

# A Critical Review on Management of Non-Performing Assets and Public Sector Banks in India

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## ABSTRACT

The level of non-performing assets (NPAs) best indicates the soundness of the banking sector of a country. The analysis carried on in this paper shows that the overall NPA position of all the banks is deteriorating over the years. The purpose of this study is an effort to look into the contribution of the different banks individually to the NPA in the industry by looking into its growth pattern during the period 2015-2019. Further, the study is made to look into the effect of different groups of banks, namely, Corporation bank, State Bank of India (SBI), Karnataka Bank, Canara Bank, Allahabad Bank on the banking industry in this regard.

**Key words:** GNPA, NPA, Public sector bank

## I. PURPOSE

The following project is undertaken to identify, monitor and mitigate the risk of rising NPA's in the banking sector. This project also provides a detailed insight to the main causes and effects of such Non-Performing assets in the functioning of the economy as it proves to be one of the prime reasons for the fluctuation of interest rate which leads to instability in the money market. In the financial year 2015-16, most of the banks' profit has reduced considerably. Some of the banks have incurred losses too. The losses due to increase of NPA can't be avoided only by making provisions against NPA. Provisioning can act as cushion for NPA losses but it can't be regarded as a solution for growing NPAs in all the selected PSBs. The banks advancing loans should be cautious enough to consider the backgrounds of loan receiver and make the recovery procedure more stringent.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The issue of NPAs has been a major area of concern for the lenders and the policymakers. Various research studies have been made to understand the causes contributing to the rise in NPAs, measures that should be taken to resolve the issue in its nascent stage and reforms that have come into effect to reduce the piling up of NPAs. Some of the relevant studies are arranged in a chronological sequence.

Karunakar et al. (2008) discuss the various factors that boost NPAs, their size, their effect on Indian banking operations and suggest measures to control the curse on the banking industry. Use of suitable credit assessment and risk management methods is the key to solve the problem of NPA accumulation. Rajeev and Mahesh (2010), in their article deal with the issue of NPAs after the global financial crisis. They suggest that mere recognition of the problem and self-monitoring can help to manage the NPA problem to a great extent. Self-help groups can also play an important role in the recovery of the loans.

Barge (2012) examines that early monitoring and management of lent funds is the necessity of the hour. The study suggests several measures like better supervision of end use of funds, information about the credit history of the borrower and assisting the borrowers to develop entrepreneurial skills to ensure that the asset does not convert into a non-performing asset.

Gupta (2012) makes a comparative study of the position of NPAs of State Bank of India (SBI) and associates and other public sector banks. The researcher concludes that for evaluation of the solvency of borrowers each bank should set up a separate credit rating agency. It also suggests the need for a committee comprising of financial experts to supervise and monitor the issue of

NPAs.

Shalini (2013) has analysed the causes and suggested remedies for reducing NPAs in Indian public sector banks with special reference to the agricultural sector. The analysis of the different problems faced by the Indian farmers deduces the conclusion that banks should follow some measures before lending the loan. Prior collection of reports regarding the goodwill of the farmers, post sanction inspection, educating the farmers regarding the effects and consequences of defaulting are some of the suggested measures.

Singh (2013) in the investigation on the position of Indian commercial banks with regard to NPAs finds that these poor quality loans are a major problem for the public sector banks, which show a consistent rise over the years. The main contribution comes from the loans directed at the micro sector and for poverty alleviation programmes.

Bhaskaran et al. (2016) in their paper have compared the NPAs of public sector banks and private sector banks over a period of ten years (2004-2013). From their study, it is evident that private sector banks are performing better than public sector banks in reducing the level of NPAs. The authors propose that banks should be proactive in adopting structured NPAs management policy where prevention of NPAs receive priority.

Thomas and Vyas (2016) in a recent study on loan recovery strategy of Indian banks suggests two measures, preventive and corrective. The paper also discusses several corrective measures – legal, regulatory and non-legal that are to be taken to recover the non-performing loans.

Singh (2016) in another recent study on NPAs and recovery status find that the problem is more severe for the public sector banks compared to the private sector banks. The academic review points to the need to have strict lending policies for speedy recovery of loans.

Meher (2017) in the post-demonetisation period looks into the impact of the government's notebandi decision on the NPA of Indian Banks. The researcher finds both positives and negatives of the event on the banking industry.

Sengupta and Vardhan (2017) have compared the two banking crisis episodes post-liberalisation- one that took place in the late 1990s and the other that commenced after the 2008 global financial crisis that raised the issue of NPAs. The authors are of the view that strong governance, proactive banking regulations and a strong legal framework for resolution of NPAs would assist in solving the problem of NPAs. On the other hand, regulatory forbearance would adversely affect the banking

crisis.

Mittal and Suneja (2017) have analysed the level of NPAs in the banking sector in India and the causes that have led to the rise in NPAs. They have proposed that though the government has taken a number of steps to reduce the problem of NPAs, bankers should also be proactive in adopting well-structured policies to manage NPAs. The loan should be sanctioned after considering the return on investment of a proposed project and the credit-worthiness of the customers.

Sahni and Seth (2017) study the different causes responsible for rising NPAs and the impact it has on the operation of banks. The authors have mentioned several preventive and curative measures to control the NPAs. They have suggested that proper assessment regarding the credit-worthiness of the borrower should be done to ensure the speedy recovery of loans.

Mishra and Pawaskar (2017) have recommended that banks should have a good credit appraisal system so as to avoid NPAs. They point out that the problem of NPAs can be solved if there is a proper legal structure to support the banks in recovery of debt.

Banerjee et al. (2018) have examined the status of gross NPAs and net NPAs in private sector banks and public sector banks to study their effect on the asset quality of the banks. Deliberate loan defaults, poor credit management policies, sanctioning of loans without analysing the risk-bearing capacity of the borrowers are the main reasons for piling up of NPAs. The banks should stress on better strategy formulation and its proper execution as well. Stringent provisions by the government could help in reducing the level of NPAs.

Mukhopadhyay (2018), in his paper, has discussed about finding solutions to India's NPA woes. He has suggested that to resolve the problems of NPAs the RBI should not abide by a single model, instead, an innovative and flexible approach is needed for each affected bank, which should differ on case-by-case basis.

Kumar (2018), in her study has found that NPAs have a serious negative impact on the profitability and liquidity of the banking sector. According to her if the issue of NPAs is managed efficiently, then many microeconomic issues such as poverty, unemployment, imbalances of balance of payments can be reduced, the money market can be strengthened, and thus, the image of Indian banking system can be improved in the international market.

Sharma (2018) emphasises the role of the banking sector as an instrument of economic growth and development. The paper discusses how banks are

burdened due to growing NPAs especially in case of public sector banks. The author states a number of preventive measures that would curtail the level of NPAs. Viable regulatory standards and timely implementation of them could pave the way for a strong financial sector in India.

Dey (2018) in a very recent research paper looks at the recovery aspect of recovery of poor loans of the Indian commercial banks. The author finds the role of DRTs to be much better compared to the recovery through LokAdalats and SARFAESI Act. Kumar et al. (2018) make an interesting study to find out the main reasons behind accumulating NPAs. They find the main reasons to be industrial sickness, change in government policies, poor credit appraisal system, wilful defaults and defect in the lending process.

#### **DESIGN/METHODOLOGY/APPROACH**

The nationalised banks namely Corporation bank, State Bank of India (SBI), Karnataka Bank, Canara Bank, Allahabad Bank have been considered for the purpose of the study. The analysis is based on secondary data collected from the Reserve Bank of India website for the period 2015-2019. The geometric mean has been used as a statistical tool for arriving at the mean growth rate of gross NPAs. Further, refinement of the result is done by comparing the growth of gross NPAs of individual banks with that of the average growth rate.

#### **BANKING IN INDIA**

Modern banking in India originated in the last decade of the 18th century. Among the first banks were the Bank of Hindustan, which was established in 1770 and liquidated in 1829-32; and the General Bank of India, established in 1786 but failed in 1791.

The largest and the oldest bank which is still in existence is the State Bank of India (S.B.I). It originated and started working as the Bank of Calcutta in mid-June 1806. In 1809, it was renamed as the Bank of Bengal. This was one of the three banks founded by a presidency government; the other two were the Bank of Bombay in 1840 and the Bank of Madras in 1843. The three banks were merged in 1921 to form the Imperial Bank of India, which upon India's independence, became the State Bank of India in 1955. For many years the presidency banks had acted as quasi-central banks, as did their successors, until the Reserve Bank of India was established in 1935, under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934

In 1960, the State Banks of India was given control of eight state-associated banks under the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959. These

are now called its associate banks. In 1969 the Indian government nationalised 14 major private banks; one of the big banks was Bank of India. In 1980, 6 more private banks were nationalised.

These nationalised banks are the majority of lenders in the Indian economy. They dominate the banking sector because of their large size and widespread networks.

The Indian banking sector is broadly classified into scheduled and non-scheduled banks. The scheduled banks are those included under the 2nd Schedule of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

The scheduled banks are further classified into: nationalised banks; State Bank of India and its associates; Regional Rural Banks (RRBs); foreign banks; and other Indian private sector banks. The term commercial bank refers to both scheduled and non-scheduled commercial banks regulated under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

Generally the supply, product range and reach of banking in India is fairly mature-even though reach in rural India and to the poor still remains a challenge. The government has developed initiatives to address this through the State Bank of India expanding its branch network and through the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) with facilities like microfinance

#### **NON-PERFORMING ASSETS**

A non-performing asset (NPA) refers to a classification for loans or advances that are in default or in arrears. A loan is in arrears when principal or interest payments are late or missed. A loan is in default when the lender considers the loan agreement to be broken and the debtor is unable to meet his obligations. Non-Performing assets defined as a credit facility in respect of which the interest and/or instalment of bond finance principal has remained 'past due' for a specific period of time. NPA is used by financial institutions that refer to loans that are in jeopardy of default. Once the borrower has failed to pay interest or principal payments for 90 days the loan is considered to be a Non-Performing assets.

#### **THE WORKING PROCESS OF NON-PERFORMING ASSETS (NPA)**

Non-performing assets are listed on the balance sheet of a bank or other financial

Institution. After a prolonged period of non-payment, the lender will force the borrower to liquidate any assets that were pledged as part of the debt agreement. If no assets were pledged, the lender might write-off the asset as a bad debt and then sells it at a discount to a collection agency.

In most cases, debt is classified as nonperforming when loan payments have not been made for a period of 90 days. While 90 days is the standard, the amount of elapsed time may be shorter or longer depending on the terms and conditions of each individual loan. A loan can be classified as a nonperforming asset at any point during the term of the loan or at its maturity.

For example, assume a company with a 10 million loan with interest- only payments of Rs.50, 000 per month fails to make a payment for three consecutive months. The lender may be required to categorize the loan as nonperforming to meet regulatory requirements. Alternatively, a loan can also be categorized as nonperforming if a company makes all interest payments but cannot repay the principal at maturity.

Carrying nonperforming assets also referred to as nonperforming loans, on the balance sheet places significant burden on the lender. The non- payment of interest or principal reduces the lender's cash flow, which can disrupt budgets and decrease earnings. Loan loss provisions, which are set aside to cover potential losses, reduce the capital available to provide subsequent loans to other borrowers. Once the actual losses from defaulted loans are determined, they are written off against earnings. Carrying a significant amount of NPAs on the balance sheet over a period of time is an indicator to regulators that the financial health of the bank is at risk.

#### TYPES OF NON-PERFORMING ASSETS (NPA)

Although the most common nonperforming assets are term loans, there are other forms of nonperforming assets as well.

- Overdraft and cash credit (OD/CC) accounts left out-of-order for more than 90 days
- Agricultural advances whose interest or principal instalment payments remain overdue for two crop/harvest seasons for short duration crops or overdue one crop season for long duration crops
- Expected payment on any other type of account is overdue for more than 90 days

#### EXTENT AND EFFECT OF NPA IN INDIA.

Banks give loans and advances to borrowers. Based on the performance of the loan, it may be categorized as:

(i) a standard asset (a loan where the borrower is making regular repayments), or

(ii) A non-performing asset. NPAs are loans and advances where the borrower has stopped making interest or principal repayments for over 90 days.

As of March 31, 2018, provisional estimates suggest that the total volume of gross NPAs in the economy stands at **Rs 10.35 lakh crore**. About 85% of these NPAs are from loans and advances of **public sector banks**. For instance, NPAs in the State Bank of India are worth Rs 2.23 lakh crore.

In the last few years, gross NPAs of banks (as a percentage of total loans) have increased from 2.3% of total loans in 2008 to 9.3% in 2017. This indicates that an increasing proportion of a bank's assets have ceased to generate income for the bank, lowering the bank's profitability and its ability to grant further credit.

Escalating NPAs require a bank to make higher provisions for losses in their books. The banks set aside more funds to pay for anticipated future losses; and this, along with several structural issues, leads to low profitability. Profitability of a bank is measured by its Return on Assets (RoA), which is the ratio of the bank's net profits to its net assets. Banks have witnessed a decline in their profitability in the last few years (Figure 2), making them vulnerable to adverse economic shocks and consequently putting consumer deposits at risk

#### REASONS FOR RISE IN NPAs

Some of the factors leading to the increased occurrence of NPAs are external, such as decreases in global commodity prices leading to slower exports. Some are more intrinsic to the Indian banking sector.

A lot of the loans currently classified as NPAs originated in the mid- 2000s, at a time when the economy was booming and business outlook was very positive.

Large corporations were granted loans for projects based on extrapolation of their recent growth and performance. With loans being available more easily than before, corporations grew highly leveraged, implying that most financing was through external borrowings rather than internal promoter equity. But as economic growth stagnated following the global financial crisis of 2008, the repayment capability of these corporations decreased. This contributed to what is now known as

India's Twin Balance Sheet problem, where both the banking sector (that gives loans) and the corporate sector (that takes and has to repay these loans) have come under financial stress.

When the project for which the loan was taken started underperforming, borrowers lost their capability of paying back the bank. The banks at this time took to the practice of ‘ever greening’, where fresh loans were given to some promoters to enable them to pay off their interest. This effectively pushed the recognition of these loans as non-performing to a later date, but did not address the root causes of their unprofitability.

Further, recently there have also been frauds of high magnitude that have contributed to rising NPAs.

**REASONS FOR OCCURRENCE OF NPAs**

- Default - One of the main reasons behind NPA is default by borrowers.

- Economic conditions - The Economic condition of a region affected by natural calamities or any other reason may cause NPA.
- No more proper risk management - Speculation is one of the major reason behind default. Sometimes banks provide loans to borrowers with bad credit history. There is a high probability of default in these cases.
- Miss-management - Often ill-minded borrowers bribe bank officials to get loans with an intention of default.
- Diversion of funds - Many times borrowers divert the borrowed funds to purposes other than mentioned in loan documents. It is very hard to recover from this kind of borrowers.

**Table 1.1: Comparison of Gross NPA of various Banks for the year 2019**

QUARTERS	March	June	September	December
Corporation bank- Gross NPA (Cr)	20,723.68	20,913.08	20,822.83	19,557.16
State Bank of India- Gross NPA (Cr)	172,750.36	168,493.94	161,636.05	159,661.19
Karnataka Bank- Gross NPA(Cr)	2,456.38	2,437.53	2,594.27	2,777.46
Canara Bank -Gross NPA (Cr)	39,224.12	39,399.02	38,711.33	36,644.97
Allahabad Bank- Gross NPA(Cr)	28,704.78	28,703.47	31,467.53	32,149.92
Corporation Bank- Gross (%)	15.35	15.44	15.43	14.80
State Bank of India- Gross (%)	7.53	7.53	7.19	6.94
Karnataka Bank -Gross (%)	4.41	4.55	4.78	4.99

Canara Bank – Gross (%)	8.83	8.77	8.68	8.36
Allahabad Bank Gross (%)	17.55	17.43	19.05	18.93

Table 1.2: Comparison of Net NPA of various Banks for the year 2019.

QUARTERS	March	June	September	December
Corporation bank- Net NPA (Cr)	6,926.64	6,907.52	6,751.21	6,321.81
State Bank of India- Net NPA (Cr)	65,894.74	65,623.86	59,939.22	58,248.61
Karnataka Bank- Net NPA(Cr)	1,616.71	1,759.77	1,863.11	2,058.04
Canara Bank - Net NPA (Cr)	22,955.11	23,149.62	22,090.04	21,337.74
Allahabad Bank - Net NPA(Cr)	7,419.31	8,229.85	8,502.09	7,449.27
Corporation Bank - Net (%)	5.71	5.69	5.59	5.32
State Bank of India - Net (%)	3.01	3.07	2.79	2.65
Karnataka Bank - Net (%)	2.95	3.33	3.48	3.75
Canara Bank - Net (%)	5.37	5.35	5.15	5.05
Allahabad Bank - Net (%)	5.22	5.71	5.98	5.13

**Table 1.3: Comparison of Gross NPA of various Banks for the year 2015.**

QUARTERS	March	June	September	December
Corporation bank- Gross NPA (Cr)	7,106.68	7,765.44	7,729.07	10,706.97
State Bank of India- Gross NPA (Cr)	56,725.34	56,420.77	56,834.28	72,791.73
Karnataka Bank- Gross NPA(Cr)	944.21	1,033.96	1,043.67	1,186.55
Canara Bank Gross NPA (Cr)	13,039.96	13,080.63	14,021.34	19,813.44
Allahabad Bank- Gross NPA(Cr)	8,357.97	7,987.44	7,985.75	9,802.10
Corporation Bank- Gross (%)	4.81	5.43	5.32	7.32
State Bank of India- Gross (%)	4.25	4.29	4.15	5.10
Karnataka Bank Gross (%)	2.95	3.26	3.18	3.56
Canara Bank Gross (%)	3.89	3.98	4.27	5.84
Allahabad Bank Gross (%)	5.46	5.29	5.26	6.40

**Table 4.10: Comparison of Net NPA of various Banks for the year 2015.**

QUARTERS	March	June	September	December
Corporation bank- Net NPA (Cr)	4,464.98	4,983.90	5,047.22	6,896.59

State Bank of India- Net NPA (Cr)	27,590.58	28,669.14	28,591.96	40,249.12
Karnataka Bank-Net NPA(Cr)	623.55	638.74	635.28	790.63
Canara Bank –Net NPA (Cr)	8,740.09	8,888.14	9,382.53	12,940.10
Allahabad Bank-Net NPA(Cr)	5,978.88	5,420.65	5,359.90	6,307.54
Corporation Bank- Net (%)	3.08	3.55	3.54	4.84
State Bank of India- Net (%)	2.12	2.24	2.14	2.89
Karnataka Bank – Net (%)	1.98	2.05	1.96	2.41
Canara Bank – Net (%)	2.65	2.74	2.90	3.90
Allahabad Bank – Net (%)	3.99	3.67	3.61	4.23

### III. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

#### Summary of the findings from the Financial year of 2015 to 2019 of Gross NPA of public Sector Banks.

- From the above findings it shows that the overall Gross NPA of Corporation bank has been increased by 291.60%.
- From the above findings it shows that the overall Gross NPA of State Bank of India has been increased by 304.53%.
- From the above findings it shows that the overall Gross NPA of Karnataka bank has been increased by 260.15%.
- From the above findings it shows that the overall Gross NPA of Canara bank has been increased by 300.80%.
- From the above findings it shows that the overall Gross NPA of Allahabad Bank has been increased by 343.44%.

This is due to the lack of stringent process by the banks towards the customers in the aspect of credit worthiness when providing loans.

#### Summary of the findings from the Financial year of 2015 to 2019 of Net NPA of Public sector Banks.

- From the above findings it shows that the overall Net NPA of Corporation bank has been increased by 155.13%
- From the above findings it shows that the overall Net NPA of State Bank of India has been increased by 238.83%.
- From the above findings it shows that the overall Net NPA of Karnataka Bank has been increased by 259.27%
- From the above findings it shows that the overall Net NPA of Canara Bank has been increased by 262.64%



- From the above findings it shows that the overall Net NPA of Allahabad Bank has been increased by 124.09%
- This increase in the Net NPA is due to the lack of the Banks ability to recover the loans and advances given to the customers.
- The percentage change in gross NPA to gross advances ratio & net NPA to net.
  - Advances ratio over the years is increasing day in and out.
  - Loss assets of both banks are showing decreasing trend.
  - There is an adverse effect on the Liquidity of Banks.
  - Banks are backing out to give loans to the new customers due to lack of funds which Arises due to NPA.
  - Ineffective recovery, wilful defaults and Defective lending process are the important factors which are responsible for the rise of NPAs in banks.
  - NPAs reduce the earning capacity banks and badly affect the profitability of banks.
  - The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has adjudicated insolvency Resolution for companies. The Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) has adjudicated Insolvency resolution for individuals.

#### IV. SUGGESTIONS

- Since the Gross NPA of Corporation Bank is increasing, the bank should reduce the amount of loans which are being lent and also should become more stringent towards selecting their borrowers.
- The Net NPA of the Bank has also shown an increase; therefore they should introduce certain policies which would bind the loan takers to pay their obligations within a specific period.
- Corporation bank should more of its focus towards increasing the provisions for NPA and credit worthiness of the customers through proper screening and analysis.
- The Bank should make an effort to reduce their operating expense and NPA to improve its profitability position and hence increase the EPS to a desirable mark.
- An appropriate mix of capital structure should be adopted in order to increase the financial position of the Bank.
- The Bank should concern much in internal source of financing in order to increase their

profitability.

- The Bank should hire the right kind of people with adequate knowledge of the banking sector and without any kind influential power.
- The bank should make an effort towards human resource development by providing various in house and off house training process.
- Use of technology must be increased to make banking easier and improve the overall efficiency of the bank.
- Awards and recognition should be provided to the deserved employees so that it will boost their morale and values towards the Bank.

#### V. CONCLUSION

The NPA is one of the biggest problems that the Indian Banks are facing today. If the proper management of the NPAs is not undertaken it would hamper the business of the banks. If the concept of NPAs is taken very lightly it would be dangerous for the Indian banking sector. The NPAs would destroy the current profit; interest income due to large provisions of the NPAs, and would affect the smooth functioning of the recycling of the funds. Banks also redistribute losses to other borrowers by charging higher interest rates. Lower deposit rates and higher lending rates repress savings and financial markets, which hampers economic growth.

The Non-Performing Assets have always created a big problem for the banks in India. It is just not only problem for the banks but for the economy too. The money locked up in NPAs has a direct impact on profitability of the bank as Indian banks are highly dependent on income from interest on funds lent. This study shows that extent of NPA is comparatively very high in public sectors banks.

The NPAs level of our banks is still high. It is not at all possible to have zero NPAs. The bank management should speed up the recovery process. The problem of recovery is not with small borrowers but with large borrowers and a strict policy should be followed for solving this problem. The government should also make more provisions for faster settlement of pending cases and also it should reduce the mandatory lending to priority sector as this is the major problem creating area. So the problem of NPA needs lots of serious efforts otherwise NPAs will keep killing the profitability of banks which is not good for the growing Indian economy at all.

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