

Assessing the Progress of SDG-8 for Decent Work and Economic Growth in India and Chhattisgarh

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Abstract: This research paper compares India and Chhattisgarh's progress toward achieving Sustainable Development Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) from 2018-2024. Seven key indicators—including GDP growth, unemployment, and labor force participation—were analyzed using data from sources like NITI Aayog and the Economic Survey of India. By examining the progress made towards achieving this goal, the research highlights critical areas that require attention and intervention, ultimately contributing to a broader understanding of sustainable economic practices in the region. The examination of literature concerning sustainable development has prompted the researcher to consider the current status of India and Chhattisgarh in relation to Sustainable Development Goal 8, which focuses on Decent Work and Economic Growth. The study reveals that while both India and Chhattisgarh have made strides in achieving SDG-8, Chhattisgarh has shown remarkable progress in GDP growth, labor force participation, and women's financial inclusion, outperforming national trends in several key areas. The research highlights the importance of continued efforts to address the minor setbacks in banking access observed in 2023-2024. The study aims to provide a comprehensive comparative analysis of India and Chhattisgarh's progress toward SDG-8, providing insights into areas of strength and those that require further attention. The findings highlight Chhattisgarh's strengths in economic development and women's financial empowerment.

Keywords: Sustainable Development Goal 8 (SDG-8), Decent Work and Economic Growth, India, Chhattisgarh, GDP Growth, Unemployment, Labour Force Participation Rate, Women's Financial Inclusion.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The concept of sustainable development was initially introduced at a conference in 1970 that focused on "Environment and Development." In 1985, the scholar Dasmain proposed a model for economic development that took into account ecological sustainability, basic needs, and self-reliance. In 1987, the Brundtland Commission was formed, and its report "Our Shared Future" defined sustainable development as a dynamic process that meets current demands and aspirations while also considering the needs and aspirations of future generations.

In 2000, a coalition of 189 countries ratified the Millennium Development Goals, which consisted of eight objectives intended for realization from 2000 to 2015. After the conclusion of this initiative, the international community incorporated these goals into the Sustainable Development

Goals framework for the period of 2015 to 2030. Under this new agenda, 193 nations have committed to achieving 17 developmental targets by 2030, with the initiative officially starting on January 1, 2016.

The following Objectives have been included in the research paper presented: -

- Comparative study of the situation of India and Chhattisgarh in achieving SDG-8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) out of 17 Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030 adopted by the Heads of the World.
- Comparative study of the situation in India and Chhattisgarh in terms of Sustain per capita economic growth in different levels of Decent Work and Economic Growth.
- Comparative study of the situation in India and Chhattisgarh in terms of development-oriented policies that support GDP Growth, Unemployment, Labor Force

Participation Rate and others in different levels of SDG-8 Goal of Decent Work and Economic Growth.

- Total 7 indicators are analyzed for SDG-8 Goal of Decent Work and Economic Growth.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Gillett-Swan and colleagues (2023) explored how government policies and initiatives contribute to the progress of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in India, with a particular focus on the sectors of education and healthcare. Their research highlights the significance of effective governance in facilitating advancements in these critical areas.

In a complementary study, Perez-Escolar and team (2023) examined the various challenges and opportunities associated with the adoption of technology in relation to SDGs in India. Their findings underscore the importance of digital inclusion and the role of innovation in overcoming barriers to sustainable development.

M. Bashir and colleagues (2022) examined India's strategy for achieving environmental sustainability through the lens of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Their research emphasizes the country's initiatives in renewable energy and various conservation efforts. The study underscores the significance of integrating sustainable practices into national policies, showcasing how India is working towards balancing economic growth with environmental protection. The authors detail specific programs and projects that aim to enhance the use of renewable resources while preserving natural ecosystems.

Sarkar and colleagues (2021) explored the advancements and obstacles in the healthcare and sanitation sectors as they relate to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in India.

Shekhar and associates (2021) analyzed the challenges posed by urbanization in India and the initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable urban development within the framework of the SDGs.

In 2019, Sen, G. conducted a study examining how the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) influence gender equality and the empowerment of women in India. The research focused on critical areas such as the availability of education and healthcare services, highlighting the barriers that women face in accessing these essential resources.

Bernstein and colleagues (2019) investigated the significance of sustainable agriculture and rural development in the context of India's SDGs. Their analysis underscored the importance of ensuring food security and enhancing livelihoods, illustrating how these factors are integral to the broader goals of sustainable development.

Fuso Nerini and his team (2019) delved into the obstacles associated with the adoption of clean energy and the pursuit of climate action in India, all within the framework of the SDGs. Their exploration revealed the complexities and challenges that

must be addressed to effectively implement sustainable energy solutions and combat climate change in the region.

Mohanty and colleagues (2018) investigated how education and skill development initiatives contribute to reducing socio-economic inequalities in India, aligning their findings with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Chzhen and associates (2018) assessed the advancements made by India in the pursuit of the SDGs, particularly emphasizing efforts to combat poverty and economic disparity.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In order to make the proposed study scientific and comprehensible, survey research method has been used under experiential research and this study is based on secondary linkages. For compiling the data, the base line report 2023-2024 NITI Ayog, AISHE report 2023-2024, EASG 2023-2024, Economic Survey of India 2023-2024 and official records have been used. A comparative study has been done using table, column and bar to analyze the data obtained.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION: COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE SITUATION IN INDIA AND CHHATTISGARH ON SDG-8

Goal 8 emphasizes the importance of fostering continuous economic growth, enhancing productivity, and driving technological advancements. A key aspect of this goal is the encouragement of entrepreneurship and the creation of job opportunities, which are essential for achieving these objectives. Additionally, it calls for robust actions to eliminate forced labor, modern slavery, and human trafficking, ensuring that all individuals can work in environments that respect their rights.

The initiative also aims to safeguard labor rights and advocate for policies that facilitate the creation of decent jobs, while ensuring safe and secure working conditions. By focusing on these areas, the goal aspires to create a labor market that is inclusive and equitable, providing opportunities for all individuals to thrive. This comprehensive approach is vital for building a sustainable economy that benefits everyone. Ultimately, the objective is to attain full and productive employment, along with decent work conditions for all individuals, regardless of gender, by the year 2030. This vision underscores the commitment to not only economic growth but also to social justice and the well-being of the workforce, laying the foundation for a prosperous future.

To measure India and Chhattisgarh performance towards the Goal of Decent Work and Economic Growth, eight national level indicators have been identified, which capture six out of the twelve SDG targets for 2030 outlined under this Goal. These indicators have been selected based on the availability of data at the sub-national level and to ensure comparability across India and Chhattisgarh.

Keeping in mind all these goals, comparative study of India and Chhattisgarh has been done by the researcher.

Table 1: Comparative Table on SDG-8 w.r.t India and Chhattisgarh based on 7 Indicators

Year	2023-2024		2019-2020		2018-2019	
Indicators	IN	CG	IN	CG	IN	CG
Per Capita GDP Growth Rate (%)	5.88	6.05	5.66	3.93	6.0	3.62
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.4	2.7	6.00	3.30	5.32	4.37
Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	61.6	75.6	49.0	64.50	63.50	18.50
Households having Bank Accounts (Per 1 lakh population)	95.7	94.7	99.99	99.98	99.99	99.98
Banking Outlets (Per 1 lakh population)	12.0	10.28	12.48	10.86	11.85	10.2
Automated Teller Machines (ATMs)	18.0	15.21	17.3	13.6	16.84	11.33
Women account holders under PMJDY	55.63	56.09	53	55	-	-

IN=INDIA, CG=Chhattisgarh, *Source: <https://www.niti.gov.in/reports-sdg>

The table 1 provides a comparative analysis of various socioeconomic indicators for India and the state of Chhattisgarh over three periods: 2023-2024, 2019-2020, and 2018-2019.

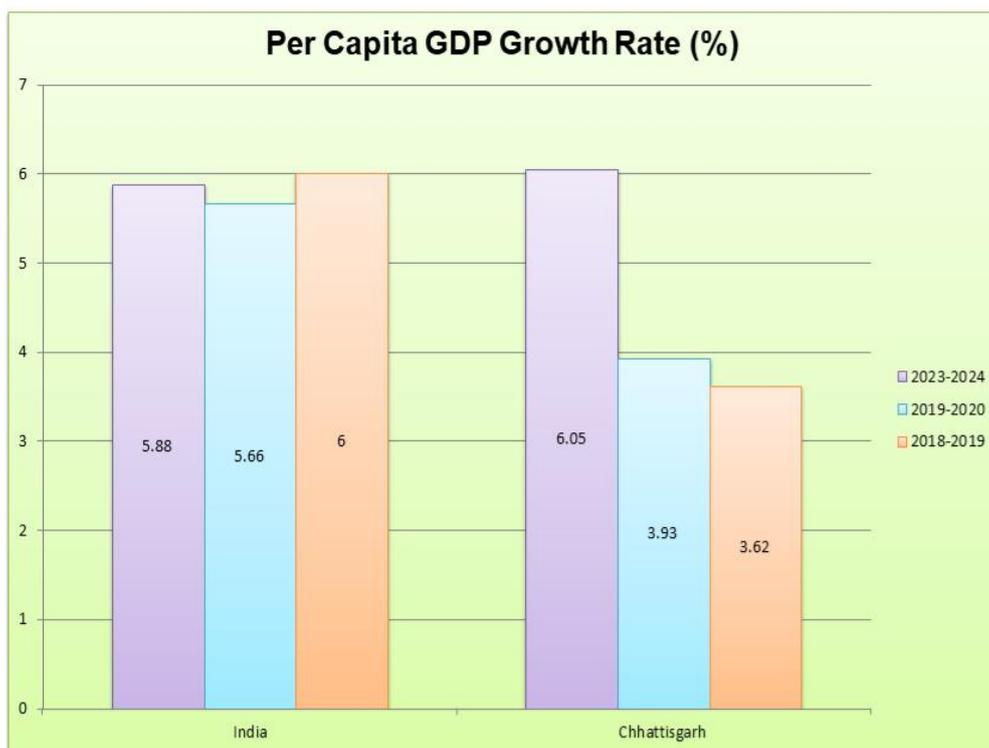


Fig 1: Per Capita GDP Growth Rate (%)

This Figure 1 represents the Per Capita GDP Growth Rate (%) for India and Chhattisgarh over three time periods: 2023-2024, 2019-2020, and 2018-2019. A graph based on this data would typically show a comparison of growth rates for India and Chhattisgarh across these years. For India, the growth rate starts at 6.0% in 2018-2019, dips slightly to 5.66% in 2019-2020, and rises again to 5.88% in 2023-2024. The trend shows a moderate fluctuation, ending close to its initial value. For Chhattisgarh, the growth rate begins at 3.62% in 2018-2019, increases to 3.93% in 2019-2020, and shows a significant rise to 6.05% in 2023-2024. This indicates a strong

upward trend, with Chhattisgarh surpassing India's growth rate in 2023-2024.

The graph for India would display a gentle fluctuation, with a slight dip in 2019-2020 followed by a recovery in 2023-2024. The graph for Chhattisgarh would exhibit a sharp upward trajectory, especially between 2019-2020 and 2023-2024. In 2023-2024, Chhattisgarh's growth rate surpasses India's, showing a notable improvement in its economic performance relative to the national average.

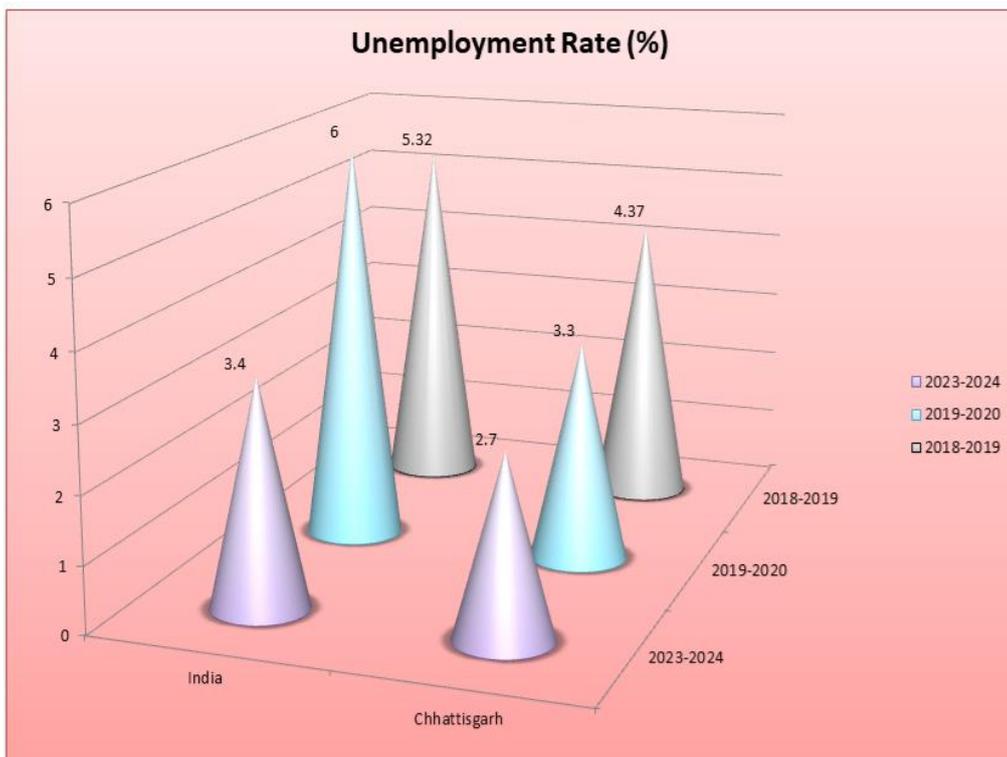


Fig 2: Unemployment Rate (%)

The Figure 2 provides data on the Unemployment Rate (%) for India and Chhattisgarh over three time periods: 2023-2024, 2019-2020, and 2018-2019. A graph based on this data would depict the trends in unemployment rates for both entities across the years. For India, the unemployment rate decreases significantly from 6.0% in 2019-2020 to 3.4% in 2023-2024, following a moderate decrease from 5.32% in 2018-2019. This shows a steady improvement in employment conditions over the years. For Chhattisgarh, the unemployment rate also declines over the years, from 4.37%

in 2018-2019 to 3.3% in 2019-2020 and further to 2.7% in 2023-2024. The trend indicates a consistently better performance compared to the national average.

Chhattisgarh's unemployment rate is consistently better than India's, highlighting stronger employment conditions in the state. By 2023-2024, both India and Chhattisgarh achieve their lowest unemployment rates, with Chhattisgarh at 2.7% and India at 3.4%.

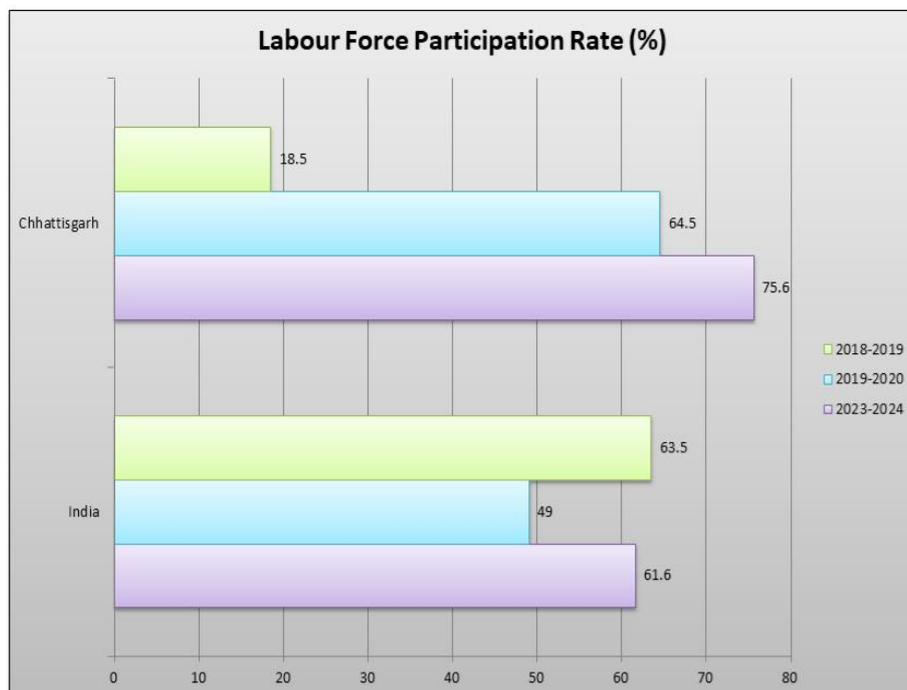


Fig 3: Labour Force Participation Rate (%)

The Figure 3 illustrates the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) (%) for India and Chhattisgarh across three periods: 2023-2024, 2019-2020, and 2018-2019. A graph based on this data would show the trends in LFPR for both entities over time. For India, the LFPR starts at 63.5% in 2018-2019, drops significantly to 49% in 2019-2020, and recovers strongly to 61.6% in 2023-2024. The trend indicates a temporary dip in participation in 2019-2020, likely due to economic or social factors, followed by recovery. For Chhattisgarh, the LFPR begins at a very low 18.5% in 2018-2019, increases substantially to 64.5% in 2019-2020, and rises further to 75.6% in 2023-2024. This dramatic increase

suggests significant structural or policy-driven changes that brought more individuals into the labour force.

India's LFPR begins at a relatively high level (63.5% in 2018-2019), dips sharply to 49% in 2019-2020, and then rebounds to 61.6% in 2023-2024. This reflects a V-shaped trend, with a temporary decline followed by recovery. Chhattisgarh's LFPR starts at an extremely low 18.5% in 2018-2019, surges to 64.5% in 2019-2020, and climbs further to 75.6% in 2023-2024. This suggests substantial progress, with Chhattisgarh surpassing the national average starting from 2019-2020.



Fig 4: Households having Bank Accounts (Per 1 lakh population)

The Figure 4 displays the percentage of Households Having Bank Accounts (per 1 lakh population) for India and Chhattisgarh over three time periods: 2023-2024, 2019-2020, and 2018-2019. A graph based on this data would highlight trends in the accessibility of bank accounts across these years. For India, the percentage remains nearly universal at 99.99% during 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 but drops slightly to 95.7% in 2023-2024. This small decline may indicate either data adjustments or a decrease in account penetration in certain areas. For Chhattisgarh, Similar to India, the percentage stays at 99.98% during 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 but decreases

slightly to 94.7% in 2023-2024. While close to the national average, the state experiences a similar decline in the latest period.

India's graph shows a flat line at 99.99% for the first two periods, indicating universal access. The slight dip to 95.7% in 2023-2024 breaks this consistency, signaling a minor decline. Chhattisgarh's line remains flat at 99.98% for 2018-2019 and 2019-2020, with a decrease to 94.7% in 2023-2024. The decline mirrors the national trend, although it remains slightly lower than India's.

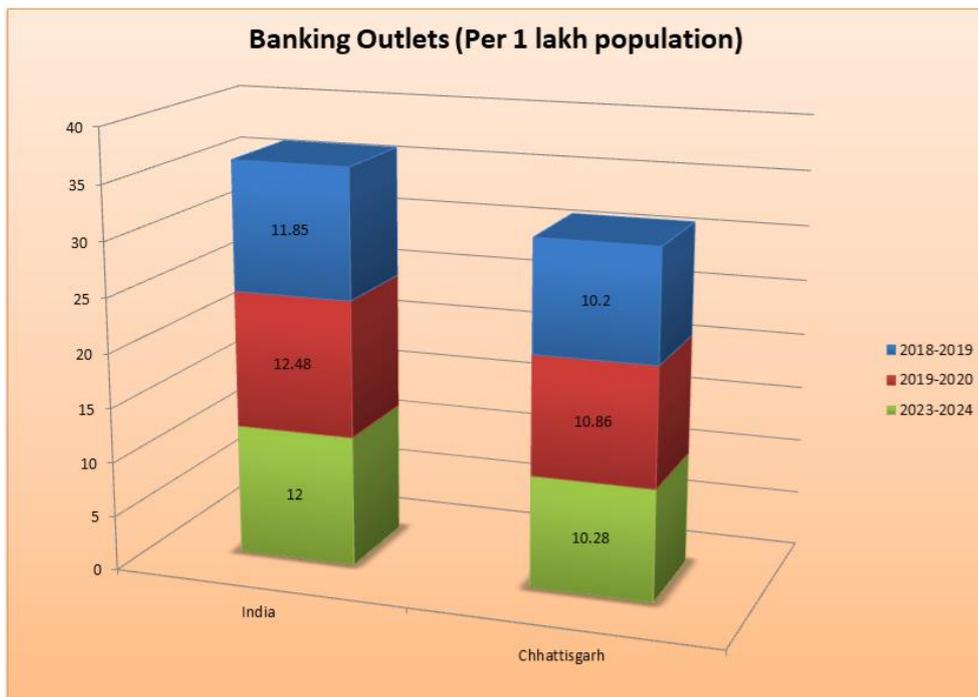


Fig 5: Banking Outlets (Per 1 Lakh Population)

The Figure 5 presents the number of Banking Outlets (per 1 lakh population) for India and Chhattisgarh over three time periods: 2023-2024, 2019-2020, and 2018-2019. A graph based on this data would reveal the trends in the availability of banking outlets per 1 lakh population. For India, the number of banking outlets increases from 11.85 in 2018-2019 to 12.48 in 2019-2020. It slightly declines to 12.0 in 2023-2024 but remains higher than in 2018-2019. This indicates a slight expansion followed by stabilization in the availability of banking outlets. For Chhattisgarh, Banking outlets grow steadily from 10.2 in 2018-2019 to 10.86 in 2019-2020. They decrease slightly to 10.28 in 2023-2024 but remain above the

starting point. The trend is similar to India's, reflecting a modest rise followed by a slight decline.

For India's Line, the graph shows an upward slope from 11.85 in 2018-2019 to 12.48 in 2019-2020, indicating growth in banking outlets. A slight dip to 12.0 in 2023-2024 suggests some consolidation or reduction. For Chhattisgarh's Line, the line follows a similar pattern, rising from 10.2 in 2018-2019 to 10.86 in 2019-2020 and then dipping slightly to 10.28 in 2023-2024. The number of outlets consistently remains lower than India's throughout the period.

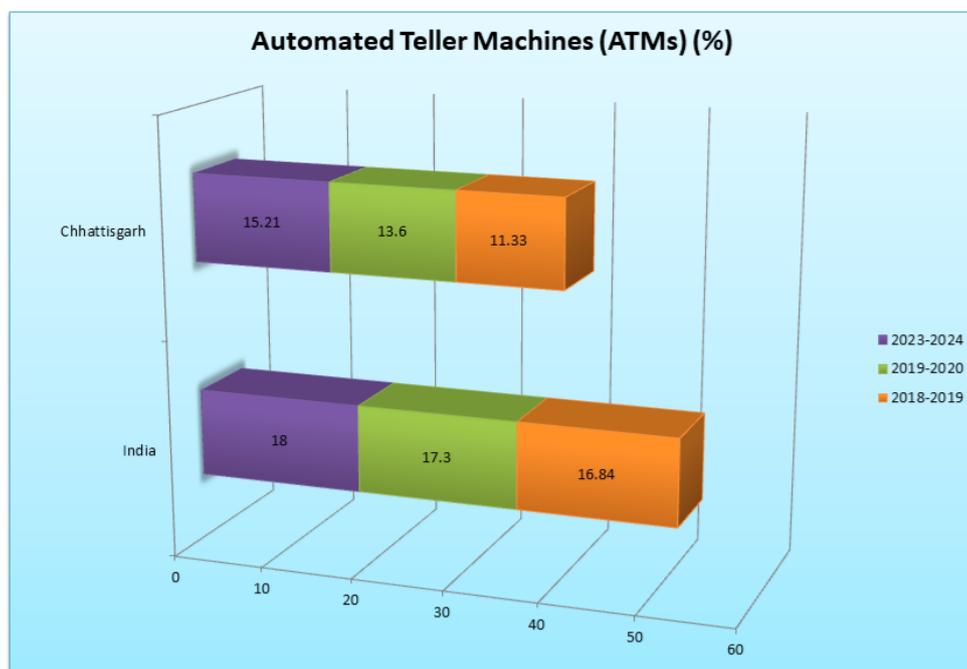


Fig 6: Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) (%)

The Figure 6 provides data on the availability of Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) per 1 lakh population for India and Chhattisgarh over three time periods: 2023-2024, 2019-2020, and 2018-2019. A graph based on this data would showcase the trends in ATM penetration for both India and Chhattisgarh over time. For India, the number of ATMs steadily increases from 16.84 in 2018-2019 to 17.3 in 2019-2020, and further to 18 in 2023-2024. This reflects continuous growth in ATM accessibility across the country. For Chhattisgarh, the number of ATMs also shows consistent growth, starting at 11.33 in 2018-2019, increasing to 13.6 in 2019-2020, and reaching 15.21 in 2023-2024. While the

growth is substantial, the density of ATMs in Chhattisgarh remains lower than the national average.

For India's Line, the graph shows a steady upward trend, reflecting consistent improvement in ATM penetration from 16.84 in 2018-2019 to 18 in 2023-2024. The increase suggests an effort to expand ATM networks in urban and rural areas alike. For Chhattisgarh's Line, the line also shows a clear upward trend, with ATMs increasing from 11.33 in 2018-2019 to 15.21 in 2023-2024. This growth highlights a significant focus on improving ATM accessibility, though the availability remains lower than the national average.

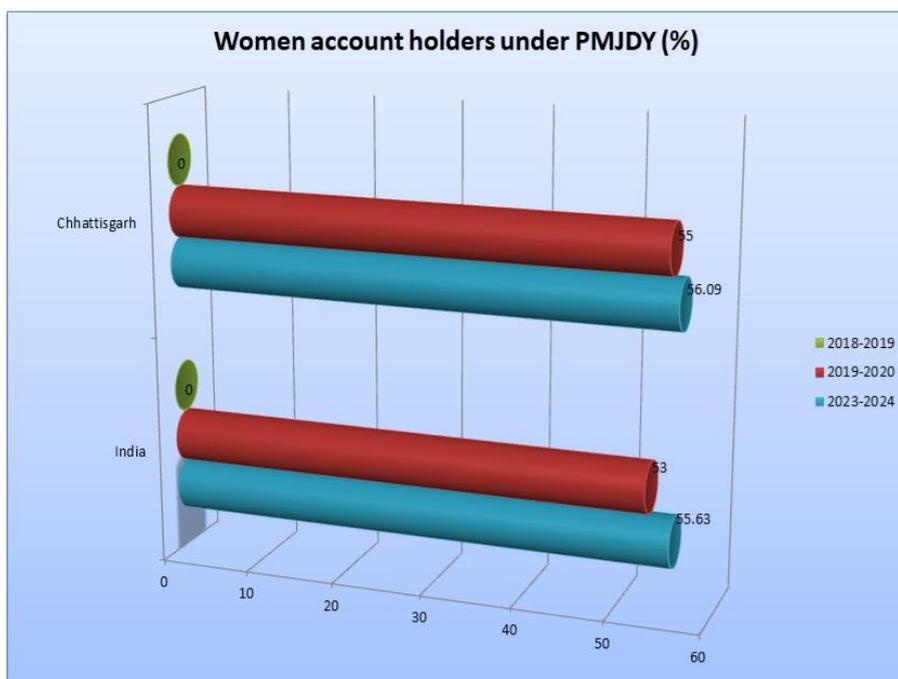


Fig 7: Women Account Holders Under PMJDY (%)

The Figure 7 provides data on the percentage of women account holders under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) for India and Chhattisgarh over three time periods: 2023-2024, 2019-2020, and 2018-2019. Data for 2018-2019 is not available (marked as "NA"). A graph based on this data would demonstrate the trends in women's financial inclusion under the PMJDY scheme. For India, the percentage of women account holders increases from 53% in 2019-2020 to 55.63% in 2023-2024. This indicates steady progress in promoting financial inclusion for women. For Chhattisgarh, Chhattisgarh's percentage grows from 55% in 2019-2020 to 56.09% in 2023-2024, slightly surpassing the national average. This suggests that the state has been particularly effective in enrolling women under the PMJDY scheme.

For India's Line, the graph shows a gradual upward trend, rising from 53% in 2019-2020 to 55.63% in 2023-2024. This reflects consistent efforts to improve women's access to banking and financial services. For Chhattisgarh's Line, Chhattisgarh's line also rises steadily, from 55% in 2019-2020 to 56.09% in 2023-2024. The state consistently outperforms the national average, demonstrating strong progress in empowering women financially.

V. CONCLUSION OF THE STUDY

The research paper outlines key socio-economic and financial indicators for India and Chhattisgarh over the years 2018-2019, 2019-2020, and 2023-2024. Based on the data, here is a consolidated result for each parameter:

A. Per Capita GDP Growth Rate (%)

- India: Shows a slight decline from 6.0% in 2018-2019 to 5.66% in 2019-2020, followed by an increase to 5.88% in 2023-2024.
- Chhattisgarh: Steady improvement from 3.62% in 2018-2019 to 3.93% in 2019-2020, and a sharp rise to 6.05% in 2023-2024, surpassing India's growth rate.
- Conclusion: Chhattisgarh exhibits significant economic recovery and outpaces India in the latest period.

B. Unemployment Rate (%)

- India: Declines from a high of 6.0% in 2019-2020 to 3.4% in 2023-2024, signaling job market recovery.
- Chhattisgarh: Shows consistent improvement from 4.37% in 2018-2019 to 3.3% in 2019-2020, and further to 2.7% in 2023-2024.

- Conclusion: Both India and Chhattisgarh show significant reductions in unemployment, with Chhattisgarh consistently maintaining a lower rate.

C. Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) (%)

- India: Fluctuates, dropping from 63.5% in 2018-2019 to 49.0% in 2019-2020, but recovers to 61.6% in 2023-2024.
- Chhattisgarh: Dramatic improvement from 18.5% in 2018-2019 to 64.5% in 2019-2020, and further to 75.6% in 2023-2024.
- Conclusion: Chhattisgarh shows exceptional growth in workforce participation, significantly outpacing India's rate by 2023-2024.

D. Households Having Bank Accounts (Per 1 Lakh Population)

- India: Maintains near-universal access at 99.99% in 2018-2019 and 2019-2020, but declines slightly to 95.7% in 2023-2024.
- Chhattisgarh: Similar trend, with 99.98% in earlier years and a drop to 94.7% in 2023-2024.
- Conclusion: Both India and Chhattisgarh maintain high banking penetration, but the slight decline in 2023-2024 indicates areas requiring renewed focus.

E. Banking Outlets (Per 1 Lakh Population)

- India: Gradual increase from 11.85 in 2018-2019 to 12.48 in 2019-2020, followed by a slight decline to 12.0 in 2023-2024.
- Chhattisgarh: Steady growth from 10.2 in 2018-2019 to 10.86 in 2019-2020, with a minor reduction to 10.28 in 2023-2024.
- Conclusion: Both India and Chhattisgarh experience an increase in banking outlets over time, though slight dips in 2023-2024 indicate possible saturation or optimization efforts.

F. Automated Teller Machines (ATMs)

- India: Consistent growth from 16.84 in 2018-2019 to 17.3 in 2019-2020, and further to 18.0 in 2023-2024.
- Chhattisgarh: Similar growth, from 11.33 in 2018-2019 to 13.6 in 2019-2020, and reaching 15.21 in 2023-2024.
- Conclusion: ATM penetration improves consistently for both India and Chhattisgarh, though the state remains slightly behind the national average.

G. Women Account Holders under PMJDY (%)

- India: Increases from 53% in 2019-2020 to 55.63% in 2023-2024.
- Chhattisgarh: Grows from 55% in 2019-2020 to 56.09% in 2023-2024, consistently surpassing the national average.
- Conclusion: Both India and Chhattisgarh show progress in women's financial inclusion, with Chhattisgarh slightly ahead.

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