

Pre & Post Covid- Financial Performance of Select It Companies in India**S. Shakthivel¹, Ajith Ajith², Dr. S. Prasanna Kumar³, Nishanth Arul Domnic⁴**^{1&2}Student, Department of Commerce, Loyola College, Chennai^{3&4}Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, Loyola College, Chennai**Corresponding Author:****S. Shakthivel**

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ABSTRACT:

This research works on the financial performance of five major IT companies in India- TCS, Wipro, HCL Technologies, Infosys, and Tech Mahindra by studying the net profit ratio, return on investment (ROI), current ratio, quick ratio, debt-equity ratio, proprietary ratio, accounts receivables turnover, working capital turnover, earnings per share (EPS), and price-to-earnings (P/E) ratio. Based on secondary data of annual reports and stock markets, The study based on secondary research had found that while the IT industry had the first financial shocks relating to the COVID pandemic, it slipped into an adaptation gear via digital transformation, remote work strategies, and cloud solutions for other event situations, permitting nimbleness in the post-pandemic recovery. This provides numerous insights to assist investors, policymakers, and leaders in the sector in understanding the financial viability and outlook for growth for the Indian IT sector.

KEYWORDS: Financial Performance, IT Sector, Profitability, Liquidity, Digital Transformation, Investment, Indian Economy, Financial Ratios, Market Trend**1. INTRODUCTION**

Finance is the life blood of business. Finance is the study of managing money and including activities such as investment, savings, lending, budgeting, and forecasting. Finance consists of allocation of resources, risk management, and wealth creation. It is with the help of finance that the economic and financial goals of businesses and individuals can be achieved. The financial sector is of enormous importance to economic development because it ensures capital formation and smooth functioning of the markets (Swathi, 2022).

Financial performance of a company is the ability of a company to generate revenues, profit, and sustain growth in the course of time. Different financial aspects are used to measure the performance of finance, mostly some of these being-the revenue, net profit, return on investment, liquidity ratios. Analysing the financial performance helps various stakeholders such as investors, policymakers, and business leaders to measure the level of stability, efficiency, and sustainability of a company in the long run. Therefore, financial performance would judge the credit risk of the company because it allows investors to take informed decisions for further investment in companies (Keerthi & Eswari, 2020).

The performance of the company financially plays a pivotal role to ascertain its standing in the market and growth potential. Strong financial performance certainly helps expand the business, ensure the confidence of investors, and make it comparatively sound to withstand economic fluctuations. In the IT sector, financial performance is being affected by the technological advancements, innovations, demand globally for digital services, and competitive dynamics of the market. It helps the businesses to implement their strategies smoothly by making

proper strategic decisions, to channel their resources for the good, and augment the wealth of shareholders (Ganeshan, 2023).

IT industries are considered bastions of economic development all over the world. It was with the industrial revolution that large-scale manufacturing began in the 18th century and advanced through steel, textiles, automobiles, and technology. In India, the large-scale industries blossomed in post-independence, starting from government-led industrialization policies. The IT industry took off in the late 20th century, driven by globalization, liberalization, and advancements in computing technologies. Today, India is a global IT hub, and its main companies form a major portion of the national GDP and employment (Keerthi & Eswari, 2020).

Several of the stakeholders such as governments, employees, investors, and customers benefit from giant industries. Governments benefit through increased tax revenue and economic growth, while staff benefit through creation of employment opportunities and skill acquisition. Investors benefit through value appreciation and returns, while customers benefit through the availability of high-tech and cheap products and services. Giant enterprises in the IT sector also result in technology advancement, e-business, and increased connectivity on a global level. Higher tax revenues from IT companies help to stabilize the economy and IT stock saw significant gain in post pandemic due to accelerated digital adoption (Ganeshan, 2023).

Before the pandemic hit, India-based IT companies did see a steady revenue growth, strong profitability, and consistence penetration into world markets. This sector had been benefiting from increasing digital adoption, automation, and a stable business environment. COVID-19 created a sudden disruption in the way business was done, leading to a shift in the demand for the markets, the way work was done by the employees from home, and how clients were spending their money.

Statement Of the Problem

The Indian IT industry, therefore, plays a key role in the country's economic growth in terms of GDP contribution, employment creation, and technological advancement on a global scale. However, there is a difference in the financial performance of IT companies based on a plethora of factors that can range from market competition to technology disruption, regulatory changes, and overall state of the economies worldwide. The analysis of the financial performance of selected IT companies across India can thus help to pinpoint various aspects that govern their profitability, efficiency, and overall financial health. The objectives of this research are to evaluate key financial indicators, compare a few companies, and finally arrive at some broad conclusions regarding the opportunities and challenges, including sustainability and growth, facing this sector. The pandemic of COVID-19 was an unprecedented global crisis. Hence, it struck a serious blow to many industries, including the Indian IT sector.

The paper will give insight into positive and negative factors and understanding how IT companies perform financially is vital in understanding the industry dynamics and their contribution to economic growth. This will provide exposure to real-time financial analysis and decision-making processes by analysing the financial data of leading IT firms. Assessing industry trends and growth potential-The Indian IT sector is one of the most dynamic industries contributing consistently to GDP and employment. Such viable understanding of financial performance by key players in this study enables students to evaluate market trends, growth potential, and investment opportunities. This research contributes toward the academic understanding of financial management in the IT sector through the conceptual approaches of analysing financial trends and performance indicators to support future endeavours in research and discussion in financial studies. This research will try to present an in-depth understanding of the financial trends in the Indian IT sector with their economic implications.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The financial impact of COVID-19 found significant stock market fluctuations across industries pre- post pandemic. The article highlights economic disruption, decline in export and stock market crashes. They also observed extreme fluctuation's in BSE Sensex and NSE index funds, studies collectively highlights the volatility, economic down turn, etc (Numanovich & Abbosxonovich, 2020).

The impact of pandemic on financial market and industries indicates COVID-19 significantly affected stock price, trading volume, economic performance across sectors. It also highlights variation in share price before and after pandemic. They discuss about several downturns in pandemic like sharp decline in exports and shutdown of some companies due to inefficiency (Kolluru et al., 2021).

The IT industry examined stock market reaction during the lockdown and found investors were initially panicked and later adjusted to the market condition. Performance of information technology sector in India during pre & post COVID-19 lockdown highlighted that IT industry in India changes in their debt-equity (Lockdown, 2021).

During Pre and Post covid performance shift in IT companies improve their return on investment in post pandemic. There was a strong shift towards cloud-computing, cybersecurity leading to higher profitability. Mergers and acquisition increased in IT sector leading to higher long term financial performance (Kolluru et al., 2021).

IT companies efficiently managed working capital and cash flow, ensuring steady cash flows and some IT companies faced delayed payment from international clients due lack of funds during pandemic period (R.SAM, 2021).

A COVID-19 perspective on liquidity and leverage trend in Indian IT sector examined liquidity and debt-equity ratio before and after pandemic. Post pandemic results in maintaining low leverage due to relying on equity financing rather than debt financing (Shaharuddin et al., 2021).

Impact of COVID-19 in IT sector and financial stability analyse financial performance metrics like net profit ratio, return on equity of top firms were stable after post pandemic. IT sector companies adapted remote work models results in operating efficiency and increase in financial performance (Qadri et al., 2023).

COVID-19 pandemic affect the information technology sector, initially IT companies felt difficult later adapted by the companies through remote work. It shows IT sector withstands well in pandemic period, recovered quickly and improved profitability and liquidity in post pandemic period (Ganeshan, 2023).

3. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

This study aims: -

- To assess the financial performance of leading IT companies.
- To understand industry trends and marketing dynamics.
- To examine the profitability position of select large scale companies in India.
- To compare financial performance of select large scale IT companies in India.
- To determine solvency position of select large scale companies in India.

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research article carried on the basis of quantitative data and in a analytical manner, which helps to identify the performance of IT companies in India. Hence, the methodology will involve financial statements, annual reports, and stock market performance indicators to analyse the pre- and post-COVID financial trends. Sophie will analyse several selected critical financial indicators-their revenue, profitability, and other efficiency metrics-using statistical and analytical tools. Further comparative analysis will be extended to evaluate pandemic impact on the financial performance of the IT firms. The findings that emerge from data interpretation that takes into consideration an objective and evidence-based decision-making mechanism in drawing conclusions.

5. SAMPLE SIZE

The study is based on financial performance analysis of selective five IT companies in India over a period of five years. Analysis of annual report on both the pre-covid and post-covid period to evaluate the impact of the pandemics on financial metrics. The selected companies for this research are:

1. Tata consultancy services
2. Wipro

3. Hindustan company limited
4. Infosys
5. Tech Mahindra

These companies have been chosen based on their market presence, revenue scale and industry influence, the study aim to provide comprehensive comparison on financial performance.

6. DATA COLLECTION

Data for this research is collected from secondary source, primarily focusing on financial information available in annual report for selective IT companies in India. The information's are taken from BSE India website because it ensures accuracy and reliability in financial data. Additional, expert reviews are gathered from publisher source such as research journals, financial report and business publication. The data collection approach ensures a thorough evaluation of financial performance of IT companies before and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Pre covid period- 2018-19, Post covid period- 2022-23.

7. TOOLS FOR ANALYSIS

This research is carried out with the following tools to test the financial performance are:

1. Net profit ratio
2. Return on investment
3. Current ratio
4. Quick ratio
5. Debt-equity ratio
6. Proprietary ratio
7. Inventory turnover ratio
8. Account receivable turnover ratio
9. Account payable turnover ratio
10. Working capital turnover ratio
11. Earnings per share
12. Price earnings ratio

8. RESULTS

Table No.1: Net profit ratio

companies	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
TCS	24.40%	20.7%	19.8%	20.1%	18.8%
Wipro	15.82%	15.91%	17.43%	15.44%	12.54%
HCL	31.46%	15.6%	13.8%	14.1%	14.6%
Infosys	20.11%	18.5%	19.3%	17.9%	16.0%
Tech Mahindra	16.09%	10.94%	11.70%	12.47%	9.07%

Source: Screener: **BSE INDIA, Annual reports**

Inference: The decline in the net profit ratio of TCS and Infosys post-COVID clearly portrays the combined pressures of stability in revenues and implicit profit. Fluctuations in profitability in Wipro and Tech Mahindra, with Wipro supposed to peak in 2020-21 before experience a sharp decline. HCL is performing generally better in the phase after COVID-19, but it still cannot escape below the level in pre-COVID times, indicating some moderate recovery.

Table No.2: Current ratio

companies	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
TCS	4.17	3.19	2.87	2.75	2.37
Wipro	2.96	2.00	2.22	2.09	2.04
HCL	2.93	2.72	2.36	2.21	2.07
Infosys	3.00	2.13	2.29	2.39	2.04
Tech Mahindra	2.28	1.91	2.11	2.08	2.00

Source: BSE INDIA, Annual reports

Inference: The current ratio of TCS and Infosys shows a consistent decline post-COVID that indicates reduced short-term liquidity. . Wipro and HCL also recorded a small dip after the pandemic, portraying the trend of stringent management of working capital. Tech Mahindra has shown up a minor wavering but a relatively stable liquidity position after COVID-19.

Table No.3: Debt-Equity ratio

companies	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
TCS	0.0	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.03
Wipro	0.10	0.09	0.12	0.15	0.14
HCL	0.09	0.08	0.09	0.11	0.10
Infosys	0.00	0.02	0.09	0.11	0.08
Tech Mahindra	0.07	0.08	0.09	0.12	0.15

Source: BSE INDIA, Annual reports

Inference: Post-COVID, TCS and Infosys have a slight increase in debt-equity ratio reflecting a moderate increase in their reliance on debt financing. Wipro and HCL show a gradual increase in debt ratio indicating their careful handling of debts. Tech Mahindra realizes a spike in debt-equity post-COVID suggesting that they increase borrowing to keep the business afloat.

Table No.4: Price Earnings ratio

companies	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
TCS	23.8	21.35	34.87	39.12	29.74
Wipro	23.5	14.82	27.45	29.67	18.92
HCL	24.9	12.34	25.67	27.89	19.45
Infosys	24.9	17.45	30.12	34.56	24.78
Tech Mahindra	38.7	12.45	20.37	22.91	18.42

Source: BSE INDIA, Annual reports

Inference: The Price-Earning ratio for all companies went up post-COVID (2020-21), indicating greater investor confidence and better valuations of the market. The P/E ratios for most companies, except, however, from Infosys and TCS, declined in 2022-23. Tech Mahindra's pre-COVID P/E was the highest among the pack, which is now more stable post- COVID.

Table No.5: Return on investment

companies	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
TCS	35.3%	42.10%	38.75%	39.30%	37.90%
Wipro	16.1%	17.80%	19.25%	20.10%	18.70%
HCL	24.5%	26.40%	24.75%	25.30%	23.90%
Infosys	23.8%	21.40%	23.10%	24.80%	22.50%
Tech Mahindra	21.9%	18.50%	20.10%	21.80%	19.60%

Source: BSE INDIA, Annual reports

Inference: Post-COVID-JV ROI showed mixed trends among Indian IT companies. While TCS and HCL remained stable, they experienced slight declines in ROI after the pandemic, indicating consistent profit with a toe toward disappeared nationalism. Wipro and Infosys improved their ROI post-COVID, while Tech Mahindra showed moderate fluctuations, reflecting varying operational efficiencies and investment returns.

Table No.6: Working capital turnover ratio

companies	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
TCS	1.59	4.23	4.78	5.12	4.96
Wipro	4.9	3.95	4.32	4.89	4.65
HCL	4.81	4.12	4.75	5.23	4.98
Infosys	3.3	3.85	4.21	4.67	4.50
Tech Mahindra	5.30	4.85	5.72	6.34	5.89

Source: BSE INDIA, Annual reports

Inference: The working capital turnover ratio has improved for most of the companies since COVID, which means working capital is now used more efficiently for revenue generation. Further, TCS had a remarkable increase in turnover efficiency after COVID, with Tech Mahindra maintaining the highest turnover ratio consistently, which speaks of operational efficiency.

Table No.7: Accounts receivable turnover ratio

companies	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
TCS	4.72	5.42	5.87	6.12	5.98
Wipro	5.65	4.98	5.32	5.75	5.61
HCL	4.98	5.12	5.45	5.89	5.73
Infosys	5.61	4.85	5.21	5.68	5.49
Tech Mahindra	3.60	5.10	5.45	5.89	5.62

Source: BSE INDIA, Annual reports

Inference: The post-COVID improved accounts receivable turnover ratio clearly indicates faster collection of receivables and improved cash flow efficiency for the majority of Indian IT players. There was in receivables for TCS and Tech Mahindra, which results in better credit management. Wipro, HCL, and Infosys also showed a moderate improvement post-pandemic.

Table No.8: Earnings per share

companies	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
TCS	83.05	86.19	86.50	104.70	115.40
Wipro	14.91	17.05	19.11	22.62	19.86
HCL	73.6	39.02	46.90	50.78	52.40
Infosys	35.26	35.03	39.50	52.53	56.19
Tech Mahindra	46.9	46.90	53.00	63.80	53.60

Source: BSE INDIA, Annual reports

Inference: The EPS of Indian IT companies generally improved post-COVID, reflecting stronger profitability and business growth. TCS and Infosys have shown consistent upward trends, indicating solid financial performance. On the other hand, Wipro and Tech Mahindra have shunted up and down post-COVID, which means some instability in terms of growth.

Table No.9: Quick ratio

companies	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
TCS	2.45	2.79	2.61	2.50	2.33
Wipro	2.74	2.38	2.55	2.41	2.29
HCL	2.60	2.45	2.32	2.18	2.05
Infosys	2.62	2.21	2.35	2.42	2.18
Tech Mahindra	1.90	2.10	2.25	2.34	2.20

Source: BSE INDIA, Annual reports

Inference: The COVID-19 pandemic had an adverse effect on liquidity as the quick ratios of Indian IT companies showed a slight decline. TCS and Infosys maintained fairly constant quick ratios indicating good short-term financial stability. However, HCL and Wipro gradually declined, suggesting a tighter liquidity position post-pandemic.

Table No.10: Proprietary ratio

companies	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
TCS	0.79	0.72	0.74	0.76	0.75
Wipro	0.69	0.65	0.67	0.70	0.68
HCL	0.71	0.60	0.62	0.64	0.63
Infosys	0.70	0.68	0.70	0.72	0.71
Tech Mahindra	0.60	0.58	0.60	0.63	0.61

Source: BSE INDIA, Annual reports

Inference: The Proprietary Ratio of Indian IT companies has remained stable post-COVID, With TCS and Infosys maintaining a stronger proprietary position, these two companies have demonstrated financial stability. On the other hand, HCL and Tech Mahindra evidenced slight recovery after the pandemic, indicating an improvement in equity reliance.

9. DISCUSSION

The financial performance of Indian IT companies like TCS, HCL, Wipro, Infosys and Tech Mahindra has notable changes before and after COVID-19.

- Net Profit Ratio: Before COVID-19: TCS and Infosys shows high profitability, HCL dropped from 31.46%, for the year 2018-19 to 15.6%, for the year 2019-20. Wipro and Tech Mahindra continued to show steady margins. After COVID-19: The profit made by all companies reduced greatly because of the high operational costs incurred by them. The profitability of TCS dropped from 24.40% to 18.8%, while Wipro and Tech Mahindra experienced the highest losses.
- Debt-Equity Ratio: Before COVID-19: TCS and Infosys has no debt, while Wipro and Tech Mahindra maintained moderate levels of debt. After COVID-19, It slightly increased and however it increased borrowing is shown by Tech Mahindra's change from 0.07 to 0.15. Proprietary Ratio: Before COVID-19: High proprietary ratios for TCS and Infosys showed high reliance on equity financing. After COVID-19: This remained stable, although TCS and Infosys maintained high proprietary levels.
- Quick Ratio: Before COVID-19: Very strong liquidity for TCS, Infosys, and Wipro; the lowest ratio for Tech Mahindra. After COVID-19: Declines across all firms in view of the increased short-term obligations; TCS and Infosys continue to maintain better liquidity.
- Current Ratio: Before COVID-19: Ratio of TCS, 4.17, is quite high; others are moderate. After COVID-19: The above ratios reduced, with TCS at 2.37, indicating a tightened liquidity position.
- Working Capital Turnover Ratio: Before COVID-19: TCS and Infosys evidenced dear efficiency; HCL and Tech Mahindra moderate. After COVID-19: Most companies have increased turnover; Infosys and Tech Mahindra exhibit improved capital efficiency.
- Accounts Receivable Turnover Ratio: Before COVID-19: High efficiency for Wipro and Infosys; moderate for TCS and HCL. After COVID-19: Ratios improved heavily; TCS from 4.72 to 5.98, Tech Mahindra from 3.60 to 5.62.
- Earnings Per Share (EPS): Before COVID-19: TCS, Infosys, and HCL have very strong and steady EPS; Wipro remains stable. After COVID-19: EPS rises steadily up; TCS increases from 83.05 to 115.40 over five years; profit retention is seen here.

- P/E Ratio- The IT companies-TCS, Infosys, and HCL-had a high P/E ratio before COVID-19. Due to the optimism of the market, a sharp rise occurred in 2020-21, with TCS peaking at 39.12 before correcting itself further on. In conclusion, Indian ITs proved guardedly resilient after COVID-19. It was TCS and Infosys which did better with profitability and liquidity, while Wipro and Tech Mahindra went through higher volatility, leaving HCL pretty much maintaining operational efficiency.

10. CONCLUSION

The above analysis shows that majority of the Information technology sector have recovered after their covid and have done well their growth and profit. The IT industry stock compared to other industry, have performed well post-pandemic. Indian IT Sector developed quite strong financial resilience, before and after COVID-19, while inception level disruptions were experienced. The players adapted largely on the quick mode to the scenarios-that included changing to remote work, cloud computing, and augmented AI-driven services. While stabilization with profitability and liquidity was observed, needs to focus should be on cash flow management in order to avoid delays in the collection of receivables. Future line of research may further delve into the long-term financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the related trends such as AI, automation, and investments in cybersecurity.

11. LIMITATIONS

- Dependence on secondary data: Financial analysis is heavily reliant on information provided by the published financial statements, industry reports, and any other secondary sources. The credibility of the sources will determine whether the data sets are accurate and reliable. Any errors, misstatements, or omissions in the data may undermine the analysis' validity.
- Industrial variability: Companies performance, comparatively; Competition in the same sector: anyway, it can concentrate the differences in business models, market positioning, efficiency of operations, and strategic decisions. Still, any comparisons between companies of different scales, product range, or different geographic length territories may lead to false interpretation or conclusions.
- External factors like inflation, interest rate and global crises may also have influenced financial performance.
- Audited reports are not published for the financial year 2023-24.

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