

Taxation and Financial Crisis in India: Tracing its History and Future in India

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Abstract- The research titled "Taxation and Financial Crisis in India: Historical Trajectory and Future Implications" seeks to delve comprehensively into the intricate interplay among taxation, financial crises, and economic stability within the context of India. By delving into India's historical encounters with financial crises, assessing the influence of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on the broader population, analysing the evolution of taxation policies and structures, and identifying the underlying factors contributing to financial vulnerabilities, the study aims to offer a multifaceted understanding of these complex relationships. This exploration is crucial for shaping evidence-based policies that foster economic resilience and promote the well-being of the populace.

Employing a robust mixed-methods approach, the research combines qualitative interviews conducted with five individuals and a quantitative survey involving 42 participants. This dual-pronged strategy provides a comprehensive view of the intricate dynamics between taxation and financial crises.

The study reveals the historical trajectory of financial crises in India, underscores the transformative potential of GST, and sheds light on the evolution of taxation policies. Additionally, it underscores the interconnectedness of India's economy with global financial systems, emphasising the nation's vulnerability to external economic shocks.

In conclusion, the findings of this study carry significant implications for policymakers and researchers alike, furnishing invaluable insights to navigate India's economic landscape adeptly. By deepening the comprehension of the interplay between taxation and financial crises, the research contributes to shaping strategies that fortify economic stability and advance the overall welfare of the population.

Keywords: Taxation, Financial Crisis, India

Introduction

1) The History of financial crisis in India:

a. **First crises** – India encountered a conventional external payment crisis in 1991, marked by significant fiscal and current account deficits, external borrowing to cover the deficits, mounting debt service obligations, increasing inflation, and insufficient adjustments in the exchange rate. In 1979, a fiscal deficit had already been triggered by factors such as oil reserves, agricultural subsidies, and a growth strategy fueled by consumption. The deficit escalated further in the mid-1980s due to a substantial rise in defence expenditure and a progressive reduction in direct taxes. As a consequence, the deficit swelled from 1985, ultimately reaching 9.4 percent by 1990-1991. (A Ghosh, 2006)

b. **Second crises** – During the 2008 global financial crisis, there was initial optimism in India about the economy's resilience to international turmoil. However, it became evident that the balance of payments and domestic financial sector were significantly affected. This had implications for domestic banking, leading to a credit crunch that particularly impacted small and medium enterprises' access to credit. The crisis also influenced macroeconomic factors, such as the exchange rate, and had direct and indirect effects on employment, especially in export sectors. Despite these challenges, Indian policymakers remained complacent, highlighting the GDP growth rate and the perceived resilience of the financial sector, which were not as positive as claimed. Fragility and inadequacy in the banking sector were apparent, including the growth of risky retail credit, securitization attempts, and the inability to provide loans to medium and small borrowers. Additionally, key macroeconomic indicators deteriorated suddenly, including a decline in foreign exchange reserves, depreciation of the rupee against the US dollar, and a drop in stock market indices. (J Ghosh, 2009)

c. **Ongoing crisis** - The global COVID-19 pandemic has caused a standstill in commerce, education, economy, entertainment, and transportation worldwide. The impact on society has been profound, and solidarity is crucial in the fight against the virus. India implemented a nationwide lockdown, affecting businesses and leading to financial hardships for millions. The pandemic disrupted supply chains, closed national borders, and caused a collapse in consumption demand. COVID-19 presents both health and economic challenges, forcing countries to implement measures like social distancing, self-isolation, and lockdowns. India, among the most affected nations, faces significant economic concerns and needs more support for affected individuals and families. (D Hardaswani, 2021)

2) GST and its effects on the common man of India:

Taxation plays a vital role in the economic development of a country, ensuring income distribution and generating revenue to support public services and infrastructure. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) was introduced in India to replace multiple indirect taxes and establish a uniform tax system. The idea of GST was first considered by the Kelkar Committee in 2004 as part of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act 2003. GST eliminates the cascading effect of taxes and creates a common national market for goods and services, harmonising indirect taxes levied by the Union and State Governments.

GST encompasses a total of seventeen indirect taxes and is imposed at variable rates ranging from 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28% plus luxury cess. Its implementation reduces the tax burden on the manufacturing sector, aligning with the "Make in India" initiative and stimulating increased production, leading to job creation. The simplified tax structure attracts productive investment, including direct investments, which contribute to the country's growth. Furthermore, GST eliminates customs duties on exports, enhancing the competitiveness of the Indian market. These advantages result in increased government revenue and reduced costs of revenue collection, supporting the development of infrastructure and other facilities in the country.

The primary objective of GST is to establish a one-nation, one-tax regime, enhancing transparency in the tax structure and instilling confidence in the common man. GST's implementation aims to reduce corruption by promoting transparency and online filing. However, challenges arise in the form of technical issues, particularly with the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN). The system's capacity to process forms is limited, resulting in difficulties in filing. Consequently, businesses increasingly rely on professionals and advocates, which adds pressure and increases fees. Another major issue concerns input tax credit, with businesses facing delays in claiming credits.

In conclusion, while GST brings several advantages, including a simplified tax structure and increased transparency, addressing technical issues and streamlining processes related to the GSTN is crucial. By resolving these challenges, GST can continue to contribute to India's economic growth and development. (Agnihotri, DR. Tripathi, & Singh, 2018)

3) Taxation Slabs and Policies:

a. Pre-GST - Tax policies have a significant impact on a country's economic progress, efficiency, and equity. It is crucial to design effective taxation policies that consider income distribution and generate tax revenues for investment in infrastructure, defence, public amenities, security, and exports.

In India, the authority to impose and collect indirect taxes lies with the Central and State Governments, as mandated by the Constitution. Indirect taxes are levied on goods and services transactions and vary depending on manufacturers, point of sale, imports, or exports. The tax collection systems are designed to apply taxes based on the origin of taxable activities.

The journey of indirect taxation in India has witnessed several reforms leading up to the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST). This includes the recommendation of a VAT system in 1974, the introduction of MODVAT in 1986, the acceptance of VAT/GST recommendations in 1991, the introduction of service tax in 1994, and the implementation of VAT-based taxation in various states between 2005 and 2006. The process culminated in the release of the GST structure in 2008, with a proposed implementation in 2010.

The existing Indian taxation system faced limitations and challenges. Prior to the introduction of VAT and CENVAT, the system was complex, leading to cascading effects with taxes imposed at multiple stages. However, the implementation of VAT and CENVAT brought greater efficiency. Challenges included valuation issues, the distribution of taxation powers between the Central and State Governments, difficulties in classifying certain goods for taxation, and the need for improved monitoring and administration. The presence of multiple taxes and varying norms across states also contributed to inflationary pressures. (Nayyar & Singh, 2018)

b. Post-GST – The introduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India was driven by the need to replace the existing tax system, which led to resource misallocation and lower productivity in the economy. The objectives of GST were to optimise efficiency and equity, prevent export of taxes, create a common market, and promote cooperative federalism. The implementation of GST was expected to bring several advantages, such as equitable distribution of the tax burden, broader tax base, reduced distortions, lower compliance costs, and promotion of exports and economic growth.

The definition of GST in the Indian Constitution states that it encompasses any tax on the supply of goods or services, except for taxes on alcoholic liquor for human consumption. VAT, which was introduced in 2005, laid the foundation for GST implementation. The GST system is dual in nature, with both the Central and State governments levying and collecting taxes. GST became effective in India on July 1, 2017, replacing multiple taxes and establishing a single national tax under the control of the Central Government.

GST is considered a comprehensive tax system that covers the manufacture, sale, and consumption of goods and services. It simplifies the tax policy, improves tax collection, reduces inflation, and enhances transparency in the corporate sector. The importance of GST extends to trade, government, and consumers. For trade, GST reduces multiplicity of taxes, ensures tax neutrality for exports, and creates a common economic market. The government benefits from a transparent tax system, broader tax base, increased revenue collection, and efficient resource utilisation. Consumers experience reduced costs, increased household income and purchasing power, higher savings, and greater investment potential.

While GST encompasses most goods and services, there are exemptions for public services, transactions between employers and employees, education and health services provided by non-government entities, and unbranded food items. The implementation of GST aims to address the issues of development, double taxation, and non-taxation, and establish a transparent and efficient taxation system in India. (Nayyar & Singh, 2018)

4) Factors leading to Financial Crises in India:

India experienced dismay during the financial crisis, primarily due to two factors. First, it was believed that Indian banks had minimal exposure to toxic subprime assets and limited off-balance sheet activities, so they should have been immune to the crisis originating from these causes. Second, India's growth was thought to be driven by domestic demand, suggesting that a drop in external demand would only have a minor impact on output growth. However, the crisis hit India harder than expected due to its integration into the global system, which had been underestimated.

Over the past decade, India's two-way trade (exports plus imports) as a percentage of GDP more than doubled, from 19.6% in 1998/99 to 40.7% in 2008/09. This shows that India's trade integration was deeper than anticipated. Global trade declined by 11% in 2009 due to the crisis, contrasting with the robust average growth of 8.6% in the preceding years of 2004-2007. The sharp collapse in world trade had a significant impact on India's export demand, highlighting the depth of its trade integration.

Moreover, India's financial integration was even more profound than its trade integration. The ratio of total external transactions (gross current account flows plus gross capital account flows) to GDP more than doubled from 44% in 1998/99 to 112% in 2008/09, underscoring the depth of India's financial integration.

In conclusion, despite mitigating factors, India was affected by the financial crisis due to its substantial trade and financial integration with the world. The interconnectedness of India's economy with the global system played a crucial role in transmitting the impact of the crisis to the country. (Subbarao, 2011)

Procedure

The aim of this comprehensive study is to investigate the interplay between financial crises, GST's impact on the common man, taxation slabs, policies, and the underlying factors contributing to financial crises in India. Utilising a mixed-methods approach, the research will conduct in-depth interviews with five individuals and administer a survey to approximately 42 participants. Qualitative insights from the interviews with quantitative data from the survey, the study seeks to provide valuable and nuanced insights for future researchers. Through this holistic analysis, the research aims to inform evidence-based policies, foster financial stability, and promote the welfare of the common man amidst India's economic landscape.

A combination of qualitative and quantitative methods was employed to support the stated objective.

A total of **five** individuals were interviewed, and subsequently, a survey was conducted with a sample size of **50** participants.

I chose this topic for my research paper about taxation and its implications on financial crises due to its paramount significance in the realm of economics and policy making. The subject matter addresses pressing issues that impact economies and the livelihoods of individuals. Understanding how taxation policies influence financial stability is crucial for formulating effective economic measures. By delving into the historical context, analysing taxation slabs, policies, and factors contributing to crises, this research endeavours to shed light on potential solutions for promoting financial resilience and equitable economic growth. Through this study, I aim to contribute valuable insights to the academic community and policymakers for informed decision-making.

Results

The aim of this comprehensive study is to investigate the interplay between financial crises, GST's impact on the common man, taxation slabs, policies, and the underlying factors contributing to financial crises in India. A mixed-methods approach was used and in-depth interviews with **five** individuals was administered. A survey with **42** participants was conducted. Qualitative insights from the interviews with quantitative data from the survey, the study sought to provide valuable and nuanced insights for future researchers.

Through this holistic analysis, the research aims to inform evidence-based policies, foster financial stability, and promote the welfare of the common man amidst India's economic landscape.

Table 1 consists of the themes of the interview conducted on 5 people to understand their opinions on GST:

S.no	Themes	Empirical Evidence 1	Empirical Evidence 2
1)	Taxation perspectives	Participant 2 said, "Taxes can affect me in many ways. For instance, when I receive fees, I have to pay tax on that income. Even during my next payment, taxes are deducted, reducing my balance." Participant 3 said, "Earning money through hard work takes a lot of effort, and if the government takes excessive taxes, it doesn't seem fair to me. The amount of tax we pay determines the kind of lifestyle we can afford."	S Nivedha (2021) stated that the Indian taxation system acts as the game changer in order to attract investments, develop local research and development and ensure knowledge transfer into the country.
2)	Salary disparity	Participant 3 said, "The salary problem in India is quite concerning, especially when we compare the private and government sectors."	H Sidhu (2010) stated that labour productivity and wage rates have recorded varying rates of growth in different sub-sectors of the Indian industry during different phases of time.
3)	Improved Structure	Participant 1 said, "It is an absolutely perfect decision and the need of the hour."	R Vasanthagopal (2011) stated that GST will help- widening the

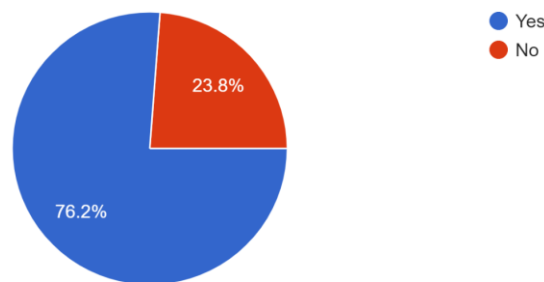
		<p>Participant 3 said, "I believe that the new tax system, GST, is better compared to the previous tax structure."</p> <p>Participant 5 said, "The new tax system, GST, is indeed an improvement over the old system."</p>	coverage of tax base and improve tax compliance.
4)	Past Superiority	<p>Participant 2 said, "I find the old tax system more familiar and comfortable."</p> <p>Participant 4 said, "If you are not willing to invest in anything, the old system might have been better."</p>	V Kumar (2016) stated that due to GST the cost of new homes will increase by 8%. In India, Real estate business is already in a depression. With this change, the situation will become worse.
5)	Rising Living Expenses	<p>Participant 3 said, "In the past, there were instances when some things were not expensive, but now, due to increased demand and population growth, prices have gone up."</p> <p>Participant 4 said, "Living expenses have indeed been affected, and to be honest, it has impacted my life."</p> <p>Participant 5 said, "The prices of essential items like vegetables have risen significantly, for instance, tomatoes now cost around 200 rupees per kg."</p>	M Bala (2018) stated that the proposed GST may lead to increase in price of essential products and services which are presently exempted from the taxation.
6)	Necessary Saving Method	<p>Participant 1 said, "So, if you make the right investments at the right time, it can lead to a revival of your finances. In my opinion, the best way to deal with any financial crisis is to have saving options and keep your cash available."</p> <p>Participant 2 said, " People in India tend to be prudent with their savings, and they often manage their expenses effectively. This cautious approach allows them to lead a stable life even during tough economic situations."</p> <p>Participant 5 said, "My game plan is to save as much money as possible and consider shifting to a different country if there's a severe financial crisis in this country. "</p>	CF Stanback (2017) stated that there is only one way to reverse the pervasive destruction caused by debt- stop spending and start saving money.
7)	Unemployment	<p>Participant 1 said, "The biggest problem India is facing right now is the large population and unemployment."</p> <p>Participant 2 said, "The most significant issue is that a majority of Indians are unemployed, which is the major financial problem."</p>	P Sinha (2013) stated that the increasing population of qualified young Indians has caused turmoil among the young as they are unable to find jobs that are decent and matching their qualifications.

8)	Overpopulation	<p>Participant 1 said, "The biggest problem India is facing right now is the large population and unemployment."</p> <p>Participant 4 said, "Population density and inflation are two of the biggest reasons for financial crises."</p> <p>Participant 5 said, "The first and fundamental problem in India is overpopulation, which has led to high unemployment rates and a lower standard of living for many people."</p>	<p>R Bahadur (2019) stated that population has crossed the optimum limit in India and has become a liability.</p>
9)	Complex tax system	<p>Participant 5 said, "In India, there are various taxes that individuals and businesses have to deal with."</p>	<p>S Agnihotri (2018) stated that due to implementation of GST every business man is running towards professionals and advocates which increase the pressure on the businesses as they are giving more time on filing the return and they are also charging more fees as they are now giving more time.</p>

Further analysis on 42 participants reflected the following results:-

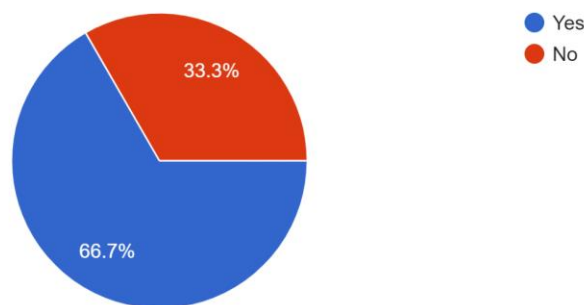
Do you know about the 2008 Global Financial Crisis?

42 responses

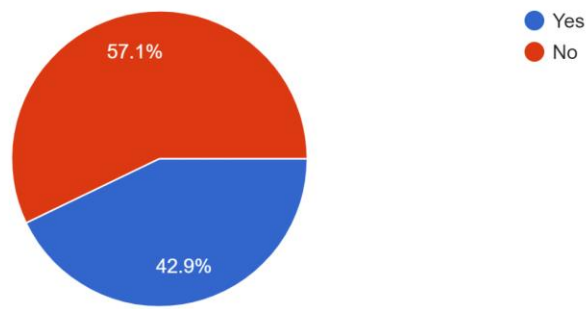


Do you think GST is better than the old tax policies?

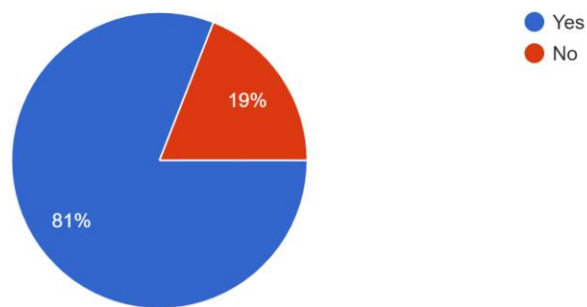
42 responses



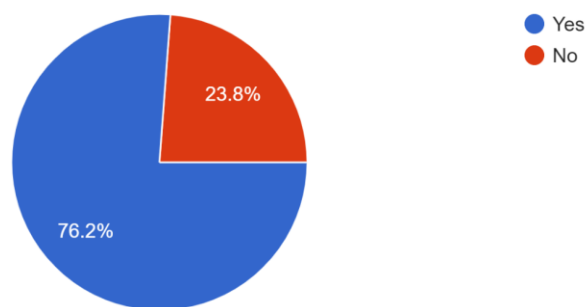
Has the new tax regime affected you badly?
42 responses



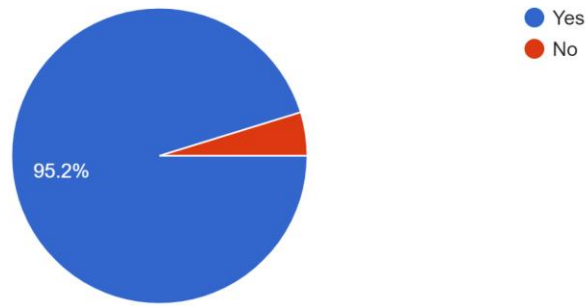
Do you think GST will help in India's Economic growth?
42 responses



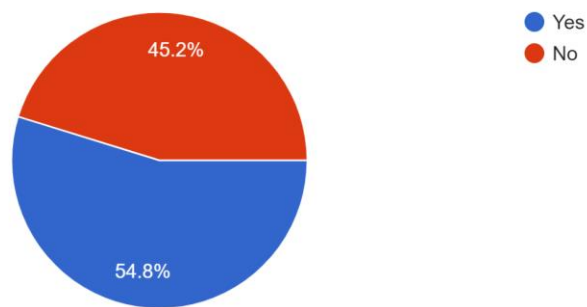
Do you think India has successfully overcome the 2008 Financial Crisis?
42 responses



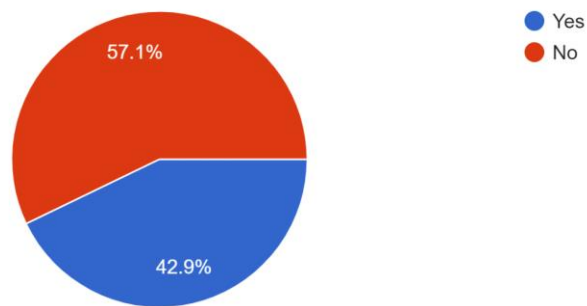
Do you think the prices have increased in the last six years?
42 responses



Do you think India's high export rate was a cause of the 2008 Financial crisis?
42 responses

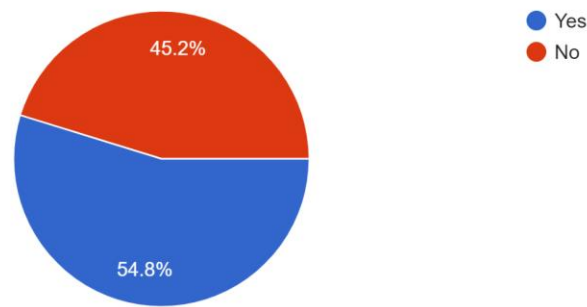


Has the financial crisis affected you in a bad way?
42 responses



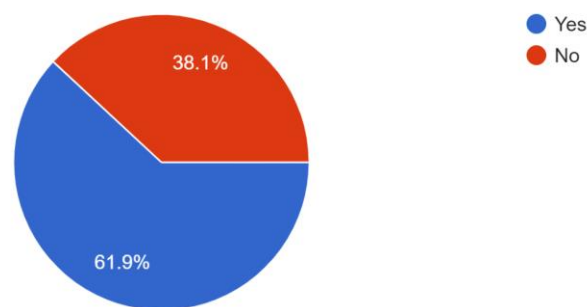
Do you think GST will help prevent any future financial crisis?

42 responses



Are you prepared for the next financial crisis?

42 responses



The results from both qualitative and quantitative analysis reveal details about the perception of Taxation and Financial Crisis in India. This is further delved into in the discussion.

Discussion

This study explores the connection between financial crises, GST's influence on citizens, tax slabs, policies, and crisis factors in India. It combines interviews and surveys, aiming to offer nuanced insights for future researchers. The goal is to shape evidence-based policies, enhance financial stability, and benefit the common man within India's economic context.

This research delves into a wide array of topics within India's financial context, encompassing diverse themes and empirical findings. Through participants' viewpoints, the study examines the repercussions of taxation, disparities in salary, the efficacy of the new GST tax system, escalating living costs, essential savings strategies, obstacles posed by unemployment, the implications of overpopulation, and the intricacies of the tax framework. These insights underscore the necessity for well-informed policies that can effectively tackle these challenges and foster enhanced financial stability across India.

The outcomes of both qualitative and quantitative analyses distinctly demonstrate that a significant portion of the participants of this study genuinely perceives taxation as a positive rather than a detrimental aspect. This perspective is underscored by India's complete recuperation from the 2008 financial crisis and the absence of adverse effects on its economic conditions due to the implementation of GST. Additionally, it is evident that the rise in cost of living cannot be attributed to GST, but rather arises from challenges such as overpopulation and insufficient employment opportunities.

Taxation Perspectives:

Participants' viewpoints reveal the multifaceted impact of taxes on individuals' financial circumstances. Taxation affects various aspects of income and transactions, shaping disposable income and financial decisions. Participant 2 highlights the immediate impact of tax deductions from received fees, potentially reducing their available funds. Similarly, Participant 3 articulates concerns about excessive taxation eroding the value of hard-earned income and influencing lifestyle choices. According to S Nivedha (2021), the Indian taxation system is pivotal for attracting investments, fostering local research, and ensuring knowledge transfer.

Salary Disparity:

Participants draw attention to the wage gap between private and government sectors in India. Discrepancies in compensation for similar work across sectors lead to economic inequality and dissatisfaction among employees. Participant 3 underscores the alarming salary disparity between the private and government sectors. H Sindhu (2010) reinforces this notion, indicating that wage rates and labour productivity vary across sub-sectors of the Indian industry during different time phases.

Improved Structure (GST):

Opinions emerge regarding the efficacy of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in comparison to the previous tax system. GST's implementation aims to simplify taxation, enhance compliance, and expand the tax base. Participant 1 lauds GST as a timely and necessary decision. Participant 5 concurs, asserting that the new tax structure is indeed an improvement over the old one. R Vasanthagopal (2011) notes GST's potential to widen the tax base and enhance tax compliance.

Past Superiority:

Some participants express a preference for the familiarity of the old tax system. Familiarity with the previous system provides comfort and reduces the challenges associated with adapting to a new tax framework. Participant 2 conveys a sense of familiarity with the old tax system, suggesting that a known system may be easier to navigate. Participant 4 raises the possibility that the old system might have been preferable for those less inclined to invest. V Kumar (2016) predicts that the introduction of GST could worsen the situation for the real estate industry.

Rising Living Expenses:

Concerns emerge about escalating living costs influenced by population growth and increased demand. Population expansion and shifts in consumer behaviour contribute to greater demand, leading to price increases. Participant 3 underscores how population growth has driven higher demand, resulting in price hikes. Participant 4 acknowledges the personal impact of increased living expenses. Participant 5 highlights the substantial rise in the prices of essential items. M Bala (2018) suggests that GST may lead to price increases in products and services previously exempt from taxation.

Necessary Saving Method:

Participants stress the importance of prudent financial habits, including saving, for achieving stability during economic challenges. Saving offers a buffer against financial crises and supports long-term financial resilience. Participant 1 advocates for strategic investments and maintaining accessible cash reserves. Participant 2 emphasises Indians' cautious approach to savings, which helps maintain stability during economic uncertainties. Participant 5 outlines a strategy of saving money and considering relocation in times of severe financial crises. CF Stanback (2017) argues that reversing destructive debt requires prioritising saving over spending.

Unemployment:

Participants highlight the critical issue of unemployment's detrimental impact on India's financial landscape. High unemployment rates strain resources, limit income opportunities, and hinder overall economic growth. Participant 1 underscores the consequences of a large population lacking adequate employment prospects. Participant 2 concurs, pointing out that widespread unemployment is a major financial challenge. P Sinha (2013) explains how the increasing population of qualified young Indians exacerbates the turmoil among the youth struggling to find suitable employment.

Overpopulation:

Participants link overpopulation with unemployment and resultant financial crises. A densely populated nation strains resources, reduces job availability, and contributes to economic instability. Participant 1 attributes India's most pressing issues to its overpopulation. Participant 4 identifies overpopulation's role in inflation and financial crises. Participant 5 correlates overpopulation with high unemployment rates and reduced living standards. R Bahadur (2019) contends that India's population has surpassed an optimal threshold, becoming a liability.

Complex Tax System:

Concerns arise over the complexity of India's tax system and its implications for individuals and businesses. A convoluted tax structure can lead to challenges in understanding, compliance, and increased reliance on professional help. Participant 5 raises the issue of dealing with various taxes in India. S Agnihotri (2018) points out that due to the implementation of GST, businesses are seeking assistance from professionals and advocates, increasing the burden on them.

Limitations of the Study:

1) **Sample Size and Diversity:** The study relies on a relatively small sample size of participants, which may not fully represent the diverse range of perspectives and experiences within India's population. To improve this, a larger and more diverse sample could be recruited, including participants from different socio-economic backgrounds, regions, and professions.

2) **Subjectivity of Responses:** The participants' responses are subjective and may be influenced by personal biases and experiences. Including objective measures, such as economic indicators and data, could provide a more balanced and accurate assessment of the financial landscape.

3) **Time Constraints:** The study may not fully capture the evolving nature of India's financial landscape due to time constraints. Conducting longitudinal research over an extended period could offer a more comprehensive understanding of the trends and changes in the financial environment.

4) **Limited Availability of Similar Research:** This study encountered challenges in finding similar material, as there are very few research papers or articles that discuss this specific topic. The scarcity of existing literature could impact the depth and breadth of the study's contextual background and comparative analysis.

5) **External Factors:** The study does not explicitly address potential external factors that could influence the themes discussed, such as global economic trends, government policies, or technological advancements. Considering these external factors could enhance the contextual understanding of the findings.

Recommendations for future researchers:

Future researchers can enhance our understanding of India's financial landscape by implementing focused strategies. Firstly, broadening the participant pool to include diverse demographics would offer nuanced insights into financial challenges faced by various segments. Secondly, adopting a longitudinal research approach could capture evolving financial trends and establish causal relationships between factors.

Comparative studies with economies facing similar challenges can provide valuable insights, highlighting shared and distinctive aspects of India's financial situation. Embracing an interdisciplinary approach by integrating insights from economics, sociology, and other relevant disciplines would provide a comprehensive understanding of multifaceted issues.

Additionally, incorporating scenario analysis into future research endeavours can guide policy recommendations. Simulating different scenarios and their potential outcomes would offer policymakers insights into the effectiveness and implications of various interventions. Lastly, addressing the scarcity of similar research papers or articles by investing effort in sourcing relevant material could lead to a more comprehensive literature review, enriching the context and depth of the study. By applying these recommendations, future researchers can contribute significantly to informing more effective policies for economic stability and growth in India.

In summary, this study intricately examines the relationship between taxation, financial crises, and India's economic landscape. The introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) is a pivotal point, aiming to streamline taxation. However, challenges persist, and the study underscores the necessity for informed policies to address disparities in salaries, escalating living costs, unemployment, overpopulation, and intricate tax structures. Despite limitations, recommendations for future research advocate diversifying participant demographics, adopting a longitudinal approach, and engaging in interdisciplinary and comparative studies. By melding historical analysis, citizen perspectives, and proactive suggestions, this research offers a foundational platform for evidence-based policies that enhance equitable growth and financial well-being in India.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this study delved into the intricate relationship between taxation, financial crises, and their implications on India's economic landscape. The primary aim was to analyse historical financial crises, the impact of GST on the common man, taxation policies, and the underlying factors contributing to these crises. The research shed light on significant insights through a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative interviews and quantitative survey data.

The historical analysis revealed that India's vulnerability to global financial crises was underestimated due to its deeper trade and financial integration than perceived. The implementation of GST, a comprehensive tax reform, aimed to simplify the tax structure, enhance transparency, and stimulate economic growth. While it brought benefits such as reduced tax burdens and increased investment, technical challenges like GSTN limitations and input tax credit delays needed addressing.

The study also highlighted various themes emerging from participant interviews, showcasing perspectives on taxation, salary disparity, the GST system, rising living expenses, and strategies for financial resilience. Participants acknowledged the necessity of savings, the impact of overpopulation, and the complexity of the tax system. These insights underscored the importance of informed policy decisions to foster financial stability and improve the quality of life for the common man.

In a nutshell, this study contributes valuable insights for policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders to better understand the complex interplay between taxation, financial crises, and their implications. By addressing challenges and capitalising on opportunities, India can work towards a more resilient and equitable economic future.

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