**DISCUSS PROS AND CONS OF CASHLESS ECONOMY**

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The world has become cashless and the demand for hard cash has declined majorly due to advancement of technology and innovation. There is no doubt that cashless economy enjoys an unparalleled convenience and simplicity. Money which would have been carried in briefcases, wallets and purses is now being carried with ease in ATM cards, in mobile phones (for the case of mobile money e.g Kenya based MPESA), and lately, in cryptos. These electronic means have simplified modes of transactions both in transporting cash and paying bills.

In twenty-first century, transactions are ease to make. Mobile money for instance, is able to brigde the geographical space. Money can be send from city-centres to the rural folks in an unimaginable instant. How ease it has become? Goods and services can be ordered miles away and payments made instantaneously at the comfort of one's house.

In the era of cashless economies, international traves and purchases have been made easier. Global trotters in recent decades would have to carry money and visit exchange bureaus in order to obtain local currencies when travelling abroad. Things have been made easier as one can just buy or sell using mobile money with a lot of convenience.

Cashless transactions are facilitated faster. Purchases made using mobile money or credit cards are faster than customers lining up and queing waiting for one cashier's to attend to them all. Transaction cost is in a matter of seconds.

The goverments of today are able to track money related crimes for instance money laundering. Every electronic transaction or mobile based is tracked and therefore the government can track and trace source of the fund upto it's receiver. It is very hard to trace hard cash as no evidence is left other than the oral evidence which is subject to the benefit of doubt.

Cashless economy enables the government to rightly identify sources of income for her citizens and nub as well tax-eveders. Government agencies can tabulate her citizens' sources of income and therefore be able to collect the tax due from each citizen.

A cashless economy saves the cost of manufacturing hard cash. Production of hard cash is expensive, whether in form of notes or in form of coins. It costs billions to produce currencies. Besides this, equally, cost of transporting earned cash to the nearest commercial bank is saved as well. There are many security companies which work to transport and deposit cash all in the name of evading heist.

Breakings, heist and robberies have gone down in the advent of paperless payments. Crime levels targeting hard cash have gone drastically down in the now cashless economies. With advancement of payment modes for instance, mobile money or crypto, it has become hard for ordinary thieves to steal. Cashless economies of the twenty-first century can now run peacefully as criminals targeting cash are now scratching their heads not knowing how to survive in their "activities".

A cashless economy will unearth forged or fake currencies in circulation. Paper money is forgeable. The underworld have for long been thriving on forged cash to survive. If economy is fully declared cashless, forged or fake notes will be declared worthless and therefore disposed as valueless notes.

Termination of hard cash in the economy promotes good hygiene. In the advent of COVID-19 and similar respiratory and highly infections deseases, hard cash would be a tool of transmission. During the outbreak of COVID-19, which infected tens of millions of people, nations went cashless in a frantic attempt to tackle the spread of that air-born infection. With the use of electronic means, such a desease can be easily curtailed.

A cashless economy will recover hidden cash. In countries where there has been change of currency, the corrupt and those who stash cash in their houses have had to handed over their cash for the fear of being left with worthless cash. Going cashless will surely force stashed cash to be handed over for banking.

In a cashless economy, there is greater ease in management of money. The need for collection, counting, transporting depositing the same to commercial bank is eliminated. Besides, money can be credited into one digital wallets anytime of the day unlike physical cash that is restricted to banks operating working hours.

With the adoption of cashless modes of payments, economies have experienced some drawbacks associated with out-phasing of cash. These drawbacks include:

There is significant lose of data privacy and breach of the same. In the era of handling cash, one can make payments or send or receive money anonymously. However, in the era of digital modes of payments, every transaction leaves behind a financial transaction trail. With this, all your financial history is recorded by the system. Customers won't feel secure when their spending behaviour is being recorded by big-tech companies. With deployment of cashless modes, there have been equally agitation for data protection.

As economies have become cashless, so has been the rise of the new crime in town: hacking. Thieves and the underworld equally have tried to catch up with the technological advances. Gone are the days of heists, robberies and muggings. Hackers interfere with systems with the sole aim of obtaining the transfered cash. Hacking is a real threat to cashless systems. Financial system have been remotedly been hacked leading to massive lose of personal data and the payments as well.

A cashless economy will surely widen the poverty and class gap. Those who are already moneyed will easily jump into the bandwagon while the poor and the unbanked will be cut-off from the system. How can the poor afford to make payments electronically, yet they cannot afford a mobile device in the first place? Or, can the poor make payments yet they are unbanked? A cashless economy will surely widen the inequality gap. Besides, cashless payments are suitable for those who are tech-savvy. Full scale employment of cashless modes of payments would create such a big economic divide between the "have" and the "haves-not".

Phasing-out of cash will lead to overspending as it all requires tapping or swipping an ATM card at the point of sale. Hard cash allows one to know the actual value of items when buying. Tapping or swapping gives a false sense that everything is affordable and one can easily over-buy or obliviously run out of money.

Credit cardd and mobile many usually attracts a significant processing fees. In this case, for small business, this could eat their small profit margins. The same case apply on the customer side. This significant processing fees makes going cashless to be expensive.

Sometimes, natural calamities destroys physical infrastructure like electricity and internet connections which are key in supporting cashless system. During these kind of scenarios, physical cash would be reassuring as supportive environment for cashless modes would have been destroyed.

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