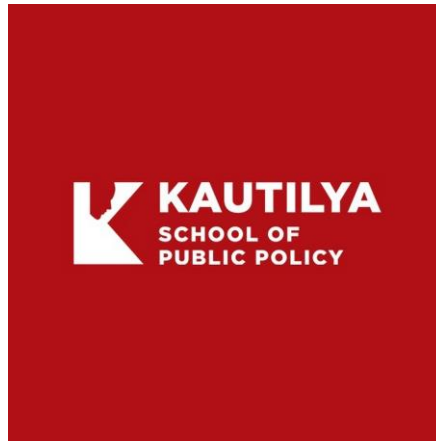


**Income Support for Landless Farmers: A Systematic
Literature Review of Universal and Unconditional Cash
Transfers**

**Submitted to Kautilya School of Public Policy in Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirement for the Degree of
Master of Public Policy (MPP)
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**Kavi Sai Sree Harsha
HP21PPOL0100013**

**Under the Supervision of
Dr. Amrendra Pandey
Associate Professor, Economic Policy, KSPP**



**Kautilya School of Public Policy,
Gandhi Institute of Technology and Management
(Deemed to be University)
Rudraram, Telangana 502329
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SELF-DECLARATION

This is to certify that the thesis submitted by me titled “Income Support for Landless Farmers: A Systematic Review Literature of Universal and Unconditional Cash Transfers” is my original work and has not previously formed the basis for the award of any Degree, Diploma, Associateship or Fellowship to this or any other University.

Kavi Sai Sree Harsha

CERTIFICATE OF THE SUPERVISOR

This is to certify that the thesis titled " Income Support for Landless Farmers: A Systematic Review Literature of Universal and Unconditional Cash Transfers " is original work undertaken by Kavi Sai Sree Harsha under my supervision and guidance as part of his Master degree in this Institute. The thesis may be sent for evaluation.

Dr. Amrendra Pandey

Associate Professor, Economic Policy

Kautilya School of Public Policy

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Chapter 1 - Introduction:

The condition of the rural landless is consistently disregarded in India's mainstream politics, media, and policy discussions. The conversation around the welfare of landless farmers has to address the interplay of caste and bonded labour. According to the 2011 census, 14.4 crore of the 26.3 crore farming households are made up of landless farmers. The debt of the landless is rising as a result of their dependence on informal financial institutions. According to census data, land alienation is causing small and marginal farmers to lose their holdings, and the number of landless farmers is growing. This could increase the vulnerability of the landless if left unchecked.

Due to landless farmers' lack of political capital, there hasn't been much political will to develop policies that specifically benefit them. They were unable to organise a movement specifically for themselves due to their poor economic standing and lack of resources, and instead had to be content to follow 'farmer movements and agitations' that were led by farmers who owned land. After independence, there were insufficient efforts made to redistribute land.

Due to the freedom that income offers, the paper suggests an unconditional cash transfer or income support for landless farmers rather than other forms of aid like food. It is challenging to determine the needs of landless farmers. Their vulnerability is multi-faceted, and receiving income support helps to address a wider range of vulnerabilities than if only health, nutrition, education, etc. were the focus of the aid.

Existing literature on unconditional cash transfers, both targeted and universal, has demonstrated improvements in a number of areas, including education, health, poverty, income inequality, purchasing power, savings, and women's empowerment.

With this income support, the landless farmers will have a secured social safety net against a variety of economic shocks.

Chapter 2 - Literature Review:

1. Land Reforms in India:

In the wake of India's independence in 1947, land reforms gained traction as there was unequal distribution of land amongst the large mass of agrarian society who were below the poverty line. The redistribution of land was one of the top policy agendas at the time with several legislations and reforms being passed like "tenancy reform, abolition of intermediaries, land ceiling, and land consolidation" (Ghatak and Roy, 2007). These reforms led to curtailed power of landowners which decreased the exploitation of the cultivators and redistribution of surplus land to the landless. The land reforms assessment was negative due to the "lack of political will" of the state governments, according to the report of the Task Force on Agrarian Relations of the Planning Commission of India (1973). Besley and Burgess (2000) analyse that the abolition of intermediaries, tenancy reforms and land consolidation had a negative impact on poverty and agricultural productivity. But other measures, such as the land ceiling had no effect.

2. History of Landholdings:

Agriculture has played a critical role in the lives of Indians since ancient times as it is looked at as a way of life which is deeply embedded into the value system of India (Bandyopadhyay, 1993). The agrarian hierarchy is a complex social system riddled with inequalities and exploitation. In ancient India, there were three different structures of land ownership. In private ownership, land "belongs to the person who clears it" implying a sense of abundance and freedom associated with possession of land. Another structure of land possession later in the Hindu period was village

organizations where all the land belonged to the community residing in the village where the head of the village was the authority. These structures further evolved into feudal structures where the overlord acted as a controlling authority which led to class differentiation and exploitation. Other forms of land possession were closely tied to caste system which are 'Brahmadeya' and 'Periyandu'. During the medieval period, there was a rise in intermediaries who evolved into the "Jagidars and Zamindars" where land was passed on based on inheritance.

During colonial rule, the British were quick to realize the importance of land in the development of the Indian economy and therefore maintained control over it. The western concept of private property was imposed onto Indian indigenous land systems where revenue farmers were given land rights despite their lack of ownership or work on the land. The tillers and cultivators of the land were reduced to tenants making a clear class distinction. Due to this, the agrarian society decayed in the mid-19th century as the peasants were migrating and village community revenues decreased.

Post-Independence period saw agrarian economy restructuring to reduce stagnation and reduce disparities of the mass rural cultivators. Agriculture was put in limelight through reform efforts like Kisan conference, discussions of congress sessions, Bardoli satyagraha, etc. The cultivators of land were suffering from indebtedness and "the landlessness and land hunger of the peasants mounted at an ever-increasing pace" (Bandyopadhyay, 1993). Agrarian reform committee was set up and a course of action was suggested for land structure reform.

3. Rate of Landlessness:

The household data of NSSO 48th and 59th round between the years 1992 and 2003-04 show that nearly 40% households of rural India do not own land which

shows a worsened inequality of ownership (Rawal, 2008). This is as a result of unequal distribution of landholdings.

4. Defining Landlessness:

Throughout the years, landless farmers have been defined differently and to understand what definition fits them better. According to NSSO, “landlessness” is defined as possessing land below 0.002 hectares, or 215 sq. ft.

According to the Ashok Dalwai committee on doubling farmers income, the definition of a farmer is someone who owns the land and possesses a revenue record which proves his ownership. All the benefits that the government provides to farmers through schemes, programs and missions base this record of right (RoR) as primary validation. But landless farmers do not have this and hence are excluded from all the schemes. This type of validation also excluded fishermen and nomadic livestock rearers which were also mentioned in the report. The committee suggests the liberalization of the word ‘farmer’ to include landless cultivators and sharecroppers, which will help them access state support. As per census 2011, landless farmers are considered agricultural labourers. The landholding farmers are called cultivators while the landless are called agricultural labourers.

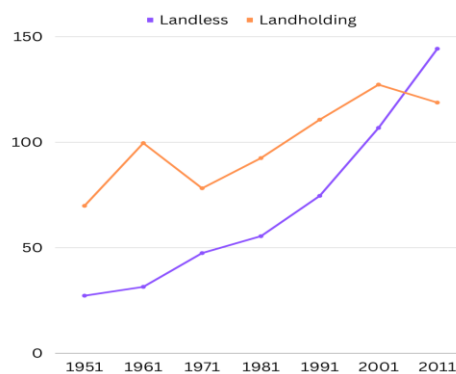


Figure 1: The increase in landless farmers according to past census data

Source: Agricultural Statistics at a Glance, 2021

5. Vulnerability of the Landless:

The literature on landless farmers is focused on the vulnerability and challenges faced by this group and how that leads to a cycle of poverty which is also a result of lack of social protection. But the key gap in the existing literature is that it neither provides any particular identification mechanism for landless farmers nor it talks of the requirement of specific targeted policies for landless farmers.

The ILO identifies the prevalence of South Asia's bonded labour in agriculture, which leads to labour arrangements where individuals who don't own any land are forced into exploitative and coercive working conditions in exchange for a loan. These activities involve all the family members and the return of meagre salary is not enough expenditure to sustain making them highly vulnerable. The combination of high-interest rates and low wages makes it challenging for entire families to break free from this cycle of exploitation (ILO, 2014).

The nature of employment of landless farmers is seasonal and informal and hence also becomes the driver of their economic insecurity and the farmers are forced to take on debt even for day to day requirements due to this reason (Prakash, 2019) and their existing low-income levels worsen the problem. There has been an increase in the total number of agricultural workers in the country according to the census from "234.1 million which has 127.3 million cultivators and 106.8 million agricultural labourers in 2001 to 263.1 million which has 118.8 million cultivators and 144.3 million agricultural labourers in 2011" (Census, 2011) and for the first time ever, we now have more people who are landless rather than landholding that is dependent on agriculture as their primary source of income. This has enormous repercussions on employment opportunities for landless farmers. This crisis has multiplied in

magnitude due to the increase in the use of machinery and weedicides, leading to a decrease in employment generations (Dogra, 2020) as shown in the figure above. One hundred farmers have reportedly become landless every hour (Dogra, 2021) and this highlights the increasing vulnerability of landless farmers because as the number of landless farmers increase, the employment opportunities for them are coming down.

The highest percentage of expenditure of landless is on food (Revathy, 2020), which speaks volumes about their vulnerability and living conditions because as income levels and standard of living increase, the percentage of spending on food as a part of income comes down.

One of the major reasons why there aren't specific schemes targeted towards landless farmers is due to the problem of identification. As farmers can be identified with the help of revenue records of land-holdings it's easier to provide targeted schemes for them. However, landless agricultural labour has no mechanism of identification as employment is on a contract basis which is mutually agreed upon by the landowning farmer and the labour. This hinders the government in providing them the necessary social protection for these sections of the population.

6. Existing Social Protection for Landless Farmers:

Social protection systems are designed to protect people, reduce their vulnerability, and decrease their risk exposure (ADB, 2003). These social protection policies are meant to provide necessities like health, education and nutrition to people. Most social protection policies around the world are for the poor and vulnerable. They help with employment, increasing productivity, health and education of their children and pensions for the ageing population (World Bank, 2022).

Targeted social protection scheme for landless farmers is non-existent. All the schemes that have landless farmers as beneficiaries are schemes that are targeted at

the broader informal economy. Policies like MGNREGA and PDS, which acts as a safety net for the landless farmers are not enough given the various implementational gaps that these schemes have. In this background, some state governments came up with specific targeted schemes for landless farmers like RGGBKMBY from Chhattisgarh and BALARAM scheme from Odisha. In Chhattisgarh, the farmers will receive Rs 7000 per year per household and in Odisha, the farmers can get a loan up to Rs 1.6 lakh.

- **MGNREGA:**

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act provides guaranteed employment for anyone in a rural area who wishes for it and this work is mostly unskilled in nature. MGNREGA work usually happens during the lean season when there is no work on the farm. Before this scheme, people migrated during the lean period to urban areas in search of employment and landless agricultural labourers comprised a large part of that group (Parganiha et al., 2009).

MGNREGA controlled migration from rural to urban areas when it was effectively implemented according to the case study of Villipuram in Tamil Nadu and the migration decreased by half (Jacob, 2008). MGNREGA significantly impacted reducing distress migration from rural to urban areas but has yet to realize its full potential (Prasad, 2016).

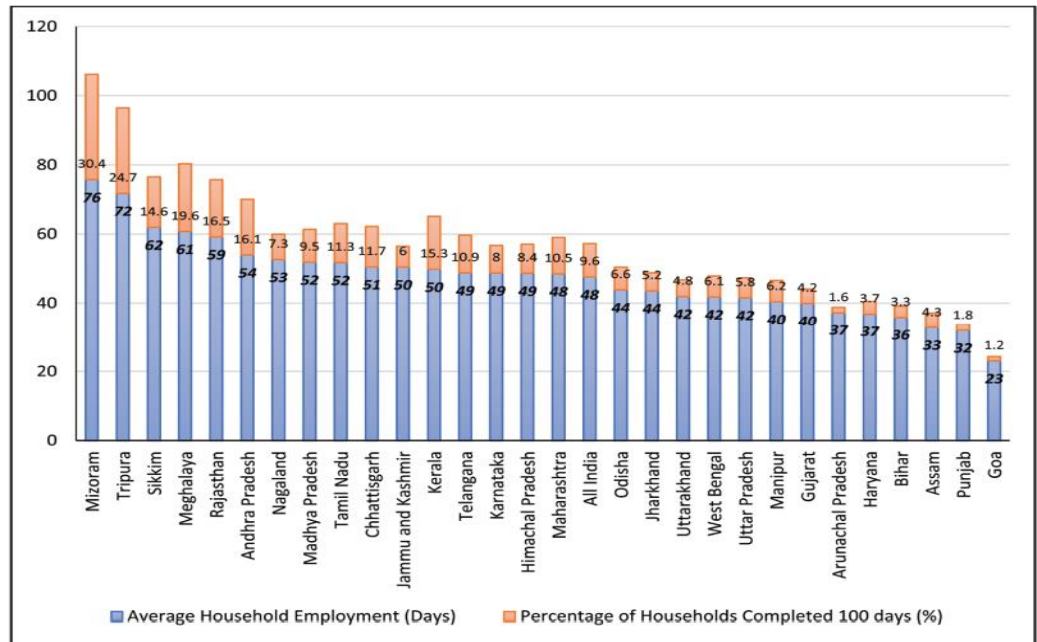


Figure 2: State-wise Employment Generation under MGNREGA from 2006 to 2021 (Turangi, 2022)

According to figure 2, only a sliver of the total population that opted for MGNREGA get the promised 100 days of guaranteed employment while the rest get 23 to 76 days based on the state.

- **Public Distribution System:**

The aim of the Public Distribution System (PDS) is to provide subsidized food grains and other essential commodities to the poorest and most destitute section of society. PDS is given to households which are below the poverty line (BPL) through the issuance of ration cards. Citizens from poor households can then use those ration cards at fair price shops all across the country to avail subsidized ration. The Food Corporation of India procures the requisite grains like rice and wheat at minimum support price (MSP) from farmers and then allocates them to different states. But the system is wrought with leakages. The leakages of the Public Distribution System stood at 54%

and 42% for 2004-05 and 2011-12 respectively (Foodgrains Bulletin, NSSO, (2007, 2014)). According to these numbers, more than 1/3rd of the total food grains that are supposed to be distributed in the PDS are getting lost in the leakages. Although these schemes do exist, these are not specifically targeted towards landless farmers which leaves a significant percentages proportion of them vulnerable.

7. Universal Basic Income as a Social Protection Tool:

Universal Basic Income is a redistributive tool used to tackle inequality and provide income support universally so as to reach the recipients who are left out from the existing social protection schemes (Francese and Prady, 2018) . Unconditionality of UBI is to provide an inclusive coverage without imposing conditions upon the recipient to receive the income. UBI advocates claim that unconditionality is a better way to address the issues of poverty rather than a means-tested program for assessing the worth of beneficiaries. Studies of UBI have shown that cash transfers help in improving the recipients' health and food security indicating the resilience of guaranteed basic income (Banerjee et al., 2020). Wright (2002) notes that UBI also has the capacity to strengthen the bargaining power of employees by giving them the power to say no.

One of the most noted concerns related to UBI is that it is fiscally difficult to provide a steady stream of income to everyone (Tanner, 2015) and might affect macroeconomic stability of the economy (Vandenbroucke, 2017).

8. Systematic Literature Review:

Table 1: Systematic Literature Review for Universal Basic Income and Unconditional Cash Transfers

Sno	Type (UCT /UBI)	Author	Year	Country	Methodology	Variable	Findings	yes/no
1	UBI	Martínez O.A.	2013	Latin America, Mexican metropolitan zone	Kernel estimation	cash transfers and basic income on household incomes, purchasing power	No statistical difference in household incomes regardless of cash transfers. However, families that are close to extreme poverty show significant statistical differences in purchasing power and eradicating poverty.	Household incomes - 0 Extreme poverty - 1
2	UBI	Roy R.	2017	India	Commentary	UBI and growth	Inclusive growth is not a realistic future for India without massive and continuous interventions by the state to achieve equitable income distribution and UBI is an admission of that.	N/A

Sno	Type (UCT /UBI)	Author	Year	Country	Methodology	Variable	Findings	yes/no
3	UBI	Tiwari P.; Malik S.W.; Madhogaria Y.; Venkteshwar A.	2020	Developing Economies	Qualitative	Effect of UBI for poor people and developing economies	By reducing destitution, disparity, differences among poor and rich, UBI has a positive effect on developing nations.	1
4	UBI	Moreno M.A.	2021	Latin America	Theoretical	UBI during pandemic in developing countries	During situations of economic emergency, in the context of this paper - the pandemic, UBI seems non-feasible due to its profound impact and slow recovery. Therefore, UBI should be less universal and unconditional to meet the economic emergencies and addressing the financial capacity of the state. (especially in Latin American countries)	N/A

Sno	Type (UCT /UBI)	Author	Year	Country	Methodology	Variable	Findings	yes/no
5	UBI	Saith A	2018	India	Commentary	Review of Economic Survey of India chapter on UBI	Need to address existing structural inequalities instead of focusing on fiscal transfers.	N/A
6	UBI	Caamal-Olvera C.G.; Huesca L.; Llamas L.	2022	Mexico	MEXMOD tax-benefit microsimulation	Multidimensional poverty and direct transfers	UBI can eradicate extreme poverty but will cost around 10% of GDP.	1
7	UBI	Sadiq K.; du Preez H.	2021	Alaska, Switzerland, Canda, Finland,	Conceptual Study	Poverty, income inequality	UBI is possible for South Africa as it can garner requisite political will and resources.	N/A

Sno	Type (UCT /UBI)	Author	Year	Country	Methodology	Variable	Findings	yes/no
				Kenya, Namibia				
8	UBI	Radhakrishna R.	2017	India	Commentary		Not a perfect substitute for PDS, MGNREGA, ICDS or other targeted schemes. Mix of UBI with other subsidy schemes is better with state-specific pilots before implementing it.	N/A
9	UBI		2017	India	Conceptual Study		UBI for the bottom 75% of the population can decrease poverty to 0.5% but will cost 4-5% of GDP.	N/A

Sno	Type (UCT /UBI)	Author	Year	Country	Methodology	Variable	Findings	yes/no
10	UBI	Ortiz C.H.	2023	Brazil	Comparitive Study	UBI and Unemployment insurance - which is better?	UBI is more fair and efficient in comparison with unemployment insurance, which is more competitive.	N/A
11	UBI	Jean Dreze	2017	India	Commentary		India's idea of UBI could dismantle entitlements of the underprivileged.	N/A
12	UBI	Tom McDowell, Mohammad Ferdosi	2020	Canada	Qualitative and Quantitative - semi-structured interview	Living and working conditions - health, food, housing security,	Improvements in health, food security, access to transportation systems and self-confidence were observed due to basic income.	1

Sno	Type (UCT /UBI)	Author	Year	Country	Methodology	Variable	Findings	yes/no
						financial security, social and family relations		
13	UBI	SEWA Bharat	2014	India	RCT	Vulnerabilities faced by low income Indians	Better financial inclusion, sanitation, access to drinking water, nutrition, purchasing capacity, health services, productive work	1
14	UBI	Guy Standing	2008	Latin America, South Africa, Asia	Comparative Study	Experiences of developing countries with cash transfers	Cash transfers during emergencies and development aid enable recipients during crises, to retain their sense of dignity. Cash also helps individuals and communities to	1

Sno	Type (UCT /UBI)	Author	Year	Country	Methodology	Variable	Findings	yes/no
							make decisions by prioritizing their needs and helping a way to receive better relief assistance with dignity.	
15	UCT	Yanes P.	2011	Mexico	Perspective piece		Basic income is a more powerful alternative due to its inclusiveness instead of targeting which is prone to exclusion errors. Moreover, income as a right of citizenship values individuals and holds more promise.	N/A
16	UCT	Corno L., Voena A.	2023	Tanzania	Dyanamic discrete choice model	Child marraige and economic incentives in the	1. The probability of early marriages increased during teenage years if they experience adverse shocks. 2. Both condition and unconditional cash transfers for low-income households can reduce early marriages.	1

Sno	Type (UCT /UBI)	Author	Year	Country	Methodology	Variable	Findings	yes/no
						context of bride price		
17	UCT	Farooq S., Nayab D.-E.	2023	Pakistan	Quasi-experimental approach through regression discontinuity design and difference-in-discontinuity	Unconditional cash transfer and consumption and poverty	1. Consumption expenditure has been impacted very little and three-fourths of the participant household were below poverty line. 2. UCT did not eradicate extreme poverty.	0

Sno	Type (UCT /UBI)	Author	Year	Country	Methodology	Variable	Findings	yes/no
					method for cross-sectional and longitudinal data			
18	UCT	Matata M.J., Ngigi M.W., Bett H.K.	2023	Kenya	FAO (2016) Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis framework	Unconditional cash transfer and effect of climate change on livelihood	cash transfers have positive significant effects on household resilience to climate	1

Sno	Type (UCT /UBI)	Author	Year	Country	Methodology	Variable	Findings	yes/no
					(RIMA) - descriptive and inferential analysis and two group design			
19	UCT	Luthuli S., Haskins L., Mapumulo S., Horwood C.	2022	South Africa	Longitudinal mixed-methods cohort study - Quantitative questionnaires and semi-structured in-	Unconditional cash transfer, child health and nutrition and poverty	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New mothers experience severe food insecurity and therefore have to go back to work sooner than expected. 2. The process of applying for cash transfer was costly and time-consuming for already vulnerable applicants. . 3. UCTs help improve maternal health outcomes for new mothers and children. 	1

Sno	Type (UCT /UBI)	Author	Year	Country	Methodology	Variable	Findings	yes/no
					depth interviews were used to collect data			
20	UCT	Murshed M.	2022	Bangladesh	probit, IV-probit, and propensity score matching techniques	Unconditional cash transfer, social transfer and female	Cash transfers increased women labour force participation.	1

Sno	Type (UCT /UBI)	Author	Year	Country	Methodology	Variable	Findings	yes/no
						labour force participation		
21	UCT	Nawaz S., Gul F.	2022	Pakistan	Quasi-experimental approach is adopted by applying both the regression discontinuity design (RDD)	Unconditional cash transfer and willingness to pay for environment services - 1200 households	<p>1. UCT led to more people being open to the idea of paying for environmental services. (Ex: waste disposal, sanitation and drinking water)</p> <p>2. It also increased participation levels in environmental services at the household level by members and even at the local community level.</p>	1

Sno	Type (UCT /UBI)	Author	Year	Country	Methodology	Variable	Findings	yes/no
22	UCT	Durão et al.	2022	Middle and Low Income Countries	Cochrane Review	Unconditional cash transfer and food security	UCTs have shown increased food security and addition of vouchers for food increases diversity of diet and can reduce stunting among children.	1
23	UCT	Sultan K.	2022	South Africa	Literature Review of 45 published articles	Unconditional cash transfer and child poverty	1. UCTs can decrease child poverty but it requires the necessary basic infrastructure to support this intervention. 2. In case of South Africa, lack of local level support effected the success of UCT.	conditionality

Sno	Type (UCT /UBI)	Author	Year	Country	Methodology	Variable	Findings	yes/no
24	UCT	Rasyid M.	2022	Indonesia	Quadratic Almost Ideal Demand System (QUAIDS)	Unconditional cash transfers and expenditure patterns of households	<p>1. UCTs can improve household welfare through increase in staple food consumption.</p> <p>2. Biggest expenditure of UCT for the recipient is rice and other staple foods.</p> <p>3. UCTs are more optimal to increase household welfare in comparison with food aid.</p>	1
25	UCT	Sentanu I.G.E.P.S., Kumalasari K., Prabowo A.	2021	Indonesia	Qualitative method with a descriptive approach	Unconditional cash transfers and interdepartmenta	UCT program is ridden with exclusion errors with respect to the recipients due to lack of coordination and collaboration between different governmental agencies.	0

Sno	Type (UCT /UBI)	Author	Year	Country	Methodology	Variable	Findings	yes/no
						l coordination in the government		
26	UCT	Nawaz S., Iqbal	2020	Pakistan	Regression discontinuity design	Unconditional cash transfers and fuel consumption	Beneficiaries of UCT have increased the use of modern fuel. Similar changes were observed with respect to intermediate fuels and traditional fuels. Fuel expenditure also increased as a share of total household expenditure after the onset of UCT.	1

Sno	Type (UCT /UBI)	Author	Year	Country	Methodology	Variable	Findings	yes/no
27	UBI	Iqbal et al.	2021	Pakistan	Difference in difference method, Fuzzy RDD	Women mobility	1. No significant impact was observed on women empowerment after two years of the intervention. 2. Substantial impacts on mobility of women, voting behaviour of women and their decision making were observed after five to eight years of intervention.	1
28	UCT	Jahangeer A., Zaidi S., Das J., Habib S.	2020	Pakistan	Descriptive cross-sectional survey	spending by beneficiaries	UCT increased women's agency but did not increase the purchase of nutritious food.	Purchasing power - 0 Women's agency - 1

Sno	Type (UCT /UBI)	Author	Year	Country	Methodology	Variable	Findings	yes/no
29	UCT	Rahman S.	2020	Bangladesh	Indepth interviews with 20 people	Livelihood	Cash transfers from SSNP are enough for continued survival but not enough for asset creation or to start new income generating avenues making it difficult to achieve sustainable livelihood.	0
30	UCT	Sumarto M.	2021	Indonesia	Purposive method and interviews	Unconditional cash transfer and societal conflict	Cash transfer program led to conflict between different communities in the society due to the targeted nature of the program.	1
31	UCT	Yusuf A.A.	2018	Indonesia	Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) model	Indirect/negative implication on the national economy	UCTs decrease the poverty but might also decrease the Indonesian GDP in the rural area if they are funded through increased VAT on all products.	1

Sno	Type (UCT /UBI)	Author	Year	Country	Methodology	Variable	Findings	yes/no
32	UCT	Mishra A.K., Kar A.	2017	India	Field survey for 200 households (HHs) from 20 villages of Odisha which were randomly selected.	UCTs and delivery of social security measures	Huge inclusion and exclusion errors were observed and the entire targeting mechanism is found to be inefficient.	N/A

Sno	Type (UCT /UBI)	Author	Year	Country	Methodology	Variable	Findings	yes/no
33	UCT	Dawar A.I., Farias Ferreira M.	2021	Pakistan	Convenient sampling technique and semi structured and open-ended interviews via story telling method	Unconditional cash transfers and women empowerment	<p>1. Women’s access to UCT significantly influenced the patriarchal norms in the area.</p> <p>2. UCTs also led to increased acceptance of ideas and practices of improving the status of education and livelihood for girls in comparison with traditional gender norms in North-Western Pakistan.</p> <p>3. Financial stability through cash assistance has not only improved women’s status at home and within society; it has encouraged them to venture into economic activities previously forbidden to them.</p>	1

Sno	Type (UCT /UBI)	Author	Year	Country	Methodology	Variable	Findings	yes/no
34	UCT	Haushofer J., Shapiro J.	2016	Kenya	RCT	Psychological well-being	UCTs lead to increase in psychological well-being for the recipients and repeated UCTs instead of lump-sums improve food security.	1
35	UCT	Dutta P, Howes S, Murgai R	2010	India	Comparitive Study	Coverage, Targeting, Compliance and Leakage	Corruption linked leakages are low for social pensions in comparison with other social security programs either because of the limited number of transfers involved or due to less space for discretion in delivery.	Improvement in leakage - 1
36	UCT	Lawlor K., Handa S., Seidenfeld D.	2019	Zambia, Sub-Saharan Africa	multi-site, clustered randomised design	Agricultural production, price shocks	UCTs enabled poor and rural households to increase their food consumption, therefore reducing their food insecurity. UCTs also foster climate-resilient development for rural poor.	1

Sno	Type (UCT /UBI)	Author	Year	Country	Methodology	Variable	Findings	yes/no
37	UCT	Mostert C.M., Vall Castello J.	2020	South Africa	Explicit stratification sampling	Educational outcomes	<p>1. UCTs led to increase abilities such as reading and writing for students. For secondary education, there has been an increase in attendance percentage.. (Reading and writing for primary - 3.7% and 3.3%, secondary - 10.2%, 10.1%)</p> <p>2. UCTs also led to an increase in employment outcomes for parents (Mothers - 35%, Fathers - 34%, respectively).</p>	1
38	UCT	Natali et al.	2016	Zambia	RCT	Savings	<p>UCTs led to an increase in the savings for women as there was an increased diversification into non-agricultural enterprises.</p>	1

Sno	Type (UCT /UBI)	Author	Year	Country	Methodology	Variable	Findings	yes/no
39	UCT	Golan J., Sicular T., Umapathi N	2016	China	Conventional targeting analysis	Poverty	Increasing the coverage of UCTs will have far greater impact on reducing poverty than increasing the size of cash transfer. Targeting is key.	1
40	UCT	Eyal K., Burns J.	2019	South Africa	Longitudinal household survey	Intergenerational mental illnesses	UCT led to reduction of the intergenerational transmission of depressive symptomatology to adolescent children by more than forty percent.	1
41	UCT	Handa S., Natali L., Seidenfeld D., Tembo G	2018	Zambia	Multisite RCTs	Living standards	1. Due to UCT, investments were made in agricultural and non-farm which yielded multipliers. 2. State sponsored UCTs for the extreme poor can improve their long-term living standards.	1

Sno	Type (UCT /UBI)	Author	Year	Country	Methodology	Variable	Findings	yes/no
42	UCT	Hjelm L., Handa S., de Hoop J., Palermo T.	2017	Zambia	Fixed effects and OLS regression	Poverty and Perceived Stress	UCTs led to decreased poverty but they did not reduce self-perceived stress.	Poverty - 1 Perceived stress - 0
43	UCT	Paulo, Wajnman, de Oliveira.	2014	Brazil	Difference-in- difference statistical method	Financial independence of the elderly	The recipients of UCT have a higher probability of seeking independent living arrangements.	1

9. Insights from Systematic Literature Review:

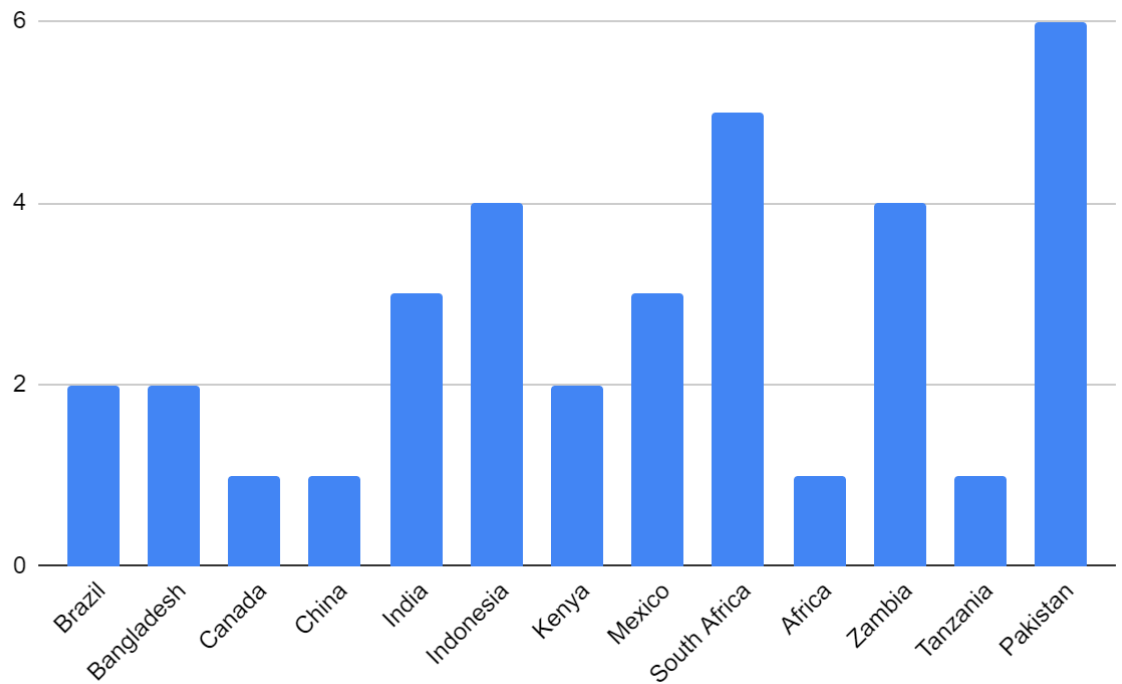


Figure 3: Unconditional Cash Transfer Studies Conducted Over Different Countries

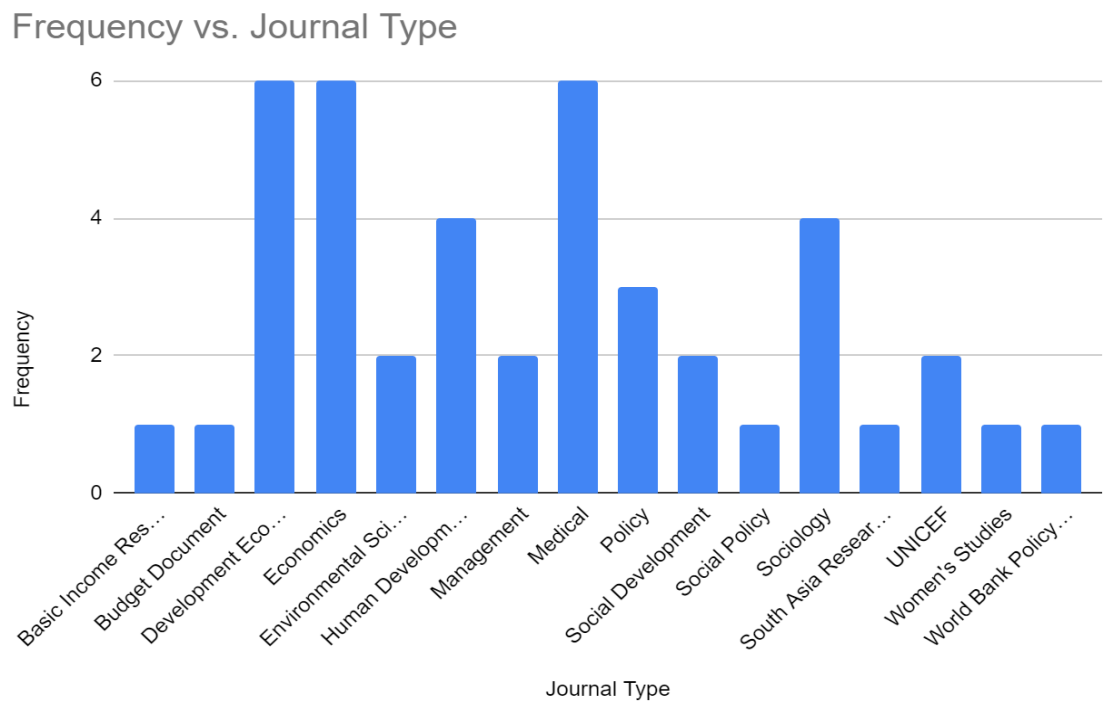


Figure 4: No. of Unconditional Cash Transfer Studies Published

Frequency vs. Year

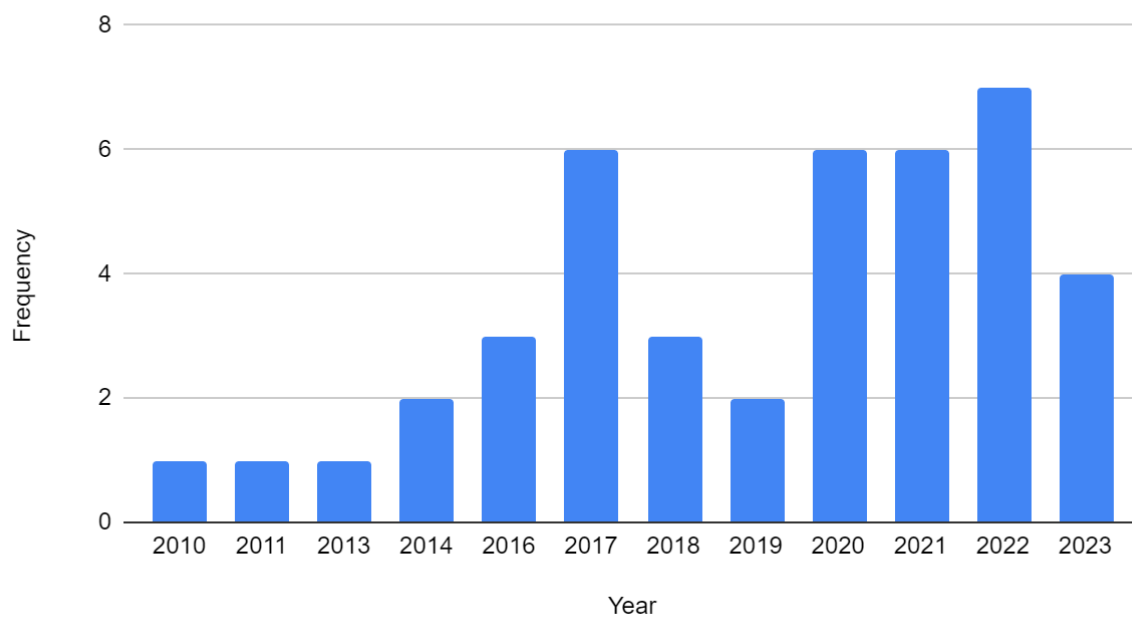


Figure 5: Unconditional Cash Transfer Studies Conducted Over the Years

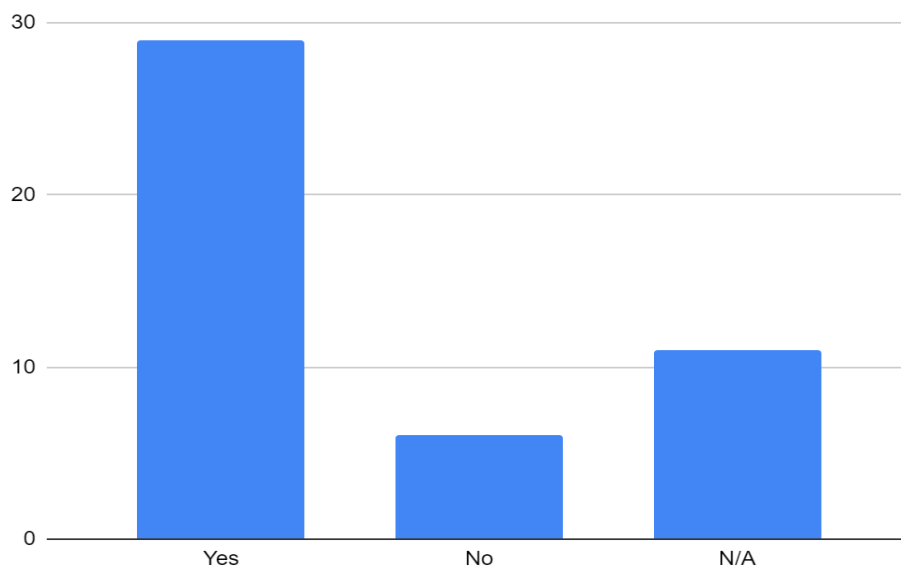


Figure 6: Positive Correlation in Unconditional Cash Transfer Studies

10. Hierarchical Taxonomy of Systematic Literature Review:

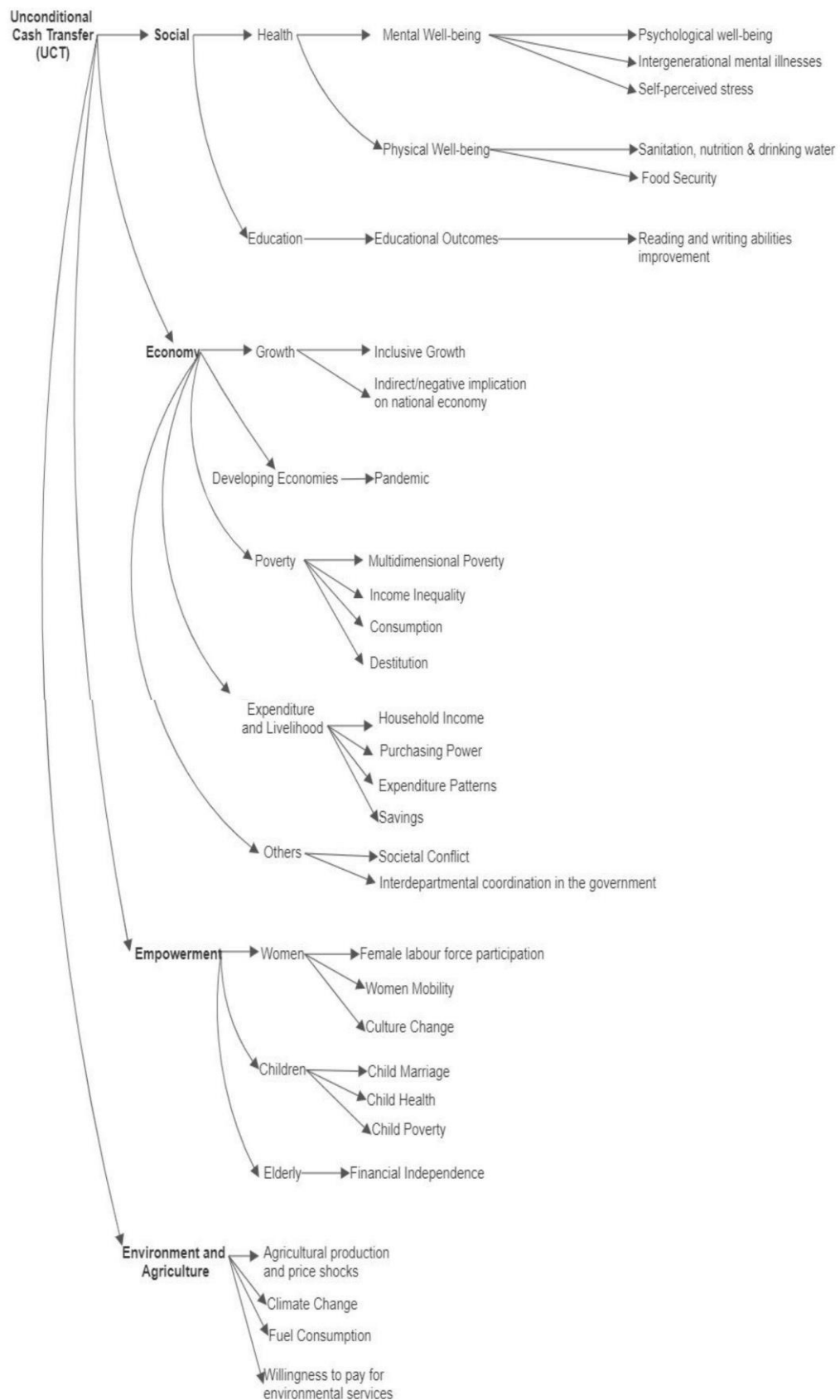


Figure 7: Hierarchical Taxonomy of Systematic Literature Review

Chapter 3 - Methodology:

1. Statement of the Problem:

The landless farmers of India are the one of the most vulnerable populations due to the irregular employment, extreme poverty, economic insecurity, subsistence living, intergenerational disparity and lack of occupational mobility to non-agricultural jobs. The sequence of events combined with the lack of social protection of landless farmers is due to their lack of political will and vulnerability trapping them in a debt cycle. Their work is undervalued as they are not even perceived as farmers but as labour who work on others farms, essentially lessening their identity to just the “help”. This resulted in landless farmers being overlooked by the government which leaves them in a worser state as they have no assistance or no attention to their problems.

2. Objective:

This paper aims to understand the impact of thematic areas of research for social protection like cash transfers (UCTs, UBI) in the lives of the destitute population. With this background, the paper suggests a policy proposal on how to mitigate the vulnerabilities of landless farmers in India through cash transfer.

3. Research Question:

Can the vulnerabilities of landless be addressed effectively through unconditional cash transfers based on the literature?

4. Methodology:

The first part of the paper which consists of the literature review regarding landless farmers and their vulnerability was written using secondary research through the means of journals, research papers, working papers, newspaper articles, think-tanks. The second part of the paper uses systematic literature review as the

methodology where findings of other authors and researchers were examined keenly with respect to the specific research question.

A) Search Strategy and Selection Criteria:

Articles that were published on or before 23rd March 2023 and are relevant to the research area were searched from the database of SCOPUS. The search terms that were used are mentioned in the table below. Google and Google Scholar were also searched for relevant articles on universal basic income and unconditional cash transfers.

The inclusion criteria for the study was that it has to be either a UBI study or a targeted UCT study. Studies conducted in most developed countries were excluded as the main focus was to determine the viability of a UCT for landless farmers in India. Most policy proposal papers calling for a UBI were excluded and very few theoretical research papers on the UBI in context of the developing world were included.

Database	Searching String	No. of Articles
SCOPUS	“Universal” AND “basic” AND “income”	160
SCOPUS	“Unconditional” AND “cash” AND “transfers”	52

Table 2: Search Strategy and Criteria for Selection

Chapter 4 - Findings of the Hierarchical Taxonomy and Discussion:

Unconditional Cash Transfers (UCTs) have been conducted to gain better understanding regarding the impact on the recipients lives and the economy in general. This paper looks at the social parameters like health and education; economic parameters like growth, poverty, impact on developing economies, expenditure and livelihood; empowerment of women, children and elderly; environment and agriculture parameters.

1. Health:

Based on the literature, this section can be categorized into mental well-being and physical well-being. It was noted that large transfers help in significantly improving the psychological well-being of households while also empowering them (Haushofer and Shapiro, 2016). There was an increase in optimism, happiness and satisfaction due to the exogenous reduction in poverty which in turn resulted in reduced stress and depression. Alleviating poverty through UCTs had significant short-term psychological benefits. However, Hjelm et al., (2017) state that although UCTs help in reducing stress indicators like food insecurity, the level of self-perceived stress among recipients remained unchanged. In low-income countries like Africa, one of the largest determinants of adolescent mental illness is intergenerational due to poverty of the household. UCTs have played an important role in reduced transmission of depressive symptoms, especially more in female low-income adolescents (Eyal et al., 2019). The lack of vicious cycle of debt due to UCTs helped fund health expenses which reduced their anxiety levels.

Physical well-being of recipients depends on factors like food security, sanitation, access to drinking water, etc. Hunger and food insecurity are two important factors that are related to physical and mental well-being as the deplorable condition

involves not knowing when they will be able to receive another meal. UCTs increase food security enough for them to be physically healthy but there has not been statistically significant reduction to change the stress levels (Hjelm et al., 2017). Cash transfers allow vulnerable recipients food sufficiency and improves nutrition levels, weight-for-age scores. It also enabled them to consume better and higher quality food. Households receiving UCTs reported lesser illnesses and improved health conditions due to regular food intake and access to medications (SEWA Bharat, 2014). Research in low-income countries also suggests that UCTs help in the increase of staple food consumption thereby increasing household welfare (Mohtar, 2022). Basic living conditions like sanitation in villages, access to drinking water, cooking fuel, waste disposal improved as observed in the Madhya Pradesh pilot.

According to SEWA Bharat (2014), due to UCTs, educational outcomes like school enrolment, attendance and performance increased among female students more than male. Households receiving cash transfers were more likely to spend on school items like books, uniforms, etc., which helped tribal students overcoming shame of their poor appearance. Due to the positive effect on education, there was a significant decrease in child labour. Few recipients were able to access private schooling suggesting the diversity of choice of services and quality that recipients can avail with the help of UCTs. Evidence from South Africa also notes that there is a resilient long-term development in children's educational outcomes like reading and writing abilities as well (Mostert et al., 2020).

2. Economy:

Based on the literature, economic parameters are classified into growth, discourse of economies, poverty, expenditure and livelihood.

According to Roy (2017), the need for developing basic income is to act as an equalizer within an unequal society. Therefore, to truly achieve inclusive growth, there is a need to intervene in the income distribution of the economy. UCTs claim to increase long-term living conditions of the vulnerable which can potentially change the course for inclusive growth and development (Handa et al., 2018). Indonesian research suggests that cash transfers funded through value added tax have the potential to reduce GDP resulting in a negative indirect economy wide impact even though they reduce poverty and inequality among the households (Yusuf, 2018).

Universal Basic Income claims to reduce the destitution of the vulnerable, disparities and inequalities among poor and rich which in turn have a positive impact on the developing nations (Tiwari et al., 2020). During the pandemic, universal cash transfers was suggested as a better alternative to handling wide-scale economic emergencies in developing countries like Latin America (Moreno, 2021). Recipients in developing countries feel a sense of dignity due to the cash transfers during times of crisis as they can be used to prioritize and assist in receiving better relief assistance (Standing, 2008). UBI has a strong effect on decreasing multidimensional poverty as it can eradicate extreme poverty with around 10% of the GDP (Caamal-Olvera, 2022). The application of UBI will also lead to a decrease in income inequality due to the redistributive property of the UBI (Sadiq and du Preez, 2020). By reducing destitution of the recipients, UBI provides an opportunity to positively impact labour force participation (Murshed, 2022). Compared to food aid models, UCTs have the capacity

to provide households an opportunity to make expenditure choices that are beneficial for their welfare through food consumption, better health choices, etc. (Rasyid, 2022).

Cash transfers also had other negative implications like societal conflicts between different communities that are targeted to specific beneficiaries (Sumarto, 2021). Collaboration between governmental stakeholders is also difficult due to distribution and identification obstacles (Sentanu et al., 2021).

3. Empowerment:

Patriarchal norms restrict women's growth and access to resources but UCTs play a vital role in increasing women empowerment and agency. Studies showed that after a significant duration, there is an increase in decision making and involvement of women in the society (Farooq et al., 2021). Cash transfers also improve women's mobility and political involvement. They also attained financial independence as they were the decision makers of the spending of cash grants which effectively increased their agency in the household (Aminah et al., 2020). After consistent cash transfers, it was observed that women's status at home and in society improved as more balanced ideas and practices were followed. Previously forbidden economic activities and resources were available for women to pursue and this changed gender norms (Dawar et al., 2021). Cash transfers also helped women positively impact the labour force which resulted in greater participation. It also helped mothers achieve better food security post-birth helping low-income households (Luthuli et al., 2022).

Children also receive benefits from UCTs through better socio-economic status and infrastructure which reduces child poverty and improves their well-being (Sultan, 2022). Low-income households have to resort to early marriage of children due to adverse shocks; however, UCTs have observable reduction of child marriages (Corno et al., 2023). Similarly, UCTs help elderly to attain financial independence

where they have the autonomy to make their own decision about their living arrangements or medications which helps empower them (Paulo et al., 2014).

4. Environment and Agriculture:

Poor rural households dependent on agriculture cope with adverse shocks with the help of UCTs which helps them maintain their food security and reduces debt trap (Lawlor et al., 2019). This helps improve long-term living standards of the ultra-poor. Beneficiaries of UCT use more modern fuels and are more resilient to climate change in comparison to others (Matata et al., 2023).

Chapter 5 - Policy Recommendations:

The literature review establishes that landless farmers or agricultural labourers are one of the most vulnerable and destitute sets of population who are in dire need of state sponsored welfare. The findings of the systematic literature review state that the receipt of unconditional cash transfers, universal or targeted, leads to positive improvements in areas such as health, education, poverty, expenditure, livelihood and empowerment. Hence, this paper recommends that landless farmers should be given a recurring unconditional cash transfer.

Chapter 6 - Conclusion:

Unconditional cash transfers help in improving the social parameters of the target population in many key areas like health, education, sanitation, environment and empowerment. Some studies also show that there is little to no effect from unconditional cash transfers on the low-income population while some suggest that UCTs cause a reduction in GDP growth despite a decrease in poverty. Despite all this, this paper suggests unconditional cash transfers for landless farmers because of their vulnerability and their lack of ability to move upwards socially. This additional cash acts as disposable income and gives them economic citizenship.

This paper did not look at studies and pilots of unconditional or universal cash transfers for landless farmers because of their non-availability. This paper also restricted itself to look at the studies done in emerging market economies. Considering these gaps, the future research can be carried out where a targeted unconditional cash transfer study can be conducted for landless farmers and then measure the impact of those transfers to see any notable changes in their socio-economic status. Other possible areas of future research could be to check for improvements or changes in the nature of employment for landless farmers after the onset of unconditional cash transfers.

The existing literature on universal cash transfers in Indian context talks of funding it through cutting existing social security expenditure and the conversation is focused on using UBI as a means of leakage free welfare system to replace existing welfare schemes like PDS. But according to existing literature, UBI can only act as a supplement to already existing schemes and not as a silver bullet which can alleviate poverty, disease and ignorance on its own. Hence, research on funding UBI without cutting existing social protections is crucial and this is a huge gap where future research can take place.

Other gaps in literature include the lack of exploration behind the reasons for invisibility of landless farmers in India policy and political landscape. Despite having a substantial population, why were landless farmers held back from furthering their discourse and how can a UBI or targeted UCT impact that were also questions that were unanswered by the literature. A study of representation of Indian farmer in popular culture (Indian films) can also be done to find out reasons behind the lack of mention of landlessness as a problem.

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