

A Project Report on

## Policy Framework for Post Pandemic Developmental Needs of India Underpinning the Need for Self- Reliance



**A Report on**  
**Policy Framework for Post Pandemic Developmental Needs of India -**  
**Underpinning the Need for Self-Reliance**

By

**Centre for Educational and Social Studies (CESS)**

Sponsored by

**Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)**

**Project Director**

Dr. Ashok H S  
Advisor, CESS

**Co-Directors**

Dr. S R Keshava  
Professor, Department of Economics  
Bangalore University

Dr. Gowrishna  
Professor and Director, CESS

**Research Team**

Dr. Sindhuja C V, Post-Doctoral Fellow  
Dr. Harshitha, Research Associate  
Ms. Dharani S, Sr. Associate  
Mr. Praveen Srinivas, Research Assistant

Supported by

**Institute of Social and Economic Change (ISEC)**



**Centre for Educational and Social Studies**  
Bangalore

Copyright CESS, 2022

Published by

Centre for Educational and Social Studies  
No.6/6, “Prajanam”, 10th Block, II Stage,  
Nagarbhavi, Bangalore – 560072  
[cessedu.org](http://cessedu.org) | [mail@cessedu.org](mailto:mail@cessedu.org) | 080-23182947

F.No. COVID/714/26/2020-21/ICSSR

Supported by

Institute for Social and Economic Change  
Dr. V K R V Rao Road  
Nagarabhavi Post  
Bangalore – 560 072  
Tel: (080) 2321 5468 Fax: 23217008  
E-mail: [admn@isec.ac.in](mailto:admn@isec.ac.in)

## Acknowledgement

This Research Project has been a collective work of the efforts of many individuals and organizations. We are happy to place on record our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to everyone who have contributed to the project. We are incredibly grateful and express our sincere gratitude to the Indian Institute of Social Science Research (ICSSR) for the initiation and support provided by sponsoring the project.

Our heartfelt thanks to the two members of Advisory Board, Prof. Yashwanth Dongre , Former Professor, University of Mysore for being a ‘think tank’ to the study and being there with us from the beginning till the culmination, and Prof. Sandeep Shashtri, Vice Chancellor, Jagran Lake city University, Bhopal, for the valuable inputs and guidance provided throughout.

We extend our profound gratitude to Dr. Rajashekhar, Director, ISEC, for the moral and institutional support that he extended throughout the project. We also extend our special thanks to the Registrar, Account and Administrative officers at ISEC and Mr. Shivakumar, Office Superintendent, CESS for providing all the administrative and accounting support.

We express our sincere thanks to Prof. S Madheswaran, Professor, CESP, ISEC and Mr. Chaitra M S, Senior Fellow and Head, ISU, CESS for extending their timely support at the initial stage of the project. Our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. K A Badrinath, Senior Journalist and Policy Editor of Financial Chronicle for the timely inputs. We thank Dr. Padmavathi B S, Head of Education Unit, CESS for timely feedback and support.

We are always indebted to our Honourable President of CESS, Prof. M K Sridhar and Secretary, Mr. Nagraj Reddy for motivating us by being a pillar of support and strength throughout the project.

Finally, we render our sincere thanks to all the participants of Key Informant and Stakeholder Survey. Without their participation, the survey would not have achieved its purpose.

**Prof. Ashok H S**

Project Director

# ***Policy Framework for Post Pandemic Developmental Needs of India - Underpinning the Need for Self-Reliance***

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **1. Statement of the research problem**

The pandemic which is likely to continue for a long time has thrown up many challenges. Indian economy and society have encountered unanticipated problems, that of huge reduction in state revenue, issues related to health infrastructure, closure of businesses and consequent job losses, the migrant labour crisis, social strain, and isolation, changing dynamics of family environment, and disruption in the conventional mode of imparting education, to name a few. Obviously, the economy needs to live with the pandemic and reprioritize its focus with a direct emphasis on self-reliance. This would be the only way we can focus on the nation's local strengths and competencies. The most important problems that need scientific scrutiny include the following.

- a. How to revive the economy and specify the role of formal and informal sectors keeping in mind the sustainability, emplacement, and self-reliance?
- b. How to address the issue of achieving social cohesiveness, family relations, and nature-oriented lifestyle and social safety nets?
- c. How to evolve strategies for restructuring, strengthening, and integrating educational and health sectors into the process of indigenous and self-reliant economic and social development?
- d. What domestic sources need to be tapped to finance the emerging developmental needs of the economy and society?
- e. How to bridge the urban-rural gap and guarantee the quality of life for all?

### **2. Objectives of the Proposed Study**

The overall objective of the study is to lay out a draft policy framework to facilitate economic and social development. Specifically, the study has the aims to

- a. Evaluate the adequacy of the existing economic and social policy framework for the changed situation and to usher in greater self-reliance.
- b. Pool together, examine and shortlist the policy perspectives of varied experts to provide a basic framework for policy making to ensure self-reliance.

- c. Document and publish in the form of an edited volume, a comprehensive framework for policy making.
- d. Engage with governments to follow-up on the recommendations and help devising and putting the policies in place

### **3. Method**

The objectives of the study were approached by mixed methods namely Key informant Survey (KIS) and Stake holder survey (SHS). The KIS aims to collect data from the experts who are proficient and competent in their respective domains/sectors from India. These experts were asked to identify and send with explanatory notes, the recommendations for policy making. The Stakeholder survey aims to reach out to the professionals in the respective domains/sectors through a survey-based methodology, and the collected data would be both qualitative and quantitative in nature.

#### **3.1. Key Informant Survey**

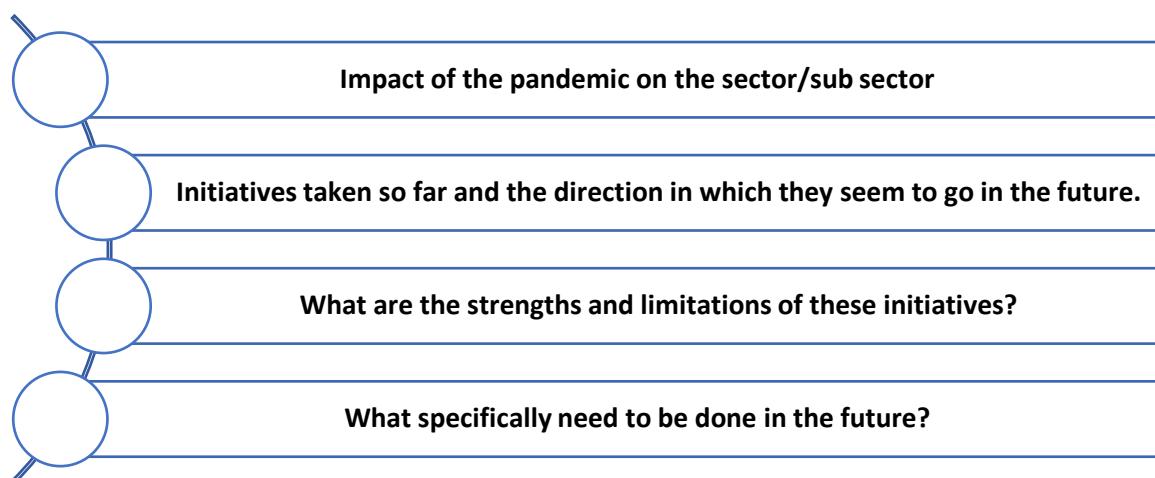
Key informant interviews are in-depth interviews of a selected group of experts who are most knowledgeable of the organization or issue. It is often used as a part of program evaluations and need based assessments (Lavrakas, P. J., 2008). Proposed methodology for the current study is to deploy KIS for all the five sectors which was decided from internal teams. A concept note on the objectives of the study was shared to the experts. Open ended questions were prepared separately for each sector to get the views of the experts. The rationale for the generating narrative question for all the sectors was decided based on four key points

**3.2. Procedure:** The Key informants were requested to provide free narrative response without any limit for the length of their answers towards the open-ended questions. The focus of the questions would be on three critical issues (a) - impact of the pandemic on the sector/subsector, initiatives taken so far and the direction in which they seem to go in the future (the intent of policy makers), (b) what the strengths and limitations of these initiatives are and (c) what specifically need to be done in the future. A total of five open ended questions for each sector was finalised.

### **3.3. Administration of KIS Survey**

A comprehensive list of key informants was gathered with respect to specific areas from the expert, interest groups and associations. Initially, Key informants in each sector were selected. First batch of the key informant list was prepared for roll out. Before rolling out the survey, a personal telephone contact was made to give a brief account on the objectives and scope of the study and their informed consent and willingness to participate was also obtained.

Initially 63 experts across the sectors were reached out. Out of which 43 experts completed the KIS, ten experts from education & health care, nine experts from MSME, seven from agriculture and seven from Economy. Proposed methodology for the current study is to deploy Key Informant Survey for all the five sectors which was decided from internal teams. Further to design questionnaires separately for each group of Key Informants in each specific sectors and sub sectors was finalised. Along with the questions a brief concept note on impact of Covid was shared, based on this contextual information experts or key informant were asked to respond to open ended questions with their narratives. The rationale for the generating narrative question for all the sectors was decided based on four key points (as shown in the figure below).



**Figure 1:** Showing the four key rationale points for open ended questions

### **3.4 Stakeholder Survey**

Stakeholder surveys are a quantitative method based on a questionnaire to gather information from various stakeholders. This method serves as a tool to monitor, evaluate, planning and policy making process (Sadashiva, M., 2012).

### **3.5. Procedure**

Stakeholders from each sector were contacted through telephonic interviews and also by sharing the google document. Information was collected using open ended questions and Likert type of questions, following the steps will be followed or achieved for designing the stakeholder survey for the current study.

**3.6 Administration of SHS:** A separate schedule for each of the sector namely Education, Healthcare, MSME, Economy and Agriculture to gather information about positive and negative impacts, impediments, and suggestions were prepared. We reached out 200 experts out of which 100 responded. Only 73 respondents have completed the survey from healthcare, education and economy sectors, these responses were considered for further analysis.

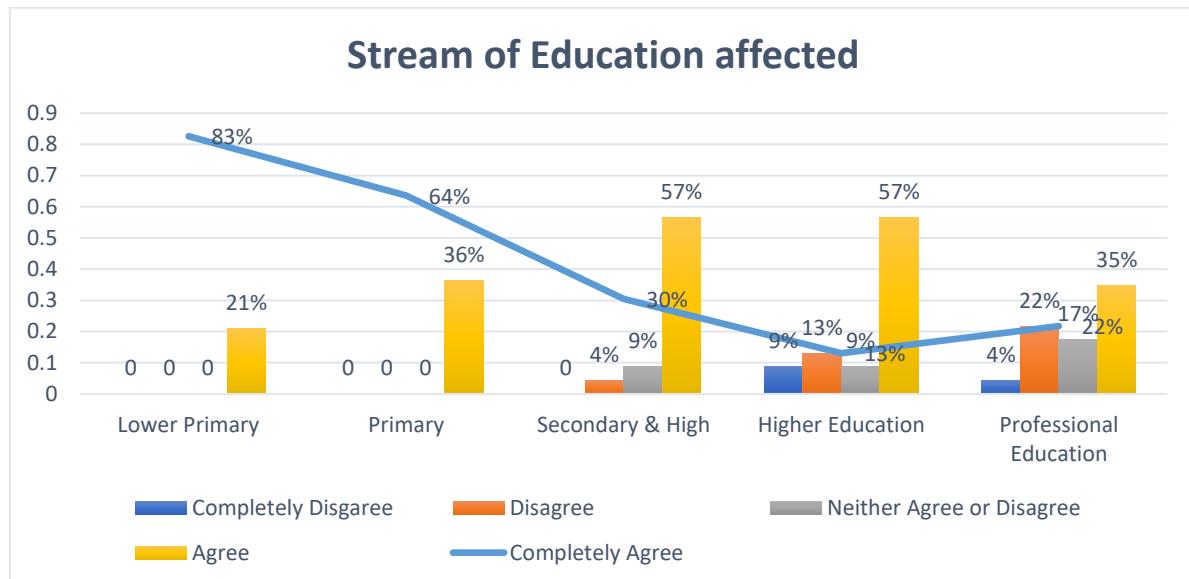
The responses obtained through KIS and SHS were used to identify broad critical areas to provide a basic framework for policy that are related to achieving post pandemic normalcy. Comparison of the inputs from the key informants and data collected through SHS was used to develop the policy framework.

## **4. Results Highlights - Stakeholder Survey**

### **4.1 Education Highlights**

- ➔ About 81 pc of the respondents have opined that the pandemic has a positive impact on the educational sector in terms of increase in the technical competency of teachers, adapting to blended mode of learning in a brief period, enhanced use of digital technologies, increasing digital literacy, increase in demand for Open and Distance Learning (ODL), increased use of open educational resources, enhanced learning efficiency of students, more opportunities to learning Management system companies and rise in collaborative work in the institutions.
- ➔ On the contrary 75 pc of the respondents have reported that the pandemic has negatively affected the educational sector in terms of lack of interaction between students and teachers, lack expertise in using ICT by both teachers and students, widened the digital divide in rural (hilly and mountain areas as well) and urban areas. adding to this, exposure to digital devices then before, disruption of examinations and assessments, disrupted laboratory and library activities, interrupted project-based learning, affected attention, concentration ability of students, increase in the drop out ratio of students, increased addiction to technology and Students passing out during the pandemic will have difficulty in getting employment.
- ➔ Around 72 pc of the respondents have opined that an addition of 2 hours every day was spent than the regular working is being spent in teaching and preparation for online classes. The histogram below depicts the degree to which the respondents believe that the effect of pandemic across various levels of education.
- ➔ About 83 pc of respondents opined that Online classes are suited for India, there is a need to equip teachers to take online classes, enhancement in monitoring and evaluating procedures, the impact of digital learning differs based on Institutional mindset in providing digital tools and network.
- ➔ Around 60 pc of the respondents are of the opinion that the pandemic has affected the secondary and high school level as well as mainstream higher education. Respondents differ about the effect of pandemic in respect of professional education. While some

are of the opinion that it has affected to a great extent, others are of the opinion that it might or might not have affected (see figure 1).



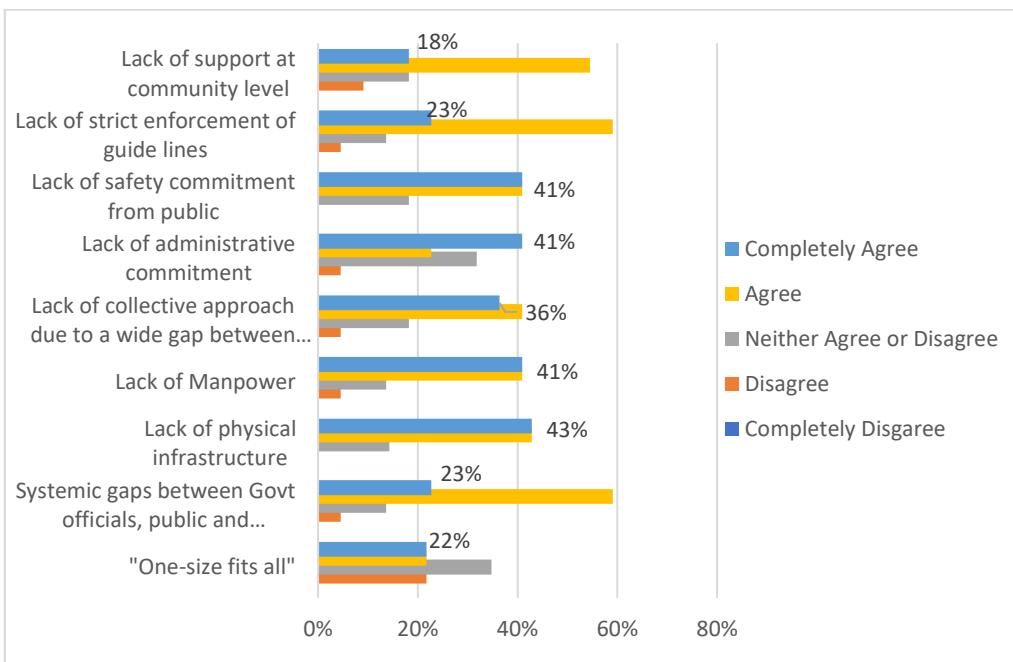
**Figure 1:** Stream of education affected due to pandemic

- ➔ Respondents have suggested for pedagogical changes to be more effective in teaching, learning and evaluation process.
  - A system needs to be changed specially while using online platforms. Relook of the digital Infra structure in terms of Wi-Fi connection, you tube channel need to be upgraded.
  - Adding to this the need to train both the teachers and students in making use of technology effectively.
  - Syllabi need to be revised based on the current requirement by making it more practical with Student centric, activity-based pedagogy need to be worked out.
- ➔ Difficulty in implementing blended approach reported by respondents were in terms of Lack of infrastructure, and economic factors, Attention and concentration issues of students, Syllabus is not in tune with blended approach, Lack of skills among teachers in using blended approach.

## **2. Health Highlights**

- ➔ About 87 pc of the respondents have stated that the pandemic has a positive impact on the health sector in terms of broader public realization of the role played by healthcare workers, expansion of tele-health, remote health care has become a reality, social cohesion and conscience among people, helped to understand the existing gaps in the health care system, recognition to indigenous medical health care, intergenerational social integrity was enhanced, investments in the digitization of health care increased, flexibility in the regulations of health care sector for more innovation, surge in the mass critical care, patient administration systems (PAS) have been updated to accommodate different clinic templates and team work of health care workers has improved.
- ➔ On the other hand 93 pc have stated that it had negative impact in terms of limited access to advanced diagnostic testing and therapeutic modalities became extremely, usual health care was either cancelled or postponed, physical and mental exhaustion of health care workers, difficulty in procuring additional manpower, equipment, consumables and other resources, differential distribution of services between urban and rural areas, created fear, stress and stigma with minimized social interaction not directly related to health. Adding to this high mortality rate especially among the elders and lack of adequate medical equipment to treat the patients
- ➔ About 35 pc of the respondents are natural about the suppose strategies "One size fit for all, whereas 44 pc of them opined that a common strategy can be used irrespective of difference in the health sector.
- ➔ Around 59 pc of the respondents opined that there is systemic gaps in the form of state and central controlling mechanisms, medical and administrative official in healthcare governance, 86 pc of the respondents felt that lack of infrastructure is the main impediment in dealing effectively with pandemic.
- ➔ Around 82 pc of respondents felt that dearth of manpower in terms of various health care professionals is one of the challenges in dealing with pandemic. 76 pc of the group opined that lack of coordination between public and private medical is perceived to be yet another impediment in dealing with pandemic. In addition, strict enforcement of

policy and guidelines, community involvement, administrative commitment were also perceived to be impediment in dealing effectively with pandemic (See Figure 2).



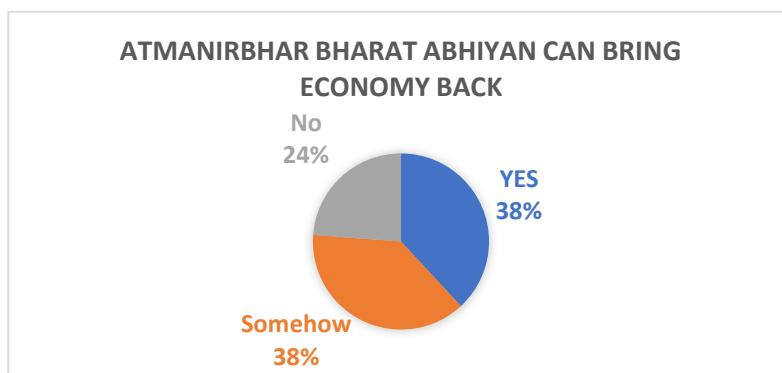
**Figure 2:** Impediments in dealing effectively with pandemic

A common recommendation among the respondents to reform the healthcare sector were,

- Medical charges to be reduced.
- Infrastructure in terms of Hospital, Nursing staff, and Budget need to be enhanced.
- Need for medical and nursing colleges.
- Strengthen rural and government health sectors by providing Insurance, Accessibility, and Awareness.
- Measures to educate and promote health care among the public and integrate alternative medical systems (AYUSH).

### 3. Economy Highlights

- ➔ About 91 pc of the respondents have stated that the pandemic has a negative on the Indian economy in terms of Constraints in the supply and demand chains, Steep rise in the rate of unemployment, informal sectors was the worst hit, increased rate of poverty, disruption in real estate, construction activities, automobiles sector, delay in the recovery of bank assets, substantial decrease in the domestic passenger traffic, altered global supply chain, global financial markets have been heavily impacted closure of malls, shopping complexes, theatres & restaurants, rising inequality & strained household balance sheets, service industries such as tourism, hospitality, & transportation have suffered significant losses.
- ➔ India being major vaccine producers and exporters of the vaccine was considered as one of the major strengths. Production linked based incentives are strengthening the economic stability of the country. Some of the weaknesses of the economic policy affecting effective dealing with pandemic were poor social security services, delayed decisions, resource crunch, urban rural disparity, and Inflation.



**Figure 3:** Showing pc of response on recovering Economy

- ➔ About 38 pc respondents opined that “Atmanirbhar Abhiyaan” has a desirable effect in bringing back the economy on rails and 24 pc of respondents opined that this Atmanirbhar Bharath Abhiyaan alone will not help the economy to recover from the shocks (See figure, 3).

## **2. Key Informant Survey – Policy Framework Suggestions**

After collecting the responses from the key informants from each sector these responses were subjected to the next level of analysis. Across five sectors we contacted two Key informants' experts who volunteered to review all the key informant respondents in each sector. The objectives of reviewing the responses were communicated and key recommendations for a comprehensive framework under each sector was listed out by experts (Annexure – 2). Following section, we have presented suggestions by the panel of experts in Education, Healthcare, MSME, Economy and Agriculture, respectively.

### **2.1 Education**

- Blended approach to learning is contingent upon providing digital infrastructure.
- Empowering teachers to the blended form of teaching and evaluation.
- Man, environment conflict has resulted in increased abractions on the society in the form of natural calamities and pandemics. There is an imperative need for preparing the younger generation to deal with such calamities in future.
- Efforts should be made to change the mind-set of parents and students about the distinction between Education and Employment
- Attention to the deprived students
- Capitalising the benefits of pandemic

## **2.2 Healthcare**

- Dearth of Healthcare professionals has been one of the major constrain of public health system in India. Hence there is a need for a policy to strengthen the workforce in the healthcare sector, especially in the public healthcare.
- Promoting indigenous and alternative medical systems
- Measures to Enhance Self-reliance in Medical services through EPS.
- Develop public accountability practices by involving the community
  - By enrolling and engaging the public in creating awareness, educating the general mass to adhere to safety and health hygienic procedures.
- Delegating individual responsibilities in promoting Covid appropriate behaviour
  - Creating awareness on Covid appropriate behaviour and Vaccination hesitancy.
- Promoting participation of all stakeholders to practice pandemic preparedness.
  - Steps need to be taken for simulating the pandemic like situation to test the infrastructure preparedness and identify the gaps.

## **2.3 MSME**

- Importance to Digitisation and Mentoring
- Emphasis on Productivity but not at the cost of unemployment
- Timely implementation of schemes
- Hand Holding by the GOI as well as mentoring by “Mid to Large” enterprises
- Networking with the other stakeholders

## **2.4 Economy**

- Community welfare networking for effective reach of economic and health services
- Strengthen the local self-reliance
- Systematic Contingent Plan for Migrant Workers
- Reduction in over dependence on China as a major source: Over dependence on China for the raw materials and finished goods must be stopped
- Availability of micro level data: Collecting the quality micro level data on all the sections/sectors of the society on their socio-economic aspects is crucial for policy making.
- Economic Growth must be more inclusive as well as Greener
- Control corruption and increase transparency
- Contain Poverty, inequality and increase employment
- Expand Social protection policies to informal sector workers
- Strengthening the sectoral growth at regional level
- Strengthening Unorganised sector
- Address the issue of increasing unemployment: The foreign investment in the labour-intensive industries needs to be strengthened.
- Encourage PPPs to ensure a greater degree of inclusion: New plan should incorporate more inclusion of public, private enterprises, industrialists, workers, and all other non-government stakeholders.

- Fiscal measures need to be revisited in respect of public investment and taxation policy: Promoting entrepreneurs to invest for national growth, the availability of funds and public investments need be addressed with strong fiscal measures

## **2.5 Agriculture**

- Crop Diversification and Integrated Farming: Crop diversification as a contingency to overcome labour shortage.
- Strengthen APMC with Sound Infrastructure: Increase storage facilities/ temperature-controlled warehouses for agriculture produces at village level and legalize storage receipts for availing loan facilities from financial institutions.
- Reducing the digital Divide: Policy implementation to reach the grassroots level. We need to initiate engagement activities to educate the farmers about policy through local language.
- Encourage Women Participation: Women participation in supply chain and self-help groups to take care of input purchase, output sale, and to negotiate with corporate sector and government to avail the benefits by creating awareness and training programs.
- Price Predication and Data Intelligence Support: Strengthen market intelligence to make it farmer centric to ensure easy passage for movement of agricultural produce for marketing.
- Fiscal Measures: Free distribution of staple food grain under PDS to eligible farm families to be continued during the period of natural calamities.
- Need to bring Agriculture Science in School Curriculum under NEP.
- Promote Use of technology

### 5.3 Comprehensive Framework

Education	Health Care	Economy	MSME	Agriculture
<b>Strengthen digital infrastructure</b>	Urgent need for a policy to strengthen the manpower in the healthcare sector.	Expand Social protection polices to informal sector workers	Bridge the gaps between urban and rural MSMEs in terms of providing financial support	Farmers need to be educated in practicing crop diversification and Integrated farming
<b>Provide training to the teachers for effective use of technology</b>	Alternative medical systems like (AYUSH) need to be promoted and accounted equally to ease the load of tertiary healthcare.	Strengthen the sectoral growth at regional level	Focus on generating employment	Infrastructure in existing APMC has to be strengthened
<b>Develop Learning strategies to cope up with pandemic</b>	Encourage the Indian pharmaceutical companies in the R&D of medicines to be dealt with pandemic.	Strengthen Unorganised sector and develop local self-reliance	Administration hurdles are to be addressed to achieve the timely implementation	Digital divide between urban and rural in transport, logistic and marketing need to be reduced
<b>Change the mind-set of parents and students towards Delinking the education and employment.</b>	Encourage philanthropists to invest in setting up specialised Intensive Care Units, Advanced diagnostic support services and specialized medical personnel units.	Fiscal measures need to be revisited in respect of public investment and taxation policy	Handhold MSME's in the various domains like finance, manufacturing, marketing and technology	Encourage women participation in various agriculture allied activities
<b>Access to technology, address the digital divide and bringing out drops out to the main stream of education.</b>	Develop and deliver programs towards safety, healthy and hygienic life style among the public.	Develop Systematic Contingent Plan for Migrant Workers	Establish Association or Confederation for MSME's to strengthen the networking	Agriculture should be made a part of formal education.

The study indicates that there is a need for a holistic and a comprehensive policy framework to achieve self-reliance and measures with a specific emphasis to any one sector will be a failure. Hence, the present study is aimed at proposing such a policy framework. Based on the consolidation of responses obtained through both the methods, pointers to a comprehensive policy framework were drawn. The common pointers that need to be addressed that are expected to achieve self-reliance are as follows.

- Governments both at the Center and the State need to be proactive in the implementation of policies through better administrative and bureaucratic procedures.
- Initiatives to strengthen, capacity building and handholding of institutions, departments, and the people is the need of the hour.
- Fiscal policies need to be modified catering to the needs of the public like subsidies, loan facilities, credit schemes, tax holidays, measures to curb the inflation etc.
- Infrastructure improvements, networking, and encouraging application of technology but not at the cost of unemployment need to roll out.
- Social security measures, insurance schemes tailored to reduce the gap between urban rural, sector wise disparities in funding.