A BRIEF STUDY ON PRESENT SCENARIO OF PAYMENTS BANKS IN INDIA

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Abstract

On 19th August, 2015 the RBI has issued 'in principle' license to eleven entities to launch payments bank, a specialized bank to cater the lower income groups and small businesses for achieving financial inclusion and deepening access to financial services with some limits and restrictions as compared to schedule commercial banks operating in our country. At present six payments banks are operating in India. The present paper is aimed to examine the present scenario of these payments banks in respect of NEFT, RTGS and mobile banking transactions, both in terms of volume and value, and also the overall position of these banks with respect to transaction of same category of SBI, the largest nationalized bank of India. The study reveals that the transaction status of three payments banks namely Airtel, Fino and Paytm payments banks are worth mentionable. The transaction status of other three payments banks namely Jio, NSDL and India Post payments banks are very negligible compared to the top three concerns. The study further reveals that combined transaction value of all these payments banks are much lower than the transaction value of SBI alone, which indicates that the payments banks have failed to put any impact on overall banking environment. The study concludes that these payments banks will perform better if the restriction of providing loans, deposit limit of one lakh per customer and compulsory investment of at least 75% of demand deposit balance to government securities are withdrawn by the apex bank of India.

Key Words: RBI, Payments Bank, Financial Inclusion, SBI, restriction of providing loan, deposit limit.

Introduction

Banking sector plays an important role in progress and development of an economy. Our country has witnessed a number of banking reforms since its independence like nationalisation of major Indian commercial banks in 1969 and in 1980. The main objective of these reforms was to make a transformation change in structure, efficiency and stability of the banking system, improve overall performance, to integrate it with international markets and to bring unbanked population under the umbrella of formal banking system. But in spite of a number of initiatives were taken by the Central Government and Reserve Bank of India (RBI), a large section of our population was out of the coverage of formal banking system. The Government of India launched Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) in August 2014 under the 'National Mission for Financial Inclusion' with a mission of providing banking facilities, financial literacy, access to credit, insurance and pension to every household. In order to extend the effort towards financial inclusion with a special focus of people of low-income group and small businessman of rural and unbanked areas, Reserve Bank of India formed a 'Committee on Comprehensive Financial Services for Small Businesses and Low Income Households' under the chairmanship of Dr. Nachiket Mor on September, 2013. The Committee proposed the setting up of Payments Banks whose primary purpose will be to provide payments services and deposit products to small businesses and low-income households.

Payments Bank

A payments bank is like any formal bank but its operating activity is restricted to smaller scale and without involving itself to any kind of credit risk. These banks are allowed to open savings and current accounts and accept deposit up to 100000 per customer, offer interest on deposits, transfer payments through branches, ATMs and business correspondents, can issue ATM or debit cards and provide online and mobile banking facilities to its customers. These banks are also allowed to provide its customers the basic financial services like access to mutual funds, insurance products, pension products and forex services subject to the conditions set by RBI. But these banks are not allowed to provide loans or issue credit cards to its customers, accept deposits from Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and set up subsidiaries for undertaking non-banking financial services. Apart from amounts maintained as Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), the payments bank is required to invest minimum 75% of its demand

deposit balance in Government Securities/ Treasury Bills with maturity up to one year and hold maximum 25% in current and time/ fixed deposits with other schedule commercial banks.

Brief History of Payments Banks in India

On 19th August, 2015 RBI gave 'in-principle' licence to 11 out of 41 applicants. This licence was valid only for 18 months within which the entities had to fulfil the conditions laid down by the RBI. After fulfilment of the conditions, RBI would grant full licence u/s 22 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

The entities which received licence from RBI are:

- 1. Aditya Birla Nuvo LTd
- 2. Airtel M Commerce Service Ltd
- 3. Cholamandalam Distribution Service Ltd
- 4. India Department of Post
- 5. Fino Pay Tech Ltd
- 6. National Securities Depository Ltd
- 7. Reliance Industries Ltd
- 8. Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd
- 9. Paytm Payments Bank Ltd
- 10. Tech Mahindra Ltd and
- 11. Vodafone M-Pesa Ltd

Airtel Payments bank was launched in January, 2017, Fino Payments bank was incorporated on April, 2017, Paytm Payments bank stated its operation from May, 2017, Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank was launched on February, 2018, Jio Payments Bank has started its operation from April, 2018, India Post Payments Bank was launched on September, 2018 and NSDL payments bank has started its operation from October, 2018. Cholamandalam Distribution Service Ltd, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd and Tech Mahindra Ltd have dropped their plans to start payments bank and surrendered their licence. Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank Ltd has discontinued their business in July 2019. Vodafone Idea had decided to close M-Pesa vertical, following the closure of Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank Ltd, with which it was being merged. In January, 2020 RBI has cancelled the Certificate of authorisation of Vodafone M-Pesa on account of their voluntary surrender of authorisation. So, at present six payment banks namely Airtel, Fino, India Post, Jio, NSDL and Paytm Payments Bank are operating in our country.

Review of Literature

Pallab Sikdar and Amresh Kumar (2017) in their article "Payment Bank: A Catalyst for Financial Inclusion" opined that the proposed niche banking entities can be viewed as vehicles to achieve the desired financial inclusion objective by covering all households with basic savings bank products and micro insurance, pension and mutual funds.

Priyamvada et. al (2018) in their paper entitled "IS PAYMENT BANK A VALUABLE BUSINESS OPTION IN INDIA?" analysed the financial performance of Paytm Payments Bank and Airtel Payments Bank to determine the viability of payments banks. They concluded that "the people in rural areas are not aware about these Payments Bank and thus the Payments Bank companies also face the challenge of acquiring more customers. In the current market scenario, Payments Banks are not a viable business option in India given the challenges that they face and all the regulations put by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on them."

Sandesh D'Souza (2018) in his paper entitled "Payment Bank: A Revolutionary Step of Indian Post Payment Bank towards Financial Inclusion" has shown that payments banks will increase financial inclusion by providing small savings accounts and payments/remittance services to migrant labourers, low-income households, small businesses and other unorganised sector entities.

Geetha. M. Iyer et. al (2018) in their research article entitled "Role of Payment Banks in India: Opportunities and Challenges" have opined that Awareness campaigns could be held by the RBI through mainstream media sources, newspapers etc. Also, Airtel and Paytm can help people in the rural areas by opening helpdesks. These are the untapped customers who are not a part of the banking system yet.

Aravind Kumar and Manoj Kumar (2019) in their paper "PAYMENT BANKS: INDIA POST PAYMENT BANK IS THE LARGEST PAYMENT BANK IN THE WORLD- AN ANALYTICAL STUDY" have concluded that "IPPB will be panacea for rural and migrating people. But in present times, most of the populations don't know about payment banks and about its functions. The Ministry said that the IPPB will about to be started and 650 branches ready to start work. The inclusion of IPPB is a big positive disruption to the banking sector and would surely see the cost associated with transfer of money or settlements diminish dramatically for end users."Neha Mehta, Sweety Shah (2020) in their paper entitled "Payment Banks: Digital Revolution in Indian Banking System" stated that Marketers must tie-up with retailers and promote usage of payment banks for convenient cashless transactions. Payment banks must link up with some major financial institutions and provide some sort of offers, discounts, and schemes to increase its usage. All this will lead to rapid growth and more money into banking system.

Objectives of the Study

Payments Bank is a new concept of banking in India and its area of operation is restricted to some extent. In order to understand the extent of acceptance of this new model of banking among the common people of our country, an attempt is made through this paper. The objectives of the present paper are to observe-

- 1. The volume and value of NEFT, RTGS and Mobile Banking transactions of payments banks
- 2. The share of transaction of payments banks with respect to SBI, the leading nationalised bank of India. This will give an idea about the present scenario of payments banks operating in India.

Research Methodology

At present six payments banks are operating in India and SBI is the largest nationalised bank. The present study is done on the basis of secondary data relating to NEFT, RTGS and mobile banking transactions of these payments banks and SBI for the period March' 2019 to April' 2020 as released by RBI. NEFT transaction mentioned in the paper represents the combined value of inward and outward transaction and RTGS transaction represents combined value of inward and outward interbank and customer transaction value of the above-mentioned period. The transaction value of SBI represents the combined value of different modes of transactions for the whole period of March' 2019 to April' 2020. Simple statistical tools have been used to analyse the data.

Data Presentation and its Analysis

Table 1: Volume of Total NEFT Transaction by Payments Banks

| Month | AIRTEL | FINO | INDIA | JIO | NSDL | PAYTM | |
|----------|--------|--------|--------|------|-------|---------|---------|
| 1/101111 | THITLE | 11110 | POST | 010 | 1,022 | 1111111 | Total |
| Mar-19 | 319138 | 486367 | 47454 | 1245 | 45 | 522279 | 1376528 |
| Apr-19 | 414831 | 439468 | 52134 | 1900 | 43 | 633804 | 1542180 |
| May-19 | 520749 | 465818 | 60964 | 1937 | 29 | 654567 | 1704064 |
| Jun-19 | 384979 | 405254 | 72943 | 1836 | 18 | 518451 | 1383481 |
| Jul-19 | 447142 | 453624 | 95459 | 1737 | 54 | 629813 | 1627829 |
| Aug-19 | 601458 | 426416 | 111328 | 1636 | 38 | 610467 | 1751343 |
| Sep-19 | 611817 | 499245 | 115295 | 1622 | 34 | 548692 | 1776705 |
| Oct-19 | 540300 | 527504 | 203480 | 1541 | 37 | 626087 | 1898949 |
| Nov-19 | 577052 | 465780 | 179715 | 3240 | 87 | 693581 | 1919455 |
| Dec-19 | 722527 | 581766 | 192547 | 4561 | 89 | 822833 | 2324323 |
| Jan-20 | 549184 | 832528 | 309064 | 5030 | 415 | 1062344 | 2758565 |
| Feb-20 | 534261 | 651398 | 419681 | 2914 | 371 | 1157941 | 2766566 |

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| Mar-20 | 302508 | 891689 | 467340 | 9608 | 804 | 1191078 | 2863027 |
|-------------|---------|---------|---------|-------|------|----------|----------|
| Apr-20 | 695941 | 508539 | 568372 | 12783 | 2791 | 1033869 | 2822295 |
| Total | 7221887 | 7635396 | 2895776 | 51590 | 4855 | 10705806 | 28515310 |
| Increment % | 118 | 5 | 1098 | 927 | 6102 | 98 | 105 |

(data source: https://www.rbi.org.in)

The above table represents the volume of total NEFT transaction by the payments banks currently operating in India during the study period. It includes both volume of outward and inward transactions. From the table it is found that total number of NEFT transaction done by all payments banks during the study period is more than 2.85 Crore out of which highest transaction was done by Paytm followed by Fino and airtel payments bank. The volume of NEFT transaction of Jio, NSDL and India Post payments bank are comparatively much lower than Paytm, Fino and Airtel payments bank. As per comparison of the NEFT transaction volume of April 2020 with March 2019, it is found that the overall transaction volume has been increased by about 100% during this period. The highest increment in respect of percentage form has been found in case of NSDL followed by India Post and Jio payments bank. The lowest increment is observed in case of Fino payments bank. The table further shows that the transaction volume of India Post, Jio and NSDL payment bank has been increased significantly from January 2020. The transaction volume is very fluctuating in case of Fino payments bank.

Table 2: Value of Total NEFT Transaction by Payments Banks (Figures represent Crore)

| Table 2: Va | Table 2: Value of Total NEFT Transaction by Payments banks (Figures represent Crore) | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|--|----------|---------------|-------|-------|----------|----------|--|--|--|
| Month | AIRTEL | FINO | INDIA POST | JIO | NSDL | PAYTM | TOTAL | | | |
| Mar-19 | 3563.64 | 1249.88 | 179.95 | 2.67 | 0.06 | 14657.14 | 19653.34 | | | |
| Apr-19 | 3506.49 | 1358.91 | 152.09 | 1.31 | 0.28 | 16860.04 | 21879.12 | | | |
| May-19 | 3888.99 | 1444.92 | 193.97 | 2.59 | 1.76 | 18124.77 | 23657 | | | |
| Jun-19 | 3214.33 | 914.94 | 191.92 | 1.85 | 0.02 | 17568.06 | 21891.12 | | | |
| Jul-19 | 3675.47 | 830.77 | 222.18 | 1.72 | 0.08 | 19282.80 | 24013.02 | | | |
| Aug-19 | 3681.01 | 786.33 | 251.38 | 2.17 | 0.02 | 22678.90 | 27399.81 | | | |
| Sep-19 | 3455.63 | 747.43 | 327.21 | 1.94 | 2.11 | 22499.61 | 27033.93 | | | |
| Oct-19 | 3707.78 | 933.40 | 370.44 | 2.07 | 0.10 | 24275.49 | 29289.28 | | | |
| Nov-19 | 3814.74 | 892.10 | 387.02 | 2.62 | 0.06 | 23459.95 | 28556.49 | | | |
| Dec-19 | 3997.39 | 1008.46 | 550.43 | 3.06 | 0.08 | 18507.12 | 24066.54 | | | |
| Jan-20 | 4133.25 | 1468.40 | 761.50 | 2.08 | 2.23 | 10225.96 | 16593.42 | | | |
| Feb-20 | 4218.74 | 1534.81 | 940.18 | 0.80 | 2.71 | 13693.51 | 20390.75 | | | |
| Mar-20 | 3614.65 | 1573.51 | 973.00 | 1.47 | 2.70 | 9410.00 | 15575.33 | | | |
| Apr-20 | 1956.23 | 1060.81 | 1833.84 | 1.88 | 1.08 | 5827.61 | 10681.45 | | | |
| Total | 50428.34 | 15804.67 | 7335.11 | 28.23 | 13.29 | 237071 | 310680.6 | | | |
| Increment (%) | -45 | -15 | 919 | -30 | 1700 | -60 | -46 | | | |

(data source: https://www.rbi.org.in)

The above table represents the value of NEFT transactions done by payments banks currently operating in our country during the study period. It includes both value of outward and inward transactions. The table shows that total value of NEFT transactions by the payments banks during the study period is more than 3.1 trillion. The highest value of transaction is done by Airtel followed by Paytm and Fino payments banks. Value of transaction of Jio and NSDL payments banks are very low compared to top three banks in terms of value of NEFT transaction. As per comparison of the NEFT transaction value April 2020 with March 2019, it is found that overall transaction value has been decreased by 46%. The highest increment of transaction value in April 2020 over March 2019 in terms of percentage has been observed in case of NSDL followed by India Post payments bank. In case of other payments banks, the value of transaction of April 2020 has been decreased from transaction

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value of March 2019. But the table also depicts that all the payment banks except India Post have faced sharp fluctuation in value of NEFT transaction during the study period. Top three payments banks viz. Airtel, Fino and Paytm have faced sharp decline in value of NEFT transaction in the month of April 2020 compared to March 2020.

Table 3: Volume of RTGS Transaction by Payments Banks

| Month | AIRTEL | FINO | INDIA POST | ЛО | NSDL | PAYTM | TOTAL |
|---------------|--------|-------|---------------|------|------|-------|--------|
| Mar-19 | 6627 | 2963 | 479 | 113 | 0 | 2021 | 12203 |
| Apr-19 | 7498 | 2726 | 565 | 112 | 0 | 2178 | 13079 |
| May-19 | 8538 | 2914 | 634 | 114 | 0 | 2976 | 15176 |
| Jun-19 | 8838 | 3495 | 729 | 110 | 0 | 2955 | 16127 |
| Jul-19 | 10432 | 5046 | 848 | 152 | 0 | 3691 | 20169 |
| Aug-19 | 10595 | 5161 | 846 | 144 | 0 | 3565 | 20311 |
| Sep-19 | 10989 | 5476 | 849 | 134 | 1 | 3916 | 21365 |
| Oct-19 | 12485 | 6073 | 1115 | 141 | 0 | 5508 | 25322 |
| Nov-19 | 13293 | 6123 | 1244 | 138 | 3 | 5656 | 26457 |
| Dec-19 | 14423 | 7613 | 1414 | 140 | 5 | 6687 | 30282 |
| Jan-20 | 15292 | 7726 | 1381 | 161 | 10 | 7509 | 32079 |
| Feb-20 | 14646 | 6877 | 1572 | 153 | 9 | 8203 | 31460 |
| Mar-20 | 11914 | 6285 | 1632 | 161 | 17 | 10021 | 30030 |
| Apr-20 | 4269 | 2841 | 694 | 149 | 5 | 4808 | 12766 |
| Total | 149839 | 71319 | 14002 | 1922 | 50 | 69694 | 306826 |
| Increment (%) | -36 | -4 | 45 | 32 | | 138 | 5 |

(data source: https://www.rbi.org.in)

The above table represents the volume of RTGS (including inward and outward interbank and customer) transaction done by the payments banks during the study period. The table indicates that more than 3 lakh RTGS transactions have been done by the payments banks which are currently operating in our country during the said period. The highest number of transactions is done by Airtel followed by Fino and Paytm payments bank. The volumes of transaction of other payments banks are very low. As per comparison of RTGS transaction volume in April 2020 with March 2019, it is found that overall transaction has been increased by only 5%. Highest increment is found in case of Paytm followed by India Post and Jio payments bank whereas a decline in transaction volume is found in case of Airtel and Fino payments bank. The table further shows that all the payments banks have faced a sharp decline in RTGS transaction value in April 2020 with compared to March 2020.

Table 4: Value of RTGS Transaction by Payments Banks (Figures represent in Crore)

| Month | AIRTEL | FINO | INDIA POST | JIO | NSDL | PAYTM | TOTAL |
|--------|--------|------|---------------|-----|------|-------|----------|
| Mar-19 | 3186 | 1440 | 94 | 56 | 0 | 2382 | 7158 |
| Apr-19 | 2983 | 1501 | 129 | 66 | 0 | 1782 | 6461 |
| May-19 | 3150 | 1470 | 159 | 65 | 0 | 1756 | 6600 |
| Jun-19 | 3419 | 2156 | 195 | 64 | 0 | 1707 | 7541 |
| Jul-19 | 3795 | 3027 | 240 | 70 | 0 | 2830 | 9962 |
| Aug-19 | 4132 | 3309 | 273 | 60 | 0 | 2279 | 10053 |
| Sep-19 | 3599 | 3365 | 257 | 53 | 0.04 | 2637 | 9911.04 |
| Oct-19 | 5043 | 3686 | 519 | 54 | 0 | 3740 | 13042 |
| Nov-19 | 5004 | 3454 | 342 | 52 | 0.06 | 3714 | 12566.06 |
| Dec-19 | 5000 | 4164 | 345 | 54 | 0.08 | 14056 | 23619.08 |

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|----------------|-------|-------|------|-----|------|--------|----------|
| Jan-20 | 5413 | 4586 | 352 | 52 | 0.73 | 22723 | 33126.73 |
| Feb-20 | 4865 | 4974 | 380 | 44 | 0.23 | 15428 | 25691.23 |
| Mar-20 | 4329 | 3570 | 397 | 50 | 0.69 | 18780 | 27126.69 |
| Apr-20 | 1470 | 1596 | 574 | 44 | 0.2 | 13543 | 17227.2 |
| Total | 55388 | 42298 | 4256 | 784 | 2.03 | 107357 | 210085 |
| Increment | -54 | 11 | 511 | -21 | | 469 | 141 |

(data source: https://www.rbi.org.in)

The above table represents the value of RTGS (including inward and outward interbank and customer) transaction done by the payments banks during the study period. The table indicates that total value of RTGS transaction by payment banks during the study period is more than 2.1 trillion. The highest value of transaction is registered by Paytm followed by Airtel and Fino payments bank. The value of RTGS transaction registered by other three payment banks are quite insignificant. As per comparison of RTGS transaction value of April 2020 with March 2019, it is found that overall transaction value has been increased by more than 140%. Highest increment in percentage form has been registered by India Post followed by Paytm where Airtel has faced a decline of more than 50%. The table further shows that all the payment banks except India Post have faced a sharp decline in transaction of April 2020 with compared to March 2020.

Table 5: Volume of Mobile Banking Transaction by Payments Banks

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|--|-----------|----------|---------------|---------|-------|------------|------------|--|
| Month | AIRTEL | FINO | INDIA POST | JIO | NSDL | PAYTM | TOTAL | |
| Mar-19 | 46370845 | 826822 | 436124 | 11461 | 146 | 166840377 | 214485775 | |
| Apr-19 | 40938078 | 844591 | 458369 | 24484 | 186 | 156121286 | 198386994 | |
| May-19 | 33106551 | 776409 | 577662 | 32512 | 1073 | 126898152 | 161392359 | |
| Jun-19 | 28076664 | 714180 | 721222 | 34036 | 5573 | 108895266 | 138446941 | |
| Jul-19 | 28039563 | 518692 | 824689 | 47864 | 7530 | 87609556 | 117047894 | |
| Aug-19 | 33745432 | 487110 | 977159 | 85145 | 3447 | 114333294 | 149631587 | |
| Sep-19 | 38163720 | 528280 | 1030561 | 90598 | 2321 | 114061840 | 153877320 | |
| Oct-19 | 42740341 | 654880 | 1290162 | 92014 | 1852 | 130107574 | 174886823 | |
| Nov-19 | 51414144 | 675799 | 1413736 | 575380 | 1751 | 154400010 | 208480820 | |
| Dec-19 | 48049532 | 780010 | 1612565 | 863912 | 1726 | 135911436 | 187219181 | |
| Jan-20 | 36620529 | 914104 | 1639267 | 396596 | 2171 | 89718149 | 129290816 | |
| Feb-20 | 34748304 | 974925 | 2759301 | 352479 | 3902 | 89015193 | 127854104 | |
| Mar-20 | 30278330 | 1041298 | 2139711 | 270517 | 10498 | 81872981 | 115613335 | |
| Apr-20 | 29026742 | 1052306 | 2091192 | 278301 | 49737 | 65256605 | 97754883 | |
| Total | 521318775 | 10789406 | 17971720 | 3155299 | 91913 | 1621041719 | 2174368832 | |
| Increment (%) | -37 | 27 | 379 | 2328 | 33966 | -61 | -54 | |

(data source: https://www.rbi.org.in)

The above table represents the volume of mobile banking transaction taken place by the payments banks currently operating in our country during the study period. The table indicates that more than 217 crore transactions have taken place highest of which has been done by Paytm followed by Airtel payment bank. Transaction number of these two banks consist about 99% of the total transaction done by all payment banks and again, no of transaction done by Paytm is more than 3 times than number of transactions of Airtel. But as per comparison of transaction volume of April 2020 with March 2019, it is found that overall transaction is declined by 54%, transaction of Paytm is declined by 61% and Airtel by 37%. On the other hand, the highest increment in percentage form has been registered by NSDL followed by Jio and India Post payments bank during the same period. It is to be noted that though NSDL has registered highest increment in percentage form, share of it on total transaction is very

negligible. The table further shows that the major players in respect of mobile banking transaction namely Paytm and Airtel have faced a very sharp decline after November 2019. Transaction volume of Paytm has been decreased from 15.44 Crore (Nov' 19) to 9.78 Crore (Apr' 20) resulting a decrease of more than 36%. On the other hand, transaction volume of Airtel has been declined from 5.14 Crore (Nov' 19) to 2.90 Crore (Apr' 20) resulting a decrease of more than 45% during the same period.

Table 6: Value of Mobile Banking Transaction by Payments Banks (Figures represent Crore)

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|---|----------|--------|---------------|--------|-------|-----------|-----------|
| Month | AIRTEL | FINO | INDIA POST | JIO | NSDL | PAYTM | TOTAL |
| Mar-19 | 6151.48 | 142.52 | 304.27 | 6.08 | 0.01 | 20114.85 | 26719.21 |
| Apr-19 | 6282.97 | 151.67 | 369.21 | 19.26 | 0.01 | 23548.29 | 30371.41 |
| May-19 | 6785.58 | 190.01 | 454.5 | 27.76 | 0.02 | 24842.63 | 32300.5 |
| Jun-19 | 4825.97 | 148.75 | 501.55 | 26.48 | 0.01 | 19551.76 | 25054.52 |
| Jul-19 | 4701.9 | 98.1 | 600.37 | 26.6 | 0.05 | 12373.63 | 17800.65 |
| Aug-19 | 5819.31 | 88.79 | 678.2 | 24.99 | 0.02 | 14664.53 | 21275.84 |
| Sep-19 | 7366.38 | 87.6 | 693.48 | 22.81 | 0.02 | 15308.44 | 23478.73 |
| Oct-19 | 7412.78 | 99.79 | 923.9 | 23.75 | 0.02 | 13391.64 | 21851.88 |
| Nov-19 | 7478.79 | 95.91 | 987.13 | 35.65 | 0.03 | 10740.48 | 19337.99 |
| Dec-19 | 7267.72 | 113.08 | 1106.22 | 44.47 | 0.04 | 8680.29 | 17211.82 |
| Jan-20 | 7890.47 | 131 | 1155.75 | 33.04 | 0.06 | 6893.08 | 16103.4 |
| Feb-20 | 7567.69 | 129.3 | 1378.59 | 28 | 0.13 | 6962.33 | 16066.04 |
| Mar-20 | 7208.24 | 108.97 | 1446.8 | 30.72 | 0.42 | 6613.04 | 15408.19 |
| Apr-20 | 8369.64 | 82.81 | 1464.3 | 32.75 | 2.71 | 5203.5 | 15155.71 |
| Total | 95128.92 | 1668.3 | 12064.27 | 382.36 | 3.55 | 188888.49 | 298135.89 |
| Increment (%) | 36 | -42 | 381 | 439 | 27000 | -74 | -43 |

(data source: https://www.rbi.org.in)

The above table represents the value of mobile banking transactions persuaded by the payments banks currently operating in India during the study period. The table represents that overall transaction value is more than 2.98 trillion highest of which is registered by Paytm followed by Airtel. These two payments banks have constituted about 95% of the total transaction value and again, transaction value of Paytm is almost double than Airtel. As per comparison of the mobile banking transaction value of April 2020 with March 2019, it is found that overall transaction value has been reduced by 43%, transaction value of Paytm has been reduced by 74% and Fino by 42%. Highest growth in transaction value has been registered by NSDL followed by Jio and India Post though total transaction value of NSDL and Jio is very negligible compared to transaction value of Paytm and Airtel. The table further reveals that Paytm has faced a steady decline in value of transaction since October 2019 whereas NSDL and India Post have registered an increasing trend throughout the study period. The other payment banks have faced fluctuation in value of transactions during the same period.

Major Findings

The data evidence clearly shows that out of the six payments banks currently operating in India, business status of Paytm, Airtel and Fino are much better than India Post, NSDL and Jio. Transaction status of NSDL and India Post has been improved a lot in all the three areas of operation under study, but the volume and value of transaction of NSDL is very insignificant. Though the transaction volume and value of India Post in respect of three areas of operation is better than Jio and NSDL, it is lagging far behind from top three payments banks.

But if we compare the overall transaction status of the all the payment banks currently operating in our country with formal banking sector, we will find that the share of transactions of payments banks are very insignificant. If

we compare the transaction status of all payment banks with SBI only, the largest nationalised bank of India, for the period under study we will see the difference.

Table 7: Comparative Statement of SBI and Payments Banks as a Whole

| | NEFT | Transaction | RTGS | Transaction | Mobile Banking Transaction | | |
|-------------------|---------|-------------|--------|-------------|----------------------------|-----------------|--|
| | Vol | Value (| Vol | Value(| Vol | Value(Trillion) | |
| | (Crore) | Trillion) | (Lakh) | Trillion) | (Crore) | | |
| All Payment Banks | 2.85 | 3.1 | 3.07 | 2.1 | 217 | 2.98 | |
| SBI | 106.16 | 81.2 | 455.53 | 310.4 | 357.7 | 18.93 | |
| % of Payment Bank | 2.68 | 3.82 | 0.67 | 0.68 | 60.67 | 15.74 | |

(data source: https://www.rbi.org.in)

The above table clearly depicts that the transaction volume and value of State Bank of India alone in three areas of operation under study is much higher than the combined figure of all the payments banks currently operating in our country. So, it is clearly understandable that payments banks are lagging far behind from the traditional banks and has failed to mark deep footprint in the arena of banking business.

Conclusion

Payments banks are facing strong challenge to attract customers due to a number of restrictions imposed by the RBI. Restriction in engaging lending activities is probably the biggest disadvantage of the payments banks because it reduces the earning opportunity of the banks on one hand and fails to attract potential customers on the other hand. There is a high demand of short- and medium-term loan among middle and low-earning people, which needs to be available at low cost with easy terms and conditions. These loans are mainly required by them for agricultural, business, professional, household and personal purpose. Though banks and other formal financial institutions provide different types of loan, those normally involve lot of paper requirement and tardy process. In order to avoid these lengthy processes of approving loan demand, these people depend on informal sources of credit like mahajans, landlords, relatives and friends, etc. If payment banks were allowed to engage in lending activities; then the middle- and low-income earners would get better option to meet their financial demands. These would reduce the financial burden of those people and revenue of the payment banks. Another disadvantage is maximum limit of accepting deposit per customer is 100000/- and investment of at least 75% of demand deposit balance in Government securities and treasury bills with maturity up to one year. These restrictions have reduced the income opportunity of the payment banks and restrict them to offer attractive benefits and interest on the deposit to its customers. As a result, these banks are struggling to survive. If these restrictions are withdrawn, at least partially, then only the payment banks will find their way to survive nd the objective of setting up of payment banks will be fulfilled in true sense.

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