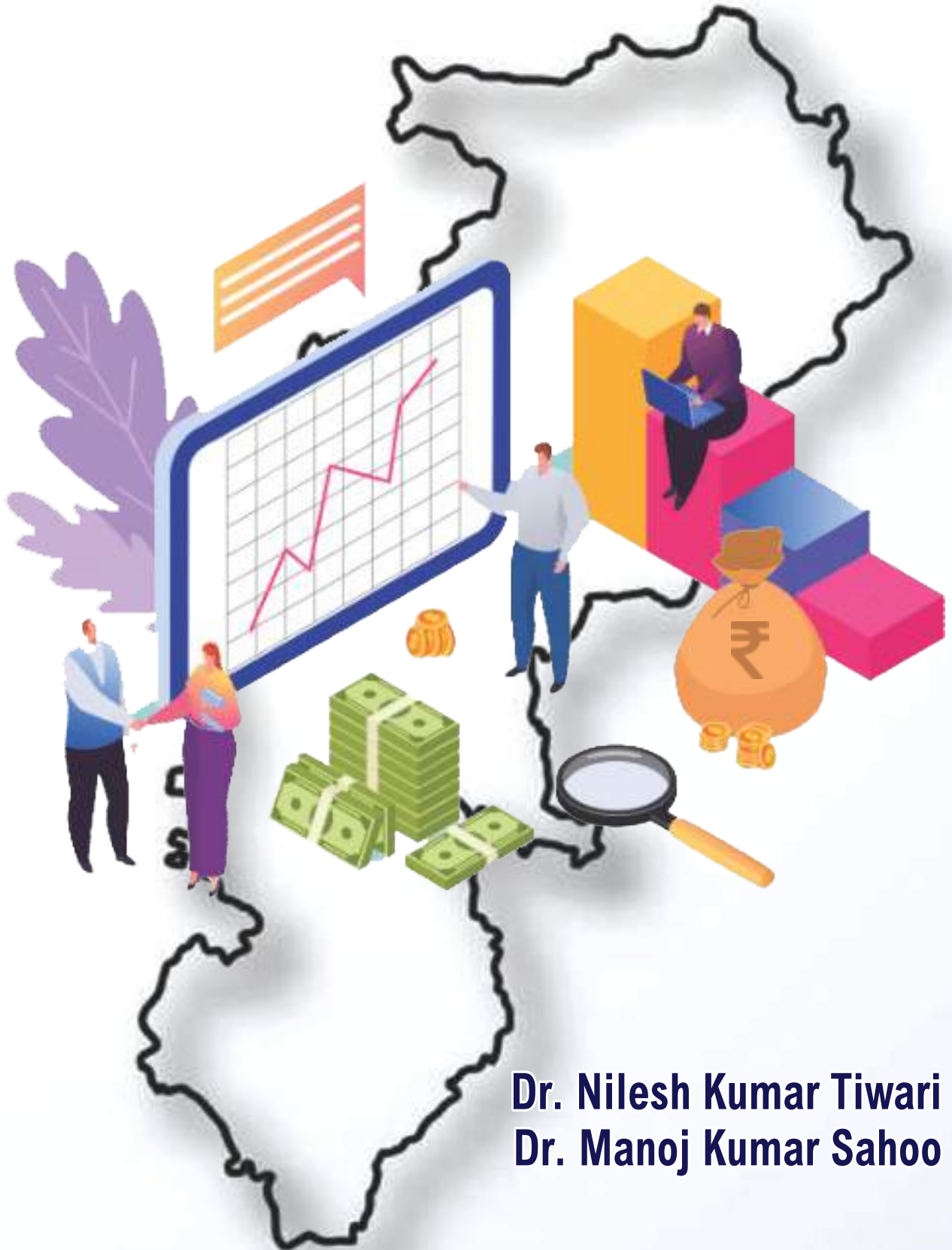


ISBN : 978-93-92568-50-3

ENTREPRENEURSHIP ECOSYSTEM IN CHHATTISGARH OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES



**Dr. Nilesh Kumar Tiwari
Dr. Manoj Kumar Sahoo**

ISBN: 978-93-92568-50-3

**Entrepreneurship Ecosystem in Chhattisgarh:
Opportunities and Challenges**

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Publisher:

Aditi Publication, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, INDIA

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Year : 2023

Edition - 01

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Price : Rs. 1700/-

Publisher & Printed by :

Aditi Publication,

Opp. New Panchajanya vidya Mandir, Near Tiranga Chowk,
Kushalpur, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, INDIA
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Dedicated to our Respected Parents

Preface

In the ever-evolving landscape of business and innovation, the role of entrepreneurship cannot be underestimated. Entrepreneurs are the driving force behind economic growth, job creation, and societal development. They possess the vision, passion, and determination to transform ideas into tangible realities, thereby shaping the future.

This book aims to shed light on the entrepreneurship ecosystem in Chhattisgarh, a state that holds immense potential for nurturing and fostering entrepreneurial ventures. Chhattisgarh, situated in the heart of India, has witnessed significant strides in recent years, with a burgeoning startup culture and a supportive ecosystem taking shape. Through this book, we delve into the various opportunities and challenges that entrepreneurs encounter in their journey within the state.

The chapters in this book bring together a wealth of knowledge, insights, and experiences from experts, researchers, and entrepreneurs who have been instrumental in shaping the entrepreneurial landscape of Chhattisgarh. Each chapter explores a specific aspect of the entrepreneurship ecosystem, covering areas such as policy framework, funding mechanisms, incubation centers, skill development initiatives, and success stories of Chhattisgarh-based startups.

We aim to provide a comprehensive understanding of the ecosystem's strengths and weaknesses, identify the opportunities that exist, and address the challenges that entrepreneurs face. By doing so, we hope to inspire aspiring entrepreneurs, policymakers, investors, and other stakeholders

to collaborate and further strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Chhattisgarh.

It is essential to acknowledge that this book is a snapshot of the entrepreneurship ecosystem in Chhattisgarh at the time of its writing, and the landscape is constantly evolving. It is our sincere hope that this book serves as a starting point for further discussions, research, and action to unleash the full potential of entrepreneurship in Chhattisgarh.

We extend our gratitude to all the contributors who have generously shared their knowledge and experiences, making this book possible. We also express our appreciation to the readers for their interest in understanding the entrepreneurship ecosystem of Chhattisgarh.

We hope that this book sparks curiosity, ignites conversations, and serves as a catalyst for a vibrant and thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem in Chhattisgarh.

Dr. Nilesh Kumar Tiwari
Dr. Manoj Kumar Sahoo

Socio-Economic Profile of Chhattisgarh

The Amrit Mahotsav of Independence is being celebrated in India which signifies 75 years of independence. On the other hand, in terms of economic parameters, India has grown rapidly to become the 5th largest economy in the world. After successful vaccination and defeating the global pandemic, economic development is estimated at 8.7 and 7.0 percent in the year 2021-22 and 2022-23 respectively. India is also the youngest country in demographics, in which 65 percent of the population consists of youths. Along with this, good governance, development of infrastructure, energy, developed health facilities and technology are the catalysts of providing a strong basis for making the country self-reliant in the 21st century.

The youth of Chhattisgarh is poised to become the pioneer of the whole country. Chhattisgarh has achieved the status of a peace-loving state full of abundant mineral wealth and forest abundance. The state of Chhattisgarh characterizes the name of "Rice Bowl". The state of Chhattisgarh (South Kosal) has the pride of being the maternal grandfather of Lord Shri Ram, the king of Ayodhya, in which tourism is being developed in the form of Ram Van Gaman Path tourism circuit. The work participation ratio in the state is 47.68 percent and Chhattisgarh is counted on the forefront as a state with minimum unemployment rate.

Advanced health facilities are becoming the identity of Chhattisgarh. On one hand, while in 2001-03 the maternal mortality rate per 1 lakh live birth was 379, it has decreased to 137 (SRS Report 2018-2020). Increasing institutional delivery

and falling malnutrition has decreased the infant mortality rate to 38 in the year 2022, which, at the time of the state's formation was 77. The target for the same under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been kept to 15 by the year 2030 for Chhattisgarh.

At the time of establishment of Chhattisgarh state, the leprosy incidence rate of the state was 8.2 per 10,000, which is 1.77 per ten thousand in the month of September 2022. For rare diseases identified under the Chief Minister's Special Health Assistance Scheme, a maximum of Rs.20 lakh will be provided to eligible families of the state for diseases treatment facility.

Presently, 46,059 Anganwadi and 5,644 mini Anganwadi centers are operational in the state. According to the weight festival (Year 2022), the rate of malnutrition has come down to 17.76 percent. In comparison to the year 2021, there has been a decrease of 2.1 percent in the rate of malnutrition in the year 2022.

Chhattisgarh is on the path of becoming an organic state. The chemical fertilizers are being replaced with the purchase of cow dung and the compost made from it, through Gothans.

Prompt initiatives are being taken in the direction of ethanol production in the state. The production of agricultural products as well as horticulture crops is increasing year by year in the state. Chhattisgarh is becoming a millet hub in India.

14 districts of Chhattisgarh are marked as Millet district. Employment and nutrition are being promoted through Millet Cafe. The state of Chhattisgarh has set a new record in the field of education. Swami Atmanand Excellence School is providing modern quality education to the students through English / Hindi medium. 1.55 lakh girl students are to be benefitted under Saraswati Cycle Yojana in the year 2021-22.

Based on UIDAI for the session 2021-22, the gross enrolment rate in the state is 96.61 in primary schools and 94.49 in upper primary schools. About 3,35,139 students are studying in government colleges in the year 2022-23.

In the year 2021-22, 4,61,168 beneficiaries were benefited under the Social Security Pension Scheme.

Under the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme, 6,51,958 beneficiaries were benefited in the year 2021-22. 9,848 beneficiaries in the year 2021-22 under the National Family Assistance Scheme benefited. Till September in the year 2022-23, 153 students of Scheduled Castes and 186 students of Scheduled Tribes were benefitted under the Nursing Training Scheme.

Economic development of Chhattisgarh (Gross State Domestic Product)

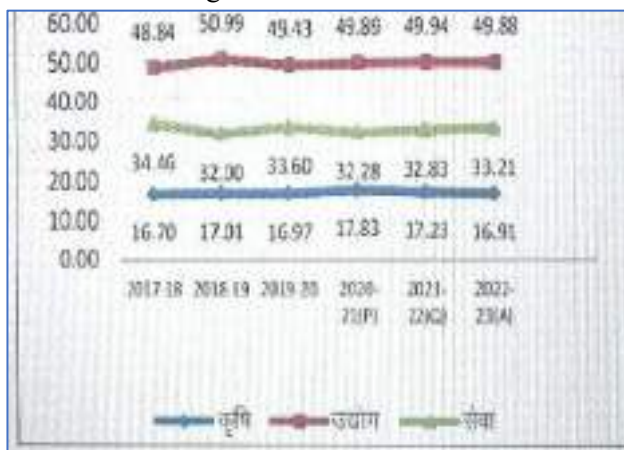
The Gross State Domestic Product of any state expresses the economic progress of that state. In the state's Gross Domestic Product (at constant prices), from the year 2012-13 to 2022-2023, an average increase of 5.73 percent was recorded.

In the year 2022-23, the participation of agriculture and allied sector is estimated at 16.91 percent and that of industry sector at 49.88 percent. The share of service sector is expected to be 33.21 percent in the same period.

The information obtained from the analysis of the received data is as follows:

In the financial year 2022-23, revenue receipt of Rs.8,90,73.25 crore and revenue expenditure of Rs.8,83,71.61 crore is estimated. Thus, revenue deficit of Rs.701.64 crores is seen. A 7.55 percent increase in total tax revenue is estimated for the financial year 2022-23.

Industry Group-wise Gross State Domestic Product of Chhattisgarh State at Constant Price



*Figure 1: Gross State Domestic Product at Constant Prices
Sector wise share (in percentage)*

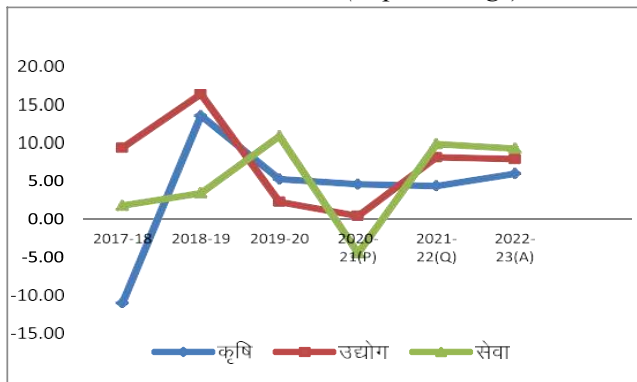


Figure 2: Sector-wise percentage increase in Gross State Domestic Product at constant prices

The major contribution in non-tax revenue is from the grants-in-aid received from the Central Government. Its contribution

to the total non-tax revenue receipts for the year 2022-23 is estimated at 51.94 percent.

The banking activities of the state of Chhattisgarh are continuously progressing. As of June 2022, the bank deposits are Rs.2,14,424.87 crores, which is 11.84 percent more as compared to June 2021. Credit (advances) to agriculture sector increased by 20.06 percent during this reference period.

Fish production in the state from all sources in the year 2021-22 is 5,91,284 metric tonnes, which is 2.42 percent more than the previous year. A total of 1.999 lakh hectare water area is available in the state of Chhattisgarh, out of which 1.961 lakh hectare water area has been developed under fisheries, which is 98.09 percent of the total water area.

As of 31 March 2022, the production of coal is 1,54, 120 thousand tonnes, that of iron ore is 41,313 thousand tonnes, 41,888 thousand tonnes of limestone, 968 thousand tonnes of bauxite, and 26,383 kg of tin have been produced.

Presently, the "Industrial Policy 2019-24" for planned development in the state has been adopted. About 59,175 weavers on about 19,725 looms in the year 2021-22 in the state engaged in direct or indirect employment.

In the year 2022-23, under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, employment to 13.55 lakh families till September, and 325.57 lakh man days have been generated, out of which the share of women is 52 percent. Employment of 100 days to 6,185 families is given by September in the year 2022-23.

Under the half electricity bill scheme, in the year 2021-22, till September 2021, about 41.94 lakh consumers of the state will get Rs.548.77 crore of exemption.

In the year 2022-23, as of September 2022, 2,51,042 handpumps in 75,233 habitations of 19,678 villages in rural areas of the state, 16,716 in schools and 14,577 handpumps in Anganwadi centers, thus providing pure drinking water by installing a total of 2,82,335 handpumps.

Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, in the year 2022-23, as of September 2022, a total of 4,83,034 families have been provided drinking water through household tap connections.

As of November 2022, 1,678 in urban areas and 11,829 in rural areas, total 13,507 fair price shops are operational. Presently, total 72.71 lakh ration cards are being used.

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dissemination of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with National Foundation for India (NFI) SDGs initiative during 2016-17. As Public Policy Researcher, contributed in drafting three important public policies of Chhattisgarh state, including Draft Sports Policy-2016, Draft Youth Policy-2016 and Draft Policy for Persons with Disabilities-2017, under leadership of Dr. Sunil Kumar (IAS-Retd.), the former Chief Secretary and Vice Chairperson, CGSPC. Dr. Tiwari is management consultant, public policy researcher, social worker and online educator who teaches, trains and guides students online through YouTube Channel, the Institute of Social Work & Research (www.iswr.in)



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₹ 1700