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REVIEW ARTICLE

Role of entrepreneurship in bringing social change: A comparative analysis between Maharashtra and Bihar

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Abstract

Purpose: The current study intends to analyze the impact of entrepreneurship on social change in two Indian states such as Maharashtra and Bihar. Entrepreneurship is often identified with capitalism while the current study analyzes its impact on society through the available data. The current study is a first of its kind in this aspect as the studies conducted earlier focused on the economic aspects of the state. **Methodology:** The current review analyzes the secondary information collected from various government reports of the state and the union, research papers, theses, web articles, and books published earlier. This narrative review article intends to identify the role played by entrepreneurship on social change in these two states. **Findings:** The study findings provide knowledgeable insights about the role played by entrepreneurship in the state of Maharashtra, the second-highest industrialized state in the country and top contributor of the Indian economy for more than a decade. Bihar, being one of the lowest performers in terms of economic indicators, the state is also suffering from social indicators that have been exposed by the data. **Implications:** The study provides a bird's eye view of the socio-economic aspects of both states and provides recommendations for the state of Bihar to improve the existing performance. **Originality:** The study is a novel attempt to analyze how entrepreneurship positively affects the social structure of the state.

Key words: Entrepreneurship, Maharashtra, Bihar, Economic growth, Social change
JEL Classification: L26 Entrepreneurship

INTRODUCTION

Social change is inevitable in today's globalized economies while India is a fine example for her drastic growth in various aspects such as societal, economic, cultural, educational, and political aspects in the aftermath of independence. Progressive as well as regressive changes have profoundly altered the lives of Indians to a known extent. The progressive changes experienced in the recent decades include women's liberation and empowerment, empowering the socially downtrodden classes of society, economic growth, industrial revolution, entrepreneurship, increasing gross domestic product (GDP), etc., On the other hand, India has been a regional power and the mother of democracy with elections being held at the state, center, and panchayat levels (Banerjee, 2021). Social change is induced by a few major drivers such as population, environment, social institutions, and technology. Either as a standalone entity or in combination with the rest of the drivers, social change is brought about by the above-mentioned factors

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(Conerly et al., 2021). The following sections are brief about social change, entrepreneurship, and the rationale behind conducting the current study.

SOCIAL CHANGE

According to Wagoner and Power, social change can be loosely defined as a society's transformation with respect to social organization, practices, and its value systems, for instance, civil rights, environmental concerns, women's rights, adoption of technology in day-to-day life, and so on. Social change is often driven by the idea of a possible futuristic society that distinguishes itself from the existing one (Wagoner and Power, 2020). Vadrot (2020) defined that social change denotes a major modification in the social structure that occurs after a certain period of time. The author further summarized that it is pertinent to grasp the conditions for social change and innovation for any type of initiative to be taken to transform societies and create a sustainable future. In addition to this, Servaes (2011) opined that social change is a significant change in the structured social action or the culture of a context, community, or society under study. According to Anshika (2021), being a universal and inevitable process, social change may alter its pace from time to time and from one location to the other. Some of the characteristics of social change include universality, continuous nature, inevitability, temporal, uneven degree of change, either planned or unplanned, results in consequences and are uncertain to predict. The beginning of social change is either endogamous or exogamous or even both. When discussing social change, there exist five metaphors according to Healy (1998), whom mentioned organic development, ecological competition and selection, diffusion and contagion, path dependence and hysteresis, and complexity and self-organization.

VARIOUS ASPECTS OF SOCIAL CHANGE

According to the National Institute of Open Schooling (no date), social change can occur due to educational, economic, political, cultural, demographic, and technological factors as well. These factors may create an impact either in parallel or in a series fashion. Servaes (2011) distinguished social change based on the type of dimensions such as space (micro, meso-, macro), time (short, medium, long-term), speed (slow, incremental, evolutionary versus fast, fundamental, and revolutionary), direction (forward or backward), content (sociocultural, psychological, sociological, organizational, anthropological, and economic.), and impact (peaceful versus violent). Some of the characteristics of social change, according to Theophilus and Jack (2017) include inevitable, multi-leveled, ubiquitous, detectable and measurable, rate, and contagious. Further, Theophilus and Jack (2017) mentioned that social change theories are of the following types such as evolutionary theory (linearly progressive), diffusion theory (diffusion of cultural patterns and practices), cyclical theory (cycle of growth and decay), functionalist theory (movement of one state of social stability to the other), and conflict theory (struggle among the groups as a result of conflicts).

ROLE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN SOCIAL CHANGE

An entrepreneur was first coined by Schumpeter in the 20th century, according to this, an entrepreneur is a man of action and executes the creative destruction process which is the core component of capitalism. Entrepreneurship has been the pillar of rural and community development, urbanization, innovation, women empowerment, and so on (Bansal et al., 2019). Entrepreneurship is generally found to be associated with growth and wealth creation by leveraging the marketplace opportunities. In recent years, the approach toward entrepreneurship has changed from merely economic benefits to the expectations set on the entrepreneur to meet societal demands instead of merely self-growth. Entrepreneurship augments traditional values, gender equality, and social values which are intertwined with social change. Social entrepreneurship is a special arrangement in which innovation, social change, and entrepreneurship are coordinated with one another (Perrini and Vurro, 2006). Social entrepreneurship helps in getting rid of poverty, removal of inequality, empower women, poor, and marginalized groups, creating awareness and welfare projects, etc. (Surbhi, 2018).

Some of the notable outcomes achieved by social entrepreneurship in India include job creation, social inclusion, microfinancing, creating awareness and addressing climate change, access to health care, etc. (ISDM, 2023). In the literature Cavalcanti (2021), the authors examined the impact of social entrepreneurship practices on bringing social change in urban areas of Brazil, selecting three non-governmental organizations. The data were analyzed through an iterative thematic analysis method and the results were then handled through a practical-theoretical approach so that the actual purpose of the SE practices is derived. The study found five dimensions of

practice such as cultural, discursive, material, economic, and socio-political.

The relationship that exists among entrepreneurship, empowerment of women, and social change was analyzed among 49 social enterprise members in Gujarat, India (Haugh and Talwar, 2016). The study found that the economic activity of women and their financial freedom bring much-needed social change. The social change brought among the respondents, through social entrepreneurship, are notable such as changing attitudes toward paid work done by women, changing power relations inside the family, change in gender discrimination, and finally involvement of men in household chores,

RATIONALE BEHIND THE CHOICE OF STATES

The current study considered two states, that is, Maharashtra and Bihar for which the reasons are as follows. Various studies have analyzed the state of Maharashtra in different aspects and also compared it with other states such as Telangana (in the aspect of local governance) (Kumare, 2023), West Bengal (economic evolution) (Amartya and Kei-Mu, 2005), Gujarat (employment) (Unni and Dev, 2021), Tamil Nadu (globalization) (Ma, 2008), Karnataka (economy) (Suryanarayana, 2009), and Madhya Pradesh (Infant message) Chaturvedi et al. (2020).

In literature, comparative studies were conducted between Maharashtra and Bihar in terms of farmer producer organizations (Roy et al., 2020), two different droughts that hit the respective states (Dyson and Maharatna, 1992), while (Sorensen et al., 2005) validated the prevention of tobacco use and teacher tobacco use that covered a few socioeconomic indicators. Even though (Potdar et al., 2020) analyzed the socioeconomic profile of dairy farmers in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Bihar, the study did not consider the entrepreneurship aspect with a social change background. The current study considered Maharashtra and Bihar as its study states since no such study has been considered from the perspective of entrepreneurship and its role in social change.

The current study is descriptive in nature and relies on secondary data from state and union government websites, research articles, working papers, theses, web papers, books, and other offline/online sources. Based on the analysis of the information available, the current study intends to provide insights about the topic undertaken, practical implications for the policymakers, and suggestions for future researchers.

COMPARISON BETWEEN MAHARASHTRA AND BIHAR

The current section compares and contrasts the states of Maharashtra and Bihar in terms of gross state domestic product (GSDP), HDI, education, per capita income, and other such aspects related to entrepreneurship and social change.

Table 1 compares the GSDP values between Maharashtra and Bihar. According to the Press Information Bureau (Ministry of Commerce and Industry, 2022), Maharashtra has been under the "Achievers" category in terms of implementing the business reforms action plan for the year 2020 while Bihar stands in "Aspirers" category. As per the official data provided by RBI, Maharashtra has been consistently placed at the first position in generating the highest GSDP from 2004–2005 to 2021–2022 while the projection for 2023 as well place the state at the top position. On the other hand, the position of Bihar in generating state-wise GDP fluctuates. In terms of the number of factories for the year 2019–2020, Maharashtra has a total of 25,610 factories while Bihar has a total of 3,429 factories, which is only 13% of its counterpart state. As per the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (2023), the per capita income for the years (2020–21 and 2021–22) of Maharashtra is 1,83,704 INR and 2,15,233 INR, respectively, and for Bihar, values are 43,605 INR and 49,470 INR correspondingly. The disparity in per capita income is visible between the states, which is a direct result of extensive industrialization in the former state. The total number of factories in the states of Maharashtra and Bihar is shown in Figure 1a and b.

According to the MSME ministry (Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises, 2022), out of the total number of SSI (Small Scale Industries), Maharashtra, contributes about 7.64% of the entire nation while it is 4.94% in Bihar. As per the same data, the contribution of the rural and urban manufacturing sectors was high in the state of Bihar, while the state of Maharashtra has a high contribution in the service sector (in both rural and urban areas). It is interesting to note down that the number of units registered under the Factories Act is triple times that of the state of Bihar (~ 12048+16285 to 3099 + 3790). Further, the employment generated by the SSI sector in Bihar was merely 4.34% while it stands at 8.23%. It is alarming to observe that the children being employed in Bihar SSI stands at 1.35% while it was only 0.15% in Maharashtra. Figures 2 and 3 show the GSDP of Maharashtra at current prices.

In the literature Tewari (2022), the authors analyzed the growth of the manufacturing landscape in the aftermath of

Table 1: Comparison of gross state domestic product between Maharashtra and Bihar (values in Lakh crores INR)

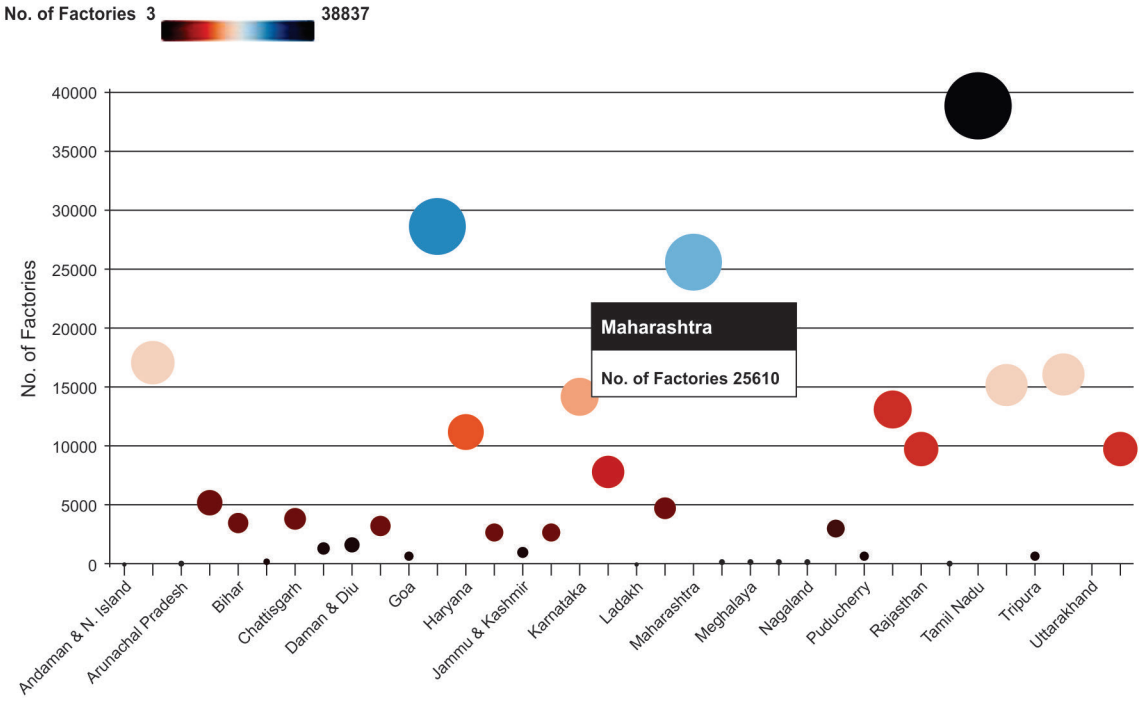
S. No.	Base: 2011–2012	Base: 2004–2005	Maharashtra	Bihar
1	NA	2004–2005	4,15,47,969	77,78,116
2	NA	2005–2006	4,86,76,562	82,49,020
3	NA	2006–2007	5,84,49,766	1,00,73,714
4	NA	2007–2008	6,84,81,658	1,13,67,995
5	NA	2008–2009	7,53,96,915	1,42,27,912
6	NA	2009–2010	8,55,75,051	1,62,92,294
7	NA	2010–2011	10,49,15,008	2,03,55,499
8	NA	2011–2012	11,70,12,126	2,43,26,902
9	NA	2012–2013	13,22,22,235	2,93,61,593
10	NA	2013–2014	15,10,13,214	3,43,66,279
11	NA	2014–2015	16,86,69,475	4,02,28,299
12	2011–2012	NA	12,80,36,944	2,47,14,396
13	2012–2013	NA	14,59,62,863	2,82,36,793
14	2013–2014	NA	16,49,64,663	3,17,10,134
15	2014–2015	NA	17,79,13,793	3,42,95,094
16	2015–2016	NA	19,66,22,458	3,71,60,179
17	2016–2017	NA	21,98,18,515	4,21,05,150
18	2017–2018	NA	23,52,78,150	4,68,74,631
19	2018–2019	NA	25,28,85,430	5,27,97,582
20	2019–2020	NA	26,57,37,096	5,81,85,548
21	2020–2021	NA	26,27,54,190	5,67,26,250
22	2021–2022	NA	31,08,02,187	6,50,30,243

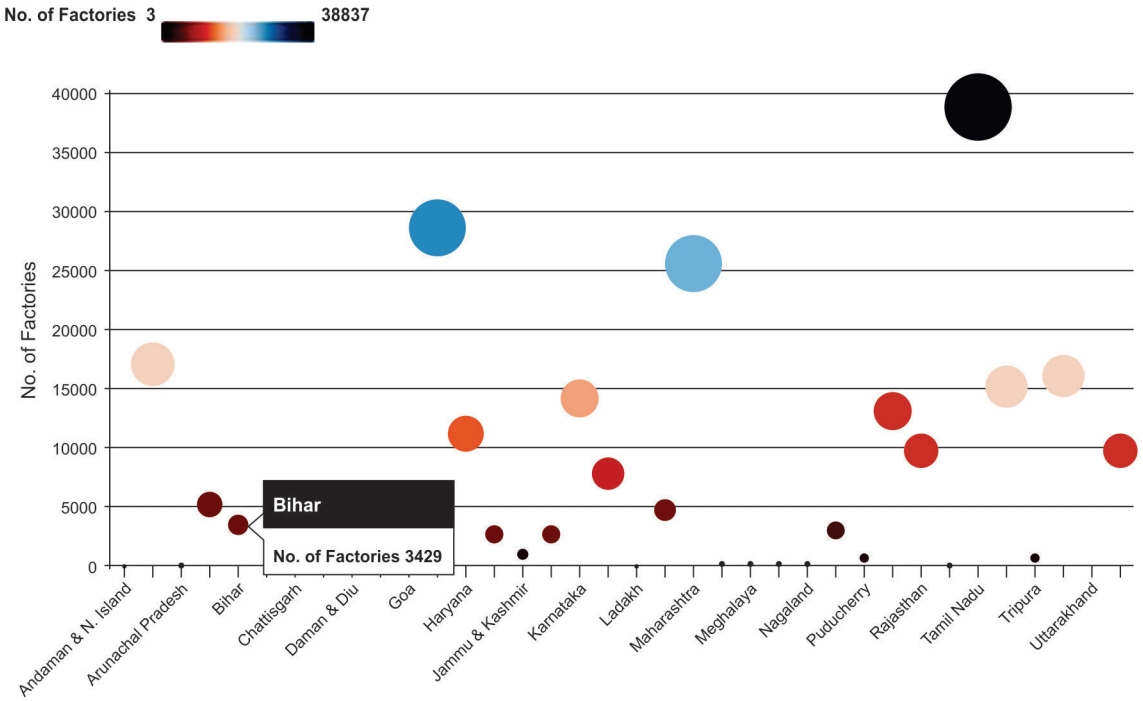
Source: RBI, 2023

economic reforms done and the growth of manufacturing units increased up to two times in the state of Bihar compared to Maharashtra between 1990 and 2013. The government policies and objectives are the well-defined initiatives of a state government toward economic growth. The state of Maharashtra has a well-structured policy for textile, agriculture, tourism, infrastructure, and industries (IBEF, 2022). The FDI inflow has been phenomenal that started from 45.07 Billion USD for the financial year 2011 to 191.77 Billion USD for the financial year 2024.

As per IBEF (2023), the GSDP of Bihar increased at a CAGR of 11.03% from the years 2015–2016 and 2023–2024. The state of Bihar has many advantages toward ease of business, that is, abundantly available cost-effective industrial labor, location-specific advantage to vast markets, and enhanced government support for women. According to Swargiary (2023), the literacy rate for the state of Maharashtra stands at 84.8% while it was 70.9% for the state of Bihar, which is lower than the national average of 77.7%.

According to the Ministry of Education (2023), Maharashtra is one of the top eight states in India with the highest number of colleges. In terms of student enrolment, Maharashtra is second only to UP. With over 65 universities (of all types) in Maharashtra, the number of colleges per lakh eligible population in Bihar stands merely at 7. Bihar has the least female-to-male teacher's ratio', that is, 1:4 while it has the highest pupil–teacher ratio (50) while the value should be less than or equal to 28 on a national average basis. According to MyScheme.gov, the state of Bihar introduced Bihar's startup policy in August 2022 to boost entrepreneurship and special incentives for female entrepreneurs. Human Development Index, another measure for social change encompassing health, education, and per capita income, documents the growth of Maharashtra in comparison with Bihar. According to Chawla et al. (2022), if the citizens of a country work to their fullest potential, inducing productivity at all their lives, it is affirmative that development occurs in the region. Historically, the national HDI of India was 0.467 in 2008 which increased up to 0.647 in the year 2018.





DISCUSSION

The Maharashtra government established the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) way back in 1962 with a vision to increase entrepreneurship activities in the state. As per the SSI reports, it is visible that the social empowerment of women, the importance of education, and financial freedom are high in Maharashtra compared to Bihar. This aspect should be considered by the policymakers to bring structured industrial development with the help of technology to boost social change. Although the developments focused only on urban areas in both states,

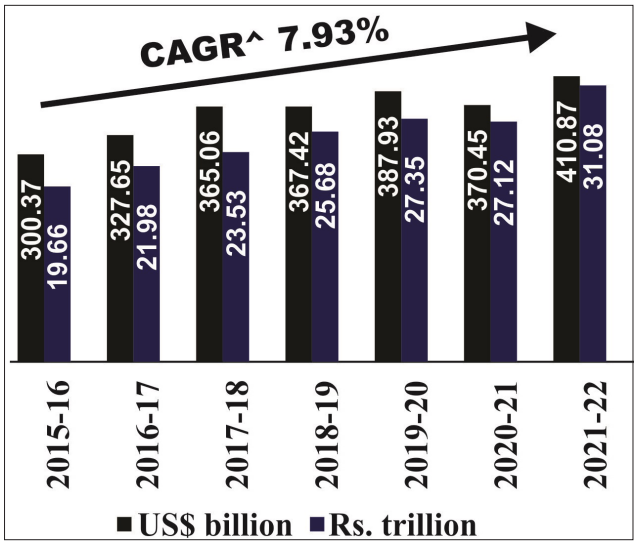


Figure 2: Gross state domestic product of Maharashtra at current prices

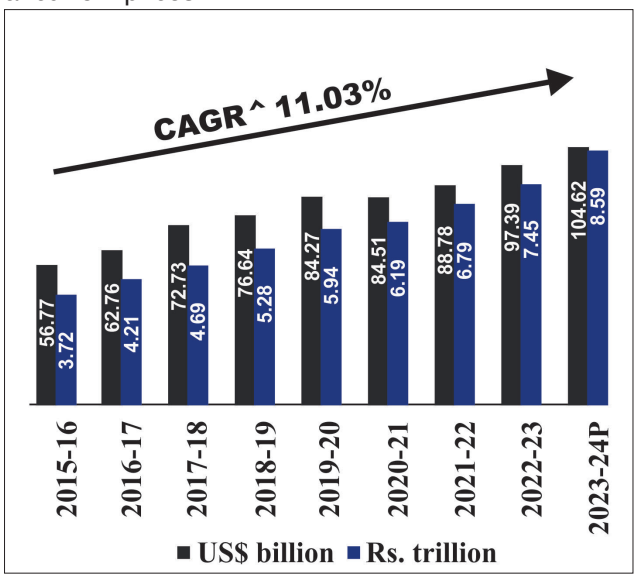


Figure 3: Gross state domestic product of Bihar at current prices
Source: IBEF (2022)

the rural area is comparatively developed in terms of small-scale units in the state of Maharashtra.

The FDI has been a major boosting factor for the economy of a country, especially in the case of India, after liberalizing the economy, FDI has been the hot research topic. The FDI for the calendar year 2021 was 150.31 million USD for the state of Bihar and 12,226.15 million USD for the state of Maharashtra (Press Information Bureau, 2022). In general, the FDI inflow primarily depends on the availability of natural resources, infrastructure, political and general investment climate, stability of macroeconomics of the state, and market size. From the data, it is clear that the state of Bihar should improve these elements to attract FDI so that more direct and indirect employment opportunities can be generated. In addition to this, the social security of the state can be substantially safeguarded with the right engagement of the workforce. In the literature More and Rakibe (2023), the authors analyzed the performance of business and entrepreneurial orientation among 69 SMEs in the Nashik district of Maharashtra and found a significant influence between the variables. The role of SMEs has been emphasized in this study since it has played a major role in bringing social change in rural areas of Maharashtra. On the other hand, the economy of Bihar recorded a sharp recovery in 2021–22 while the state has been rewarded second position for a strong base of MSMEs. The state profile of Bihar, according to the State Government of Bihar (2023), has a total of 53% of people under the age of 35 of both skilled and unskilled labor.

The empowerment of women through entrepreneurship has been extensively emphasized in literature since they tend to create novel employment opportunities for themselves as well as for others. In spite of this, women entrepreneurs face various challenges in the form of continuous innovation, gender bias and discrimination, familial interests, lack of access to education, etc., and social entrepreneurship brings the much-required changes for today's society in the form of poverty eradication programs, child and women empowerment, financial stability, access to health care, technological upgradation, safe and sound environment for children, food safety, etc., Ramesh Kumar and Jaya Praveen (2017).

As per the CAG report for the state of Bihar 2023 (Comptroller and Auditor General of India, 2023), the state of Bihar secured the third position among the top ten states in reviving its economy in the aftermath of COVID-19. It is to be noted that the state government failed to spend the funds allocated to the state in almost 33 schemes, amounting up to ~ 943 crore rupees. Being an Agrarian state, Bihar is regarded as a state with high poverty compared to India's average. The CAG report also mentions that the grants allocated to the state did not reach up to the original provisions, which proved the inaccurate estimation of funds. Especially, the funds allocated to minority welfare in entrepreneurship programs were only utilized by 47%. The department failed to utilize the original budgetary provisions, although it was allotted to the state. As recommended by the CAG provisions, the state government of Bihar must take initiatives to fully utilize the funds allotted to the state in raising entrepreneurship

activities, which will automatically generate employment and bring societal change.

In Bihar's state budget for the year 2023 (IBEF, 2023), the allocation of the state for education has increased up to 2.61 Lakh crore, while various infrastructure project funding was increased in the budget 2022–2023. Education should be given more importance at primary, secondary, and tertiary levels since social change occurs in a civilized society and it has been proved in many developed countries as well. In comparison with Maharashtra, the higher educational institutions in Bihar are far quite less which might be attributed to the low percentage of people with skills to be employed in industries. Hence, it is important for the policymakers to develop tertiary education infrastructure in the state to increase their Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER). Economic growth is often linked with a high literacy rate in society while as per (Swargiary, 2023), it can be inferred that states such as Delhi, Gujarat, and Maharashtra have higher literacy rates and accordingly register phenomenal economic growth.

CONCLUSION

India is aiming to be a 5 trillion economy in the aftermath of COVID-19 while the GSDPs of the top five states contribute more than 40% of the country's total GDP. In this background, the state of Maharashtra has been a prominent player in socioeconomic indicators while Bihar has a lot of scope to improve with its huge human potentials, landscape advantage, agrarian economy, etc. The current study provides in-depth insights into the states, their advantages, scope for improvement, and recommendations. In the future, the researchers may conduct detailed investigations about the states in terms of electoral politics, caste and community influence, women's education, etc.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

As the sole author, I conducted the entire research process, from conceptualization to data analysis and interpretation, for the study on the "Role of entrepreneurship in bringing social change: A comparative analysis between Maharashtra and Bihar." This work reflects my individual effort in exploring and presenting insights into the transformative impact of entrepreneurship in distinct social landscapes.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The author(s) declare that they have no conflict of interest. The manuscript was written with the knowledge and approval of the author(s) concerned and all have contributed equally.

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