

Importance of Banking system for Financial Inclusion

Financial Inclusion is described as the method of offering banking and financial solutions and services to every individual in the society without any form of discrimination. It primarily aims to include everybody in the society by giving them basic financial services without looking at a person's income or savings. Financial inclusion chiefly focuses on providing reliable financial solutions to the economically underprivileged sections of the society without having any unfair treatment. It intends to provide financial solutions without any signs of inequality. It is also committed to being transparent while offering financial assistance without any hidden transactions or costs.

Financial Inclusion is the delivery of financial or banking services at affordable costs to vast sections of disadvantaged and low income groups.

Financial Inclusion is defined as “the process of ensuring access to financial services and timely and adequate credit where needed by vulnerable groups such as weaker sections and low income groups at an affordable cost”

Financial inclusion wants everybody in the society to be involved and participate in financial management judiciously. There are many poor households in India that do not have any access to financial services in the country. They are not aware of banks and their functions. Even if they are aware of banks, many of the poor people do not have the access to get services from banks.

Financial inclusion is emerging as a new paradigm of economic growth that plays major role in driving away the poverty from the country. Financial inclusion is important priority of the country in terms of economic growth and advancement of society. It enables to reduce the gap between rich and poor population. In the current scenario financial institutions are the robust pillars of progress, economic growth and development of the economy.

Financial Inclusion Schemes in India

The Government of India has been introducing several exclusive schemes for the purpose of financial inclusion. These schemes intend to provide social security to the less fortunate sections of the society. After a lot of planning and research by several financial experts and policymakers, the government launched schemes keeping financial inclusion in mind. These schemes have been launched over different years. Let us take a list of the financial inclusion schemes in the country:

- Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)
- Atal Pension Yojana (APY)
- Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana

- Stand Up India Scheme
- Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana
- Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)
- Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana
- Jeevan Suraksha Bandhan Yojana
- Credit Enhancement Guarantee Scheme (CEGS) for Scheduled Castes (SCs)
- Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes under the Social Sector Initiatives
- Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana (VPBY)

Importance of Financial Inclusion

- Financial inclusion intends to help people **secure financial services and products** at economical prices such as deposits, fund transfer services, loans, insurance, payment services, etc.
- It aims to **establish proper financial institutions** to cater to the needs of the poor people. These institutions should have clear-cut regulations and should maintain high standards that are existent in the financial industry.
- Financial inclusion aims to **build and maintain financial sustainability** so that the less fortunate people have a certainty of funds which they struggle to have.
- Financial inclusion also intends to have numerous institutions that offer **affordable financial assistance** so that there is sufficient competition so that clients have a lot of options to choose from. There are traditional banking options in the market. However, the number of institutions that offer inexpensive financial products and services is very minimal.
- Financial inclusion intends to **increase awareness** about the benefits of financial services among the economically underprivileged sections of the society.
- The process of financial inclusion works towards **creating financial products** that are suitable for the less fortunate people of the society.
- Financial inclusion intends to improve financial literacy and financial awareness in the nation.

- Financial inclusion aims to bring in **digital financial solutions** for the economically underprivileged people of the nation.
- It also intends to bring in **mobile banking or financial services** in order to reach the poorest people living in extremely remote areas of the country.
- It aims to provide tailor-made and custom-made **financial solutions** to poor people as per their individual financial conditions, household needs, preferences, and income levels.
- There are many governmental agencies and non-governmental organisations that are dedicated to bringing in financial inclusion. These agencies are focussed on improving the **access to receiving government-approved documents**. Many poor people are unable to open bank accounts or apply for a loan as they do not have any identity proof. There are so many people who live in rural areas or tribal villages who do not have knowledge about documents such as PAN, Aadhaar, Driver's License, or Electoral ID. Hence, they cannot avail many of the services offered by governmental or private institutions. Due to lack of these documents, they are unable to avail any form of subsidies offered by the government that they are actually entitled to.