A REVIEW OF BANKS' FINANCIAL INCLUSION INITIATIVES IN TRIPURA

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ABSTRACT

Since India in last three decades the key objective of policy makers and central bankers are to eliminate the problem of financial exclusion. In our nation state 'inclusive financing' or 'financial inclusion' plan is to be considered as the major initiative taken by the Government of India, to include the rural poor and low income people within the formal banking system to access financial services at an affordable cost, timely and adequately. This paper briefly tries to examine the growth of financial inclusion by using a comparative statement between pre and post financial initiatives and also try to analyze the present situation of financial inclusion process in Tripura by using the statistical tools like, Pearson's correlation and 't'-test Analysis. The result of this study reveals that, there is a significant difference between growth of pre and post financial initiatives in Tripura. The present study also finds that, there is a significant correlation between rural areas and the combined of urban & semi-urban areas in Tripura in respect of opening of bank branches, amount of deposits and amount of credits. In addition, the relationship between these two areas in the present state is highly significant for opening of bank branches and amount of credits. But the amount of deposits in rural areas and the combined of urban & semi-urban areas in Tripura is low level of correlation. It means that, the amount of deposits in the rural areas is very low as compare to the combined of urban & semi-urban areas amount of deposits.

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Keywords: Financial Inclusion Initiatives, Inclusive Growth, Correlation.

INTRODUCTION:

Almost at the beginning of the 21st century a number branch mark happening and glaring revelation open to signify that growing level of exclusion is attributable one of the major cause of high incidence of poverty and backwardness all over the globe. Financial Inclusion is one of the crucial apparatus to bringing opportunities for the rural backward and low-income underprivileged sections of the society with in the banking fold and it also to take part into the inclusive growth as a sustainable economic development of financial system. The first bench mark event of financial inclusion initiatives in India is the Nationalization of 14 Commercial Banks by Smt. Indira Gandhi (1969). Before that, during the British regime in 1904 when the Cooperative Credit Societies Act was enacted, that may be taken as the earlier spell for financial inclusion drive in the country. After that in the year 2004, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted the Khan Commission as strategic parts of the policy measure and it was incorporated in mid-term review policy of 2005-06. According to Census Report 2011, out of 121,01,93,422 crores population majority of the people (83, 30,87,662 crores) were lived in the rural and backward areas in India. The improvement of the country is totally based on the growth of the rural economy. Capital formation is the vital part for achieving inclusive and sustainable growth in the rural and disadvantaged sections of the society. Hence, the policy of Financial Inclusion take plays a dynamic support in the recent years. On the basis of the GDP growth rate in 2009-10, Indian economy has one of the quickest growing economies as comparison to other countries in the world. The GDP growth rate was 7.1% in India (2009-10), where as global growth rate of 3.1%. According to RBI Annual Report 2011-12, "Financial inclusion was adopted as a formal agenda for Indian banking following the Report of the committee on Financial Inclusion (Chairman: Dr. C. Rangarajan), 2008. The report noted that 51% of farmer households did not access credit, either from institutional or non-institutional sources. Further, despite the vast network of bank

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branches, only 27% of total farm households were indebted to formal sources (of which one-third also borrow from informal sources). Access to formal institutional credit amongst farm households was as low as 4.1% in North-Eastern, 18.2% in Eastern and 22.4% in Central Regions". As per the RBI working paper (2011)¹, Tripura has achieved low level of Financial Inclusion (less than 0.3) among the other states in India and in this paper, the Author has used three basic dimensions for computing Index of Financial Inclusion (IFI) to measure the status of Inclusive Finance as a state-wise in India as well as district-level in West Bengal. The result is totally based on selected parameters namely, (i) Banking Penetration (number of adults having Bank Account), (ii) Availability of Banking Services (number of Bank Branches per 1000 population) and usage (measured as outstanding Credit and Deposit). As per the proceedings of SLBC Tripura² (16th January, 2014), "All the identified 1038 villages, irrespective of the population of more than & less than 2000, were covered either by Branch or BCA points and there by achieved 100% coverage of Financial Inclusion in the state." "Under DBT accounts have been opened for all the 43,562 beneficiaries made available to the LDMs of 4 Districts, thus 100% achievement obtained in respect of account opening." In this paper thus attempts shall be made to analyze the comparison of Financial Inclusion growth in the state of Tripura between pre and post financial initiatives along with focus upon its trend and progress and also try to demonstrate the actual situation of Financial Inclusion in the state by analyzing a number of selected major indicators.

OBJECTIVES:-

The objectives of this study are to:-

- Study the growth of Financial Inclusion in the state of Tripura by using a comparative statement between pre and post financial initiatives along with focus upon its trend and progress.
- Study the performance of financial inclusion in rural and combined of urban and semi-urban areas in Tripura by analyzing the selected major indicators.

HYPOTHESIS:-

The hypothesis of the first objective is "there is a significant difference between growths of Financial Inclusion in Tripura between pre and post financial initiatives" and the hypotheses of the second objective are:

- **H1:** There is a significant correlation between openings of bank branches in rural areas and combined of urban & semi-urban areas in Tripura.
- H2: There is a significant correlation between rural amount of deposits and combined of urban & semiurban amount of deposits in Tripura.
- H3: There is a significant correlation between amount of credits in rural areas and combined amount of credits in urban & semi-urban areas in Tripura.

METHODOLOGY:-

The required data was collected from secondary sources, to examine and analyze the present situation of the financial inclusion among the disadvantaged sector of the society in all the districts of Tripura during the period 2000-01 to 2011-12. Since altogether the total period of the present study contains Twelve years and the whole period has been divided into two parts, i.e. before and after implementation of banks financial inclusion initiatives in the study area. We also collect data for investigate the second objective of this study period from March-2005 to March-2014.

For implementation of present study, data were accumulated from various published reports of the Reserve Bank of India (Annual Reports, Statistical Tables Relating to Banks in India, Banking Statistics-Basic Statistical Returns), State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) Agendas, Newspapers, Magazines, Articles, Journals, Lead Bank Offices-Reports, other publications and subject related websites etc., which have been utilized comprehensively as

¹ "Financial Inclusion in India: A case-study of West Bengal" by Sadhan Kumar Chattopadhyay, paper published by Department of Economic And Policy Research (July, 2011).

² United Bank of India. (2014). Agenda Noted for the 108th meeting of State Level Bankers' Committee. Tripura: UBI, Lead Bank Division.

information resources pertaining to explore the nature and penetration of access to financial services in Tripura. Some of the important factors viz. nos. of bank branches including rural branches, population per bank branch, bank branches per 1000 sq. km., Credit-Deposit ratio, ratio of Deposit and Credit Accounts to population, per capita deposits and credits etc. has been considered to examine the trend and progress of state. In order to analyze the collected data, statistical tools and methods like percentage, mean, maximum, minimum, standard deviation, growth rates, person correlation and t-test were also applied wherever required. However, the present study has also try to find the correlation between the use of financial services among the households of rural and combined of urban & semi-urban areas in the state of Tripura as a whole.

FINANCIAL INCLUSION INITIATIVES IN TRIPURA:-

Tripura is one of the landlocked and most popular states in North-Eastern Region in India. It is the 21st (twenty-one) largest state in terms of population (0.30 % of the total population of India), during the year 2011 out of its total population 27,10,051 lakh still live in rural areas and 9,60,981 lakh in urban areas. As per the census report 2001, there were 26.5% of the total households under banking fold in Tripura. But at present the total number of households availing banking services increased from 1,75,198 in 2001 to 6,67,765, as per Census Report 2011. Out of total banking households in the state, 4,75,239 number of households availing banking products and services are in rural areas and remaining 1,92,526 number of banking households are in urban areas.

Recently Tripura, being a state tucked away in one corner of the India's North East made a National headway in the matter of achieving Financial Inclusion. In a first decade of 21st century as per Report, state has shown the maximum change availing banking services (Business Standard, January 6, 2013). In Tripura, financial inclusion initiatives were started in 2006. The main objective of that Financial Inclusion drive is to ensure access or make available banking, financial and insurance services to the under privileged section of the society. State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) Report-2013 speaks that in accordance with the "instructions issued by RBI unbanked villages having population of over 2000 were identified and allocated amongst the banks operating in the State for opening banking outlets in those villages within March 2012. In Tripura 419 such villages were identified and allocated amongst the banks broadly based on Service Area Allocation of villages. The banks have already set up banking outlets in all the 419 villages largely through BC model and Brick and mortar branches in some villages". According to Banking Report of Progress up to March, 2012, "BCAs were engaged in 414 villages and 449380 accounts were opened in these villages. The number has increased to 456870 at the end of September, 2012. In Tripura for providing banking services in the second phase. The banks however have covered 239 villages through BC model and 13 villages through B & M branches. The rest 9 villages are expected to cover by December, 2012".

GROWTH OF FINANCIAL INCLUSION IN TRIPURA:-

The below mentioned Table shows that comparison between before implementation (1.4.2000-31.3.2006) and after implementation (1.4.2006-31.3.2012) of financial inclusion initiatives in Tripura. There are different selected indicators helps to measure and analyze the present status of financial inclusion. Thus, the selected indicators are number of rural bank branches, population per bank branch, number of bank branches per 1000 sq. km., ratio of credit and deposit, per capita deposits and credits respectively. [Table-1]

Year	Bank B (Nun	ranches nbers)	Population Per Branch (Number) Branch Per 1000 sq.		CD Ratio	Ratio of Depo Accounts to	sit and Credit Population	Per Capita l Cre (Amoun	Deposits and edits it in Rs.)
	Total	Rural	(Internet)	km.		Deposit	Credit	Deposit	Credit
2000-2001	220	143	14542	21	28	31.31	6.88	3995	921
2001-2002	222	144	14411	21	26	31.47	10.37	5850	1307
2002-2003	223	143	14346	21	31	32.03	9.69	5138	1313
2003-2004	225	143	14219	21	29	31.48	8.05	5522	1406

Table-1: Comparison between before and after implementation of Financial Inclusion initiatives in Tripura

2004-2005	225	143	14219	21	35	31.28	8.09	6145	1822
2005-2006	226	143	14156	22	35	35.86	8.82	7709	2436
2006-2007	228	145	14032	22	36	38.44	8.6	8820	2995
2007-2008	248	146	12900	24	36	42.45	9.38	10372	3515
2008-2009	263	144	12164	25	31	53.06	9.47	13607	4054
2009-2010	284	154	11265	27	30	59.2	9.94	21385	6234
2010-2011	299	163	10700	29	33	67.13	8.69	24145	7575
2011-2012	328	187	11192	31	33	64.6	9.23	28598	8939

Source: Computed from the various Annual Report of RBI (1999-2000 to 2011-2012)

In the year 2000-01, the total number of bank branches was 220, out of that 143 nos. of branches was in rural areas. At that time the numbers of population per branch was 14,542, number of bank branches per 1000 sq. km. was 21, credit-deposit ratio was 28, ratio of deposit and credit accounts to population was 31.31 and 6.88 respectively, per capita deposit and credit in account was 3995 lakh and 921 lakh respectively. In the year 2006, Tripura has implemented the RBI guidelines regarding financial inclusion plan. At the initial stage of that plan, the state had 226 nos. of total bank branches (rural bank branches was 143 nos.), 14,156 nos. of population per bank branches, 22 nos. of bank branches per 1000 sq. km., 35 percent credit-deposit ratio, 35.86 percent of ratio of deposit accounts to population, ratio of credit accounts to population 8.82 percent, per capita deposit and credit in terms of amounts 7,709 lakh and 2,436 lakh respectively. After completing the six years of implementation of that plan, in 2011-12, the total numbers of bank branches in the state has to increased to 328 (187 nos. of rural bank branches), 11,192 nos. of population per bank branches, 31 nos. of bank branches per 1000 sq. km., ratio of deposit and credit accounts to population are 64.60 and 9.23 respectively, per capita deposit in amounts are 28,598 lakh and 8,939 lakh respectively. From the above table it has been clearly identifiable that, at recent period the total nos. of population per bank branches and bank branches per 1000 sq. km. has enhancing, as well as the nos. of population per bank branches has decreasing, for the reason behind that after the implementation of the financial inclusion plan in the state the total nos. of bank branches has to extremely increasing. In others, per capita deposits and credits has also escalating, because the total amounts of deposits and credits has been increases as compare to the earlier position in 1999-2000. But the ratio of credit-deposit has decreased to 33 percent in 2011-12 from 36 percent in 2006-07.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL INCLUSION IN TRIPURA:

Apart from the above, we are also computing mean, maximum and minimum value to disclose the actual position of the trends of banking services as a financial inclusion process in the studied area. In Table-1, the required data are collected from various published reports of Reserve Bank of India and also used the statistical tools and techniques like Standard Deviation to judging the representatives of the mean value of all the selected indicators of Financial Inclusion. While, we are calculating Growth Rate starting from the period April, 2000 to March, 2012. From the above mentioned Table, it can be easily identifiable that the values of all the selected indicators like Bank Branches (including Rural Bank Branches), Population per Bank Branch, Bank Branches per 1000 sq. km., ratio of Deposits and Credits accounts to population, per capita Deposits and credits from the period of six years (2006-2012) has been increases as compare to the before implementation of RBI directives regarding Financial Inclusion Plan from 2000 to 2006 and at the period of after implementation of financial inclusion initiatives the value of all the indicators has also raising as compare to the mean value of the selected indicators. And the maximum value of all the selected indicators to accessing the present status of Financial Inclusion process in the state, has been achieved after the implementation of that plan from the year 1st April, 2006 to 31st March, 2012, in exception of ratio of Credit-Deposit, ratio of credit accounts to population. In case of analyzing the growth rate of the selected financial inclusion indicators, it can be revealed that during the period 2006-2012, the growth rate of all the indicators except ratio of credit accounts to population are as good enough as compare to the period of 2000 to 2006 as well as 2000 to 2012. [Table-2]

Mean	249.25	149.8333333	13178.83333	23.75	31.91667	43.1925	8.934167	11773.83	3543.083
Max	328	187	14542	31	36	67.13	10.37	28598	8939

Min	220	143	10700	21	26	31.28	6.88	3995	921
SD	34.79732988	12.62163046	1397.852271	3.369594437	3.147971	13.36693	0.918164	8007.559	2562.21
Colculation of Crowth Pate									
2000-2006	0.449464624	0	-0.447370499	0.778347088	3.789082	2.287179	4.226949	11.57842	17.59881
2006-2012	6.248587744	4.330735103	-3.698876416	5.88225179	-1.43973	9.037242	1.18525	21.65908	19.991
2000-2012	3.384221924	2.260708516	-2.158381073	3.2987818	1.378608	6.221506	2.478896	17.82431	20.85161

Source: Authors own calculation



Source: Authors computation







From the above mentioned tables (Table-1 & 2) it can be observed that, there is a significant difference between the growth of pre and post period of Financial Inclusion initiatives in Tripura. Thus, the trends and progress of selected major indicators of financial inclusion process in the present state are also showed in the Chart-1, 2 and 3 respectively.

PERFORMANCE OF FINANCIAL INCLUSION IN TRIPURA:

The major indicators of measuring financial inclusion such as Bank Branches, amount of Deposits and amount of Credits. This study formulated the hypotheses to examine these indicators with the correlation of rural areas and combined of urban and semi-urban areas in Tripura. The following are testing hypotheses and results of the present study helps to explore the performance of financial inclusion in Tripura.

a) Correlation between openings of bank branches in rural and urban & semi-urban areas:-

H1: There is a significant correlation between openings of bank branches in rural areas and combined of urban & semi-urban areas in Tripura.





Source: Authors computation (period from 2005-2014)

The above hypothesis intends to examine the relationship between the openings of bank branches in rural areas and combined of urban & semi-urban areas in Tripura. The details of the testing hypothesis, methods and results of the hypothesis are given below:

Parameters	Rural	Urban and Semi-urban
Mean	167.1	123.5
Variance	1059.433333	1422.944444
Standard Deviation	32.54893751	37.72193585
Range	86	114
Minimum	143	82
Maximum	229	196
Observations	10	10
Confidence Level (95%)	23.28410719	26.98464726

Table-3: Descriptive Statistics of Bank Branches in Tripura

t-Test: Paired Two Sample for Means				
Pearson Correlation	0.913958708			
d f	9			
t Stat	8.936294323			
P(T<=t) one-tail	4.524			
t Critical one-tail	1.833			
P(T<=t) two-tail	9.048			
t Critical two-tail	2.262			

Source: Authors own calculation

The result indicates that there is a significant correlation between the opening of bank branches in 'rural areas' and combined of 'urban & semi-urban areas' in Tripura stands at r = 0.913. In other words, this study can conclude that the correlation between rural areas bank branches and combined of urban and semi-urban bank branches explain 0.913.

The correlation of bank branches in 'rural areas' and 'urban & semi-urban areas' are significant at the 5 percent level (t-critical value = +/-2.262), allowing this study to reject the null hypothesis. Hence, the first hypothesis is accepted. Therefore, this study concludes that there is a significant correlation between the bank branches in 'rural areas' and combined of 'urban and semi-urban areas' in Tripura. [Table-3 & Chart-4]

b) Correlation between amount of deposits in rural and combined of urban & semi-urban areas:-

H2: There is a significant correlation between rural amount of deposits and combined of urban & semi-urban amount of deposits in Tripura.





Source: Authors computation (period from 2005-2014)

This hypothesis aims to test the correlation between rural deposits and combined amount of deposits in urban & semi-urban areas which is one of the indicators for analyzing the present situation of Financial Inclusion process in Tripura. The details of the hypothesis testing methods and results are given below:

Parameters	Rural	Semi-urban & Urban
Mean	196026.8889	453154.2222
Variance	10647322099	34408804469
Standard Deviation	102057.811	175443.9367

Range	283298		514033				
Minimum		78830	265876				
Maximum		362128	779909				
Observations		9	9				
Confidence Level (95%)	78	448.57802	134858.1477				
t-Te	t-Test: Paired Two Sample for Means						
Pearson Correlation		0.375592837					
Hypothesized Mean Difference	ce	0					
d f		9					
t Stat	A CARDON AND A CARDON	-4.375763779					
P(T<=t) one-tail		0.000891036					
t Critical one-tail	-	1.833112923					
P(T<=t) two-tail		0.001782073					
t Critical two-tail		2.262157158					

Source: Authors own calculation

The result of this study indicates that, there is a significant relationship between the rural deposits and combined of urban & semi-urban deposits in Tripura stands at r = 0.375. In other words, this means that there is a small correlation between these two variables.

The correlation of amount of rural deposits and combined urban & semi-urban areas deposits are significant at the 5 percent level (t-critical value = +/-2.262), allowing this study to reject the null hypothesis. Hence, the secondary hypothesis is accepted. Thus, it is concluded that, there is a significant correlation between rural areas amount of deposits and the combined of urban & semi-urban areas deposits in Tripura. [Table-4 & Chart-5]

c) Correlation between amount of credits in rural and combined of urban & semi-urban areas:-

H3: There is a significant correlation between amount of credits in rural areas and combined amount of credits in urban & semi-urban areas in Tripura.



Chart-6: Total Amount of Credits in Tripura (in Lakh.)

Rural (in lakh) Urban & Semi-urban (in lakh)

Source: Authors computation (period from 2005-2014)

This hypothesis aims to test the correlation between the amount of credits in rural areas and the combined amount of credits in urban & semi-urban areas which is one of the indicators for measuring Financial Inclusion process in Tripura. The details of this testing technique and the results of the hypothesis testing are given below:

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Parameters	Rural	Semi-urban & Urban						
Mean	84453.5	170241.4						
Variance	3555279857	9349568890						
Standard Deviation	59720.5979	91798.32						
Observations	9	9						
Confidence Level (95%)	45905.3152	70562.44						
t-1	t-Test: Paired Two Sample for Means							
Pearson Correlation	0.984912949							
d f	9							
t Stat	3	-6.895256512						
P(T<=t) one-tail	3.55223E-05							
t Critical one-tail 1.833112923								
P(T<=t) two-tail		7.10446E-05						
t Critical two-tail	2.262157158							

Source: Authors own calculation

The result of this present study indicates that the relationship between the rural amount of credits and combined of urban & semi-urban areas amount of credits in the state stands at r = 0.984. In other words, this means that there is a high correlation between these two variables. [Table-5]

The relationship between the amount of credits in 'rural' and combined of 'urban & semi-urban' areas is significant at the 5 percent level (t-critical value = $\pm - 2.262$), allowing this study to reject the null hypothesis. Hence, the third hypothesis is accepted. Thus, it is concluded that the significant correlation between the 'rural areas' of amount of credits and combined of 'urban & semi-urban areas' amount of credits in Tripura. [Chart-6 & Table-5]

CONCLUSION:-

The result of this study indicate that after the implementation of financial inclusion initiatives in Tripura, the growth rate of all the selected major indicators except ratio of credit accounts to population are as good enough as compare to the period 2000-2006 (before implementation of financial inclusion plan) as well as the period from 2000 to 2012. In addition, the results indicate that there is a significant difference between growth of pre and post financial inclusion initiatives in the present state. The present study also finds that, there is a significant correlation between rural areas and the combined of urban & semi-urban areas in Tripura in respect of opening of bank branches, amount of deposits and amount of credits. In addition, the relationship between these two areas in the present state is highly significant for opening of bank branches and amount of credits. But the amount of deposits in rural areas and the combined of urban areas in Tripura is low level of correlation. It means that, the amount of deposits in the rural areas is very low as compare to the combined of urban & semi-urban areas amount of credits.

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Year	Rural (Nos.)	Semi-Urban (Nos.)	Urban (Nos.)	Combined of Urban & Semi-urban (Nos.)
2005	143	37	45	82
2006	143	37	46	83
2007	145	37	46	83
2008	146	42	60	102
2009	144	59	60	119
2010	154	64	66	130
2011	163	64	72	136
2012	187	67	74	141
2013	217	84	79	163
2014	229	107	89	196

Annexure-1: Status of Bank Branch Expansion in Tripura from 2005-2014

Source: Data Compiled from SLBC Report 2005-2014, UBI, Tripura

Total Amount of Deposits in Tripura from 2005-2014 (Rs. in lakh)						
Year	Rural	Semi-urban	Urban	Combined of Urban & Semi-urban		
2005	78178	54530	133138	187668		
2006	78830	81988	183888	265876		
2007	93679	92300	211570	303870		
2008	101286	105874	256392	362266		
2009	150114	142522	336759	479281		
2010	177421	168456	400038	568494		
2011	220011	196364	440540	636904		
2012	261113	238612	541297	779909		
2013	362128	312891	700435	1375454		
2014	319660	383748	818823	1522231		

Annexure- 2:

Source: Data Compiled from SLBC Report 2005-2014, UBI, Tripura

Year	Rural	Semi-urban	Urban	Combined of Urban & Semi-urban
2005	28609	15765	31767	47532
2006	33788	30019	49322	79341
2007	41062	36801	62455	99256
2008	46721	43715	76690	120405
2009	55533	50041	87702	137743
2010	72679	60088	96591	156679
2011	85918	73771	115816	189587
2012	104451	89277	132512	221789
2013	177133	128419	173109	301528
2014	198641	123862	224692	348554

Annexure- 3: Total Amount of Credits in Tripura from 2005-2014 (Rs. in lakh)

Source: Data Compiled from SLBC Report 2005-2014, UBI, Tripura