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ABSTRACT

This article examines the cashless transactions and its impact on Indian economy. The Indian payment system is speedily transiting to more and more IT-based systems. In the retail area, we have very high volumes of money circulation. Other than cash, one of the growing payment methods accepted by merchants in the sector is payment cards. However, the whole isometrics of moving from cash-determined economy to a cashless economy has somehow been mixed with demonetization that was aimed to extract liquidity from the system to extract black money. With the increasing acceptance of electronic payments, particularly those driving e-commerce and m-commerce, there is a growing demand for quicker payment services which, in turn, enable ease in doing financial connections.

This paper focuses on the benefits, prospects and security threats relating to the cashless transactions. It finds that there are several benefits of going cashless like convenience, easy financial transactions, more availability of discounts, decreases money and time etc. Different modes are used for doing cashless transactions.

Key Words: Cashless economy; E- payments; demonetization; Black economy

INTRODUCTION

A cashless transaction means a transaction where currency notes are not used in monetary transactions. Basically, a cashless transaction indicates a cashless society, which describes an economic state whereby financial transactions are not conducted with money in the form of physical bank notes or coins, but rather through the transfer of digital information (usually an electronic representation of money) between the transacting parties. Cashless societies have existed, based on barter and other methods of exchange, and cashless transactions have also become possible using digital currencies such as bitcoin.

Such a concept has been discussed widely, particularly because the world is experiencing a rapid and increasing use of digital methods of recording, managing, and exchanging money in commerce, investment and daily life in many parts of the world, and transactions which would historically have been undertaken with cash are often now undertaken electronically.

Some countries now set limits on transactions and transaction values for which non-electronic payment may be legally used.

LITERATURE REVIEW

A cashless transaction basically refers to the cashless economy, that defines an economic setting in which goods and services are bought and paid for through electronic media. The trend towards use of non-cash transactions and settlement began in daily life during the 1990s, when electronic banking became popular. By the 2010s digital payment methods were widespread in many countries, with examples including intermediaries such as PayPal, digital wallet systems operated by companies like Apple, contactless and NFC payments by electronic card or smart phone, and electronic bills and banking, all in widespread use.

According to Alvares, Clifford (2009) in their reports -The problem regarding fake currency in India. It is said that the country's battle against fake currency is not getting easier and many fakes go undetected. It is also stated that counterfeiters hitherto had restricted printing facilities which made it easier to discover fakes.

Jain, P.M (2006) in the article -E-payments and e-banking opined that e-payments will be able to check black -An Analysis of Growth Pattern of Cashless Transaction System. Taking fullest advantage of technology, quick payments and remittances will ensure optimal use of available funds for banks, financial institutions, business houses and common citizen of India. He also pointed out the need for e-payments and modes of epayments and communication networks.

Srinivas, N. (2006) in his study -An analysis of the defaults in credit card payments, has tried to analyse the socio-economic profile of the defaulters of credit cards, to identify the set of factors which contributed to such defaults and suggest relevant measures to minimize the default cases. Analysis of reasons indicated that economic hardship is the major reason identified by majority of the sample units follows by rigid payment structure and loss of job/business. The main suggestion is that the banks concerned should redesign the payment structure of credit card defaulters in a flexible and affordable instalment.

By 2016 in the United Kingdom it was reported that 1 in 7 people no longer carries or use cash. The 2016 United States User Consumer Survey Study claims that 75% of respondents preferred a credit or debit card as their payment method while only 11% of respondents preferred cash. By 2017, digital payment methods such as Venmo and Square contribute to cashless transactions. Venmo allows individuals to make direct payments to other individuals without having cash accessible. Square is an innovation that allows primarily small businesses to receive payments from their clients.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of this paper are:

- To know the benefits of cashless transaction
- To discuss the impact of cashless transactions on different sectors
- To identify the prospects and security threats related to cashless transactions

DATA SOURCES

This paper is mainly theoretical in nature. In this paper, attempt has been taken to analyse the need and importance of cashless transactions and its security measures. The study is mainly based on secondary data – the data has been collected from internet sources, articles, newspapers, other sources.

CASHLESS ECONOMY

Cashless Economy can be defined as a situation in which the flow of cash within an economy is nonexistent and all transactions must be through electronic channels such as direct debit, credit cards, debit cards, electronic clearing, and payment systems such as Immediate Payment Service (IMPS), National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) and Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) in India.

In a cashless economy most of the transaction will be done by digital means like e banking, debit and credit cards, PoS (point of sales) machines, digital wallets etc. In simpler words no liquid money or paper currency will be used by the people in a given country. In a cashless economy the third party will be in possession of your money. He will allow you to transact that money whenever it is needed. If it is not needed then the third party can use that money. Third party can be a government or any other public or private sector bank.

BENEFITS OF CASHLESS TRANSACTION

Many people from urban areas had supported cashless economy. But in rural areas, where there is very few number of smart phone users are exist and very low coverage and scope of internet access in rural area, there was big trouble for them to go cashless. But still there are some serious benefits of going cashless. Below we have mentioned some of the important benefits which will provide us more emphasis to follow cashless economy.

1. Convenience: No need to carry bulky notes or coins in a case. Just carrying the required cards or mobile banking will be sufficient.

2. Ease of Financial Transaction: The ease of conducting financial transactions is probably the biggest motivator to go digital. We will no longer need to carry wads of cash, plastic cards, or even queue up for ATM withdrawals. It's also a safer and easier spending option when we are travelling.

3. Going Cashless Decreases Crime: No fear of being robbed unlike carrying huge cash and letting everyone know that there could be something worth snatching. In countries like US, the burglary and assault have dropped by about 10% by using the electronic transfer medium for the payments.

4. Saves Money and Time: Companies and Governments will get efficient and they can reduce costs as they no longer need the manual accounting work to be done. The costs associated with the accounting and handling cash is very high.

5. Expenditure Management: It becomes easier to determine how much was spent where, and one able to manage the budget.

6. Reduces Currency Production Cost: Production of coins and paper currency is indeed an expensive endeavour and the life span of most of the paper currencies is about 6 years. So, by going electronic, the cost of the currency production gets reduced.

7. Less Cash, More Data: The government can use the data coming from the cashless transactions to improve and analyse their policies. By using such data, officials can predict or identify the pattern of activity and use such information for urban planning for sectors like energy management, housing and transportation.

8. Avoidance of Currency Rejection: An important issue, though seemingly insignificant issue is that of hygiene of notes will remain good, as there only few cash transaction is required. Plenty of currency notes rejected every year due to something written on it by the user, torn out or being old. Cashless transaction will remove the chance of note rejection due to such purposes.

HOW TO GO CASHLESS

The RBI and government have launched several measures for the spread of electronic and other noncash settlement culture. The Vision-2018 for Payment and Settlement Systems in India brought by the RBI in June 2016 reiterates the commitment to encourage greater use of electronic payments by all sections of society so as to achieve a —less-cash society.

Government also made fiscal measures for the encouragement of card culture in the 2016 budget. Exempting service charge on card-based and other digital payments was one such step. Aadhar based payment system will be a big boost for promoting the cashless transaction culture. A committee of seven members, chaired by a ministry official, Neeraj Kumar Gupta was formed to recommend steps for the reduction of cash based transactions.

The technology has spread internet banking, mobile banking, prepaid instruments, credit and debit cards etc. and at the same time, electronic payments system is fast growing. All these indicate that India is moving towards the RBI's goal of less cash economy steady but slowly.

MODES OF CASHLESS TRANSACTIONS

- 1. Cheque:** The cheque is one of the oldest methods of cashless payment. It is a known method to everyone. In this method, you issue a cheque for the specific amount to someone else. The cheque gets deposited in the respective bank. The bank processes a payment through a clearing house.
- 2. Demand Draft:** Demand draft is another rudimentary way of cashless transaction. It is safest option to receive payment from anyone. Demand draft (DD) never gets defaulted as it is signed by the banker. The disadvantage of DD and cheque is you need to visit a bank in order to deposit cheque and demand draft. The clearance of cheque or DD takes additional time.
- 3. Online Transfer – NEFT or RTGS:** The third simplest method for the cashless transaction is online transfer using NEFT or RTGS. In order to do online money transfer, you need internet banking facility. Online transfer using NEFT or RTGS is comparatively faster than cheque or DD. Online transfer can be done from anywhere using internet facility.
- 4. Credit Card or Debit Card:** Credit card or debit card is another cashless payment method. The usage of credit card and debit card was limited in India. However, usage of credit card and debit card is increasing now because of demonetization. The limitation of this payment method is an availability of swipe card facility (POS) at merchant end.
- 5. Net Banking or E-banking:** Internet banking accounts are given to every account holder and can be used for payments online these days. Of course, one cannot use an Internet banking account to transfer money when one is buying things across the counter of a shop physically.
- 6. E-Wallets:** E-Wallet is next cashless payment option. E-Wallet can be used to purchase products starting from grocery to airline tickets. In order to use E-Wallet customer and merchant, both require a smart phone with active internet connection. The most popular example of E-Wallet is PayPal. After registering for E-Wallet you need to link your credit card or debit card with your E-Wallet id. You can use E-Wallet for fund transfer or online shopping. It is simplest cashless method.
- 7. Mobile Wallets:** The next cashless payment method is a mobile wallet. You do not need a debit card, credit card or internet banking password for making payment using a mobile wallet. Just load money in your wallet via IMPS and use it on the move. You can download mobile wallet app from play store. Few examples of mobile wallets are Paytm, PayUmoney, MobiKwik, etc.

8. UPI Apps: UPI is a mobile payment system which allows you to do various financial transactions on your smart phone. UPI allows you to send or receive money using virtual payment address without entering bank information. Merchants can enroll with banks to accept payments using UPI. Like in the case of a POS machine, the merchant would require a current account with a bank to accept UPI payments. The examples of few UPI Apps are SBI Pay, Union Bank UPI App, PhonePe, Paytm, MobiKwik etc.

9. Gift Card: The next cashless payment method is a gift card. Gift card is a readymade card and can be purchased from a merchant or from the bank. The gift card is loaded with a fix cash amount you can purchase any item from the specific vendor by using a gift card.

10. Aadhaar Enabled Payment System: Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS) is one of the best cashless payment methods. AEPS is like Micro ATM it uses smart phone and a finger-print scanner for the transaction. In order to use this facility, it is mandatory to link your Aadhaar card to your bank account. You can use AEPS in order to perform transactions like Aadhar to Aadhaar fund transfer, Cash withdrawn, Cash deposit, etc.

11. Unstructured Supplementary Service Data: You can use USSD cashless option if you don't have a smart phone or internet connection. Unstructured Supplementary Service Data is mobile banking service. From any mobile phone, you can dial *99# and use this service. You can do all these things which are available to a person with smart phone and internet connection. Almost including SBI, ICICI, BOB, Axis Bank and PNB supports USSD payment option.

IMPACTS OF CASHLESS TRANSACTIONS

The impacts of cashless transactions in the different sectors can be defined as follows.

1. Business Sectors: The impacts of Cashless Transaction on the Business sector are as following:

- ✓ Businesses are legally strong.
- ✓ Proper audit. Not hidden excess liability.
- ✓ Increase use of e-payment.
- ✓ Wallet hold business gets an advantage.

2. Education Sectors: The impact of Cashless Transaction on the education sector is likely to be minimal. Some of the foreseeable fallouts of demonetization on the Indian education sector are as following:

- ✓ The decision of the central government to withdraw high-value bank notes to curb unaccounted cash will hurt education institutions that accept donations or capitation fees for admissions.

- ✓ Accepting and accounting donations will become difficult because of the demonetisation drive. Education sector was not immune to the Indian theory of 'you can buy everything with money'. This move of demonetisation will definitely curb this mentality of many in the country.
- ✓ Nursery admissions, private education institutions and professional higher education including medical and engineering are the segments which accept donations widely. For the first time, these segments are going to feel the impact in a big way.
- ✓ Private educational institutions take huge of amount of donations in Cash which is 40% to 50% more than the fees of the course. We expect that demonetisation will impact the recipient.
- ✓ Admissions in private educational institutions and medical college admissions comes tagged along with donations without a glitch. The donations in medical colleges are usually more than 100% of the fees. Demonetisation will impact both admissions and also the receipt.
- ✓ MBBS seats are some colleges go for Rs40 lakh to Rs60 lakh, while MD seats has a range of Rs 2 crore price tag on it. Similarly, engineering and management stream seats have a price tag between Rs 2 lakh to Rs 10 lakh each. This move can change the course of expensive education which can be made more affordable devoid of the capitation fee.

3. Economic Growth: The impact of Cashless Transaction on Economic Growth in India is as following:

- ✓ According to the Bank, India's growth in the first half of FY 2017 was underpinned by robust private and public consumption, which offset slowing fixed investment, subdued industrial activity and lethargic exports.
- ✓ The medium term may be liquidity expansion in the banking system, helping to lower lending rates and lift economic activity," the World Bank noted.

IMPACT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN CASHLESS ECONOMY

The impact of Information Technology on in cashless economy in India is as following:

- ✓ Because of information technology the cost of bank will reduce that will result in lower service charges for customers.
- ✓ Making Transaction is very easy by using information technology.
- ✓ New IT Technology like biometric are help to do secure and transparent transaction.

THREATS TO GOING CASHLESS

To promote cashless digital/online payment is an appreciated move that will help to reduce the use of cash and papers in the economy. While reducing cash transactions in the economy

is a wholly desirable objective, equally important is the need to protect consumers and businesses from frauds that can happen on electronic and digital platforms. There is no such thing as hack-proof technology, as recent high profile security breaches have demonstrated. The threat of cyber attacks is the red alert which coincides with the evolution of cashless economy.

1. Phishing Attack: An attacker attempts phishing on to a mobile phone through SMS (Short Message Service), text message, telephone call, fax, voicemail etc. with a purpose to convince the recipients to share their sensitive or personal information.

2. Interception of OTA Transmission: Hackers can also intercept data traffic when it is transmitted over the air (OTA) between a phone and a POS terminal, resulting in security issues like identity theft, information disclosure, and replay attacks.

3. Mobile Banking Malwares: There have been incidents that involved sophisticated virus infecting banks mobile apps users to steal password details and even thwart two factor authentication, by presenting victims with a fake version of the login screen when they access their legitimate banking application. A key vector by which the mobile banking malware get into the mobile device is through malicious applications posing as legitimate applications that users download and then become infected. Emails or text messages asking the user to confirm or provide personal information (Debit/Credit/ATM pin, CVV, expiry date, passwords, etc.) should be ignored.

4. Jailbroken or Rooted Devices: This is practiced to gain unrestricted or administrative access to the device's entire file system, at the risk of exposing the device vulnerable to the malicious apps download by breaking its inherent security model and limitations, allowing mobile malware and rogue apps to infect the device and control critical functions such as SMS. Thus the mobile banking app security is exposed to extreme risk on a jailbroken device.

5. Malicious Third-Party Apps : Installing malicious third-party apps on mobile phone and providing elevated access rights to them may result into sensitive information disclosure and loss or corruption of file system and system resources. Thus one should only install apps from trusted hosting platforms and websites, and carefully read the app's instructions before installing it and granting it permissions.

6. Network Connectivity: Since the day demonetisation was announced, people are trying to use more of card transactions to save that dreaded trip to the bank and to save the last penny of the hard cash in hand. However, a sudden surge in card transactions has led to connectivity issues. Several people have faced trouble while standing in line to pay for a transaction at a

shop when the card machines have stopped working due to an overload on the network. Connectivity issues must be resolved before dreaming about a cashless society.

7. Internet Cost : The internet cost in India is still substantially high. There is no Wifi at every public places and if people do not get their monthly data packs recharged, there is no way they can be connected to make online payments. Internet connectivity is needed even for the e-wallets. In order to convince people to do cashless transactions, the cost of the internet should be lowered and free WiFi should also be provided at public places.

8. Charges on Cards, Online Transactions: These are additional charges that are levied by the vendors when they offer an online payment facility. But when the government is suggesting us to go cashless, shouldn't this compulsory fee on online transactions be taken off?

9. Non-Tech-Savvy: While the new generation is glued to their phones and gadgets, computer literacy among the people in the over-50-age group is still low. Not many people are comfortable using computers or mobile phones and depend on their children when it comes to using the gizmos. Before promoting a cashless society, efforts need to be taken to educate people on how to use phones for transactions.

10. Lack of Proper Supporting Service: India still lacks when it comes to supporting a mobile society. It is extremely difficult to find a public charging point if the phone battery discharges. Even metro stations or railway stations in the tier one cities do not provide that infrastructure sufficiently.

11. Not Enough Bank Accounts: Most people still do not have bank accounts. Most often there is just one account per family which also limits the number of cards people can have individually. A family of even four people (say) cannot be dependent on just one card for all household expenditure.

12. Lack of Proper Internet Access: There are some hilly areas where the Internet connection is not so smooth and frequent. For such areas, it is a serious problem to get or access the Internet connection properly.

13. Encourage People to Spend: Spending by cards often encourages people to spend more giving cash by hand helps people keep a check on their expenses but paying by cards gives people a free hand. Not just through credit but even the debit cards give that impression that you can make that payment immediately.

CURRENT POSITION OF INDIA IN CASHLESS TRANSACTIONS

The current position of Cashless India can be defined as follows.

1. The cash centric informal sectors like agriculture, real estate, etc., have been affected by demonetization. However the experts say that it's a short term scenario and this move will give positive long term consequences.
2. To bring the economy on track again, government is promoting cashless economy because scrapping of cash needs an alternative to cash.
3. India's black money has been estimated by the World Bank in 2010 to be worth about one fifth of the GDP. In a country where 90% transactions are carried out on cash basis it was a revolutionary move to transform from cash to cashless transactions.
4. India's black money has been estimated by the World Bank in 2010 to be worth about one fifth of the GDP. In a country where 90% transactions are carried out on cash basis it was a revolutionary move to transform from cash to cashless transactions.
5. Under this scheme, 250 million bank accounts have been opened in two years. As per RBI reports bank branches increased by 5% per year but ATMs, debit cards and card swiping machines have doubled in four years and online transactions have grown 20 times in six years to 2016.
6. All these data shows a gradual shift towards cashless economy. Demonetization has sped up this transition.

FUTURE PROSPECTS OF CASHLESS INDIA

Smooth, simple and secure payment processes will help to bring about behavioural changes and faster adoption of digital payments and banking among unbanked segments. When new players enter the market, each with a slightly different take on the market and with differing business models, the increased competition will help the environment and offer more options for consumers to choose from. A larger pie with more players is definitely good for the changing dynamics of the payments industry, which is still nascent in India. Indian consumption is still dominated by cash, with cards contributing only 5 per cent of the personal consumption expenditure. In developed countries, 30-50 per cent of spends happen through cards. So there is huge growth opportunity.

The rapid growth of smart phones, Internet penetration and e-commerce is complementing these; card payment volumes have been growing in excess of 25 per cent y-o-y. We expect this trend to continue, aided by the continued increase in debit card activation and usage; debit card transactions have been growing at 31 per cent each year.

Intense competition and strategic collaboration among existing and new market participants like the payments and small banks and wallets will help scale up acceptance and foster more creativity, innovation and consumer choice. According to him, the future holds exciting times

for the payments industry in India, as all stakeholders and regulatory authorities come together to achieve a —less-cash dependent and eventually —cashless society.

The credit card industry in India sees greater acceptance among consumers this year. According to World line India Card Payment Report 2014-15, the credit card base grew at 9.8 per cent in the past year. World line India is a leader in the payment and transactions services in the country. Alternative methods like mobile wallets and prepaid cash cards accounted for 3 per cent of digital transactions. This industry has been growing steadily over the past few years. Card transactions, both by debit and credit cards, are on an upward trajectory.

CONCLUSION

The findings reveal that while people are getting comfortable with cashless payments, some kind of negative perceptions are holding back many from adopting the new system. The negative perceptions are like security problems, poor network coverage, and lack of merchant willingness, high transactional costs, lack of user's knowledge on technology, defunct POS machines, delayed reimbursement in case of failed transactions, procedures and financial limits. Convenience in use of cashless transactions and incentive system are the positive signs for the progress of cashless payments in India. Though there are some serious threats in the pathway of the implementation of cashless system, but its actual impact is far far-reaching.

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