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Editorial Note

South Asian Journal of Management Research (SAJMR), is a scholarly journal that publishes scientific research on the theory and practice of management. All management, computer science, environmental science related issues relating to strategy, entrepreneurship, innovation, technology, and organizations are covered by the journal, along with all business-related functional areas like accounting, finance, information systems, marketing, and operations. The research presented in these articles contributes to our understanding of critical issues and offers valuable insights for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers. Authors are invited to publish novel, original, empirical, and high quality research work pertaining to the recent developments & practices in all areas and discipline.

Cross-functional, multidisciplinary research that reflects the diversity of the management science professions is also encouraged, the articles are generally based on the core disciplines of computer science, economics, environmental science, mathematics, psychology, sociology, and statistics. The journal's focus includes managerial issues in a variety of organizational contexts, including for profit and nonprofit businesses, organizations from the public and private sectors, and formal and informal networks of people. Theoretical, experimental (in the field or the lab), and empirical contributions are all welcome. The journal will continue to disseminate knowledge and publish high-quality research so that we may all benefit from it.

Dr. Pooja M. Patil
Editor

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India in the Development Assistance Global Landscape: Reflections from the Caribbean Sub Region

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Abstract :

This paper reviews the secondary literature and applies insights from World Systems theory, World Polity theory and the Transnational State Perspective of Robinson to interpret India's emergence as a provider of development assistance. The paper finds that India has been providing development assistance since its independence and that its primary recipients are developing countries in the neighboring South Asian and African sub-regions but that this has gradually expanded to other regions such as the Caribbean sub-region where it has been seeking to strengthen its economic relationship. India's development assistance is driven by support for developing countries as well as the country's own strategic economic interests. Growth in development assistance from emerging countries is a challenge to the status quo of DAC-driven support. The paper concludes that India's ascendancy to the chair of the G20 provides the country with an opportunity to use support trilateral cooperation to improve the delivery of development assistance to developing countries.

Keywords: Development Assistance, India, Developing Countries, Caribbean, G20

Introduction

India is one of the largest and fastest growing economies in the world. While not a member of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC), India has nonetheless emerged as an important provider of development assistance, particularly for the developing south. The country's development assistance program has expanded post its dependence, both in instruments and geographical reach, and is now an important source of support for conflict-affected and neighboring countries. In absolute terms, the dollar value of India's support is small compared to DAC countries but there are several areas where India's development assistance approach, as is the case with other emerging markets such as China, deviates from DAC countries and is therefore perhaps more impactful for developing country recipients.

This paper reflects on the published literature to understand India's emergence as an aid donor. It draws analytical insights from World Systems theory, World Polity theory and the Transnational State Perspective of Robinson to interpret India's emergence as an aid donor.

The paper proceeds to reflect on the experience of the Caribbean sub-region both with respect to development assistance and general economic relations with India. The analysis points to the strong cultural ties between the two regions and the evolving relationship with respect to trade and investment, which they have sought to strengthen through ministerial and technical dialogue platforms. However, the paper concludes that the Caribbean region does not feature significantly as an aid recipient not compared with neighboring countries but understandably so given India's own strategic economic interests in providing aid to south Asian and neighboring countries. But the two regions do have a growing economic relationship, with India as an important supplier of pharmaceutical products and investor in tourism projects. The two regions also have shared interests in multilateral issues and have cooperated at various multilateral fora on these in the past. The ascendancy of India to the chair of the G20 provides an opportunity for the country to continue to demonstrate solidarity to the developing south by becoming the voice on many of the common issues affecting developing countries, which would benefit the Caribbean sub-region.

The paper is structured as follows: Section II discusses the modalities through which India provides development assistance. Section III draws analytical insights from World Systems theory, World Polity theory and the Transnational State Perspective of Robinson to interpret India's emergence as an aid donor. This allows for an identification of the main recipients and the. Section IV examines specifically India's economic relationship with CARICOM, inclusive of the provision of development assistance. Section V reflects on what India's presidency of the G20 means for bringing voice to issues affecting the global south.

India's modalities for overseas development assistance

India's development cooperation spending in 2021 was estimated at US\$5.8 billion. This is delivered through various mechanisms and channels, including the Indian Technical and Economic Co-operation (ITEC) Programme which has been in place since 1964 with over 160 partner countries; the Special Commonwealth Assistance Programme for Africa; bilateral trade and investment; humanitarian support and loans to foreign governments (Bhogal 2016) (Center for Policy Research, 2015).

Technical cooperation according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA, n.d.) is a priority policy focus and has expanded over the years both in terms of geographical spread, sectoral coverage and budgetary allocations. For instance, the country's technical cooperation program now provides advanced training in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, nanotechnology, cyber security and forensics, in partnership with prestigious Indian institutions such as the Indian Institute of Technology, the Indian Institute of Science and the Indian Institute of Management. Also, the Program has expanded from about 4,000 training slots in 2006 to around 14,000 slots (including defense training) by 2020 (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), n.d.). India has also provided grants to establish centers of excellence in information technology in various partner countries (*ibid*).

India's development cooperation program uses multiple types of instruments including grants, lines of credit, capacity building and technical assistance. Sometime development assistance to a particular country may involve multiple types of instruments at a time. As an example, India provided support to Mozambique for the establishment of a solar photovoltaic manufacturing plant. This involved a line of credit of US\$13 million, in addition to capacity building through technology transfer and training.

The ITEC now has the following five main channels of assistance according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA, n.d.):

1. Educational scholarships and training (civilian and defense) in India of nominees from partner countries. For example, during 2019–2020, 2,342 defense training slots were allocated to partner countries.
2. Project-based cooperation, including related activities such as feasibility studies and consultancy services.
3. Deputation of Indian experts abroad on the request of partner countries.
4. Study tours to India for individuals and groups suggested by partner countries.
5. Humanitarian aid for disaster relief.

Training under ITEC is provided in a range of areas with the priorities being agricultural development and energy.

ITEC cooperation programs involve both government-to-government support as well as civil society organisations. Initiatives through civil society organisations allow for support to be provided to marginalised groups in recipient countries. For example, Indian NGOs such as Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) have assisted Afghan women with economic livelihoods (Arora, 2021). Similarly, under the ITEC program, Solar Mamas from the rural poor non-electrified villages across Africa are being trained (The Indian Express, 2020).

Grants and loans are provided to support infrastructure development such as railway links, roads and bridges, waterways, border-related infrastructure, transmission lines, power generation, hydropower, etc.

Lines of credit through the EXIM Bank were introduced in 2004. These are offered at below market rates to developing countries and are provided for large-scale projects (Chaturvedi, 2012). Over the period 2020 to 2014, India provided total line of credits equivalent to US\$ 18.6477 billion (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), n. d).

Another major instrument for development cooperation is bilateral trade and investment. Among the trade and investment measures is credit through the EXIM Bank.

India also provides humanitarian assistance to countries affected by natural disasters (Meier and Murthy 2011). It has also provided peacekeepers and other expertise in support of post-conflict reconstruction in countries such as Rwanda, Ethiopia and Eritrea (Choedon, 2017).

Interpreting India's emergence as an aid donor

Drawing analytical insights from World Systems theory, World Polity theory and the Transnational State Perspective of Robinson in this section, the paper seeks to interpret India's emergence as an aid donor. The key points are discussed in turn.

India's emergence as an aid donor is ideologically driven by an agenda to support the south.

India's foreign aid is directed mainly at other developing countries, particularly neighboring countries in southern Asia such as Cambodia, Nepal, Burma, Afghanistan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Viet Nam and Africa (Bhagal 2016).

Mullen (2014) and Singh (2017) both indicate that India has been providing development assistance to other developing countries since its independence in 1947, starting with its neighbours but expanding to other countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America (including the Caribbean).

India's emergence as an aid donor, post its independence, and not withstanding its own limitations was driven by an emotional and ideational act of expressing solidarity with other developing countries in the words of Mullen (2014) and Singh (2017), consequent to the colonial experiences of the developing south. In fact, Kennedy (2015) asserts that following its own independence India played a leading role (especially in the United Nations) in pushing for decolonization of countries in Africa and Asia in the 1950s and 1960s. India has also shown leadership post colonialism according to Murthy (2020) in supporting non aligned foreign policy in a bid to keep developing countries away from the Cold War power struggle.

In recognition of the impediments that colonialism had paced on the prospects for economic development of former colonies, India sought to provide capacity building support through training programs and educational scholarships. It started educational exchanges and scholarships with African and Asian students in 1949 and continues to provide such as a main channel for its development assistance. Other examples of early support include for example, loans to Myanmar and to Nepal in the 1950s (Sinha, 2017). Between 1947 and 1964, apart from bilateral development assistance, India also offered assistance through the multilateral framework of Colombo Plan for Economic Development and Cooperation in South and Southeast Asia (Colombo Plan) launched in 1950 and Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Program (SCAAP) begun in 1960. It also started contributing to the United Nations Development Program (Tuhin, 2016)

Afghanistan and African countries have been large recipients of India's grant and loan assistance linked to reconstruction and peacebuilding works. In fact, Afghanistan is the second-largest recipient of Indian aid. India has provided support for construction of power substations and the Parliament building in Afghanistan. It also provides sector specific support in areas such as agriculture, rural development, education and health (Embassy of India, Kabul, n.d.)

Among the African countries, a large share of India's grant has been provided to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and particularly in the areas of education and health. During 2014 to 2019, the DRC received lines of credit of US\$227.55 million. The DRC has been the recipient of various grants, such as 60 Sonalika tractors with accessories and spare parts worth US\$ 0.66 million, the supply of medicine worth US\$1 million, and the establishment of an IT Centre of Excellence. It has also been a beneficiary of tele-education and telemedicine under the Pan African e-network, e-VidyaBharti (Tele-education) and e-ArogyaBharti (Telemedicine) projects launched in 2019 (Embassy of India, Kinshasa, n.d.).

African countries have also benefited from large scale private investments by Indian businesses in sectors such as automobiles, information technology, mining, logistics, pharmaceuticals and other areas (Desai, 2009).

Ideological shifting of the political geography for development assistance

The global institutional and political architecture for foreign aid activities has been shaped by developed countries. Specifically, the twenty-four countries that comprise the Development Assistance Committee

(DAC) (OECD, n.d.)². This is symptomatic of the wider stratified structure of the world system. World Systems theory recognizes that for centuries, development and underdevelopment have been structured by global power relations. According to DaSilva-Glasgow and Pile (n.d.).

“This stratified structure sees a few developed countries that have emerged as global economic hegemony, and the developing and least developed countries as a lower stratum constituting the peripheral states. The relationship between the economic hegemony and the peripheral states while economically symbiotic, is unbalanced and has been shaped by historical exploitative factors such as colonialism.”

This structure has been emulated in the global foreign aid architecture due to the resource advantages and political dominance of developed countries. Consistent with World Polity the very identity, structures and behaviors of actors in the global system are shaped by the cultural context of the global environment (McNeely 2012). As such, the preeminence of the western nations as leading aid donors is reflected of their wider economic prowess and political expectations of leadership in every sphere.

Therefore, the emergence of the developing south (China, India), the so-called peripheral nations, as aid donors, albeit on relatively smaller scales as the DAC countries, essentially represents an ideological shifting of the political geography for development assistance where for many recipient nations, the main source of their support is other developing countries rather than DAC countries. Woods (2008) sees this increased role for developing countries as aid givers as not an attempt to overtly shift the status quo structure but really just providing developing countries with alternative sources of support, which he notes could have the effect of weakening the bargaining position of western donors with respect to aid- recipients.

India is part of a group of non-DAC countries whose modalities for aid offers more flexibility to developing countries

Aid provided by DAC countries has been criticised in several areas.

Firstly, as being inadequate, especially given what was promised as they have committed 0.7% of their GDP (OECD, n.d.) but consistently spend below this. In 2021, DAC spending was equivalent to 0.33% or US\$185.9 billion, 12% of which went towards COVID-19 related activities (Woods 2008).

Secondly, as being linked to damaging macroeconomic and governance conditionalities (Samuel and George, 2016). For instance, on the issue of the conditionalities “USAID has an explicit fragile states strategy, and the OECD has its policies and principles on engaging fragile states” (Adhikari, 2018). On the other hand, emerging donors have principles and priorities that are different from DAC donors conditioned by a different development outlook. For this reason, Arora (2021) notes that a guiding principle of India’s development assistance is the principle of non-interference in domestic affairs and respect for the sovereignty of development partners. This is conditioned also by the country’s own historical experience in fighting against colonialism. Consequently, India and other emerging countries such as China provide support irrespective of governance quality, political or financial condition or the development status of recipients. For instance, India does not have a specific policy or strategy that guides its engagement in the post-conflict states nor did it join the developed countries to champion the liberal peacebuilding agenda according to Choedon (2015). India therefore continues to provide continued engagement in development cooperation in conflict-affected states such as Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In fact, the Indian Express (2020) noted that in 2020 India had announced 150 projects worth US\$80 million for Afghanistan which was a signal of its long-term commitment to the country regardless of which political force is leading the country.

Thirdly, DAC support has not produced expected development outcomes (Woods 2008; Brautigam 2009). On the other hand, non-DAC support may likely produce greater development impacts because it is demand driven. Arora (2021) note that India has adopted the demand-driven approach to its development assistance where it responds to requests from partners in accordance with their expressed interests. This practice signifies its adherence to the principle of national ownership of development projects. This approach also

²The DAC has 24 members are Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

signifies India's sensitivity to the national interests and socioeconomic realities of its development partners. Support from emerging countries such as India is therefore perceived to be more suitable and appropriate to the socioeconomic needs of recipient nations (Centre for Policy Research, 2015).

Fourthly, it lacks an egalitarian attitude (Woods, 2008; Brautigam, 2009). Arora (2021) on the other hand, argues that India's persistence in using the term "development cooperation" and "development partnership" instead of development assistance or development cooperation shows that its engagements with partners is guided by the principle of "equality and mutual benefit". Therefore, egalitarian ethos undergirds all of its engagements.

Fifthly, DAC support tends to come with a high aid delivery cost such as high security overheads. This provides India as well as other emerging donors, with a comparative advantage in assisting reconstruction and development in conflict-affected countries due to lower delivery costs.

Sixthly, Western driven development has cumbersome administrative layers and poor coordination and alignment due to the array of the organisations involved (Woods, 2008).

India's increasing role in development assistance reflects its strategic economic interests

Drawing from Robinson's transnational capitalist class and transnational state (2015, 2017) perspective, a country's protagonism in development assistance could be viewed as being linked to an attempt to facilitate more effective integration in the global system and to redress asymmetry in the capitalist system. Development assistance to the South is another platform to aid the achievement of the strategic economic interests of the donors (DaSilva-Glasgow and Pile, 2003).

Strategic economic interest is evident in India's development assistance. This is reflected in the countries that receive development assistance from India. Two observations are noteworthy in this regard. *Firstly*, India supplies proportionately more aid to larger trading partners. A case in point is Bhutan which conducts more than half of its global trade with India. Bhutan is an important source of imports of electricity, base minerals, cement, chemicals and wood products. During 2016 to 2017, 78% of India's aid to Bhutan went towards construction of hydropower projects that would ensure that India is able to access reliable and low-cost electricity.

Secondly, strategic importance as a means of accessing other markets or resources. For instance, Afghanistan provides strategic access to Central Asia—the hub of energy, minerals and gas resources and access to markets in the Middle East and Europe. India has provided support for infrastructure projects to Afghanistan and provides training for 300 to 600 Afghans on an annual basis. In addition, India has also provided support for infrastructure development projects in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and the Maldives as 'aid for trade' projects aimed at developing those countries' trade capacity and infrastructure in order to reduce trade costs and generally improve transport connectivity among the countries in South Asia. India's involvement in development aid in Southern Asia is also aimed at safeguarding India's long term economic strategic interests and staving off the threat of Chinese expansion as Bhutan, Bangladesh and Nepal share a border with both India and China. Indian companies have also invested in mining of natural minerals like copper, cobalt, and diamond in DRC (Desai, 2009) to ensure access to the minerals.

All of the foregoing examples, reinforce the fact that India's support is driven by mutual interests; while the recipient nations benefit, India also benefits from access to key raw materials and markets for its goods and services.

Political self-interests

Foreign aid is generally a tool used by countries to paint and protect their image abroad as well as to increase their influence on the global stage (DaSilva-Glasgow and Pile, 2003). In the case of political self-interests, India as a developing country has been providing development assistance to forge relationships with developing states. This helps to shape the country's global influence among this subgroup and ultimately helps to weaken the bargaining position of DAC countries in the developing south. Fuchs and Vadlamannati (2012) notes that the importance of political interests appears to be significantly larger for India than for all DAC donors, making the country a needy donor. This view exists because of India's push to support other developing countries while itself having a high poverty rate. Price (2004) notes that in its 2003/2004 budget

speech, India announced a policy to raise India's global profile that would involve debt cancellations to seven heavily indebted countries (Ghana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia; Guyana and Nicaragua).

Choedon (2021) points to the fact that the dividends of India's support is a growth in its soft power, allowing the country to emerge as a leader among developing countries in world politics and use the currency of moral power to assert its global influence.

CARICOM and India economic relationship

CARICOM (Caribbean Community and Common Market) was established on 4th July 1973 by the Treaty of Chaguaramas, and has 15 full members (Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Monsterrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago). Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands and Turks & Caicos Islands are Associate Members of the Community.

Despite being geographically distant, CARICOM and India share a strong cultural connection due to their shared colonial experiences. Many Indian nationals came to the Caribbean as indentured plantation workers between 1838 and 1917 (Maharaj 2017). Statistically, Guyana (43.5%), Trinidad and Tobago (35.4%), and Suriname (27.5%) are home to the greater proportion of Indian nationals (Maharaj 2017). There is also a resident Indian diaspora in the Caribbean that have migrated to the region for economic opportunities ((ibid 2017).

India has diplomatic relations with both individual CARICOM countries as well as with CARICOM as a group. This has allowed for an expansion in their relationship which encompasses trade, foreign direct investment and development assistance (Maharaj 2017).

With respect to trade, CARIFORUM's (CARICOM plus the Dominican Republic) trade with India reached US\$1003.6 million in 2020 (See Fig 1). 22.8% of India's major exports to the CARIFORUM region is pharmaceutical products, followed by vehicles (HS 87) (8.9%), plastics (8.1%) and mineral fuels (7.8%). With respect to imports, India purchases mainly mineral fuels 42.5%, natural or cultured pearls (37.8%) and wood and articles of wood (6.8%).

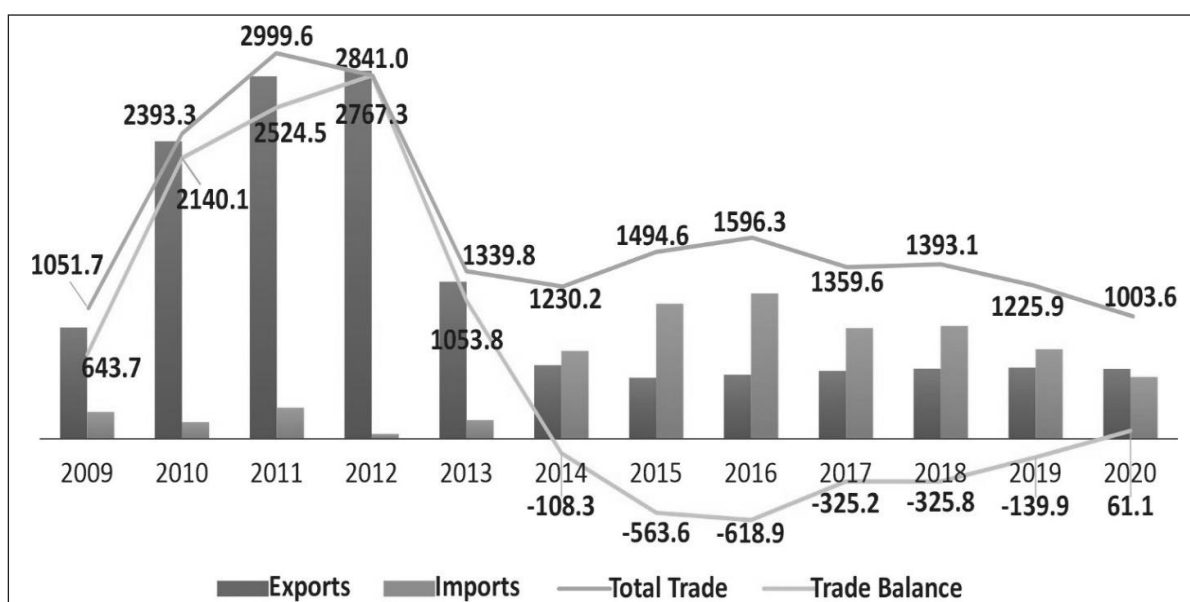


Fig 1: India's Trade with CARIFORUM Region (US\$million)

Source: ITC Trademap; India Exim Bank Analysis,

India's trade with the region is smaller when compared with traditional partners in North America and Europe. In fact, Bhojwani (2015) considered India's engagement with the region to be a non-substantive compared with the region's trade with the United States and the European Union and Arora (2021) sees a missed opportunity with respect to the expansion of Indian trade with the region. But it is important to note that since 1997, India reviewed its trade policy towards the wider Latin American and Caribbean region and

as a result initiated what became known as their “FOCUS LAC” program which was extended in 2014 and 2019. Maharaj (2017) identified the main goals of the new approach as: Sensitizing the organizations, viz., Export Promotion Councils, Chambers of Commerce & Industry, EXIM Bank, ECGC, etc., involved in trade promotion efforts; Granting various incentives to Indian exporters and launching of export promotion measures; Focusing on the Latin American region with added emphasis on major trading partners of the region; Focusing on the following major product groups for enhancing India’s exports to the Latin American region, Textiles including ready-made garments carpets and handicrafts, Engineering products and computer software, Chemical products including drugs/pharmaceuticals.

With respect to foreign direct investment (FDI), FDI inflows in the CARIFORUM reached US\$9.4 million in 2020. The largest recipients were the Dominican Republic (41.9%), Guyana (23.8%), Jamaica (9.2%) and Bahamas (8.8%) with hotels and tourism as the largest area of investment (22%) (See Fig 2).

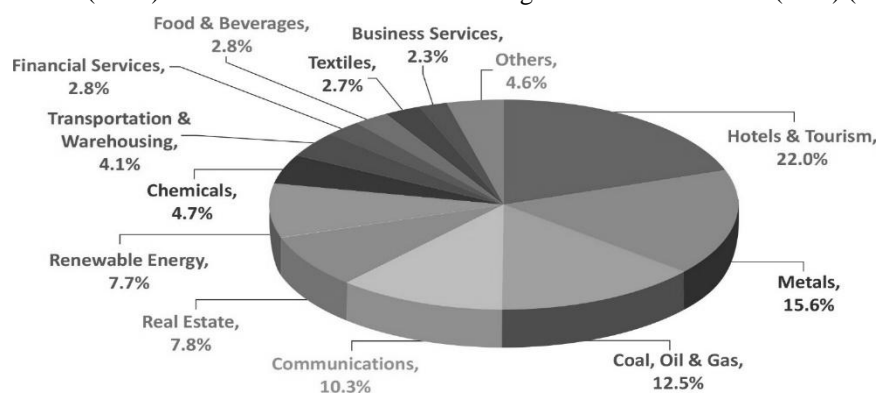


Fig 2: Top Sectors Attracting FDI in the CARIFORUM Countries (2003-2019),
Source : UNCTADFDI Data ; India Exim Bank Analysis, EXIM Bank of India (2022)

In the area of development assistance, the Caribbean benefits from the ITEC program through scholarships for capacity building and has benefited from development grants and humanitarian support in the past. On the sidelines of a United Nations General Assembly on September 25, 2019, Prime Minister Modi deepened his commitment with the Caribbean by providing a USD \$1M grant for development projects while CARICOM gained access to “USD\$150 million Line of Credit for solar, renewable energy and climate-change related projects” (Chaudhury, 2019). Other initiatives proposed included the setting up of the “Regional Center for Excellence in Information Technology” in Guyana and a “Regional Vocational Training Center in Belize. The latter project builds on existing “India-funded centers” already existing within these identified countries (Asmus, 2021). In 2010, Haiti received a USD\$5M grant to support the reconstruction after the earthquake that destroyed much of its infrastructure (Singh, 2020). During the COVID-19 pandemic, the wider LAC region received medical assistance valued at INR 16 Crores from India.

Over the years, India and CARICOM have sought to strengthen their relationship. In 2003 India and CARICOM established a Standing Joint Commission on Consultation, Cooperation and Coordination and commencing in 2005, the two regions have had dialogues under the India-CARICOM Foreign Minister’s meeting and subsequent CARICOM-India Joint Commission meetings at the technical level. As a corollary new areas were identified for potential cooperation including India becoming a member of the Caribbean Development Bank, expanding intercontinental trade, development and infrastructure projects.

Ten year later, in 2015, cooperation between the two regions had expanded to include Indian expertise in areas of project management and strategic planning, business promotion and trade, expanded people to people contact, improved intersectoral connection with special emphasis on animal and dairy sector, shared expertise in traditional medicine, increase cultural exchange, provide access to India International Trade Fair and cooperation on visa access. Furthermore, India shared its expertise on combating terrorism, climate change, sustainable development as well as invitation to join the International Solar Alliance.

Using the G20 platform to advance development priorities and shape development assistance

“The Group of Twenty (G20) is the premier forum for international economic cooperation. It plays an important role in shaping and strengthening global architecture and governance on all major international economic issues” (G20 India 2023). India ascended to the presidency of the G20 from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023. Under this platform India has advanced collective G20 actions to strengthen contributions to the 2030 Agenda mainly through the G20 Development Working Group. (G20 India 2023).

India’s ascension to the presidency is a symbol of the global political power that it has been able to amass, which is welcoming for the developing south because part of India’s ascendancy could be linked to its foreign policy in the global south (Ghosh and Bowmick, 2023).

While India’s emergence as a development assistance donor may have been driven by the need for solidarity rather than responsibility it has now been placed in a position where it is expected to demonstrate both solidarity and responsibility.

It is expected that with this position India would become the “Voice of the Global South”. The expectation of developing countries such as those in the Caribbean is that India’s presidency would be more than symbolic but would provide true opportunities to bring further global attention to the issues affecting the global south.

The Caribbean region does not feature significantly as an aid recipient not compared with neighboring countries but understandably so given India’s own strategic economic interests in providing aid to south Asian and neighboring countries. But the two regions do have a growing economic relationship, and vested political interest in those multilateral issues that mutually impacts them. The two regions also have shared interests in multilateral issues and have cooperated at various multilateral fora on these in the past.

Undoubtedly there are lots of interest areas where the Caribbean would welcome India’s leadership through the G20, both in bringing a voice to the issues and in shaping effective development support. One such is building resilience. The recent trade and development report prepared by UNCTAD (2023) paints a dismal picture of the economic outlook for the global economy for 2023 which is indicative of the fact that post-pandemic recovery is slow. Moreso, it points to; Divergent recovery paths in the context of slower growth across major regions; Global inequalities in income and wealth are widening; Growing pressures of indebtedness and thinning policy autonomy in developing countries; Market concentration in key sector such as the trading of agriculture commodities

These are all very important issues for Caribbean development given the structure of our economies and our trade; and the macro challenges we have had to confront including managing high levels of public debt.

The fact that developing countries are more disproportionately affected by these global realities point to the need for support in all areas, policy support to build resilience and improve macro management, investment to diversify production and trade arrangements to secure market access and manage access to markets in a manner that does not increase the cost of conducting trade. Galvanizing global support is particularly important in light of the fact that UNCTAD alludes to the potential of the current global issues to compromise achievement of the 2030 agenda.

UNCTAD has called for greater policy coordination through multilateral institutions, particularly to mobilize resources for countries in a position to deliver faster growth. As president of the G20 India has the unique opportunity to show leadership in truly galvanising economic cooperation among emerging countries, consistent with the mandate of the G20, to address priority issues affecting the developing South. India also has the opportunity to build out more opportunities for triangular cooperation involving the DAC and OECD countries, as it has already started to do, to ensure a more effective delivery of development assistance to the issues and countries in greater need of development support.

Conclusion

The economic performance of emerging countries such as India and China have positioned them to step up in the global development assistance arena and provide support to the developing south. Indeed, these countries have explicitly emphasised a South-South agenda in their development support. Economic performance aside, countries such as India have provided assistance for political self-interests such as

increasing their soft power; as well as to express solidarity to developing countries by playing an active part in helping to fill skills gap that hinder economic growth development, through capacity building. These south-south partnerships open up new opportunities for both donors and recipients and represent a challenge to the *status quo* predominance of traditional aid donors. For the Caribbean, the shared colonial history and cultural ties has made India an important foreign policy partner in both supporting Caribbean development through development assistance, *albeit* not at the same scale as India's South Asian neighbours, as well as forging collaboration at multilateral levels to bring greater weight to the concerns of the developing south.

The ascendancy of India to the chair of the G20 provides another opportunity for the country to continue to demonstrate solidarity to the developing countries by becoming the voice of the global south on many of the common issues affecting developing countries, which would benefit the Caribbean sub-region; as well as pushing for more trilateral cooperation as a means of improving the effectiveness of development assistance offered by members of the Development Assistance Committee.

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