

BHARATHIDASAN UNIVERSITY Tiruchirappalli- 620024, Tamil Nadu, India

Programme: M.A., HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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UNIT – II Trade Unions in India

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Trade Unions in India: A Vital Force

This presentation explores the rich history, vital functions, and ongoing impact of trade unions in India, a nation with a dynamic economy and a diverse workforce.



A Legacy of Advocacy: Historical Evolution

Trade unionism in India has roots in the preindependence era, starting with the early 20th century. A rise in industrialization led to workers' rights movements. The formation of the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) in 1920 was a pivotal moment. The AITUC was founded by prominent figures in the Indian independence movement, including Mahatma Gandhi and Lala Lajpat Rai.

Championing Workers' Rights: Rights: Objectives and Functions

Negotiating Wages and and Benefits

Trade unions advocate for fair wages, benefits, and working conditions, ensuring a living wage for workers.

Improving Workplace
Safety

Unions actively push for safe working environments and promote the implementation of safety regulations.

Protecting Employee
Rights

Unions safeguard
workers' rights against
unfair dismissal,
discrimination, and
workplace harassment.

Advocating for Social Welfare

Unions champion social security benefits, including healthcare, education, and retirement pensions.



Contributing to Growth: The Economic Impact

Increased Productivity

1

Trade unions promote a motivated and engaged workforce, leading to better productivity.

Economic Stability

2

Unions contribute to economic stability by promoting industrial harmony and minimizing industrial disputes.

Improved Standard of Living

3

Better wages and benefits translate to higher purchasing power, boosting consumer spending.

Shaping the Workplace: Impact on Industrial Relations

Trade unions play a critical role in shaping industrial relations in India. They serve as a bridge between employers and workers.

Unions provide a platform for workers to express their concerns and grievances, fostering dialogue and resolving disputes.

A Powerful Tool: Collective Bargaining



Negotiation

Unions negotiate with employers to secure favorable terms for workers, including wages, benefits, and working conditions.



Agreement

Collective bargaining leads to agreements that are legally binding on both employers and employees.



Fairness

Collective bargaining ensures that both employers and employees have a fair say in setting the terms of employment.



Challenges Ahead: Obstacles Faced by Unions

Declining Union Membership

In a rapidly changing econom

In a rapidly changing economy, there's a decline in union membership, particularly among younger workers.

Growing Informal Sector

The expansion of the informal sector poses challenges to unionization, as many workers lack formal employment contracts.

Technological Disruptions

Automation and digitization are leading to job displacement, which has created challenges for unions.

3

2

Reform and Regulation: Shaping the Union Landscape

1

Trade Unions Act, 1926

Provides the legal framework for the formation, registration, and functioning of trade unions.

2

Industrial Disputes Act, 1947

Governs industrial relations, including provisions for collective bargaining and dispute resolution.





New Directions: Emerging Trends in the Movement

Increased Focus on Skill Development

Trade unions are advocating for training programs to enhance workers' skills for a changing job market.

Digital Unionism

Unions are leveraging technology to reach out to workers, organize, and build solidarity through online platforms.

Promoting Social Justice

Unions are increasingly involved in promoting social justice issues, such as gender equality and environmental protection.



A Commitment to Society: Trade Unions and Social Responsibility

Trade unions in India play a crucial role in social responsibility, promoting education, healthcare, and community development initiatives.

Trade Unions in India

An Overview of History, Growth, and Key Aspects