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CONTENTS

| Sr. No. | TITLE & NAME OF THE AUTHOR (S) | Pag No. |
|--------------|--|------------|
| 1. | VAR ANALYSIS OF EXPORTS, IMPORTS AND THE ECONOMIC GROWTH: EVIDENCE OF INDONESIA | 1 |
| 2 . | AN ANALYSIS OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF VALUE ADDED TAX TO MADHYA PRADESH STATE FINANCE Dr. VAIBHAV MODAK & Dr. SURESH SILAWAT | 6 |
| 3 . | ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY STUDY OF PLASTIC MIX BITUMEN ROAD DEEPIKA SWAIN & Dr. KAILASH MOHAPATRA | 10 |
| 4. | THE ECONOMICS OF PUBLIC SERVICE ADVERTISING OF HEALTH CARE SERVICE SECTOR – A LITERATURE REVIEW Dr. DHANANJOY DATTA & Dr. AMITA KUMARI CHOUDHURY | 15 |
| 5. | IMPACT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES ON ASSET, INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT IN HIMACHAL PRADESH: A CASE STUDY OF MANDI DISTRICT Dr. K.C. SHARMA & RAKSHA SHARMA | 19 |
| 6 . | A STUDY ON THE PROBLEMS FACED BY THE FARMERS CULTIVATING SUGARCANE WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ERODE AND TIRUPUR DISTRICTS Dr. S. UMARANI | 22 |
| 7. | DYNAMICS AND DETERMINANTS OF IPO INVESTING BY RETAIL INVESTORS: EVIDENCE FROM INDIAN STOCK MARKET Dr. SATHYANARAYANA & BHAVYA N | 27 |
| 8. | A STUDY ON CUSTOMER PERCEPTION TOWARDS VALUE ADDED SERVICES IN PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ERODE DISTRICT M. SURESH KUMAR & Dr. G. SURESH | 36 |
| 9. | SWAY ON FDI IN INDIA: SOME RUDIMENTARY CORROBORATIONS Dr. JOSEPH JAMES V, Dr. SAJEEVE V P & CATHERINE E PERIERA | 45 |
| L O . | PATIENTS' OPINION TOWARDS QUALITY HEALTHCARE SERVICES PROVIDED BY CO-OPERATIVE HOSPITALS: A STUDY ON SHRI J G CO-OPERATIVE HOSPITAL SOCIETY LTD., GHATAPRABHA DINESHA K & Dr. LAXAMANA P | 52 |
| L 1 . | THE BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND SAUDI ARABIA Dr. SHEETAL VARSHNEY | 55 |
| L 2 . | IMPACT OF TQM PRACTICES ON ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE AT WORKING IRON AND STEEL FIRMS KARNATAKA K C PRASHANTH | 58 |
| L 3 . | CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY PRACTICES BANKS IN INDIA: A STUDY OF TWO PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS DHRITABRATA JYOTI BHARADWAZ | 64 |
| L 4 . | DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF MGNREGS BENEFICIARY HOUSEHOLDS IN PUNJAB: AN EMPIRICAL STUDY Dr. SARBJEET SINGH & JAGDEV SINGH | 69 |
| L5. | AN EMPIRICAL STUDY OF LIFE INSURANCE IN GANGTOK, SIKKIM KEWAL RAI, ARUN ACHARYA, ROSHAN SHARMA, ANIL RAI & TSHERING LHAMU BHUTIA | 77 |
| L 6 . | EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN INDIA THROUGH EDUCATION Dr. P. OMKAR | 84 |
| L 7 . | IMPACT OF GOODS AND SERVICES TAX (GST) ON COMMON MAN IN INDIA DODDA YALLAPPA JINDAPPA | 87 |
| L 8 . | STATUS OF WOMEN IN EGYPT SINCE INFITAH EREIPHY KEISHING | 89 |
| L 9 . | INCOME AND INVESTMENT PATTERN AMONG WORKING WOMEN WITH REFERENCE TO MADURAI CITY – A CASE STUDY <i>R. VENNILA</i> | 92 |
| 20. | DIGITAL INDIA: INFUSE TECHNOLOGY IN GOVERNANCE POOJA | 95 |
| | REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK & DISCLAIMER | 98 |

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• Garg, Sambhav (2011): "Business Ethics" Paper presented at the Annual International Conference for the All India Management Association, New Delhi, India, 19–23

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AN EMPIRICAL STUDY OF LIFE INSURANCE IN GANGTOK, SIKKIM

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ABSTRACT

Human life is full of uncertain events and these uncertainties cannot be stopped or controlled, but necessary precautions can be taken. This precaution can be called as Insurance. Insurance has played an important role in the financial planning of an individual, thus impacting the Financial Market. Present study is based on both primary as well as secondary data. Specifically, selected respondents (Life Insurance policyholders of three different life insurance companies) based on Gangtok, Sikkim and evaluative research methodology carried out in this paper. The research depends on primary as well secondary data for the purpose of analysis and interpretation. This paper attempts to analyze the performance of the major insurance firms like HDFC Life, Bajaj Allianz and ICICI Prudential till today in the region and try to evaluate their future Prospect by comparing their overall premiums, customer preferences, policies and Insurance market scenario.

KEYWORDS

YOY growth (year over year), life insurance, premium, customer satisfaction.

INTRODUCTION

J nsurance is a means of indemnity against a future occurrence of an uncertain event, for which the customers pay a certain amount called Premium. Companies try to attract the customers by focusing on Customer Satisfaction, New Policies and Lower Premiums. Their performance is revealed by the premium they have accumulated.

There are lot of Insurance companies set-up in India, therefore this study will focus on three companies:- HDFC Life, Bajaj Allianz and ICICI Prudential.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The main objective of the study is to analyze the Performance of these three Companies in the region, and through accumulated data try to evaluate (to give an Idea) the future Growth or Prospect of these Companies.

METHODS USED

The Data used in this paper is both Primary as well as Secondary data. A well structured questionnaire and in-depth interview (from the policyholders) method was used to collect primary data for the analysis purpose. A survey is carried out on specifically selected respondents of three Insurance companies data are presented in the form of tables and diagrammatic form for easy understanding.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Rao, S. (2000) has stated that India is still a developing country and there is a lot of scope for Insurance sector for expansion. His study mainly focuses on expansion of insurance sector in rural areas.

William H. Greene and Dan Segal (2004), in their paper "Profitability and Efficiency in the US Life Insurance Industry examined the relativity between profitability and inefficiency in the Life Insurance in US it is found that the cost inefficiency and earnings are essentially relanded to each other in insurance industry.

Sinha & Tapen (2005), in their research work, "The Indian Insurance Industry: Challenges and Prospectus" have found that the life insurance dominates the overall insurance premium market in India by 80% at present. Moreover, the paper further suggests liberalizing the prices of insurance product to minimize the risk.

Macro Arena (The World Bank) 2006, determined the influence of insurance market activity namely life and non life insurance on economic strength.

Harpeet Singh & Preeti Singh (2011), in their paper, "An Empirical Analysis of Insurance Industry of India" between pre and post economic amendment period. Furthermore, their paper also states the portion of present statues, quantities of competitors and confrontation came across by LIC of India.

Yogesh Jain (2013), in his paper, "Economic Reforms and World Economic Crisis: Changing Indian Life Insurance Market Place" study's the growth/fall of insurance sector in India and the required changes that need to be made.

Dr. Sunayna Khurana (2013), in her research paper, "Analysis of Service Quality Gap in Indian Life Insurance Industry" tries to identify the difference in the customer's expectation and the product satisfaction of Insurance sector.

C. Balaji (2015), The paper is mainly an awareness for the customers highlighting the various policies and premium rates in the Insurance sector in rural and urban areas of India.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION ABOUT LIFE INSURANCE

The discussion about life insurance is based on various topics which are discussed in the survey results. Discussion and results about life insurance and services based on the respondent's views are as follows:-

INSURANCE POLICY SATISFACTION

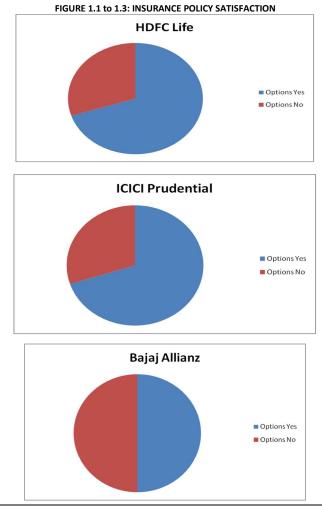
In the surveyed data respondents gave opinion about the satisfaction with the policy they have taken from the Insurance Company. It is shown in the following table:

| TABLE 1. INSONANCE FOLICI SATISFACTION | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|----------|---------|------|--------|------|--|--|--|--|
| | No. of Resp | ondont's | Options | | | | | | | |
| Company | NO. OF Kesp | ondent s | Yes | | No | | | | | |
| | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | | | | |
| HDFC Life | 5 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | | | | |
| ICICI Prudential | 5 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | | | | |
| Bajaj Allianz | 5 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | | | | |
| Courses Courses Data | | | | | | | | | | |

TABLE 1: INSURANCE POLICY SATISFACTION

Source: Survey Data

The Policy Satisfaction from the surveyed data is divided in two options first one Yes and Second No. The number of respondent's that fall in Yes option are: HDFC – 7, ICICI Prudential – 7, and Bajaj Allianz – 5. The number of respondent's that fall in No option are: HDFC Life - 3, ICICI Prudential - 3, and Bajaj Allianz - 5. It can be seen in the below pie chart:-



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CUSTOMER PREFERENCE REGARDING SELECTION OF THE POLICY

Customer preferences in the policy refer to preference on the basis of two prospective which is Maturity Benefit or Life Coverage. The data provided below gives the number of respondents who either go for the Maturity Benefit or Life Coverage:

| | No. of Dece | | Preference | | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------|----------|-------------|---------|---------------|------|--|--|--|
| Company | No. of Resp | ondent's | Maturity | Benefit | Life Coverage | | | | |
| | Female | Male | Female Male | | Female | Male | | | |
| HDFC Life | 5 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 1 | | | | |
| ICICI Prudential | 5 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | | | |
| Bajaj Allianz | 5 5 | | 4 5 | | 1 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 30 | | 25 | | 5 | | | | |

TABLE 2: CUSTOMER PREFERENCE REGARDING SELECTION OF THE POLICY

Source: Survey Data

Out of 30 respondents across three companies it was found that majority (i.e. 25 over 30 respondents) have a choice of Maturity Benefit or Money Back Guarantee over the Life Coverage, which is the basic aim of insurance companies.

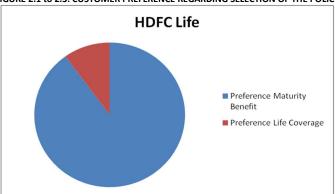
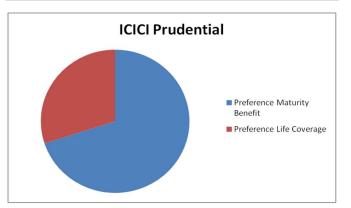
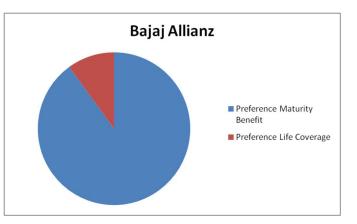


FIGURE 2.1 to 2.3: CUSTOMER PREFERENCE REGARDING SELECTION OF THE POLICY



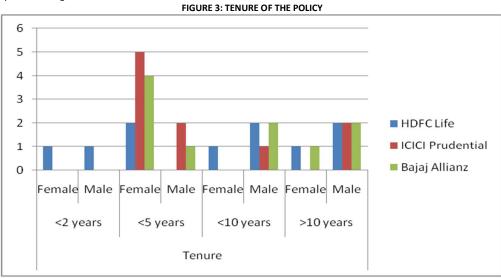


TENURE OF THE POLICY

It is important to know the customers expectancy towards the tenure of the policy, as in this study it is found that people prefer within 5 to 10 years of maturity period the most viable. The following data provides the maturity date of the policies that the respondent's have taken-up: -

| TABLE 3: TENURE OF THE POLICY | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|------|----------|------|-----------|------|-----------|------|--|--|
| | Tenure | | | | | | | | | |
| Company | <2 years | | <5 years | | <10 years | | >10 years | | | |
| | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | | |
| HDFC Life | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | | |
| ICICI Prudential | | | 5 | 2 | | 1 | | 2 | | |
| Bajaj Allianz | | | 4 | 1 | | 2 | 1 | 2 | | |
| TOTAL | 2 | | 14 | | 6 | | 8 | | | |

The tenure in the surveyed data has been categorized into <2 years, <5 years, <10 years, and >10 years. The data states that the maximum number of respondent's (including female and male) that fall in: HDFC Life - <10 years \sim 3 and >10 \sim 3, ICICI Prudential - <5 years \sim 7 and >10 years \sim 2, and Bajaj Allianz - <5 years \sim 5 and >10 years \sim 3. In the data the sum Total row defines that the maximum number of the respondents are up for the policy whose maturity period is <5 years. The following Chart has provided using the above data:

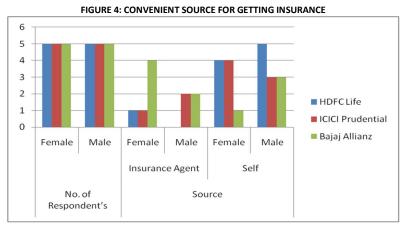


CONVENIENT SOURCE FOR GETTING INSURANCE

In today's world getting insurance policy is not a difficult task for anyone. Anyone who is willing to pay the prescribed premium can take the insurance policy through various sources. In below table the basic source through which anyone would take up an insurance policy is given (i.e. through an insurance agent or Self):-

| TABLE 4. CONVENIENT SOURCE FOR GETTING INSURANCE | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------|----------|-----------|---------|--------|------|--|--|--|--|
| | | andont's | Source | | | | | | | |
| Company | No. of Respondent's | | Insurance | e Agent | Self | | | | | |
| | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | | | | |
| HDFC Life | 5 | 5 | 1 | | 4 | 5 | | | | |
| ICICI Prudential | 5 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 | | | | |
| Bajaj Allianz 5 | | 5 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | | | | |
| Source: Survey Data | | | | | | | | | | |

The convenient source for getting insurance in surveyed data is divided into basic two categories Insurance Agent and Self. The number of respondent falling in each two categories (including Female and Male) are: HDFC Life – 1 and 9, ICICI Prudential – 3 and 7, and Bajaj Allianz – 6 and 4. The table shows that the maximum numbers of respondents are falling on second category which is Self, as compared to the earlier days when the main source for getting an insurance policy was through an agent. The following Chart has been given on the basis of the data provided:-



TAX EXEMPTION AWARENESS

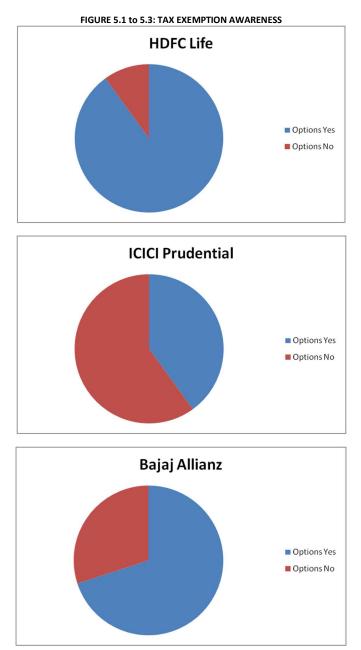
During the survey we also tried to know whether the respondent's had the information regarding the tax exemption or not. The following data provides us with that required information:

| TABLE 5. TAX EXEIVIPTION AWAREINESS | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|----------|---------|------|--------|------|--|--|--|--|
| | No. of Resp | ondont's | Options | | | | | | | |
| Company | NO. OI Kesp | ondents | Yes | | No | | | | | |
| | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | | | | |
| HDFC Life | 5 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 1 | | | | | |
| ICICI Prudential | 5 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 | | | | |
| Bajaj Allianz | 5 5 | | 3 4 | | 2 | 1 | | | | |
| TOTAL | 30 | | 19 | | 10 | | | | | |
| Secures Survey Date | | | | | | | | | | |

TABLE 5: TAX EXEMPTION AWARENESS

Source: Survey Data

The Tax Exemption Awareness data is divided into two options Yes or No. The number of respondent's that fall under Yes category are: HDFC Life - 8, ICICI Prudential - 4, and Bajaj Allianz - 7. The number of respondent's that fall under No category are: HDFC Life - 2, ICICI Prudential - 6, and Bajaj Allianz - 3. The data represents that the maximum number of respondent's are aware about the tax exemption in insurance, as the Total column of the table clearly states 19 for Yes and 11 for No. The following pie chart has been provided using the above data:-



VOLUME NO. 7 (2017), ISSUE NO. 10 (OCTOBER)

| TABLE 6: PREMIUM (TOP TEN PLAYERS) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------|------|---------------|-------------------------|----------|------|---------------|------------------------------|-------|------|---------------|
| | Overall Premium (Rs. Cr) | | | | Individual WRP (Rs. Cr) | | | | Group Total Premium (Rs. Cr) | | | |
| Insurer | YTD Nov'16 | MS | Rank | YOY Growth | YTD Nov'16 | MS | Rank | YOY Growth | YTD Nov'16 | MS | Rank | YOY Growth |
| SBI Life | 5,973 | 21.2% | 1 | 68% | 2,949 | 20.6% | 2 | 48% | 2,714 | 22.7% | 1 | 129% |
| HDFC Life | 4,683 | 16.6% | 2 | 37% | 1,773 | 12.4% | 3 | 1% | 2,591 | 21.7% | 2 | 73% |
| ICICI Pru | 4,475 | 15.9% | 3 | 6% | 3.536 | 24.8% | 1 | 24% | 593 | 5.0% | 7 | - 49% |
| Bajaj Allianz | 1,867 | 6.6% | 4 | 28% | 1,283 | 9.0% | 4 | 24% | 223 | 1.9% | 11 | 46% |
| Max Life | 1,831 | 6.5% | 5 | 24% | 500 | 3.5% | 6 | 52% | 1,300 | 10.9% | 3 | 26% |
| Birla Sunlife | 1,512 | 5.4% | 6 | 29% | 393 | 2.8% | 9 | 16% | 1,098 | 9.2% | 4 | 35% |
| Kotak Om | 1,431 | 5.1% | 7 | 30% | 493 | 3.5% | 7 | 12% | 859 | 7.2% | 6 | 39% |
| India First | 1,067 | 3.8% | 8 | 22% | 170 | 1.2% | 17 | 19% | 891 | 7.4% | 5 | 16% |
| Reliance Life | 645 | 2.3% | 9 | -13% | 373 | 2.6% | 10 | -28% | 258 | 2.2% | 9 | -49% |
| Exide Life | 600 | 2.1% | 10 | 12% | 523 | 3.7% | 5 | 8% | 67 | 0.6% | 16 | 41% |
| Top Ten Pvt. Players | 24,086 | 85.6% | | 28% | 11,995 | 84.0% | | 22% | 10,594 | 88.5% | | 36% |
| Other Pvt. Players | 4,056 | 14.4% | | 19% | 2,292 | 16.0% | | 22% | 1,371 | 11.5% | | 9% |
| Private Total | 28,142 | 27.2% | | 26% | 14,287 | 51.3% | | 22% | 11,965 | 20.6% | | 32% |
| LIC | 75,263 | 72.8% | | 44% | 13,567 | 48.7% | | 18% | 46,167 | 79.4% | | 29% |
| Grand Total | 1,03,405 | | | 39% | 27,854 | | | 20% | 58,132 | | | 29% |
| | 2,00,400 | 1 | | | ca: Second | any Data | | 20,0 | 55,152 | 1 | | , |

Source: Secondary Data

The above table highlights the top ten players on the basis of Overall Premium, Individual WRP (Weighted Receipt Premium) and Group Premium – YTD (Year Till Date) Nov'16. Through the table we can find out the Rank of this three Companies and the Rate of Growth YTD (Year Over Year). On the basis of Overall Premium the ranks obtained are: HDFC Life – 2, ICICI Prudential – 3, and Bajaj Allianz – 4, and the YOY Growth of these companies are: HDFC Life – 37%, ICICI Prudential – 6%, and Bajaj Allianz – 28%. On the basis of Individual WRP the ranks obtained are: HDFC Life – 3, ICICI Prudential – 1, and Bajaj Allianz – 4, and the YOY Growth of these companies are: HDFC Life – 1%, ICICI Prudential – 24%, and Bajaj Allianz – 24%. On the Basis of Group Total Premium the ranks obtained are: HDFC Life – 7, ICICI Prudential – 7, and Bajaj Allianz – 11, and the YOY Growth of these Companies are: HDFC Life – 73%, ICICI Prudential – (-49), and Bajaj Allianz – 36%.

The above report signifies that each of the three companies is having variations in their respective WRPs and group total premiums. The individual WRP, in case of HDFC Life, YTD Nov '16 is Rs. 1,773(in Cr) with the rank of 3rd, and the YOY growth being just 1%. In case of ICICI Prudential, YTD Nov'16 is Rs. 3,536(in Cr) with the rank of 1st, and the YOY growth being 24%. In case Bajaj Allianz, YTD Nov'16 is Rs. 1,283(in Cr) with the rank of 4th, and the YOY growth being 24%. On the other hand the overall Group Total Premiums in 2016 stands as:-

HDFC Life YTD is Rs. 2.591(in Cr) with the rank of 2nd, and the YOY growth being 73%.

ICICI Prudential YTD is Rs. 593(in Cr) with the rank of 7th, and the YOY growth being -49%.

Bajaj Allianz YTD is Rs. 223(in Cr) with the rank of 11th, and the YOY growth being 46%.

Bajaj Allianz YTD IS RS. 223(In Cr) with the rank of 11^m, and the YOY growth being 46

CONCLUSIONS

The following conclusion(s) has been made on the basis of study and analysis of data:

- 1. Maximum number of the Policyholders are satisfied and are not interested in any other Policies;
- 2. Regarding the selection of policy they mainly go for investment purpose(Maturity Benefit) rather than for Life Coverage;
- 3. The survey also states that maximum number of customers are self influenced to purchase the insurance rather than be influenced by other sources;
- 4. Regarding tax exemption, maximum number of policyholder were aware, which signifies the level of awareness is high in Gangtok, Sikkim (India);
- 5. The survey also determines that maximum number of the customers go for that policy whose maturity date does not exceed 5 years.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Though people have taken Life Insurance Policies they are little aware and concerned about life uncertainties which needs to be downloaded well to the customers and companies also need to train the financial consultants and make a need based selling depending on requirement of customer rather than an investment tool.

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