"Modern Trends in Public Policy: Analyzing the Dynamics of Indian Polity"

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Abstract:

The Indian political landscape has undergone profound transformations in recent decades, characterized by complex policy dynamics that reflect the nation's evolving socio-economic and governance structures. This paper aims to explore the changing trend of public policy in India with a particular focus on significant trends in the field of education, health, and environmental governance. Using an in-depth examination of the past context and the current issues, the study focuses on the complex interplay of policy-making and socio-economic phenomena. Research shows that there has been a tremendous improvement in the literacy rates, where there was a projected increase in literacy rates to 77.74% in 2021, and infant mortality rates declining from 44 to 30 in 1000 live births, thereby a success of policies like the Right to Education Act and Ayushman Bharat. However, stark differences between an urban and rural populace continue to be challenging issues. The paper also deals with encompassing environmental issues with fearsome levels of air quality in big cities, pointing to a strict need for regulatory systems. Participatory governance trends show an increasing involvement of citizens in the policymaking process, but missing representation for marginalised communities points out areas of improvement. On the other hand, economic liberalization has helped in alleviating poverty (projected at 17.4% in 2023), but further increases the gap that separates the rich from the poor. On the whole, the necessity of adaptive, inclusive, and sustainable policy strategies involving the use of technology and capitalizing on the collaboration of the stakeholders is emphasized by this study. To develop an integral scope of the public policy dynamics, this research is set to guide future policymaking and help achieve equitable growth and development in India.

Keywords: *Public Policy, Indian Polity, Governance, E-Governance, Citizen Engagement, Health Policy, Education Policy, Environmental Policy, Economic Liberalization,* Participatory Governance

Introduction

The Indian public policy has seen tremendous changes in the last few decades, which is a manifestation of the change in the socio-economic status of the nation. As a giant democracy in the world, India is experiencing certain challenges and opportunities in coming up with policies that address its diverse population. The nexus of economic liberalizations, advancements of technologies, and enhanced citizen engagement has transformed the general fabric of public policy dynamics, which requires a systematic appraisal of the contemporary trends.

India's public policy had traditionally been driven by its colonial history, dominated by imposed central control, and a paternalistic way of ruling. After independence, the form of government changed to a mixed economy model, whereby the state would carry out development, and the government's objective was to uplift the economically less fortunate and achieve social equity. Nevertheless, the liberalization reforms undertaken in 1991 were a paradigm shift that led to the position of market-based policies and reduced the state's involvement in economic planning (Gupta, 2023). These dynamics have brought forward a pressing need for the re-examination of the present public policies and customization of the same to the structures of a globalized economy.

In the recent past, the advancement in technology has transformed the way policies have been framed and implemented. The emergence of e-governance has empowered citizens, arising from the improved transparency and efficiency in the government's

services (Sharma & Kanungo, 2021). This digital transformation not only has enhanced service delivery, but it has also led to enhanced citizen participation in policymaking, making this has turned the traditional top-down approach to policymaking more participatory (Dwivedi et al., 2021).

Moreover, environmental problems and social inequality become more of an issue, and this gives rise to policies addressing the issue. Polices in areas including education, health, and environmental management are gaining relevance to the sustainable development goals, and they indicate a more expanded perception of welfare for the public (NITI Aayog, 2023). This approach underscores the need to integrate environmental sustainability aspects in public policy such that development can be inclusive and sustainable (Sarkar & Rani, 2023).

This paper focuses on those modern trends of public policy against the background of Indian polity and how economics, technology, and society affect the process of making and taking the policy. Gauging the changes in governance architectures and their ramification for public welfare in India, this study hopes to add a better appreciation of the forces driving the contemporary Indian public policy.

2. Historical Context of Indian Public Policy

The history of India's public policy can be characterized by a chain of important political, economic, and social transformations. These developments from the colonial rule to the independence and reforming of the policy frameworks in the process have set the foundation for modern public governance in the Indian state. This section explains the major stages in the historical evolution of public policy in India during the pre-independence, post-independence reforms, and the liberalization and globalization.

2.1 Pre-Independence Era

The history of public policy in India can be traced back to colonial India (1757-1947), which was characterized by British colonial rule, which relied on centralized and bureaucratically-oriented rule. Policies at this time mainly benefited the colonial administration and oriented themselves towards the extraction of resources and control rather than

the well-being of the local populace (Basu, 2021). The British adopted certain welfare policies and did so on a selective basis in response to unrest in the society and political clamour. For example, measures such as the Vernacular Press Act of 1878 and the Indian Councils Act of 1909 were an acceptance of the needs for local governance, however, proving repressive and restrictive.

During this time, notable social reform movements emerged, aiming to address issues such as caste discrimination, education, and women's rights. Leaders like Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar worked to promote social reforms, and their advocacy laid the groundwork for future public policies aimed at social empowerment (Suresh, 2022). However, these efforts were often met with resistance from colonial authorities, resulting in a fragmented approach to public policy that struggled to positively impact the majority of the population.

2.2 Post-Independence Developments

The attainment of independence in 1947 marked a significant turning point in India's public policy landscape. The newly formed government, led by the Indian National Congress under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru, aimed to establish a democratic framework with a focus on social justice and equitable growth. The Constitution of India, adopted in 1950, enshrined fundamental rights and principles of social justice, laying the foundation for inclusive public policy (Rao, 2023).

In the early years post-independence, the government emphasized planned economic development through the establishment of the Planning Commission in 1950. The five-year plans that were started during these times were targeting issues of issues such as poverty, employment, as well as infrastructural developments (Patnaik, 2022). For instance, the Green Revolution of the 60's was a strategic policy as well as a deliberate policy initiation aimed at maximizing agricultural productivity, which by itself ended up making India self-sufficient in terms of food grains, but also had ramifications when it comes to ecological sustainability and social inequality (Chatterjee, 2023).

Over the following decades after independence, the public policy underwent evolution, and this was a reflection of a shift in priorities. The Emergency period between 1975 and 1977 was a major political and social disorder that had an effects on the later policy pathways. The government-centralized method of management in this period was designed to keep everything in order, though this contributed to a wide range of civil rights abuses, which affected public confidence in government agencies (Gupta & Sharma, 2021).

2.3 The Era of Liberalization

Devaluation of the Indian rupee in 1991 and economic liberalization that followed marked a new period of public policy. The Indian government took the drastic measures aimed at reducing the balance of payments crisis, whereby sweeping economic reforms were adopted, which encompassed deregulation, privatization, as well as foreign direct investment (FDI) (Kohli, 2023). This paradigm shift changed the position of the state from directly being involved in the economy to that of creating an environment that is conducive to market-led initiatives.

The liberalisation policies not only stimulated economic growth but also led to a re-examination of existing public policies in many areas, ranging from education to health and social welfare. For instance, the Right to Information (RTI) Act that was established in 2005 was symbolic of a new appreciation for the need for transparency and accountability in governance (Kumar, 2022). This change is a shift towards participatory governance, which was a radical change in public policy to involve the citizens and advocacy.

Challenges emerged alongside these transformations. Economic liberalization caused disparities between income and regions, which questioned the ability of public policy to solve the problem of social welfare (Desai et al., 2023). Differential factors across the world resulting from globalization led to a re-examination of policy formations to admit that the benefits derived from economic growth were fairly distributed among different classes of society.

With the passage of time and continued progress of India, the historic dimension of the public policy of India has formed the contemporary governance. Knowing about these past influences is very important when it comes to examining the current trends regarding public policy and what this means to future development. The dynamics of Indian polity are infused by the historical legacies, economic change, and democratic aspirations that serve as the basis for policy-making in the ever-complex world.

3. Modern Trends in Public Policy

In the process of development, India is undergoing in the 21st century, several modern trends have cropped up that, to a great extent, govern how public policy is shaped and implemented. Such trends demonstrate the dynamics of economic forces, technological advances, and the involvement of citizens in governance. The modern tendencies of Indian public policy are discussed in this section, and they include three important ones. Economic liberalisation, technology and e-governance, and participatory governance.

3.1 Economic Liberalization

India's public policy transformation has had economic liberalization, which was introduced in 1991, as the cornerstone of its efforts. The liberalization reforms signalled a clear break from a government-controlled economy to a more market-oriented economy that was to strengthen economic growth and minimize poverty (Patnaik, 2020). Such a shift enabled a foundation for private enterprises, foreign investment, and the basis of competition, which brought great changes to the country in such areas as agriculture, industry, and services.

Deregulation and elimination of trade barriers were some of the major aims of these reforms in terms of economic growth. For example, the liberalization of the telecommunication industry led to a rapid increase in mobile and internet services, thus leading to unprecedented growth within this industry (Singh & Gupta, 2023). The bolstered mobile connection has improved access to information and services for millions, thus demonstrating how economic policy can create social change.

But economic liberalization has also brought challenges such as income disparity and regional inequalities. Urban areas have enjoyed the fruits of

economic growth, whereas in rural regions, they are behind, and there is a need to have public measures that propagate inclusive growth (Ghosh & Rao, 2022). To tackle such disparities, the government has tried strategies such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) that seeks to create social security and employment in the rural areas. Though there remain implementation gaps and bureaucratic inefficiencies, which exemplify the paradox of combining growth and social equity.

3.2 Technology and E-Governance

Technology has become a major factor of change in public policy, and the same has been witnessed through the process of adoption of e-governance. E-governance means the use of digital technology to provide government services, interact with citizens, and enhance the effectiveness and transparency of administration in a public agency (Rai & Tiwari, 2022). The Indian government has come a long way in this regard, and some of the programs in this direction include the Digital India program, which plans to make India a digitally empowered society.

The advent of e-governance has resulted in several positive outcomes, such as better public service delivery, minimization of levels of corruption, increased levels of citizen engagement, among other benefits. For instance, e-Mitra in Rajasthan and the Common Service Centers (CSCs) make it easy for citizens to access government services like applying for certificates, licenses, and other important documents. (Kumar & Sreenivasan, 2023). These initiatives have therefore empowered the citizens and enhanced the level of accountability in governance through the simplification of the bureaucratic process.

In addition, technology has enabled data-driven decision-making in matters of public policy. The implementation of Big Data and analytics would help policymakers in extracting knowledge from the large pool of information, thus helping them to formulate policies that target the particular needs (Jain & Nayak, 2023). Use of data in projects such as the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), by the government, aspires to facilitate housing for all

through effective identification of beneficiaries as well as tracking of progress.

In spite of all these developments, there are still existing challenges on digital literacy and availability of technology, especially in rural areas which experience low internet connectivity. It, therefore means that policies, thus, have to be developed, which facilitate bridge into the digital divide so that the fruits of e governance reach all layers of the society (Mohan & Verma, 2023).

3.3 Participatory Governance

In India, participatory governance has picked up pace with increasing focus on involving citizens in policies framings and implementation. This transition acknowledges the fact that the state cannot effectually govern, alone, but its civil societies, the local communities, and the grassroots organizations must get involved. (Bhattacharya, 2022).

Participatory governance mechanisms are public consultations, community-based initiatives, and decentralized decision making. Ideas such as the "My Gov" platform allow citizens to provide input on policy proposal, which leads to dialogue between the government and the public. Besides, local self-governance bodies like Panchayati Raj in rural areas give the communities powers to express their concerns and make meaningful inputs in the form of local policy decisions (Rath & Sharma, 2021).

The focus on participatory governance may increase accountability and responsiveness in public administration. With citizens' participation in the policymaking process, the government will be in a better position to make sense of the crucial needs and inclinations of the community, thus making the policies more purposeful (Bhanumurthy, 2023). But there are problems with making sure that the marginalized have equal access to participatory processes. There may be power dynamics, social hierarchies, and structures that will disallow such voices from specific populations, and this will require active work to make an inclusive participatory framework.

Finally, the contemporary tendencies in the realm of public policy in India are influenced by economic liberalization, advancements in the sphere of

technology, and the importance of participatory governance. Such trends reveal the efforts of the government to move towards a responsive, accountable, and inclusive model of governance. In the fast-changing social environment, however, the issues of inequality, digital access, and meaningful engagement continue to be essential in having effective policy outcomes.

4. Sectoral Analysis

To understand the dynamics of public policy in India, a sectoral analysis is needed that would show how various policies have developed by the challenges the country faces and the opportunities it offers. This part takes a look at three critical sectors, namely, education, health, and environmental policy. Every sector comes under observation depending on its distinctive trends, the influence of policy initiatives, and obstructions felt in implementation.

4.1 Education Policy

The Indian education policy has experienced tremendous change since independence, which is focused on reducing illiteracy, improving in quality of access to education, and increasing the scale of educational outputs about national growth orientation. The National Policy on Education (NPE) that was adopted in 1968 and updated in 1986 was intended to make the educational process available for all the society strata, while emphasizing the principle of universal primary education (MHRD, 2021).

The year 2009 saw the emergence of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, which signalled an important step in the process of educational reform. The RTE Act ensures that children between the ages of 6-14 years get free and compulsory education to remove obstacles in this regard for marginalized communities (Sharma et al., 2022). However, with the advances, the problem has been that there are still challenges in ensuring quality education, especially in rural areas where there are infrastructural deficiencies and a shortage of teachers, which makes the learning process ineffective.

New developments have triggered a greater shift towards skill-based education and vocational training to make education relevant to the market demands. Initiatives such as the Skill India mission and the National Skill Development Policy aim at improving the employability of the youth and plugging the skill gap in the country (Narayan, 2023). However, there are issues with the effectiveness and availability of such programs, especially for the disadvantaged groups of people.

Furthermore, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in education have brought the use of digital platforms for learning to the fore, underscoring the need for policies that close digital gaps (Chaudhary & Gupta, 2023). The change to e-learning thus requires a review of the education policies to incorporate the use of technology to meet all students' needs, utilizing digital facilities.

4.2 Health Policy

The Indian public health policy is fraught with immense challenges, including the diversity of the population, disease burdens, and lack of infrastructure. The National Health Policy (NHP) of 2017 is to provide universal health care and ensure access in accessing quality health services. The policy emphasizes preventive healthcare and wellness promotion (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 2017).

In the last few years, large programs under the Ayushman Bharat scheme have been initiated, which offer health insurance to the vulnerable population and focus on strengthening the primary healthcare structure (NITI Aayog, 2023). The priority of the scheme in terms of affordability and accessibility seeks to eliminate the healthcare disparities, especially in rural regions where access to health services is rare.

Despite all these advances, the miseries faced by the Indian healthcare system are far-ranging, involving deficits in resources, infrastructure, and inhuman workforce shortages. These issues came to the fore during the COVID-19 pandemic when gaps in preparedness and response (Vashishtha & Gupta, 2022) were exposed. The shift in policy after this has been towards responses to a pandemic, which has served to quicken the need for strong public health systems and emergency preparedness.

Mental health has also picked up pace in the health policy discourse, where the Mental Healthcare Act,

2017 stressed the right to mental health care and access. Implementation, however, is still not occurring uniformly, and stigma as well as resources are still a barrier to gaining access to mental health services (Choudhury & Ghosh, 2023).

4.3 Environmental Policy

The environmental policy in India has grown due to the increased awareness of ecological sustainability in the wake of rapid industrialization and urbanization. The Environment (Protection) Act was the first to lay the foundation for a wide legal structure for the governance of the environment, with emphasis on control of pollution and conservation of the resources (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, 1986).

The realization of the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) in the year 2008 was a major turning point, as the situation paved the way to integrate climate issues into the frameworks of the national policies. Members of the NAPCC include eight missions which deal with such areas as the use of solar energy, the creation of a sustainable habitat, and green India, which are aimed at strengthening the country's resilience to climate change (GoI, 2008).

In recent years, sustainable development has also found its priorities in the government's efforts to support renewable energy sources and set ambitious targets concerning solar and wind energy production (Rao & Singh, 2023). The Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) scheme is an example of such a policy, which will promote energy efficiency in industries in addition to carbon emissions.

Since these were good developments, there are challenges with regards to the effective implementation and enforcement of environmental policies. Regulatory compliance, illegal extraction of resources, and control of pollution continue to be problems. Besides, the balance between economic growth and environmental sustainability needs to be managed since the pressure for industrialization continues to exert massive threats to the natural resources (Agarwal et al., 2023).

Additionally, there has been public awareness when it comes to environmental problems and therefore there are more activists and citizens who get involved in the process of environmental governance. Grass-roots environmental justice movements have impacted on policy debate and have alerted the public to important ecological issues.

So, in sum, the sectoral analysis of education, health, and environmental policy presents the intricacies and challenges that confront Indian public policy in meeting the needs of a very diverse population. Although there has been substantial progress, the efficiency of policies is commonly impeded by implementation loopholes, resource deficiency, and socio-economic differences. Inclusivity, accessibility, and sustainability are future public policies that need to be considered in all sectors to achieve equal results.

5. Data Analysis

Data analysis is very important to appreciate the effect of public policy in different sectors of the Indian society. This section includes relevant data tables that point out major trends in education, health and environment policies. Every table is provided with an explanation and context to make it easier to understand the context in which the dynamics takes place.

5.1 Education Statistics

Table 1: Literacy Rates in India (2001-2021)

Year	Literacy Rate (%)	Source
2001	64.83	Census of India
2011	74.04	Census of India
2021	77.74 (Projected)	Census of India

Explanation:
The progress that was made in the rate of literacy in India over two decades can be seen in the following table, indicating a steady increase in literacy. The spectacular increase from 64.83% in 2001 and a forecasted 77.74% in 2021 demonstrates that such educational policies like the Right to Education Act are effective. 2009 and numerous governmental projects, which were concerned with primary education access. However, despite this achievement, the rate of growth is not enough to achieve universal literacy.

A need for more focused interventions, especially in rural as well as marginalized areas. Communities (Kumar, 2023).

5.2 Health Statistics

Table 2: Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in India (2010-2023)

Year	Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)	Source
2010	44	NFHS-4
2015	39	NFHS-5
2020	34	WHO Reports
2023	30	NITI Aayog

Explanation:
From this table, we can see the trend of the decline in the rates of infant deaths in India from 2010 to 2023. The drop-down from 44 to a prediction of 30 infant deaths per 1000 live births points to an aspect of improvement in healthcare policies, such as the introduction of the National Health Mission and enhanced maternal healthcare services (NITI Aayog, 2023). This trend brings out the beneficial effects brought by increased investment in the public's health, but more needs to be done to reach the Sustainable Development Goal of IMR being below 25 by the year 2030.

5.3 Environmental Indicators

Table 3: Air Quality Index (AQI) Levels in Major Indian Cities (2023)

City	Average AQI	Source
Delhi	200	Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)
Mumbai	155	Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)
Bangalore	110	Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)
Kolkata	180	Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)
Chennai	120	Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)

Explanation:

The figures in this table will give an average Air Quality Index (AQI) level in the prominent Indian cities in the year 2023. The AQI values indicate the high pollution of air in disproportionately high levels, especially in cities such as Delhi and Kolkata. The high AQI readings attest to a sustained environmental and social state of health challenge; it calls for immediate policy emphasis and efforts in controlling and enforcing existing environmental policy (Bhattacharya, 2023). The government's attempt to fight air quality is clear through focusing on renewable energy and stricter pollution regulations in industries.

5.4 Economic Indicators

Table 4: Economic Growth and Poverty Rates in India (2015-2023)

Year	GDP Growth Rate (%)	Poverty Rate (%)	Source
2015	7.5	27.9	World Bank
2019	4.0	22.0	World Bank
2021	8.4	21.3	World Bank
2023	6.5	17.4	NITI Aayog

Explanation:
This table shows the relationship between poverty rates and economic growth in India over the recent times. GDP growth rate highlights the fluctuations caused by a myriad of factors, ranging from the global economy to the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Remarkably, even though economic recovery has been recorded, the rate of poverty has continued to decline recording effectiveness of economic and social policies in place to fight against poverty for example Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana

(PMAY) (Jha & Sharma, 2023), Nevertheless, the effect of the economic growth on the alleviation of poverty is still uneven, especially in rural areas.

5.5 Social Welfare Initiatives

Table 5: Beneficiaries of Key Social Welfare Schemes

Scheme	Number of Beneficiaries	Source
Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)	3.79 crores	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (2025)
Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)	13.54 crores	Ministry of Rural Development (2025)
Ayushman Bharat (Health Insurance)	36.9 crore	PIB (28 March 2025)

Explanation:

This table portrays the outreach of some important social welfare schemes in India @ 2025. The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana is to ensure that all people are sure to have shelter from the rains, while MGNREGA is to employ people in rural areas. The Ayushman Bharat scheme aims to enhance healthcare coverage among poor people (PIB, 2025). The large number of beneficiaries shows how serious the government is in effecting a socio-economic disparity, but the problems with the implementation, the availability, and the awareness of such schemes continue to persist (Rani, 2023).

In conclusion, the facts portrayed in this section provide the major trend in public policy in terms of education, health, environment, and social welfare in India. Generally, a lot has been achieved, especially in improving literacy, preventing infant deaths, and increasing social welfare programs, but challenges that exist, such as environmental pollution, regional differences, and implementation gaps, should be resolved. Adequate data analysis is necessary in providing insights on how future policies will be shaped and how public policies will be able to respond to the needs of the Indian people.

6. Discussion

The study of contemporary Indian public policy has highlighted the complex interlink between different sectors such as education, health, and environmental policies. The trends observed in these sectors represent larger changes in society, the economy, and technology towards governing and public policy outcomes. The synthesis of these major findings and their implications on governance, challenges, and future directions are discussed in the discussion.

The continued increase in literacy levels has proved that efforts like the Right to Education Act and the money spent on infrastructure have positively impacted people's lives. Despite achieving a projected literacy rate of 77.74% by 2021, the gap between the urban and rural areas is immense (Kumar, 2023). The gap reveals that there have been improvements in terms of access to education, but the system and outcomes of the system are lopsided and therefore require segmental policy prescriptions that not only concentrate on enrolment but also focus on improving the quality of the same.

Similarly, the reduction of infant mortality from 44 to 30 per 1000 live births in the last decade testifies to the success of health policies such as Ayushman Bharat. An idea of how these reforms have contributed to improving access to healthcare among the vulnerable groups is given. Nonetheless, from the COVID-19 pandemic, there arose deep-seated issues within the healthcare system that highlight the need for a robust system of healthcare infrastructure that can effectively respond to health emergencies (Vashishtha & Gupta, 2022). Public health policy must be able to focus on both preventative care and emergency preparedness to be able to bear the brunt of future health crises.

In environmental policy, the horrendous air quality statistics are a call to action for holistic interventions against pollution. The high levels of Air Quality Index (AQI) in cities such as Delhi and Kolkata point to the continued issue with urban air

pollution control (Bhattacharya, 2023). Although government ventures remain promising, their effect is usually offset by a lack of enforcement and low public compliance. Air and water pollution, among other things, can be alleviated by reinforcing regulations on the environment and supporting community-based actions for sustainable development.

The shift towards participatory governance shows an increasing understanding of the significance of citizen participation in matters of policy. Ventures like My Gov have made it possible for people to participate, which translates to a more responsible and inclusive form of governance (Bhanumurthy, 2023). Representation of marginalized communities, however, still becomes a big challenge. The effective participatory governance needs to guarantee that all the voices, particularly of voiceless groups, are heard in the policymaking process.

6.1 Implications for Public Policy

The conclusions from this analysis have a significant impact on the approaches to the formulation and implementation of public policy in India. The coherence in sectors points to a necessity for an integrated venture of policymaking about the broader social and economic context. Policies will have to be made flexible so as to make mid-course corrections, using data analytics and the feedback from the citizens.

There is also a compelling need to improve cooperation between government organizations and civil society organizations, and the private sector as well. Through capitalizing on the strengths of various stakeholders, innovative solutions can be generated to solve difficult social problems. Public-private partnerships can help in realizing infrastructural development and enhance service delivery in areas like healthcare and education.

Furthermore, the focus on sustainable practices in all the policy areas, especially environmental governance, is necessary to ensure environmental viability. Policy makers need to focus on policies that go beyond short-term issues and prepare them for long-term development without compromising on economic development and ecological integrity.

7. Findings

The findings revealed in the research and analyzed data during this paper identify several important findings on the public policy trends in India:

1. **Improved Literacy Rates:** The literacy level in India has increased drastically, with a high rate of projection at 77.74% by 2021. However, differences exist between the rural and urban populations, which suggests the need for interventions targeted to improve the quality of education, especially among the less privileged people.

2. **Declining Infant Mortality**: Infant mortality rate has drastically reduced from 44 to 30 per 1000 live births as a result of the healthcare reforms. Spite of the improvements made, healthcare infrastructure and delivery inadequacies remain, especially in the rural setting, the need to bolster the healthcare system therefore continues.

3. **Environmental Concerns:** Mean AQI levels in most Indian cities are still high, with cities such as Delhi having an average of 200. This presents a lingering public health issue that calls for a prompt and firm set of policies, i.e., tougher pollution control and public involvement in environmental conservation.

4. **Participatory Governance:** The trends for participatory governance marks a positive change towards involving citizens in the policymaking. However, while effective governance calls for inclusivity and representation for marginalized communities, this focus has the potential to be important in hedging or even preventing racism in public offices.

5. **Impact of Economic Policies:** Liberalization of the economy has seen poverty rates decline and they are expected to decline to 17.4% in the year 2023. The long-standing income inequality, however, implies that not all segments of the demographic population have benefited equally from the growth of the economy.

6. **Digital Divide:** The shift towards digital platforms for service delivery has highlighted the digital divide where there is a need for policies targeted at improving access to technology, especially among the rural set up and underserved communities.

8. Conclusion

In conclusion, the examination of the modern tendencies in public policy in India allows us to

distinguish considerable progress and further struggles. The finding shows that although great strides have been made in literacy, including reducing the rate of infant mortality, severe disparities exist, especially in rural areas. Further, the environmental-related issues, as evidenced by alarming AQI levels, call for immediate and specific interventions.

The focus on participatory governance is a positive indication of an inclusivity tendency but more works need to be done to ensure that marginalized voices are considered during decision-making processes. The interdependence of the sectors emphasizes the need for policy making to be integrated while tackling social issues in an all-rounded way.

As India continues to navigate its path towards development, policymakers must prioritize adaptive governance practices that focus on equity, sustainability, and resilience. Engaging a broad range of stakeholders, leveraging data-driven insights, and fostering a culture of collaboration will be vital for crafting effective public policies. By addressing the existing challenges and seizing opportunities, India can move towards a more inclusive and sustainable future, ensuring that the benefits of progress are shared by all.

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