) suggests a weak version of the *unity* of the virtue which was endorsed by Socrates and Aristotle. According to Doris, though some virtues are

naturally clubbed together, but in their application, these virtues may not be united at all. For instance, compassion and mercy are unified, but it is often also noticed that honest person lack compassion. Hence, it is practically difficult to hold the thesis of integrated character trait on the basis of *theunity of virtue*.

However, Doris' argument against global character trait, though supported by some empirical experiments, still his concern takes a shift from experimental to ethical inquiry. He argues that global traits of character are not empirically adequate, as most of the Western people possess only local traits of character (2002:67). Conducting a large group of psychological experiment he advances the idea that most of western human beings are not compassionate. Thus he argues against global traits and says, "if the experimental subjects are globally compassionate, they would have demonstrated helping behavior across a broad range of normal situations, including the normal situation of the experimental setting, in which subjects were not asked to watch the first confederate's belongings" (2009:182 ).Doris may be only concerned with people belonging to the western civilization, but he accepts *local character traits* as the means of ethical theorization. In order to strengthen the inquiry of local character traits, he illustrates three central features of character traits held by *traditional account of character*,<sup>4</sup> such as mentally grounded, dynamic and global. Mentally grounded features refer to a

<sup>4</sup>We are referring here three features of traditional account of character which are adopted by Plato and Aristotle from Socrates, and explain in their different writings which is founded in Plato's *Laches* and Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* book VI and IX. "Its development and preservation require (a) friendships in which individuals desire the good of others for others' own sakes and (b) political and economic arrangements that promote the conditions under which self-love and friendship flourish". Both Plato and Aristotle believes that excellent moral character involves more than a Socratic understanding of the good. They think that virtue requires a harmony between cognitive and affective elements of the person. Aristotle tries to explain what this harmony consists in by exploring the psychological foundations of moral character. He thinks that the virtuous person is characterized by a no stereotypical self-love that he understands as a love of the exercise of fully realized rational activity. For that we need self-love.

character trait where one must possess stable mental features which ought to be grounded on those traits. For instance, a brave person must possess a certain range of beliefs, desire, reasons, willpower, attitudes, and emotions, patterns of deliberation, dispositions, and perceptual sensitivities. Dynamics features of character traits refer to certain features which are appropriate for certain behavioural and attitudinal output. The dynamism is due to character traits that typically enable to possess, flourish, live valuable life in order to live ultimately happy life. Performance of right action is essential as it supports the notion of flourishing life which is articulated through our dynamic engagement with the world. A moral person grows by encountering various challenging situations of life and hence their behaviour has to be dynamic (Upton 2009: 176). Finally, the global feature of character trait holds that certain character traits are global because these kinds of character traits must issue behaviour across the broad range of normal situations. However, the traditional features of character traits are permanently fixed. And the philosophical debate that occurs within this context of the fixed core concerns is due to a variety of distinct and normatively rooted factors. But Doris has initiated additional features over the traditional account of character traits that are about local traits. Local character traits are empirically proven and therefore help in understanding motives of the moral agent. Doris does undermine the significance of global character trait maintained by virtue ethics. The rejection of global character trait thesis has an impact on the notion of unification of virtue as it has been advocated by Aristotle. Thus Doris upholds the thesis of local traits only which is endorsed by social psychological experiment.

In this connection, Candace Upton has provided two supporting arguments in favour of Doris' experimental account on local character traits. According to Upton, local character traits deserve to have more substantial argument in order to support the idea of moral character. Upton has given two arguments in support of local traits. "First, local traits are necessary for us accurately to morally appraise ourselves and other and, second, local traits are necessary for the concept of justice to retain its normative integrity" (2009: 183). It is necessary for all moral agents to self-knowledge. Unless they know or believe what they can do, it would be difficult to judge their character traits. If a moral agent often aimlessly behaves, then there wouldn't be possible to conceptualize the agent local character traits. The moral agent ought to have integrity in order to perform a just act. The notion of justice demands personal integrity. Individual character traits must be

reasonable and independent of empirical situations. And, this is necessary in order to maintain normative stability in moral behaviour.

Doris account of local traits is inadequate to evaluate moral character; this is particularly with reference to the nature and justification of local traits. Virtue ethicists like Candace Upton and Julia Annas have raised criticism against Doris' social psychological approach of local traits. According to Upton, globally courageous agent behaves courageously across a broad range of normal situations. Whereas, Doris believes that someone who is only *mountain-climbing-courageous* (2009:183) would behave courageously only in that kind of situation; therefore, being courageous is only an evidence of a local exhibition of the courageous trait.

An agent who fails to behave courageously (in the case of mountain-climbing-courage) across a boarder range of kind situations is either the mountaineer is not in right frame of mind or s/he might have been in adverse mental conditions. A close examination of these situations is necessary in order to talk about the nature of global trait which is radically different from Doris thesis on local character trait. As Upton writes, "Doris provides no reason why we should think of mountain-climbing-courage as a normatively-valence character trait at all, rather than merely a disposition to behave, unrelated in any relevant way to the traditionally understood traits of courage. If local traits are not character traits, there is no reason for the virtue ethics to displace or for the virtue ethicist to supplant or their traditional account of character traits" (Upton 2009: 183).

According to Upton, even, Doris does not give any reason to virtue ethicists why does he endorse local character traits. The psychological condition of the agent is not only important to behave morally, but also it helps the agent to deliberate and reason out the action. For example, suppose that *S* protects herself from her fear of the intimacy of close relationships by lying to friends and family, while she is consistently honest with strangers and acquaintances' (2009:183). In this case, *S*'s fear represents her psychological state; where she is not truthful because she believes that by being truthful to her parents and friends she might lose her intimacy with the partners. The fear is the cause of *S*'s dishonesty. On the other hand, *S* has been consistent in her honest attitudes with strangers and acquaintances. This ambivalence in character trait is grounded in the psychological state of *S*. Virtue does

not govern the character trait. To be honest, one must be truthful primarily to his/her with friends and family members. Doris while claiming the thesis on local traits has not considered this aspect of the virtuous life of the agent.

Can empirical adequacy threaten the normative function of virtue ethics? According to Doris, the answer is affirmative, because it describes some of the general facts about the normative condition of human life. For Doris, traits are the normativestatusof the common individuals. The change in the empirical situation need not necessarily affect the normative status of a person. Therefore, Upton claims that Doris' notion of local traits would be empirically and normatively outdated. If the empirical situation prevents normativity, then it would also prevent the notion of the local trait. Hence, Doris seems to Upton only a fair-weather-friend of local traits (2009: 184).

Julia Annas, an exponent of virtue ethics, has been critical of Doris' rejection of global character trait that is maintained by the virtue ethics. But, Annas is not critical of the social psychological approach which Doris carries out to evaluate the moral character traits. Rather, by over emphasizing his position on local character traits "Doris makes heavy use of the situationists tradition in the social psychology but I think that there is a real issue here about the virtues whether we are relying on current social psychological or not" (Annas 2005:636). Virtue ethics has a larger theoretical framework to speak about global character trait; the situationists have misread the central claim of virtue ethics. The lack of virtue could be due to lack of integrity. Aristotle's virtue ethics in this regard reflects upon *akratic* person who morally deviates in their conduct. But that does not seriously affect the theoretical stance of virtue ethics, because "*virtue is considered as a disposition to act on reason.*" (2005: 637) Unless the agent undertakes decision rationally or deliberates before making a choice, it would be difficult to propose the idea of consistent character trait. Moral character develops by a systematic practice of virtue in habitual action. Rational actions are normatively guided by virtue in order to develop moral habits and also to strengthen the *will power* of the person, as we have discussed in details in the next chapter. However, Annas points out that virtuous life and rational thinking must *mutually reinforce* each other for the development of moral character. She writes, "The more you develop a virtue, the less important to you is a mere habit, and the more complex and flexible you ability to reason about new and innovative kind of situation you may be faced

with. Hence, the more virtuous you are, the more complex and dynamic your character.” (2005: 637) The character of a moral person has to be *dynamic* and *complex* as it is nurtured through various unexpected situations of life.

A moral person ought to judge a situation and act accordingly. One might fail in some occasion, but thereby he/she does not cease to be moral. The situational challenges are also not rejected, rather counted in favour of nurturing the moral character of a person that adds to character dynamism. The intelligent decision can make to develop a skill which is important to practical reason. A virtuous person can strengthen their character without paying much attention to the situation, rather by an emphasizing on *firmness* in intelligent deliberation. A morally weak person can commit blunder whereas a morally strong person is not only intelligent but also exhibit *firmness*. If in certain situation the agent fails to show that he lacks firmness in character, this is because the agent might have deliberated and considered the action not worth undertaking. This is because, commitment to act in a particular way is not merely an obligation, rather it is an action to be considered *cognitively* worth undertaking – Annas calls these “actions are sort of *cognitive duty*” (2005: 638).

Annas is of the opinion that situationists like Doris underestimates the moral authority of a virtuous person. This only happens when one fails to see that virtues act as a unified normative principle of life. A person exhibits virtues by taking right decision at the right hour. And, there is no superficiality involved in while undertaking a virtuous action. To be virtuous is to perform a virtuous action and live a virtuous life. While undertaking the action he/she realizes the value of action. Practical wisdom or *phronesis* logically associated with *living* a virtuous life. A morally wise person is prepared to take up a good decision about unseen situation. The preparedness is given importance in virtue ethics as it helps the person to be morally fit and take up challenges in future situations. In this regard, Anna emphasizes that “personality trait has to be *evaluatively integrated*” (2005: 639).

Moreover, Annas says, “the book contains no arguments against virtue ethics in the actual Aristotelian tradition; it sets up as opponent only a radically unintellectual version of virtue” (2005:639). Virtue ethics are not insensitive to situational demand; rather they put more emphasis on evaluation of the situation and appreciate responsible judgment from the side of the moral agent. There may be moral failures; it might happen that one fails to respond reasonably well in some situations. But that need not

be counted as a total deviation for the integral approach that global character upholds. The agent must be given opportunity to recovery from the moral loss and to undertake this approach integration of virtues is necessary. That is to say, failing in one situation need not imply that all other possibilities of morally correcting oneself are closed. Reformative paths of learning virtue and their implementation in daily life should always be kept open to all individuals of the society. Thus virtue ethics sound enough as a moral theory to discuss the moral failure and success by undertaking some of the psychological experiments from the everyday life. But, it is also important that we need to reflect deeply the inner potential of virtue ethics that maintains the significance of global character traits thesis. In this connection, virtue ethics emphasizes upon *willpower* and *moral strength* to integrate all virtues or prudential capacities.

### Conclusion

In this chapter, we proposed to discuss two aspects: whether Aristotle’s notions of habits are naturalistic or non-naturalistic, and can good habit help to form a moral character. Along with this two views, John Doris’ contrasting notion of local character traits against Aristotle’s global character traits was also discussed to understand and revival of Aristotle’s notion of character formation. Following the discussion, we find that the naturalistic construal of habit has been behaviouristic by associating habit with innate, instinctive nature of life. The development of moral character goes beyond the naturalistic construal of habit in the form of physical skill. Rather the non-naturalistic perspective shows how Aristotle’s notion of virtue and its inculcation in everyday life that results in developing moral character is grounded on the normative power of freedom of will. That is to say; the moral character is developed by strengthening the power of will. To behave morally, there is need to follow virtue in everyday life. The process of habituation refines the skill of performing good action. To regulate the habits and formation of right judgment in the right situation, Aristotle brings in the notion of practical wisdom defined in terms of rational ability to deliberate and exercise the power of will to realize *eudemonia*. The Aristotelian conceptualization of moral agency is grounded in rational ability to inculcate virtue in everyday life. Virtue as guiding principles of moral action is construed delving into the teleological explanation of life. The non-naturalistic interpretation, in this regard, provides a teleological account of the role of virtue and its intrinsic relation in building moral character – that is, “a reasoned and true state of capacity to act with



regard to the human good” (1999:1140b20-25).

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