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- ❖ **China's OBOR Initiative**
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- ❖ **Consumerism & Globalization**
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Third Concept aims at providing a platform where a meaningful exchange of ideas can take place among the people of the Third World. The attempt will be to communicate, debate and disseminate information, ideas and alternatives for the resolution of the common problems facing humankind. We welcome contributions from academics, journalists and even from those who may never have published anything before. The only requirement is a concern for and desire to understand and take the issue of our time. Contributions may be descriptive, analytical or theoretical. They may be in the form of original articles, reactions to previous contributions, or even a comment on a prevailing situation. All contributions, neatly typed in double space, may be addressed to:

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Re nascent Bihar

The recent landslide stunning victory of Mahagathbandhan, comprising Janata Dal-United or JD (U), Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and Congress, in Bihar under the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has manifested the political maturity of the people of Bihar and rejection of attempts to polarize society on communal lines. The massive support for Mahagathbandhan had cut across communities, without which it would not have been possible for it to garner gigantic victory by winning an impressive 178 seats in a house of 243 seats.

The success of Mahgathbandhan lay in the way it converted arithmetic into chemistry. Together, the JD (U), the RJD and the Congress had polled 45% of the vote in 2014 Lok Sabha polls and this is almost the vote-share they have polled in 2015 in State Assembly elections. Steps like coming together of the former rivals Nitish and Lalu, the RJD supremo agreeing to Nitish being the chief ministerial candidate and with the distribution of tickets taking place amicably virtually paved way for Mahgathbandhan; a demonstration of which had been made in the assembly by-polls held in August 2014. Another important factor that favoured Mahgathbandhan was the unanimity over transferring their vote-base to each other. The good work done by the Nitish government in the past by building new roads, increased electricity supply and provision of cycles to girl students to go to school and college was perhaps a bottom-up model of development of the Nitish government which proved instrumental in building an undercurrent of sympathy for Mahagathbandhan.

What resulted in a gel being cemented between the constituents of Mahagathbandhan was the BJP's unraveling of its 'true agenda' silently endorsed by Modi. Just few months before the run-up to the Bihar elections, BJP had embarked upon a naked embrace of majoritarianism by extending vocal support for beef bans, subliminal messages reeking of cultural intolerance and so on. Undoubtedly, BJP's so-called 'development mantra' had always been for expedience in garnering support from the upper-middle classes, an aspirational youth and the business classes; nevertheless, there was little in terms of difference of emphasis or in performance on the development front from the BJP since it came to power in May 2014. BJP's strategy of a 'Modi-centric' campaign 'lacked credibility' because of the un-kept promises of the past and its 'divisive tactics' also failed to cut ice with the Bihar electorate. The loss of Bihar is a clear setback for the communal agenda of the BJP and it also suggests that the BJP can't merely paper over this subliminal push for a reversal of India's secular ethos, and communitarian welfare model through a Hindutva model of consolidation by posturing as a party setting out to achieve 'development.'

In 2015 alone the BJP has suffered two electoral debacles, first in Delhi in February and now in Bihar. Undoubtedly, the defeat in Delhi was passed off as an aberration; nonetheless, Bihar has turned out to be different. BJP's one-size-fits-all campaign strategy lost its novelty in Bihar, a complex state, where political discourse ranged from caste to development to religion. The first national impact of Mahagathbandhan's emphatic Bihar victory is being felt in the current winter session of the Parliament where the discussion on intolerance and constitution is taking place and an emboldened Opposition taking the Modi government to task. A streak of change, though mild, is becoming discernible in NDA government's attitude towards the Opposition and in Modi's address to Lok Sabha and then in Rajya Sabha. In the wake of pending host of reform legislation bills like GST bill, the real estate regulatory authority bill and the ambitious labour reforms, the ruling dispensation is likely to soften its attitude towards the Opposition to elicit its support for the passage of these bills in the current session. Some political pundits feel that Bihar has delivered a tectonic verdict that will have a variety of implications for national politics and governance. The success of Mahagathbandhan can be seen as the beginnings of a consolidation of state parties to check the BJP's advance.

Nitish Kumar is heading an inherently fragile coalition of three parties which are quite different from one another temperamentally and culturally and he will be having an unenviable task of managing extreme contradictions on his hands. He will have to tread cautiously.

— BK

China's OBOR Initiative: Implications for India

Uma Purushothaman*

[The idea of the Silk Road Economic Belt was espoused by President Xi Jinping in 2013 during a visit to Kazakhstan. Later, in the same year, he unveiled his vision of the Maritime Silk Road in Indonesia. These two visions have now been amalgamated into the One Belt One Road Initiative (OBOR) or the Belt Road Initiative (BRI). The overland route or the Belt consists of a network of rail routes, overland highways, oil and gas pipelines and other infrastructural projects, stretching from Xian in Central China, through Central Asia and Russia, with one artery crossing Kazakhstan and the other through Mongolia but both linking up with the trans-Siberian railway and going on to Moscow, Rotterdam and Venice.¹ The Road consists of a network of ports and other coastal infrastructure from China's eastern seaboard stretching across South East Asia, South Asia, the Gulf, East Africa and the Mediterranean, forming a loop terminating at Piraeus (Greece), Venice (Italy) and Rotterdam (Netherlands) in Europe and Mombasa (Kenya) in Africa.²]

The OBOR is expected to span across 66 countries, spread across the three continents of Asia, Europe and Africa. It is estimated that it will thus cover two-thirds of the world's population and one-third of global GDP. Xi Jinping has made the OBOR the centrepiece of both his foreign policy and domestic economic strategy and hopes that the mega-trade volumes among the Silk Road economies would touch \$ 2.5 trillion over the next 10 years.³

In fact, Chinese companies have already signed around 1,400 project contracts worth \$37.6 billion in countries along its Silk Road initiative this year.⁴ China has said that it will invest \$900 billion in the countries along the OBOR. According to Chinese statistics, in the first seven months of 2015, the trade between China and countries along the OBOR was more than 570 billion U.S. dollars, and direct investment by Chinese companies totaled 8.59 billion U.S. dollars, up nearly 30 percent on an annual basis.⁵

The OBOR has often been compared to the US' Marshall Plan—that China is using money for achieving its foreign policy and economic goals. But the planned investment for OBOR is \$1.4 trillion, which is around 12 times larger than the Marshall Plan, which was about \$120 billion in today's value.⁶

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Also, the OBOR does not involve any binding state-to-state agreements, reflecting China's preference for less formal arrangements which give it flexibility and also helps it to make best use of its economic and political skills.⁷ But it does represent a more vigorous and better co-ordinated attempt to expand China's influence overseas.

Aims

The OBOR's initial emphasis will be on regional connectivity projects. It is coupled with a domestic investment drive, in which nearly every Chinese province has a stake.⁸ Logistics centres and cultural expos are being built by the provinces to deal with the expected growth in trade and interaction with countries along the OBOR. Two-thirds of Chinese provinces have included it as a development priority and have featured it in their annual work plans for 2015.⁹ The OBOR is expected to be a significant part of China's 13th Five-Year Plan i.e. from 2016 to 2020. In the initial stages, China's state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and largest financial institutions will be managing the OBOR. According to China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) the aims of the OBOR are that:¹⁰

- connectivity projects of the Initiative will help align and coordinate the development strategies of the countries along the Belt and Road,

- tap market potential in this region
- promote investment and consumption
- create demands and job opportunities
- enhance people-to-people and cultural exchanges
- and mutual learning among the peoples of the relevant countries, and enable them to understand, trust and respect each other and live in harmony, peace and prosperity.
- share developmental dividends with other developing nations for common prosperity.

Thus, China is selling the initiative as a purely economic project.

The Belt part of the OBOR i.e. the overland route is essentially a culmination of China's Go West policy, launched in the late 1990s to address regional disparities in development. There was large scale migration from the under-developed Western provinces to the more developed coastal regions. This led to the coastal regions becoming more crowded and polluted.

China's response to this was to try and develop the Western provinces. It tried to improve connectivity between the western provinces and the richer coast, as well as the countries along its periphery. All this was done in the hope that this would improve China's internal economic integration and competitiveness and spur more regionally balanced growth.

There are domestic political factors behind this initiative as well. China's security and control over Xinjiang depends on promoting economic growth and development in the region in order to win the acquiescence of non-Han people to Chinese rule. Beijing wants to promote development in neighbouring countries to ensure stability and also to protect its numerous investments and Chinese businesses and labour in the region. OBOR will thus enable China to expand its influence beyond borders and consolidate and sanitise the periphery, particularly in Central Asia.

One of the CPC's goals is to raise the standards of living of its people, thus reducing the possibility of social tensions arising out of poverty and lack of jobs and sustaining the legitimacy of the Communist regime. For this, it needs to sustain growth which has fallen to 7.4 % from double digit growth in the last decade. Hence, there is economic logic also to promoting ties with China's West.

There is a virtuous cycle between increase in Chinese exports and the resource-rich countries that lie along the One Belt One Road. The countries accounted for 21.9 percent of Chinese exports in 2014, with this figure growing at an 11.7 percent compound annual growth rate in the last three years.¹¹ China hopes to get a secured "safe zone" through these nations surrounding the economic corridor and sustained by the host nations and integrate other economies with its own.

The OBOR is also propelled by Beijing's need to sustain the supply chains of commodities, including oil and gas, a solution to its Malacca Straits dilemma (which carries 85% of imports and 80% of oil imports), secure China's exports markets and give it overland access to Europe—it would shorten transport time and reduce China's dependence on sea lanes and could revive industries that are less efficient in the domestic market. Moreover, OBOR is seen as a quick solution to the problem of overcapacity (caused by GFC and stagnant domestic consumption) in China. He Yafei, currently vice minister for foreign affairs, wrote an article last year in which he explicitly mentioned the opportunity to use China's excess steel and iron for OBOR infrastructure building.¹²

OBOR also brings a strategic focus to China's "go out" initiative, which encourages Chinese firms to go abroad in search of new markets or investment opportunities.¹³ This initiative is meant to help Chinese companies improve their "capacity for transnational operations, to establish "foreign trade strongholds, and "production bases", and acquire new technologies.¹⁴ Unlike in the past, when China opened itself up to participation from outside, attracting foreign investments, technologies, and management skills, China now wants to reverse its role by itself opening outwards.¹⁵

The OBOR utilizes China's otherwise unproductive capital—The Asian Development Bank estimates that there is an \$800 billion annual shortfall for infrastructure needs in Asia-Pacific countries, a need that China is clearly well placed to provide through the AIIB and other means.¹⁶ OBOR is also seen as a way to leverage China's advantages in finance, markets, technology, and production capacity in less developed markets.¹⁷ China also hopes it will increase use of the Renminbi not just as a transactional currency but as a reserve currency. However, critics say that the OBOR is too long-sighted in terms of investment returns. (the case of Pakistan-\$46 billion) .

According to Mearsheimer's offensive realism, the ultimate goal of a great power is to gain hegemony as that is the best guarantor of survival. But in practice, it is almost impossible for any country to achieve global hegemony, because it is too hard to project and sustain power around the planet and onto the territory of distant great powers.¹⁸ The best outcome that a state can hope for therefore is to be a regional hegemon, which means dominating one's own geographical area and preventing great powers in other geographical regions from duplicating this feat. China's OBOR initiative is a means for this goal.

OBOR is a sophisticated, well thought out strategy to manage the heartland and to win hearts and minds. China now wants a greater role for itself in the international order as opposed to its "low-profile" diplomacy over the years. The OBOR is an instrument in China's strategy of non-confrontation and reassurance and a tangible execution of the concept of China's "peaceful rise".¹⁹ Through the OBOR, China wants to show itself as a responsible power, something which the West has accused it of not being.

China wants to buy legitimacy using the OBOR since to be acknowledged as a great power, it needs to be accepted at least by its immediate neighbourhood. Third, China through the Silk Belt Initiative, wants to consolidate itself as a continental power, something which it has been traditionally and also to avoid strategic encirclement by other powers.

Some analysts see OBOR as a response to the US rebalance to Asia and believe that it is propelled by fears that the US' and China's competition for influence in East Asia, where the US alliance system is strong, might lead to a confrontation.

This explains why China through the One Belt is focusing on areas from where the US is withdrawing—Central Asia, Afghanistan, West Asia. It is also seen as a response to the exclusive mega-economic blocks in the making, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in Asia and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership or T-TIP led by the United States.²⁰

The OBOR is a manifestation of China's growing strategic interests in far flung places created by its trade interests. China believes that integration and development would bring about a win-win situation for China and its Western neighbours by promoting regional stability while increasing China's geopolitical influence in the region and help it shape a more pliable regional security and political environment for itself.

Financing the OBOR

But where will China find the finances for a project of such grandiose scale? China is expected to spend \$1.6 trillion on the OBOR. But finances are not a concern for China. It holds around \$4 trillion in foreign exchange reserves. It also holds US treasury bonds worth \$1.2 trillion. Strategically, it makes no sense for China to keep subsidising the US, which is its long-term geopolitical rival. It does not make economic sense either since the interest rates of US treasury bonds are low at less than 2% . So, China feels that this money could be used more productively in the OBOR.

The China Development Bank has also announced plans to provide \$1 trillion in loans as part of OBOR. China has announced a US\$40bn Silk Road Fund, which will directly support the OBOR mission. The fund, which became active in February 2015, is backed by the China Investment Corporation (China's sovereign wealth fund) China Development Bank, the Export-Import Bank of China and the State Administration of Foreign Exchange.²¹

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) will also help to finance construction along OBOR. The bank's stated aims are to combine China's core competencies in building infrastructure with deep financial resources to help development in other parts of Asia.²² But all of this is not aid. The chair of the Silk Road fund, Jin Qi, has said that the fund will work in line with "market-oriented principles" and should generate adequate returns for its shareholders.²³ According to the Asian Development Bank, there is an annual "gap" between the supply and demand for infrastructure spending in Asia of about \$800 billion.²⁴ OBOR will help fill this gap, leading to sustainable and inclusive growth.

The Tools

What are China's tools for implementing the OBOR? The first is through promoting trade along the OBOR corridor. The second is to build infrastructure like for instance the Moscow-Beijing railway line and the West China-West Europe Highway which will pass through Kazakhstan. The third is through investments and preferential loans. In 2013, Chinese investments in Central Asia were worth \$30 billion. In 2015, it promised \$20 billion more. One country which could have stood in the way of China's plans in Eurasia is Russia, which had been wary about China's inroads in its near abroad. But now Russia and China are coordinating development of the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) and the Silk Road Economic Belt.

They have agreed to coordinate the two projects in order to build a "common economic space" in Eurasia, including a Free Trade Agreement between the EEU and China. Russia perhaps understands that it is inevitable that China will become the major investor in Central Asia and the major market for the region's vast natural resources. So Moscow feels that the only way it can maintain its influence is to recalibrate its role in the region to accommodate its own ambitions, Beijing's quest for raw materials, and the region's appetite for Chinese money.

Challenges

But building the OBOR won't be without its share of challenges for Beijing. For one, China risks

getting involved in domestic politics of other countries, something it has managed to avoid so far. It could cause doubts about its real intentions in other big countries which could team up against China. China could be accused of neo-colonialism and grabbing resources and therefore will have to pay attention to the location of investments and environmental protection, livelihood and employment.

Moreover, the region along the Silk Roads is far from stable and in fact many countries are volatile. Therefore, once China gets inextricably involved, it would be difficult for it to withdraw even if it wants to. Capital alone cannot provide the stability or security necessary to see these projects through, nor guarantee that counterparts will hold on to their end of the bargain.²⁵ China will build 81,000 kilometres of high-speed railway, more than the current world total, involving 65 countries.²⁶ But who will protect so many projects covering so many countries?

Moreover, China cannot control public opinion in other countries. Thanks to the complex relationship between the countries in the region and other regional power struggles, if China takes a position on any issues, it will offend some countries. So China will have to maintain a delicate balance.

Given Chinese construction companies' poor track record operating in foreign countries (including frequent mistreatment of local workers), a major increase in the scale of their external activities increases the risk of a damaging political blowback that could harm Beijing's image or lead to instability in host countries—particularly if the efforts do not generate lasting benefits for local economies. China will also face challenges in the Middle East due to instability there. It will face difficulties in Europe because of tensions over Ukraine and the standoff between Russia and the West. Also in Xinjiang, the crucial part of the OBOR, China faces instability because of the Uighur issue.

Many countries along the OBOR corridor have poor credit.²⁷ Therefore, many projects which appear promising at the start will be hard to pursue. While agreement and consensus are reached at the top

levels of government, implementation will have to be at the local level but local governments often do not care about the central government's policies and do not always cooperate with foreign investors.²⁸

Finally, the slowdown in the Chinese economy as exemplified in the crash of the stock market in the latter half of 2015 and decreasing foreign exchange reserves might create a funding crunch for the OBOR.

Conclusion

The OBOR is a natural culmination of China's domestic Go West policy. It is a classic case of domestic factors driving foreign policy. It is a work in progress—details are still being worked out. But it is an open project—China has not excluded any country from joining it. But so far, the overland route only covers the traditional Silk Road. It is a powerful illustration of China's growing capacity and economic clout—and the Xi administration's intent to deploy them abroad. As Russian strategist Dmitri Trenin suggests, if China succeeds in its project, the centre of gravity in Eurasia will shift from Moscow to Beijing. China is trying to push itself as close as possible to the NATO borders through the OBOR.

China's strategy echoes British geographer Harold Mckinder who saw history as a struggle between land-based and sea-based powers. Mckinder said "Who rules Eastern Europe commands the Heartland; who rules the Heartland commands the World-Island"; Who rules the World-Island commands the World." The Ukraine crisis is an example of the West using NATO trying to push forward its borders and expand its own sphere of influence. So it appears that the stage is being set for next Cold War/bipolar world between the US and China. Both China and the West are carving out their spheres of influence, China through OBOR and US through its policy of supporting 'democracy' and rebalance to the Asia Pacific.

India's Options

Finally, there is the question of whether India should join the OBOR. The overland route does not touch India. There is unease in India as there are too many questions around the project. The Indian Foreign

Secretary has already spoken about the lack of consultation with other countries. It is unclear at this stage who will decide where the projects will be built. Even if projects are built, no one knows who will operate it once it is built and who will pay for building it. The moot question is how much trade India will gain by joining it.

There is a view in India that India's skills can be used for building and implementing these infrastructure projects. But can India do abroad what it has not been able to do within i.e. develop top class infrastructure? India has to first build good infrastructure in order to be able to profit from the OBOR. But if India does not join, it will be seen as a spoiler. Moreover, if India's development story does not take off, India will be in a tough position because the Chinese will go ahead with the OBOR and it will change the facts on the ground. Joining it will allow India to shape at least some aspects of the projects, which is the same logic India used for joining AIIB.

So India should join the OBOR wherever it suits India's interest as this will also give it a negotiating handle. As Indian strategic thinker Shyam Saran says²⁹, "Currently, India has neither the resources nor the political and economic weight to put in place competitive and alternative connectivity networks on a global scale. Therefore, for the time being, it may be worthwhile to carefully evaluate those components of the OBOR which may, in fact, improve India's own connectivity to major markets and resource supplies and become participants in them just as we have chosen to do with the AIIB and the NDB."

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New Era of India-China Relations

Salfie Muzaffar*

[China and India are the world's most populous countries and two Asian giants and as such their relationship has important implications for both regional and global affairs. The past few years have especially witnessed an increasing interest in this relationship by the international community, mainly because of the rapid economic growth of both countries and the conspicuous transformation of the relationship itself.¹]

China-India relations have seen dramatic fluctuations and stalemates of many kinds in the period since the late 1950s, including a direct conflict in 1962. On the evolution of China-India relations, different people have different interpretations. With regard to the relationship between two countries, however, there was consensus that since the late 1950s, hostility and confrontation had featured in the China-India relations. The blurring in these analyses of China-India relations indicates the shortcomings and deficiencies of the traditional approaches. A good and healthy China-India relationship will contribute not only to the development and prosperity of the

two countries themselves, but also to the peace and stability of the region and the world.²

Treating each other as new partners rather than adversaries and acknowledging the need for comprehensive approaches to national security, both China and India have accordingly adjusted their respective policies towards each other since the end of the Cold War. Walking out of the shadow of India's nuclear tests, China-India relations have entered a new stage of comprehensive cooperation and the establishment of a strategic partnership.

Both sides preferred to shelve the border dispute and promote China-India friendship by establishing economic, technological and cultural interactions. Great achievements in this regard during Li Pang's 1991 visit to India included the reopening of border

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trade, cooperation on space research, and India's commitment to "a dynamic increase and diversification of exchanges in the economic field, including trade".³

Apart from the commodity transfers, the two countries also started to explore opportunities for mutual or third country investments and joint ventures. In January 1993, the first China- India joint venture- between China metallurgical import & export cooperation and India's Mideast Integrated Steel Limited- was commissioned in Orissa.⁴ Indian companies, like Ranbaxy and Hero Motors also established joint ventures in China around the same period. While Chinese investments were concentrated on India's mining and manufacturing sectors, India's investments were directed at services, information technology education and pharmaceutical sector in China.⁵

From 1999 both countries renewed further their relationship completely; the first year of the 21st century witnessed a steady consolidation of their cooperation for the purpose of establishing a strategic partnership. Even the nuclear test at Pokhran couldn't shake the bond of friendship as both the powers laid stress upon the peace and stability so that their economic interests got fulfilled.⁶

After mid-1999, China started to lay more stress on its economic engagement with India. It was evident that China expected economic cooperation to be the engine and stabilizer of China-India relations pending the final solution of the border problem which would take more time. In each high-level contact since 2000, China made economic cooperation a focus of the bilateral talks. On the occasion of the then President of India, K.R. Narayanan's China visit in 2000, China suggested that the two countries should expand their economic cooperation from bilateral to the regional level. During Narayanan's short stay in Kunming, The capital of Yunnan, the provincial authorities formally sought India's support to the so called 'Kunming Initiative'.⁷

Similarly Li Peng made it a major focus of his 2001 visit to India to "explore new avenues for increasing economic exchanges and trade in the new century".

By visiting Hyderabad and Bangalore, India's major IT centers, Li Peng conveyed China's keenness on cooperation with India in such fields as IT sector and software where India had made great strides.

During Chinese premier Zhu Rongji's visit to India in 2002, it became clear that China "preferred to concentrate on the business of strengthening bilateral economic ties."⁸ Apart from strengthening economic cooperation, China also continued to explore the routes for building diversified cooperation with India. The two major fields in which China showed great interest were bilateral cooperation on non-traditional security issues and coordination in multilateral fora.

As China attached greater importance to the non-traditional security issues such as terrorism, transnational crimes, environmental degradation and drug trafficking, it started to explore the possibility of cooperation with India in this field. In 2001, in a conversation with the Indian media, Li Peng made "the most forthright statement" of China's desire for cooperation with India to combat terrorism.⁹

This period also witnessed China's firm adherence to its even-handed approach to the region since the end of the Cold War. In the Indo-Pak Kargil War of 1999, "many Indians were surprised to find that China did not stand by Pakistan". These reactions by China further manifested the contour of China's current policy towards the India-Pakistan dispute: keeping neutral on the India- Pakistan problem; supporting Indo-Pakistani bilateralism rather than any third-party mediation; reacting if necessary according to the ground realities.¹⁰

Conclusion

Both the powers have realized now that there is the need of mutual trust and peaceful co-existence to achieve their goal of emerging one of the top world economic powers, for which regional peace and stability is pre-requisite. It is also expected that sustained dialogue on defence issues between the two countries will also be resolved.

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India - China Mutual Cooperation

Aninda Datta*

[Both India and China, as independent nations free from the bondage of colonial or semi-colonial exploitation whatever it may be, have emerged after the Second World War. They had gained a bitter experience of the rigid colonial / semi-colonial exploitation under the European or Japanese colonial powers. Similarly they have a long and rich cultural history emerging from their civilizations of ancient days.]

India was emancipated from the British colonial rule in 1947 but got crippled economically due to its past severe economic exploitation. Unlike Indian experience, People's Republic of China took an entirely different development path after its people's democratic revolution in 1949 and followed a new socialist economic path. Consequently their history of development took a completely different path, not similar in nature to that of India.

India- China Economic cooperation

People's Republic of China under the Communist regime had taken the path of economic liberalization that opened their socialist economy to the outside world under the aegis of Deng Xiaoping who came to power in 1978 and ensured the socialist market economy in 1979 (Sen, 2011: 46). The overall socialist market economy helps to shape good economic relations with US and other

European developed countries that have accelerated the prompt economic development of China. On the other hand India has taken recourse to the economic liberalization in the name of new economic policy since 1991 under the Prime Ministership of P. V. Narasimha Rao. But India still is far from catching up the China's economic growth.

It is needless to say, both India and China are developing countries. As per the report of World Bank 2013, developing countries are defined on the basis of their Gross National Income (GNI) per capita per year. Countries with a GNI of US\$11,905 and less are defined as developing countries. (www.isi-web.org2014). So India and China, as developing countries, want to secure their economic progress through south- south cooperation with other developing countries.

For ensuring the development of market economy, both India and China have positive attitude to join hands between themselves in various economic

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sectors. For instance, fifteen Chinese enterprises, with combined volume of US\$37.2 million had been established in India by the end of year 2002. By the way, India, in the meanwhile, had 71 investment projects in China, worth US\$188 million (Deepak 2005: 417-418).

In Twenty-first century, India as a potential economic power, cannot neglect People's Republic of China, the second largest economy of the world. China has emerged as the India's largest trading power replacing the US in March 2008 (Mohanty 2013:2). In 2011, the bilateral trade between the two countries touched to US\$73.90 billion (an increase of 19.71% over the same period in the previous year) with a trade deficit of 27.08 billion on the part of India, that is a dangerous threat to Indian economy (Ministry of External Affairs 2013: 6).

Economic Competition Reflected in their Relationship

Now India is facing another crisis from China that is dumping of their products in the Indian market that affects the economy of India. Indian Industrialists and small and middle businessmen are unable to compete with Chinese cheap products in the home market. Currently, China is faced with a financial crisis and giving subsidy on its cheap products is becoming difficult for it and that is reflected since August 24, 2015 and is called black day in Chinese economy (www.bbc.com 2015). Thus, Indian small and middle capitalists have gotten some relief from competition with Chinese cheap products.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to China from May 14-16, 2015 was a landmark for Sino – Indian economic progress. Ambassador of India to China, Ashok K. Kantha stated that there were 24 agreements signed on the government side, 26 MoUs on the business to business side and two joint statements, including one on climate change (Kantha 2015: 3). Side by side, Modi's "Make in India" concept to lure the Chinese investments in too, will be helpful towards the growth of Indian economy. So, Indian policy makers cannot do away with making a good economic relationship with China in spite of Beijing's challenge to Indian economy.

India promptly gets result of Modi's "Make in India" concept that obtains the first position on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the world as per of the first half yearly report of 2015. Now India ensures US\$ 31 billion FDI compared with China amounting to US\$28 billion FDI, which is in the second position throughout the world (The Times of India 2015: 1). It is needless to say that both India and China compete with each other to ensure FDI in the interest of their own economic progress. No developing country gives economic space to other developing countries, interrupting its own economic progress. So competition is a natural part of India - China economic relations along with their cooperation in the twenty-first century.

Collaboration in Multilateral International Organizations

Zhang Zhijun, Vice Minister of the International Department, Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, stated that "As a developing country, China has made unremitting efforts to facilitate development and stability of the developing countries as a whole" (Zhiun 2006: 2). So China's this desire also helps to facilitate for making a good relationship with India on the basis of the developing country's outlook. This was also reflected in 2012 that was designated as "Year of India – China Friendship and Cooperation" (Ministry of External Affairs 2013:6).

India, China and Brazil, the three developing countries entered into a new common economic platform by the initiative of Russia, named "BRIC" in 2009. After South Africa joined this group, it was renamed as "BRICS". For the economic interest of the five countries, they joined the new common economic forum intending to resist the US's hegemonic world economic order. So India and China for their common economic interest go to ensure south - south cooperation all over the world. For instance, Chinese President Xi Jinping has initiated to build up the Bangladesh – China – India - Myanmar Economic Corridor that reflects the developing countries' economic cooperation for their own national interest (Chaudhury 2015).

Not only in BRICS, but also in W.T.O (World Trade Organisation) China and India have joined their hands. India fully supported China's entry into W.T.O in 2001. They have made cooperation along with other developing countries to prevent the hegemony of developed countries like US and European Union. India and China's such type of cooperation is also reflected in Doha Development Round, Cancun Conference and so on.

They had formed "G20" on the basis of developing countries' interest just before the final stages for the preparation of the Cancun Conference (Sornarajah and Wang 2010: 107-117). Moreover, India and China signed a five year agreement in October 2009 to jointly fight the climate change issue against the developed countries' proposal of reducing green house gas emissions after 2025 by the developing countries. (Nalpathamkalam 2014:7).

Conclusion

In the twenty-first century, security related matters create tension in Sino - Indian relations. Side by side India and China, as developing countries, try to ensure their cooperation on the basis of their common ground. It is needless to say, economy is a powerful force to make a good relationship between them. On the eve of the early ninety's, China upheld the common Asian identity, but India kept aloof from that. At present both the countries have come forward under the developing country's common platform for securing their own national interest in spite of their different outlooks.

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The growing Relevance of Nehru's Secularism

Mohd Yousuf Dar*

[Jawaharlal Nehru, the architect of modern India, always tried his best for having secular India. Nehru was to the core of his heart a secular and rationalist. India emerged as a secular state in the mid-20th century mainly due to the efforts of Jawaharlal Nehru, because he played a heroic role in the development of a secular outlook during freedom movement itself. It is because he was convinced that in a multi-religious, multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, plural and democratic society like India, secular framework was imperative.]

But now-a-days, India is facing the growth of intolerance, religious fanaticism and fundamentalism. This rising intolerance and religious fundamentalism is seen in India since BJP came to power at the Centre and can easily be drawn from the incidents like hate speeches, ink attacks on Sudheendra Kulkarni, Legislator Engineer Abdul Rasheed, lynching of Mohammad Ikhlaiq at Dadri, killing of Zahid Rasool Bhat at Udhampur etc. Hardly a day passes without an incident or a statement being made that may rake up communal tension in the country. These incidents triggered massive protests by writers and artists who returned their awards.

Nehru regarded secularism as the basic law of Indian nationhood. It grew as an integrative process. He believed that the territorial integrity, political stability and national identity in a country like India with multi-faceted diversity can be achieved only through secularism. According to Nehru, secularism does not mean indifference to religion. It only means that the state as such is not identified with any particular religion but tolerates every religion, appreciates every religion, respects all religions – Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims, Christians, etc.

He used every single opportunity to impress upon the people the danger of mixing religion and politics. He was vehement critic of communalism and

fundamentalism of both Hindus and Muslims. Communalism, he believed, could not only weaken the very fabric of a society but also threaten its very existence. He was of the view that for proper functioning of democracy and growth of national unity and solidarity, communalism must be eliminated from India's life. On one occasion he stated, "We have said repeatedly that we will not tolerate any communalism in this country and that we are building a free secular state, where every religion and belief has full freedom and equal honour."

Jawaharlal Nehru, throughout his long and distinguished career, was loved by the minorities who put their faith and trust in him. Nehru's concern for the minorities was reflected often in his speeches. He said in one of his speeches in early fifties, "We have in India 40 million Muslims, as big a number as any other Muslim country excepting Pakistan and Indonesia. Any propaganda, that gives these people a sense of insecurity or makes them feel that they do not have the same opportunities for development and progress as everybody else, is an anti-national thing and communal." Nehru constantly strove to find ways to root out the fear and distress of the minorities. He wanted the majority to be generous.

The spirit of tolerance has been the landmark of our secular attitude and outlook. This tolerance arises from our attitudes, our past conditioning and mental outlook. In his Autobiography, Nehru writes, "The spectacle of what is called religion or, at any rate

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organised religion, in India and elsewhere, has filled me with horror, and I have frequently condemned it and wished to make a clean sweep of it. Almost always it seemed to stand for blind belief and reaction, dogma and bigotry, superstition, and exploitation, and preservation of vested interests.”

Thus Nehru visualized a secular state as one in which every group and every individual had the full freedom to function according to his own way either culturally or in matters of religion. It was Nehru’s vision that shaped the Constitution of India in such a manner that it should provide for a secular state. Nehru emphasized four different aspects of secularism.

In the first place he insisted that secularism meant grant of equal status to all religions in India and opposed grant of special privileges to any religion. He said, “We are building a free secular state where every religion and belief has full freedom and equal honour, who’s every citizen has equal liberty and equal opportunity.” Thus according to Nehru, a caste-ridden society could not be secular and he laid emphasis on the elimination of such distinctions.

Secondly, Nehru’s secularism implied neutrality of the state in the religious manners. He wrote, “I am convinced that the future government of free India must be secular in the sense that the government will not associate itself directly with any religious faith.” He was opposed to the association of the state with any particular religion because it divided

the citizens into two classes some having more opportunities while the other having less.

Thirdly, Nehru took secularism in the sense of a mental attitude on the part of the various communities which could bring about harmony and feeling of fraternity towards one another. He fully realized that the success of secularism in India would depend on the attitude of the majority community towards the minorities. He, therefore, exhorted the Hindus, who constituted the majority to “remember that the interest and the well being of the minorities are their sacred trust. If they fail in their trust, then they injure not only the country but themselves.

He also expected the minorities to be tolerant and advised them not to adopt an attitude which could be detrimental to the integrity and unity of India. Finally, Nehru’s concept of secularism implied the existence of a uniform civil code for the people of India. He considered the existence of different set of laws governing different communities as inconsistent with his ideal of secular society.

Today, the secular ethos for which Nehru strived hard throughout his life is facing a multi-prolonged challenge from hydra-headed monster of communalism. A spark is enough to ignite a communal flare-up; people slit each other’s throat. Thus in the light of our experience particularly during last two years, a fresh reappraisal or the rightness of what Nehru stood for and tried to achieve, is the need of the hour.



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Social Networking Sites and Indian Politics

Dr. Sachinkumar. Kattimani* & Prakash Waghmare**

[Social Media is all about conversations. Social media facilitate the interactive web by engaging users to participate, comment and create content as means of communicating with other users or a group of users. Social media has emerged as a major tool where citizens are able to discuss and share about the issues of day to day life and also of national importance.]

Kaplan and Haenlein (2010) define social media as “a group of Internet-based applications that build on the ideological and technological foundations of Web 2.0 and that allow the creation and exchange of user-generated content.” A social networking service is a platform to build social networks. These social network services are web based and these provide means for users to interact over the Internet. Social networking sites allow users to share ideas, pictures, posts, activities, events, and interests with people in their network.

In democratic countries, political parties feel it their responsibility to canalize and participate in public political discussion. Traditionally, politicians and journalists bring up and moderate those political discourses. However, the traditional structure of mass communication in the political context has changed (Chadwick 2006; Gil De Zuniga et al. 2012). Based on the rapid development of Web 2.0 technologies and associated social media, Internet users are enabled to create content on their own. By using political blogs or discussion forums, people express their opinion, participate in discussions or find politically like-minded individuals.

As a consequence, professional journalist acts no longer as an institutionalized “gatekeeper” who measures and selects information for publication in newspapers or television. With this tremendous growth, these platforms allow both citizens and politicians to participate in political discussions or to share political content publicly. Furthermore, it is

argued that from the perspective of politicians and political parties it is important to actively join social media based political communication, in particular during election campaigns. Already, U.S. politicians are said to have a leading role in this regard with the most prominent example of Barack Obama being able to successfully employ social media in his last election campaign (Wattal et al. 2010).

What is Social Media?

Social Medias or social media websites can be grouped as Social Networking sites, Social Bookmarking websites, and social news websites, Social Photo and Video Sharing and Wikis. Most of us know social media from its different tools and communities. Facebook, MySpace, YouTube, Flickr and Wikipedia are the most famous. The tools of social media – we can also call them “Web 2.0” tools – developed quickly, and new tools, functions, and services are born every day.

Further social media are new information network and information technology using a form of communication utilizing interactive and user-produced content and interpersonal relationships are created and maintained. Typical social media network services could be content sharing, web communities, and Internet forums. In these media at least five major features are easy to identify:

1. Social networking and social interaction
2. Participation
3. The use of different providers (e.g. search engines, blog spaces, etc.)
4. Openness

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5. Collaboration (between both users and user groups).

Some examples of the different ways in which social media distribute user content are: Social networks like face book, Google+, MySpace and LinkedIn; Media products like YouTube, flicker and slide share; Blog services like word press, blogger, twitter information creator; and community like Wikipedia and wiki-space.

The Background Study

The new information and communication technology (ICT) and political issues have been analyzed and documented (Davis & Owen 1998; Davis 1999; Rommele 2003; Chadwick 2006). Originating from the disciplines of political science, communication and sociology, studies focus on the impact of Internet access on voting (Tolbert & McNeal 2003), the use of websites to reach voters (Jansen 2004; Foot & Schneider 2006), the role of the Internet as a medium for political communication during election campaigns (Stieglitz & Dang-Xuan 2012a; Kilinenberg & Perrin 2000), visions of digital democracy and the role of new media (Hacker 2002; Howard 2006; Papacharissi 2002; Tewksbury 2006).

In general, literature reveals different views on the role of the Internet in politics. West (2005) takes an intermediate position by suggesting that slow but steady incremental changes become significant as these changes accumulate over time. Further, Bimber and Davis (2003) argue that the role of the Internet is supplemental rather than to displace traditional media. In recent years, the rise of Web 2.0 technologies (O'Reilly 2005; Sester et al. 2006; McAfee 2005) has further increased the relevance of the Internet for political communication.

The potentials of SNSs, blogs, microblogging (in particular, Twitter), wikis, as social software (Bächle 2006; O'Reilly 2005; Green & Pearson 2005, Stieglitz & Dang-Xuan 2012b) appear to be most promising in political context as social software can be an enabler for more participation and democracy. Creighton (2005) defines public participation as the process by which public concerns, needs and values

are incorporated into governmental and corporate decision making.

The so-called "e-participation" focuses not only on this process but also on using the Internet as an additional or exclusive instrument to create dialogues between the elected and the electorate. Related to this, Karpf (2009) introduces the notion of "Politics 2.0," which can be understood as the harnessing of the Internet's lowered transaction costs and its condition of information abundance, toward the goal of building more participatory, interactive political institutions.

There is a huge research focusing on the role of Web 2.0 technologies in political election campaigns. The recent U.S. presidential campaign in 2008 has shown that Web 2.0 has become an important tool for political communication and persuasion (Towner et al. 2011; Hoffner & Rehkoff 2011). Especially young people were inspired to political topics after getting in touch with them by using social software as the communication platform (Chen 2009; Kushin & Kitchener 2009).

Wattal et al. (2010) investigate the contingent impact of related Web 2.0 technologies on the campaign process. Their results show that in particular the blogosphere can influence the campaign process and the election outcomes. They also argue that information systems as a discipline has an important role to play in understanding e-politics.

Use of Social Networking Sites in India

India is changing and developing at an incredible pace and making use of information communication technologies for economic development, educational and social change. New information communications technologies and other new media technologies are finding their way deeper into the fabric of Indian life. In the Indian electoral process new media campaigns have become more significant, and are being extensively used by political parties, candidates and citizens to create awareness and garner support, those involved in this process in the country are increasingly stated to use web 2.0 tools of communication to reach voters, generating awareness among the voters in India.

The best example of social networking is that the US presidential elections and extensive use of online media by Barack Obama and his success. For the last three years, Indian Internet penetration is very high compared to United States. The parties and candidate are effectively using these online tools to reach supporters, defend the attacks from opponents, and communicate with the voters.

Asia is the largest growing Continent when it comes to increase in the use and access of new media users across the world. Compared to other countries, the new media users' growing rate is 15% per annum in Asia. This clearly shows the Asian nations' role in the growth of the users of new medium. The two major countries, namely China and India are important contributors to this growth with over more than 500 million subscribers. New media is attracting more and more attention of new generation not only for searching for information and communications with friends and family but also for the purposes of involving in political process.

A report entitled "Social Media in India – 2012" released by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) in February 2013 throws up interesting findings.

1. The IAMAI report places the number of social media users in Urban India at 62 Million (Mn) by December 2012. The same report estimates that the number of social media users will top 66 million by June 2013. It is logical, therefore, that by the time elections to the 16th Lok Sabha are held in mid-2014, the numbers would be even higher, possibly closer to 80 million if the trend holds on. It is also likely that the 25 million-strong Indian NRI community who now have voting rights would follow elections more closely even if they are not able to be physically present in India to be able to cast their vote, they can be a big influencer too. After all, they are considerably active on social media.
2. The IAMAI report also highlights that Facebook is the leading website accessed by all social media users, with as many as 97% of them registering a presence on Facebook. The study also finds that next to e-mail, social media usage

is the biggest reason for people to connect to the Internet. It is also significant to note that people use social media 7 days a week.

3. A third factor of significant relevance from the point of view of this study is the revelation in the IAMAI report that social media usage is spreading fast in areas other than the top eight Indian metros. One third of the social media users, as the study reveals, are residents of smaller towns with population of under-500000. Even more significant is the fact that a quarter of social media users are residents of towns with a population less than 200000.

Use of Social Networking Sites in Indian Politics

Indian politics is on the cusp of a revolution led by web-based media users. At a very conservative estimate, the Web-based media users are shaping the Indian politics. The adoption of these new forms of communication tools is determined by the new media users making them the newest voters. In recent elections, the candidates and political parties have extensively used and depended on, to reach voters, through the use of web-based media like social media, such as social networks for campaigns.

In India, people are adopting and using web-based media communication to stay in touch with political events. Manipulation, wrong information favoritism, negligence to reach unreached population and bias are very much in mainstream Indian media. It is in this context the web-based media has become significant, allowing established and aspiring politicians to bypass the traditional mass media to convey their opinion, or to hear directly from public.

The media is very essential to democracy and a democratic election is impossible without media. A free and fair election is not only about the freedom to vote and the knowledge of how to cast a vote, but also about a participatory process where voters engage in public debate and share adequate information about the parties, policies and the candidates. The participatory process is very effective in web-based media system; here is how the peoples can adopt new technologies to diffuse the information on candidates and political party's

ideologies. The use of web-based media and adoption of new technologies either by individuals or parties acts as a crucial change-agent in the electoral process. The web media has proven to be one of the most dynamic phenomena of our times, with its deep impact on political system.

Almost all other political parties and candidates have extensively used web media in race with the BJP, but the strategies were different. Obama campaign used web media to create a large volunteer base and reach out every person to get the vote out, but in the context of India BJP well planned to convert its support base into votes. It was team-work and to reach the new voters they depended on web-based media. The success of BJP largely depended on Internet or web-based media to reach out the target electorate.

In India, around 65 percent total voting population is 18-35 years of age. Youth votes are those who fall in the age group of 18-35. This means that 378 million or more out of a total 814.5 million people eligible to vote in 2014 general elections. Many scholars believe that this is a huge number and youth always are a crucial target for the success of any political party in India. Nearly 51 percent of male voters and 49 percent female voters are in younger generation. More than 46 percent youth voters are from urban centers and well-connected with web media.

All political parties in India are relying more and more on web-based media to attract new generation of young voters. It clearly shows that parties and candidates are trying to depend and ride digital wave by conducting workshops to teach leaders and foot soldiers to improve engagement on websites on web media such as social networks and social media. The country of 1.25 billion people with 814.5 million voters was having 234million Internet users as of Feb 2014 and use and rise of web-based media grew about 80 million or more by end-of Feb 2014.

It is clearly evident that the web media is helping almost all political parties as an 'accelerator' in conveying their messages to the public. The web media of Facebook, Twitter, Google, and other most rated social networks have emerged as major

players in the last 16th Lok Sabha general elections in India. Political parties and candidates have started competing with each other in breaking the news, spreading their message through these outlets, in addition to those via the traditional media.

The parliamentary general election of 2014 has witnessed web media as a new election battleground for all political parties, especially the BJP. In February 2014, Modi appeared on a giant screen across tea stalls in the country, with a beloved Indian staple in his hand-a cup of tea. This was BJP's discussion over tea campaign, where satellite and mobile technologies were used to host live interaction with people that too youths.

This shows that the flood of online political campaigning, the part of BJP's strategy, has been effective and very attractive persuasion tool of communication. Political parties have engaged experts and given them full liberty to manage their web-based media for campaigns, promotions and to create conversations.

Social Networking Sites and Indian Political Parties

In recent times, Indian political landscape has seen two major national parties, Indian National Congress and Bharatiya Janata Party fighting an online political battle. Online propaganda is aggressively used against each other. Each and every medium is used to wage war of words. One tweet leads the other to respond immediately. The most famous tweets from both sides were, BJP calling Rahul Gandhi as 'Pappu' and Congress calling Narinder Modi as 'Feku'. Both the parties tried to downplay the achievements and exaggerated the failures of each other. Both sides claimed to have large number of followers.

With every party having its own website and leaders being active on different media, it makes the citizens feel that they are within their reach. The need to take appointments or wait for them to talk is no longer required. The leaders are accessible at the click of a button.

The Congress Party's new vice president, Rahul Gandhi who is one of the icons of youth in India has

used almost every social medium apart from actual communication to interact with the people and especially the youth. He has used social networking websites like Facebook to talk to people and prominent people as well as common man at the same time. He also writes blogs to share his views with people.

L. K. Advani of Bharatiya Janata Party has his own blog. Shashi Tharoor of Congress Party was one of the first politicians to start tweeting. Narendra Modi, as chief minister of Gujarat, had used all media to interact with people. He has been effectively using social media to disseminate information and remain in touch with the young population of India. He has often quoted that power of social media should be harnessed to involve youth in democratic process. The impact of his approach is visible in Gujarat elections.

The Top Ten Indian Politicians on Social Networking Site: Facebook

Indian political leaders are now active Social Media users. Our current Prime Minister Narendra Modi used Facebook and Twitter for his election campaign and that also very effectively. There are many other political leaders who are active on Facebook and using it to raise their voice and their viewpoints. Here is the list of top 10 Indian politicians on Facebook having maximum number of Facebook likes on their pages. Politicians very much interact with social media now-a-days and this post shows which of the top 10 politicians gets maximum number of likes on Facebook:

1. Narendra Modi (Total fans: 27, 686, 853)
2. Arvind Kejriwal (Total fans: 6, 130, 494)
3. Vasundhara Raje (Total fans: 3, 661, 574)
4. Rajnath Singh (Total Fans: 3 258 870)
5. Smriti Zubin Irani (Total fans: 30, 97, 981)
6. Dr. Vishvas Kumar (Total fans: 26, 21, 163)
7. Amit Shah (Total Fans: 21, 79, 660)
8. Shivraj Singh Chauhan (Total fans: 20, 57, 439)

9. Arun Jaitley : (Total fans: 17, 90, 575)

10. Sushma Swaraj (Total fans: 17, 59, 359)

Conclusion

India is a multilingual, multiethnic, multicultural and multi-religious country with pluralistic factors for shaping the contours of political behavior. Social media revolution in the Indian political space is real, tangible and accelerating. Though it may not bring in huge changes immediately, but still it will play an important role in creating political awareness, which in itself is a huge step forward for a developing country like India. The paper also observes a strong growth of social media usage by politicians. Furthermore, this study reveals that the politicians are willing to engage more in social media and have the need to stay updated about current political discussions and about their own reputation in social media as well as to detect new trends and identify influential users within different social networks.

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Consumerism and Globalization

Madhu Chauhan*

[Today's world is very different from what it was a century ago. It is changing and even more rapidly than ever before. Driving this change is the continuous evolution of the information technology. Due to the rapid spread of information we are experiencing different social practices from other cultures and from other parts of the world – something we had not experienced before. Perhaps it would suffice that a simple definition would be expansion of one's social and economic practice to another different culture resulting in an adoption or cross-adoption of cultural practices.]

India has a rich resource of managerial and technical skills, and there is good reason to expect that while fulfilling this role of shaping India's economic destiny, they will also participate as partners in the movement towards developing a global consumer society. We are being exhorted to think like global consumers, as corporate consumers of the world charged with the responsibility for our common good and for achieving excellence in all the spheres in individual and collective activity.

Going global is a phenomenon of our time. Globalization is visible in every aspect of consumerism in our life, be it travel, communication, transitional corporations, products or services.

There is continuous change everywhere- whether it is nation's political systems, organizations, consumer needs, or household lives. Businesses and people like consumers associated with it are experiencing the benefits of globalization or threats of staying away from it. However to us in India, globalization should not appear propounded and advocated as *Vasudeva Kutumbakam*, the concept of the universe as one large family. Globalization today is a reality! It has already happened in many countries and is happening in others. The term *Globalization* is beginning to rival sustainability as a superficial level, it refers to the increasing internationalization of economic activity.

Globalization gives only one message – discontinuous change – which means doing away with old,

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conservative patterns, old standards and piecemeal improvements. Information technology and communications are the key enabling factors for the future, global people (consumers as well as managers) must therefore familiarize themselves with these technologies to the extent they are able to identify critical and strategic application possibilities in the ever-changing business practices.

The Effect of Globalization on Society

Globalization is too complex for a mere simple answer. There are also many conflicting views, depending on who is providing the answers. From the capitalistic perception, selling everything and the world is viewed as a huge market and its habitants, its potential consumers. In order for consumers to understand and accept these products, we had to be educated and we see the media is playing the key role in broadcasting the benefits of the products and services. Advertising, media and public relations spearheaded the efforts to announce to consumers that certain products are superior and better.

Globalization has and will have a very deep impact on all the societies and communities. A “capitalist” culture perpetuating ‘*consumerism*’, all this is driven mainly by the desire for material gains – greed, for short. People are beginning to be mere consumers and can be studied to know the spending patterns and behaviors. The effect, our identities with our cultural values are gradually diminishing.

The Effect of Globalization on Families

From the surface, it seems as though globalization has no significant impact on families and that our lives are “normal” in most circumstances. The biggest danger of the globalization is the ignorance of it. Many people are not being totally aware of such a phenomena happening to themselves. The reality is that every single individual is affected in one way or another. For many of us, it is the fascination of a new thing, a new status. Our values are being altered.

In terms of family, we will find family ties getting less and less tight as our roots begin to be cut off, we’ll have to grow new ones, which will be based

upon different values that often clash with the older ones and focus seems to be on external development rather internal growth and personal development of the spirit and soul.

Today, in families where both parents work full time and leave children to the care of maids and child-minders; these parents are totally driven by career advancements. Some do not even see their children more than 2 hours a day. Parents today seem to center on the values outside personal development and this causes the social problems. We need more care and objectivity in parenting which allows one to express oneself from one’s own heart and not what the media tells us. In effect, the process of globalization makes us less and less an individual but more and more a social animal. One of the characteristics of modern day society, driven by the forces of globalization, is the attitude of outcome, speed and convenience.

The Effect of Globalization on Life and Work

Work has played a central role in the life of people for centuries. For most of the people it is their means of gaining the financial support and their primary life activity. However, globalization has rapidly changed the meaning and quality of life. Its effects are far reaching and has already changed the way in which people get prepared for work, obtain work and the way work is performed.

Global Consumer

The 10 mega trends of consumers that will shape 2005

Men are becoming more like women, children want to be teenagers, and we’re all spending more time in our homes. According to market analysts, the future of how and what we buy will be shaped by shifting consumer values.

1. Age Complexity: Children are becoming teenagers before reaching their teens. Manufacturers are developing children’s products with cool teen attributes. To confuse matters, adults are behaving more like the

- teenagers, playing computer games, reading literature and wearing young clothes.
2. **Gender Complexity:** Traditional distinctions between men and women have moved into many traditionally 'male' employment areas and are earning more. There are also more women entering tertiary education and they are marrying later and staying single.
 3. At the same time, men are becoming more feminized as they take an active role in parenting, become more fashion-oriented and develop beauty regimens, including opting for the plastic surgery.
 4. **Life-Stage Complexity:** There has been a sharp decline in the number of people with a family and rapid growth in people living alone, not getting married or not having children.
 5. **Income-Complexity:** We are curbing our spending in one area so we can splurge in others. This will mean food and drink manufacturers having to supply many people everyday purchases through the growing discount channels.
 6. **Connectivity:** Technology encapsulates many people's increased desire for belonging at the community, national and global levels.
 7. Manufacturers are also tapping into the idea of friendship with more sharable products.
 8. **Individualism:** We want ever more personalization, in the way we live, the marketing we receive, and those adverts about "your inner-self".
 9. **Sensory Experiences:** We are all becoming more tolerant of risk and change and are actively seeking out more intense experiences.
 10. In our every day's lives, consumers are prepared to experiment with new products, discover authentic ethnic foods and try intense flavors such as sour soft drinks, chocolate flavored water etc.
 11. **Convenience:** As the pace of life gets faster still, there will be more multitasking at your desk and on-the-move consumption, and products offering greater convenience to use and storage.
 12. **Health:** People are putting greater value on healthiness such that sales of healthy, distressing and self-medicated products are booming.
- Mankind today is on the threshold of a major transformation to a global society. The world landscape is changing at many levels with the end of the Cold War and increasing awareness to protect our planet. A psychology for a global society appears to be evolving.



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Star Wars

Eddie James Girdner*

The Professor who did strategic security and spent much of his time away from the campus on military bases came to Sucker's office. Professor Wolfram Warburg brought a PhD dissertation of one of his students that he wanted him to read. Professor Stan Sucker would be made a member of the committee to sign off on the work, but on a sort of ex post facto basis. In fact the dissertation had already been approved by Professor Warburg and Sucker was just a cipher to sign his name on the line for approval.

The student, Donald Fuchs, was a full bird, a Colonel in the Air Force at the nearby Air Force Base. The department of political science had established a cozy relationship with the military down in Ashville in recent years that resulted in what was said to be a "windfall" for the university. Now they were riding the gravy train. There was no way such a good deal was going to be threatened by anyone seriously questioning the Colonel and other students from the military base.

Sucker had plenty of material that he wanted to read, other than a dissertation on Star Wars but now he had been drafted. Star Wars or Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) was President Ronald Reagan's pet project. The whole idea was pushed by Edward Teller at Lawrence Livermore Nuclear Laboratories near Berkeley, California. If there was anything that was likely to get under Sucker's skin, it was a dissertation on Star Wars by an Air Force full bird but now it was part of his job to read and approve it. It had already been approved by the Chair, so it was all a formality.

Nevertheless, Sucker had not learned enough about how to go along to get along to completely dispense with his principles, a deadly impulse for one in the

early stages of their academic career. All matters of principle should be dispensed with at least until one had attained tenure. And that was going to take a minimum of five years, even if one was in a tenure track position. That was not even the case.

Sucker had spent a day going through the dissertation. He was rather appalled at the work. It was mostly technical, nuts and bolts. It was doubtful if it was technically feasible. Politically, it was obsolete. The Cold War was on its death-bed. As far as ethical questions were concerned, they were nowhere to be found.

For Sucker, the neoconservative project to build an anti-ballistic missile system was not only futile and a waste of money but dangerous. It might easily lead to nuclear war. What had happened to the old concept of deterrence that had theoretically protected the nation for the last forty years? All of that had now been thrown out the window. It looked like the neocons wanted to have a first strike capability and that was considered to be a dangerous concept.

On the afternoon of the defense, Sucker went to the seminar room. Three other professors were already there. An outside reader, a Sovietologist, Professor John Blank from the History Department, joined them.

The candidate appeared in his uniform. There was a big patch of colorful ribbons down the left side of his uniform. His brass buttons were highly polished and shoes spit shined. Rather they were those glossy plastic pre-shined shoes that one could buy on a military base and never had to be polished.

The professors seemed to be rather over-awed at the military officer it seemed to Sucker. He had not known another student to be treated with such reverence, with such deference. Sucker was rather

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amused. He took the view that, in terms of academia, the officer was no different than any other PhD candidate and so should be treated no differently. Why should he grovel in front of his gaudy panel of ribbons pinned to his blue uniform? In a sense, it did Sucker's soul good to be able to question a military officer about his work. After being in the Navy and suffering the high handedness of officers as an enlisted man, he thought he was rather going to enjoy being on the other end of the stick.

The defense began with Professor Warburg introducing the participants. He effusively welcomed the Colonel. He was to be on display as a creation, a veritable clone, of Warburg himself, who had been grooming him for three years. National security studies were big at southern universities.

The Colonel began to explain his concepts. Sucker watched his hands with amusement as he made large arcs in the air in front of him, cutting the imaginary trajectory of a missile through the air.

God, he must do this in his sleep, Sucker imagined. It was so childish. Was he kidding? We are talking about nuclear war and millions, maybe hundreds of millions dying. For the Colonel, it was just another technical exercise.

Sucker's colleague, an older woman who was an associate professor, started to imitate the Colonel creating her own imaginary trajectories of imaginary missiles. "Oh my God. This guy has really got them by the throat," Sucker was starting to think. They are aping him. Sucker had never been in such a position before to question a PhD candidate in a defense. He would have preferred to hang back and watch how the thing unfolded.

Unfortunately, the lot fell to him to ask the first questions. Sucker wondered if it was just a way to get him out of the way so they could move on to the more substantive issues and quickly nail down the defense. Sucker had the list of questions next to him that he had jotted down while going through the work. He had read quite a lot on the issue but not from a military strategic security angle, mostly ideas of E.P. Thompson, the British anti-war critic.

Sucker thought that it was necessary to ask some fundamental questions, beyond the nuts and bolts mechanics of the operation of Star Wars. Sucker got the nod from Professor Warburg and began.

"Colonel Fuchs," Sucker began, "You make the argument that Star Wars would result in reduced numbers of weapons on both sides of the Cold War. But some have argued that it would actually result in a large increase of weapons, as each side tried to overwhelm the other. How do we know that the numbers of weapons will be reduced with Star Wars?"

The Colonel looked disgusted that he would be asked such an inane question. Wasn't the answer obvious? He calmly reached into his brief case and pulled out a military journal. "The argument is right here," he pointed out. Then he read the conclusion of the author that he had highlighted with a yellow marker, the kind that undergraduate students are never without.

"It is beyond dispute that the number of nuclear weapons deployed can be drastically reduced once Star Wars is in place and operational." For the Colonel, that settled the issue. He put the journal aside and rested his case.

Then Sucker asked: "Colonel, you have asserted that because people have lost faith in Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) and nuclear deterrence, they have come over to supporting the Strategic Defense Initiative. But perhaps this loss in faith in MAD has led many people to stop trusting the experts altogether. What do you think? Why should they trust the experts now, if what they said for forty years has been wrong all along?"

"Oh, I haven't seen anyone on the streets that does not support the Strategic Defense Initiative," the Colonel said. As if he had asked them all, Sucker thought. Sucker wondered if the streets he was referring to were those on the Air Force Base. He just could not think like someone in the military. That was for sure. This was not exactly dealing with the issue.

Next, Sucker asked: "Colonel Fuchs, you have argued that people have started supporting Star

Wars because it addresses the moral issue brought up in the Bishop's letter on nuclear war. But how does it do that? Doesn't the moral issue remain when millions will die if a single nuke gets through the Star Wars shield?"

"Oh, there might be some small moral issues," the Colonel replied, flippantly dismissing Sucker's concern. It seemed that the Colonel was at a loss for an answer and didn't expect to have to answer such a question. And, anyway, he hadn't brought an article addressing this issue. He was simply not concerned with any moral issues. It was surely the height of absurdities to even bring it up from his point of view.

Sucker pushed farther. "Colonel, the famous Bishop's letter linked the arms race with poverty, as weapons procurement uses the nation's social surplus for weapons. They argue that Star Wars would tend to make this much worse. That has been emphasized as a concern of the Bishops in their letter. A point made by General Dwight Eisenhower in his famous speech, by the way, on the military industrial complex.

Professor Fish quickly spoke up disagreeing. But Professor Virginia Schultz came to Sucker's defense that surely there was such a legitimate concern. Perhaps she was feeling bad that Sucker was taking such a beating having all his ideas summarily dismissed. And it was obviously true, in spite of the objection.

"Oh, I don't think the Bishops have linked the building of Star Wars with poverty," the Colonel answered, avoiding the question. But he was clearly wrong. Sucker recalled that they definitely had. It had caught his attention. And, after all, the nuclear shield was going to cost a hell of a lot of billions of dollars. What the hell? He would not press it. If the Colonel could not answer a question he would just dismiss it. No need to push it.

"Well, it seems to me that perhaps there is a contradiction in your argument, Colonel Fuchs," Sucker continued. "On the one hand, you argue that the number of weapons on both sides should be reduced to 2200. That would be a good start.

But that seems to be enough to destroy the world many times over so I am not sure how much safer it would make us. But isn't there a contradiction between reducing the number of nuclear weapons on the one hand and building a whole new costly weapons system on the other? Surely as long as this Cold War psychology persists, namely that the United States has to be on the leading edge in weapons, then the arms race must continue. Maybe what really needs to be deterred is this Cold War psychology. Isn't that the root of the problem?"

The Colonel looked puzzled and claimed that he could not understand the question. Why was there was a contradiction there? In his realist logic, it was like a chess board and moves were being made to defend the country. The rulers were doing what they had to do. Everything cost a lot of money. One new system after another sucked massive appropriations down the fiscal drain. That was the way the system worked.

In terms of academic protocol, it was clear to all but Sucker that he had already badly gone off track with this line of questioning and should now just shut up. He had already gone too far outside of the bounds of proper academic decorum. To go farther would be even a bigger faux pas and embarrassing. The other professors were hoping that he would have the sense to just wrap it up. But then he asked yet another question. Thinking freely at Sewanee State was clearly out of the question. It was a horrible faux pas.

"Colonel, I was wondering if you had considered that perhaps the historical conditions for the Cold War are vastly different today than in the past? Today revolutionary ideology is not coming from the Soviet Union, which is terribly conservative, but actually from the United States, from Berkeley, Chicago and so on.

Suddenly Professor Fish reacted once again. "Oh no, not Chicago." "Oh, I wasn't referring to the university, necessarily" Sucker said. "There is more freedom to think freely in the United States today. Hasn't the Cold War conflict out-lived its time as a pretext for American global power?"

The Colonel glared at Sucker as if he had suddenly spotted the enemy. He would have loved to have had his finger on the red nuclear button and fired one of his high arcing missiles right at Sucker's traitorous head. What were these missiles for if not to wipe out pinko commies like Sucker?

The professors around the table fairly blushed their embarrassment at Sucker's irreverent faux pas with the big military man. Revolutionary ideas from the US, such nonsense, they were thinking. Only from a few rag-tag anarchists in Berkeley, perhaps, and some wild-eyed leftist professors, like Sucker. It was embarrassing, indeed.

Sucker had shot his wad and shot himself down in a swirling cloud of smoke. He hit the ground hard. There was a deathly silence. Sucker knew he was as good as dead. Later Sucker realized that the last question was a mistake and that he should have actually let it go earlier.

Later, associate professor Schultz apologized to the Colonel that Sucker's questions were peripheral to the dissertation. One was apparently not to ask any questions involving ethics. That was in bad taste in academia.

Professor Fish then took over the questioning and asked: "Colonel, why is it necessary to target the leadership of the Soviet Union?"

A soft ball, an easy question for the Colonel. Everyone knew that those were evil bastards over there, as Casper Weinberger had pointed out. The only good commie was a dead commie. The answer was obvious to everyone.

Professor Schultz then asked the Colonel: "How do we know that the psychology of the Russians is to destroy America?"

The Colonel calmly proceeded to pull a series of books out of his brief case to make his points. He flourished the new issue of Foreign Policy that he wanted to demonstrate that he had just read. He had shaded in certain passages with his new yellow marker just as undergraduates do in their textbooks. He seemed to treat every word as the gospel truth. If it was in print in an article and came from his brief case, then who could question it?

The Colonel began to quote from an article from the Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger to the effect that "If we are prepared to believe Gorbachev, then we have already surrendered the national security of the United States."

What rubbish, Sucker thought. "He has come a long way," the dissertation Chair Professor Warburg asserted, proud of his boy clone.

And he still has some way to go and probably will not get there soon, Sucker thought cynically. But then why does he need to? His career is secure. Sucker thought that as an intelligent individual, if his questions offended the other professors, then it said more about them than anything else. The Colonel did not have any books to hold up to defend himself against Sucker's questions on ethics. It was clear that studying in California had warped Sucker's mind so far from the minds in the South and academia in general, that he was adrift in foreign seas. National Security was clearly not his field.

Professor John Blank kept butting in, quoting lines from the Southern War College Review. After the defense finished, Blank came and said to Sucker: "I would dispute your ideas about revolution in the United States; maybe in London or Paris."

"I was actually thinking about E.P. Thompson, Sucker said. He has argued that the Cold War no longer has any real substance. He says that the Cold War is just about itself. It has become an institution. But now the highly paid military officers are living off the social surplus in the public sector and have vested interests in the perpetuation of the Cold War and military bases and war colleges and Sovietologists. They are, after all, the equivalent of demonologists, it seems to me. That's what they really are. Sucker had now become as a raving maniac, within the academic context. He was clearly out of control.

"The crude Cold War propaganda targets the evil Russians as if they had horns and other evil features. The sophisticated intellectuals just engage in a more subtle form of such propaganda but it is propaganda that serves to keep the system in place, nevertheless.

It is part of the political economy of the Cold War. Perhaps these questions are peripheral to this particular dissertation but they are surely at the heart of the issue.”

Sucker’s questions had clearly gone off the rails in terms of academic protocol. Maybe it was partly Sucker’s reaction to the military brass. He thought that it was ironic that ten years earlier, he was being brow beaten by the military brass for his beliefs in the Navy. Now he had been put in a position to critique the dissertation of an Air Force Colonel. It might have been appropriate to require that the officer address the moral and ethical questions involved in Star Wars. That probably is the reason that I am not in a position to require such a thing, Sucker realized. It was from a totally strategic security point of view. It was only a matter of technology.

He had followed his honest leanings, asking ethical questions. In doing so, he had shot to hell any chance that he would be seriously considered to remain in his present position. The professors would go through the motion of giving him a sort of interview but the fix was clearly already in.

Well, so what, Sucker thought. I think that I am just as good a teacher and scholar as any of the others in this department. They cannot make me bow down and pay obeisance to an Air Force Colonel. They cannot make me grovel in front of him just because he has all those flashy red, yellow, and green ribbons tacked to his lapel. My time of saluting military officers is over.

While Sucker did not fully realize it at the time, any effort that he would make in keeping his present position was completely superfluous. He had blown it completely by bringing up his unorthodox and even radical ideas. There was no place for them in academia, certainly no place for them in the died-in-the-wool political science department at Sewanee State University.

Sucker signed the dissertation with his fountain pen from the People’s Republic of China. It might have been made by Communists but now the country was quickly becoming a capitalist country under Deng Xiaoping. The Cold War was history but nobody in academia seemed to have a clue about this.



The Status of Right to Education in India

Ketki T. Kumaiyan*

[It must be appreciated that the 86th Amendment Act has high expectations and vision for the improvement of elementary education and official statistics too reveal promising results. But this fact cannot be cornered that the ground reality is something different which cannot be adjudged on the surface level of normative results.]

According to Schwartzman “These healthy segments of Indian education do not contradict the fact that the system as a whole is under severe strain, financially and institutionally, and needs to change and adjust for more quality, efficiency and relevance.”¹ The constitutional vision and the statutory exercises cannot be the yardstick to measure the results. They have to be understood in the light of empirical facts and the official statistics

should be cross examined with those that show unbiased reports. This wide chasm between theory and practice in RTE norms has been dealt with in this article.

States’ Fall on EDI Indicators

About six months after the three-year deadline for the schools to meet the RTE standards got over, the annual Education Development Index for 2012-2013² developed by NUEPA has revealed that there is a civilizational difference between the North and the South as the Hindi heartland states continue to

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languish at the bottom of the heap. The Union Territory of Lakshadweep secured the highest EDI value of 0.716, followed by Puducherry 0.696 and Tamil Nadu 0.683, ranking first, second and third, respectively, in terms of their progress in achieving the goals of the RTE Act compared to others³.

The states of Uttar Pradesh (34th), Bihar (30th), West Bengal (31st), Madhya Pradesh (28th) and Rajasthan (25th) continue being perpetual laggards and Madhya Pradesh being the worst performer. It is for the first time that the NUEPA, which periodically releases reports on the progress of school education, has come up with Educational Development Index (EDI) of primary schools of the country.

NGO Right to Education Forum, which conducts an annual survey of the progress of the RTE movement in the country, says: "Although the government has made efforts to meet RTE norms, significant shortcomings remain. There are concerns, specifically, with regard to access, infrastructure, quality and lack of effective community participation."⁴ Harvard economist Lant Pritchett made a revelation that that an average Class 8 student in India would be learning what students learn in Class 1 or 2 in the United States.⁵ Despite a slew of RTE norms that focus on quality and egalitarian education, the conditions are still bleak and unwelcoming.

Social Exclusion becomes the Norm

The Right to Education Act clearly lays out the responsibility of state and local authorities to ensure that poor children and those belonging to disadvantaged groups do not face discrimination or other arbitrary barriers to pursuing and completing their education.⁶ It aims to give all children a fair chance of a good education. But rarely are these definitions of equity and access applied in schools.

Not only do education authorities fail to create conditions conducive to including children from marginalized communities. Teachers are also frequently insensitive to issues of social inclusion and equity. Untouchability is also reported to be practiced against Dalit teachers within schools.⁷

Henri Tiphagne of Tamil Nadu-based NGO People's Watch, said that teachers behave as part of the caste hierarchy and the children emulate them. He told Human Rights Watch, "Right now there's nothing in the code of conduct for teachers on discrimination⁸.

Incidents across the country reveal very disturbing trends of social exclusion and segregation by castes. In Bangalore a Dalit organisation Dalit Samrajya Stapanam Samiti⁹ alleged that children have had locks cut out of their hair to mark out children who were admitted under the Right to Education quota.¹⁰ The most predominant kind of discrimination, which is reported was not being given or allowed to sit on benches. The other overt form of exclusion is not allowing children from these categories to take up leadership roles like that of class monitorship.

A 2012 qualitative study commissioned by the government's flagship education program, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, in six states found exclusionary practices in schools. The study concluded: "In all six states, teachers preferred to focus on 'bright' children who sat in the front rows. This process resulted in a self-perpetuating mechanism leading to exclusion."¹¹

There have been repeated incidents of prejudice against the weaker and the marginalized. Dalit children are sometimes asked to sit separately, and dominant caste children are told by parents to refuse food cooked by a Dalit.¹² Villages inhabited by Dalits face the threat of social boycott and are ostracized on a range of issues, including over issues like the appointment of Dalit cooks and Anganwadi Workers.

In Rajasthan, water pitcher was not available to SC and ST students. Even in some schools in Andhra Pradesh, ST and SC students stayed away from hand pump and waited for others to pour water. The study found that in some schools in Madhya Pradesh, girls from general category and OBC were practicing untouchability, arguing that their parents have asked them to conform to the prevalent social norms.¹³ Another case was established where upper caste parents belonging to the Kambalathu Naicker community in Kammappatti village refused to send

children to school Srivilliputtur Panchayat Union Elementary School because two Dalit women cooked the mid-day meal.¹⁴

Another episode of gross violation of the RTE norms was encountered in Nalasopara. About six parents, who wanted to admit their children in Stann Knowledge Centre's pre-school¹⁵, were advised to admit their children in civic schools as they would not be able to afford English education.

Matin Mujawar, president of Shikshan Hakka Manch,¹⁶ an NGO that works both in Pune city as well as its rural parts said, "In city areas, students have faced a lot of discrimination from schools during admissions, but not so in talukas. In cities, schools checked applications for the parent's profession, their background and other such things which was not even mentioned in the act. There are instances when schools rejected applications for unknown reasons."

Infrastructure Blues

Abysmal figures of infrastructure and school facilities have made a mockery of the celebrated RTE Act. There is still a burgeoning gap between the existing facilities and what needs to be done in the government schools. In Bhopal, 43 toilets for boys and 695 kitchen sheds still have to be constructed in 1191 schools in the district.¹⁷

Saurabh Sharma, founder-member of a Delhi education NGO, JOSH,¹⁸ held that "The toilets are nowhere near the number you actually need. With so many kids using a single toilet, they are almost never clean,"

The Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya at Pooth Kalan, northwest Delhi, has one toilet seat for every 1,669 girls enrolled and Government Girls' Senior Secondary, Burari, has one for every 944. The Urdu-medium SKV at Jafrabad, Zeenat Mahal, has one boys' toilet (or urinal) for every 615 boys.¹⁹

Findings by Voice of People, a civil society organization, has highlighted that: 1. Only 68% schools have separate classrooms for each teacher. 4% schools have single classroom. 2.9% upper primary schools have proper furniture. 3.50%

schools do not have useable toilets. 9% schools have no toilet facility. 4. No drinking water facility in 13% schools. 5. 38% schools have no boundary or fencing, 9% schools have damaged boundary walls. 6. 42% schools have no play ground, 64% lack staff rooms.

7. Merely 8% schools have separate room for library. 8. Only 40% have first aid kit. 9. Pupil-teacher ratio was 1:46 in primary schools and 1:59 in upper primary schools. The ideal ratio is 1:30 and 1:35 for primary and upper primary respectively. 10: There are only 68% and 89% permanent teachers in primary schools and upper primary schools respectively.²⁰

A review of the legislation's implementation by the Right To Education Forum, a civil society collective comprising around 10,000 NGO's and three networks, has shown that while some progress has been made in implementing the act, it is far from adequate. The study report²¹ reveals that 95.2% of schools are not compliant with the complete set of RTE infrastructure indicators, and in 2009-10 only 4.8% of government schools had all infrastructure facilities stipulated under the RTE Act.

School buildings have become a nightmare at some places. In Rangabayalu village, Vishahkahapatnam the school building is just a pucca one among the thatched houses in the village and a place where the villagers store tendu leaves and other agricultural produce. It is also the building where she sleeps to beat the chill during the harsh winter nights²²

It is reported that, in the name of school, there is no table, chair, blackboards or seating arrangements for the students and teachers.²³ The students study in table, verandah, or under the trees.²⁴ Former Governor of Bihar and one of the members of the Rajya Sabha, M. Ram Jois, points out that when the school in the Governor house complex was in a depleted condition what to talk of other schools.

In some areas the infrastructure of primary schools is so ailing that students are forced to sit on the ground as the roof of classrooms can fall anytime. A study conducted by *Times of India* in Kanpur²⁵ found to its surprise that the government primary

school in Vijay Nagar has a single classroom. Classes from I to V are being conducted in it. At a primary school in Parade ground, *TOI* noticed that students have their own seating arrangements, which were in the form of mats.

The JRM 2013 of SSA also points out that many of indicators and the targets are not fully met or need further action. Interestingly, the JRM cities that enrolment overshoot the target, indicating the additional inputs needed in infrastructure as per the increased number of children in school.²⁶ Black board is an essential part of the school learning and it is critical TLM for a school. According to DISE statistics even after three years of implementation of the RTE Act 2009 around 7 % of the schools still do not have functional black boards. The problem is severe in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.²⁷

Teacher Absenteeism

Almost every aspect of RTE implementation is in shambles. An international study of teacher absence in seven low- and middle-income countries, indicated that 25% of all government primary school teachers in India were absent on a typical school day, exceeded only by Uganda (27%).²⁸

A World Bank study in 2004 found that 25% of teachers were absent from school, and only about half were present during unannounced visits to government primary schools. In a shocking case of teacher absenteeism, a teacher named Sangeeta Kashyap in Madhya Pradesh was absent for 23 years of her 24 year career.²⁹

In one instance, the head-teacher was on leave and three of the remaining five teachers who were present were standing in the playground and talking among themselves when the investigators reached the school.³⁰ A recent survey conducted by the Educational Consultants India Limited for the Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry reveals that on an average, teachers of three big states - Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, in primary and upper, were absent for 28 days during an academic year.³¹

According to the survey, out of the 168 days in academic calendar in AP, the teachers were found

absent from school for 68-69 days This is similar to the situation in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh where the teachers were absent for 63-64 days out of 229 days and for 57-58 days out of 214 days, respectively.

“No” to Corporal Punishment Still a Distant Reality

Corporal Punishment is supposed to be banned in the country but only on paper. In yet another brutal incident three students of Vagad Gurukul International School in Vasai, Mumbai were found dead. In May 2013, a Kolkata teacher dragged an eight-year-old boy and reportedly banged his head against the wall. The injured child was neither taken to hospital nor given any first-aid. He died the next day. Another 15-year-old student of Jalpaiguri committed suicide days after his teacher allegedly hit him with a duster after he broke a bench in July 2013.³²

From sexual harassment by teachers, to bullying of dalit and adivasi students, gender-based violence takes many forms in Indian schools, says a recent report by UNESCO. The report, School Related Gender Based Violence (SRGBV) in the Asia-Pacific Region³³, looks at gender-based violence on campus as a critical barrier to the right to education. Calling corporal punishment “near-universal” in India, the report quotes a 2009-2010 National Commission for Protection of Children’s Rights of India study which states only nine of the 6,632 children never faced corporal punishment.

Jayant Jain, president of Forum for Fairness in Education, an NGO, said: “Physical punishment is more rampant in towns and villages while city schools mentally harass students in the name of discipline. Unfortunately, no platform exists in our country where parents can lodge complaints about corporal punishment.

Universal Enrollment Still A Farce

Another area of concern is the high dropout rates which need to be bridled. Drop outs account for 65% in this category and mostly in the case it is to be found in the case of Schedule Castes, Schedule Tribes and Muslims.³⁴ More needs to be done and

is evident from the fact that an estimated 6.04 million children in the age group 6-13 still remain out of school (as per the Review Report by HRD ministry, 2014)³⁵ Andhra Pradesh³⁶ reports one of the highest numbers of school dropouts among girls. If the net enrolment rate of girls in primary education is 96%, it gradually dips to 60% in secondary education.

Most states have defined a “dropout” in their rules, but the definition varies from state to state. In Andhra Pradesh, for instance, the government rules state that an elementary school student absent for more than one month is to be considered out of school³⁷ In Karnataka, to sooner identify a child at risk, the definition of “dropout” has changed from a child absent from school for 60 days to seven days without taking leave of absence.³⁸

However, there are no clear guidelines on how the authorities should take remedial action to bring the children who have dropped out back in school. If a student’s name is removed from registers because of prolonged absence, there is no clarity about a re-admission.

RTE forum, A Collective of Education Networks and Civil Society Organizations³⁹ in its stocktaking report on RTE showed that migrant children remain the nowhere kids: nearly 41 % schools do not include them in the mapping process. The nomadic children’s plight is worse than that of migrant children. Just 3.7 % schools include them in child mapping.

Right To education pledges to include the physically disabled in mainstream schooling. However, here too it was unable to make the grade. A study was carried out by National RTE forum member Aarth-Astha in Delhi along with Sparc-India from Uttar Pradesh and Aaina from Odisha⁴⁰, on the inclusion of children with disabilities in the. It was found that in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh, though entitled, many children with disabilities were not given transport to access school. In Odisha, out of the 50 school going children studied, only 10 were provided an escort allowance which encouraged them to take the child to school. However, parents of children who were under the home-based education programme complained that teachers did not show up at their homes.

In order to check drop rates under the RTE Act ,the school management committees (SMC) were to be but many schools have yet to even establish these committees. Data collected for 2011-2012 found that only 68 percent of schools nationwide had constituted such committees; in Uttar Pradesh, only 56 percent had done so.⁴¹

Teaching Becomes a Casualty

The target of recruiting professionally trained teachers seems like a far -fetched reality. Implementation is still a struggle on ground. It is reported that in the state of Bihar out of 2,00,000 recruited school teachers even 5% of them were not be called as ‘real ‘ teachers.⁴² All the new appointments in primary schools are of a short-term contract nature; these grossly underpaid teachers are known by different names: Para-teachers, shiksha-mitras, contract teachers, and so on. Speaking on the relevance of para teachers Drèze and Sen⁴³ believe that the contribution of these low-cost schemes so far is uncertain and that it is premature either to applaud or dismiss them. Moreover many of the teachers sub-contracted their jobs⁴⁴ and that there are education mafia and rampant corruption in the school funding and system.⁴⁵

Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the current total sanctioned teacher posts (till 2012-13) in the country were 19.82 lakh while the number recruited was estimated at 12.9 lakh, leaving a vacancy of a whopping 7 lakh against sanctioned posts. To add to the woes, the percentage of teachers without the minimum qualifications has been hovering at approximately 20% for the last four years with no signs of improvement. The training of teachers seems to be a low priority area as of now. According to Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan reports, from 2009 to 2012, only 2% of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan budgets have been spent on teacher training.

A study by RTE forum found that one out of ten ‘teachers’ are those who teach on behalf of government appointed teachers and have not come through the selection process nor have their qualifications been verified by the state education authorities.⁴⁶

Another metric on which the States were tested was the number of days a school functioned. According to the RTE norms, primary schools are supposed to function at least 200 days a year and all other kinds of schools a minimum of 220 days annually. The Study showed that 89 primary schools functioned less than 200 days a year and 228 upper primary schools worked less than 220 days. Thus 317 or nearly 15 % of the schools surveyed worked less than the stipulated norms.

Allocation of Funds Nothing But an Eyewash

Poor allocation of funds has led to the bonsaification of education which has caused damage on many fronts⁴⁷. Educationist and CAFE member Vinod Raina⁴⁸ who was part of drafting the RTE says the cabinet approved 2010 figure had been a total of Rs 2.3 lakh crore for 5 years. On a 65:35 sharing between the Centre and the state, this translates to Rs 34,000 crore each year for the Centre. Yet, right from 2011, the amount allocated has been less than this. Even in 2011-12, the first year of its allocation, the allocation was inadequate being at Rs 21,000 crore. “The figure has been consistently less than what the cabinet had approved,” Raina said adding the current allocation is “not enough for RTE.

The Economic Survey 2012-13, another strategy document of the Government, disclosed that there is hardly any significant improvement in the allocation for education in the Union Budget for 2013-14. For SSA the Union Budget for 2013-14 has allocated only Rs. 27258 crore for SSA, which is just a 6.6 % hike from last year. Total allocation for education to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) still revolves around 3.3 % against the target of 6% set by Kothari Commission in the 1960s. In fact, the Ministry of Human Resource Development had requested an amount to the tune of Rs.1.84 lakh crore for SSA during the Twelfth Five Year Plan⁴⁹ period. The present allocation indicates that the inadequate fund allocation itself will weaken the entire process of RTE Act implementation very badly.

Enrolment Does Not Mean Attendance⁵⁰

Current attendance rates are a more reliable indicator of schooling participation than enrolment

rates. Kingdon⁵¹ notes, while attendance rates are in itself not a guarantee of grade completion or of achieving minimum levels of learning, these are nevertheless highly encouraging trends. Conversely things have changed now as enrolment does not mean attendance.

Almost everywhere, it was found that children’s attendance as noted in the school register was far below the enrolment. Some children are only nominally enrolled; others are enrolled in both government and private schools; and still others attend only irregularly. In a school in a tribal hamlet in Bhabua in Bihar, the school remained closed for three consecutive days as the head-teacher had not come.

Bachpan Bachao Andolan, an NGO, conducted a study across 9 states last year to understand the impact of the Right to Education Act and discovered some disturbing trends. The names of a large number of students were enrolled but they were not in schools.

As a corollary to Enrolment does not mean attendance, another proposition arises that attendance does not mean learning. “Just spending time in school is not enough. “There has to be a significant gain in skills that requires an improvement in the quality of education. This will help countries in the region to reap the full expected returns on their investments and generate gains in productivity and economic growth,” said Philippe Le Houerou, World Bank Vice President for the South Asia Region.⁵²

The report titled *Student Learning in South Asia: Challenges, Opportunities, and Policy Priorities*, by World Bank says: “The fact that one-quarter to one-third of those who graduate from primary school lack basic numeracy and literacy skills that would enable them to further their education, undermines the growth potential and social cohesiveness of the region,”.⁵³

Elite Complex and Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)

Instances have also surfaced where schools unwilling to comply with RTE norm of 25% reservation for

weaker sections misguided the parents from seeking RTE quota. Several schools seem to be either ignorant of RTE clauses or are deliberately misleading parents who are seeking admission for their children. When Chand Pasha, a cook in a hotel in Kottur (Bellary district), tried to admit his daughter in a private school under the 25 per cent quota for underprivileged children⁵⁴ under the Right to Education (RTE) Act, where he was told by the office staff that he has to choose between a seat in a private school and benefits under the Bhagyalakshmi scheme.

During a seminar on “Human Rights and Constitution” Supreme Court Judge Justice V Gopala Gowda observed, “Despite taking the benefits and tax exemptions from the government the educational institutions are not willing to educate poor children under the Right to Education Act.”⁵⁵

In yet another incident of disinclination coupled with power complex a school was found to be evading admissions to the economically weaker sections of the society. It was however brought to book by the Desh Seva Samiti NGO⁵⁶ which filed a complaint with the state education department against MTS Khalsa High School, Goregaon, for allegedly rejecting applications for the 25% quota of economically weaker sections under the Right to Education (RTE) Act on the pretext of non-availability of seats.

In another blatant violation of RTE rules⁵⁷, which state that a child admitted under quota cannot be charged fees, a school in Gauribidanur admitted a child under the RTE with the condition that the parents pay the fees until the school gets reimbursement from the government.

Ineffective Grievance Redress

The Right to Education Act (RTE) lacks a clear and effective grievance redress mechanism. SMCs and local authorities do not have the capacity to receive and address grievances, and state-level mechanisms, such as the state commissions for the protection of child rights, where they exist, are not immediately accessible at the village level. The National Advisory Council’s Working Committee on RTE stated in January 2013: “In most States there continues to

be lack of an operational monitoring, accountability and grievance redress architecture and mechanisms with rules, norms and guidelines specifying how these mechanisms will function.”⁵⁸ Some states—such as Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, and Haryana—have already laid down their own grievance redress guidelines.⁵⁹

This segment has put the RTE Act under scanner. From highlighting the unfair practices in the school to the laggard approach towards education on various fronts, it has been seen that much still needs to be achieved. The 86th amendment cannot be realized completely until and unless the stark contextual realities are considered. The vision that India should become a knowledge power has to follow the 4A Approach⁶⁰ diligently which comprises Availability, Accessibility, Acceptability and Adaptability.

Speaking on the occasion of National Education Day in 2012, the then Union Minister of Human Resource Development Dr. M.M. Pallam Raju aptly said: “India, as we all know, is an emerging economy with a very favourable demographic dividend. If we wish to earn the demographic dividend, then we must provide education and skills to all our youth so that they can develop themselves into human resources, not only for the development of our nation but also for the world.”⁶¹

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Section 66A & Freedom of Speech

Sandeep Chowhan*

[India, in view of increasing trend of globalization, has thought that it is necessary to adopt the Model Law on Electronic Commerce that was resolved by the General Assembly of the United Nations which was originally adopted by United Nations Commission on International Law.]

Nobody knew much about Information Technology Act or its provisions until the recent arrest of two college-going girl students by the police. In recent times, the Act has become more popular all over the country, and came in to the light of the people's perspective and became a debatable issue. The only reason behind this issue is the Section 66A, which was inserted by ITAA in 2008.

The original Information Technology Act, 2000 was renamed as Information Technology (Amendment) Act 2008 by inserting various provisions in accordance with the advancements in the Information Technology over the period. Legislators thought that few more cyber crimes to be brought under the scope of the Act due to increased number and forms of cyber crimes.

Thus, the Act introduced eight cyber crimes in the Amendment Act which attract penal actions under various sections such as; to send offensive messages through a computer or mobile phone (Section 66A), receiving stolen computer resource or communication device (Section 66B), punishment for identify theft (Section 66C), punishment for cheating by impersonation using computer resource (Section 66D), punishment for violating privacy or video voyeurism (Section 66E), Cyber Terrorism (Section 66F), Publishing or transmitting material in electronic form containing sexually explicit Act (Section 67A), and Child pornography (Section 67B).

Among the penal Sections of IT Act, Section 66A is one such penal Section, wherein it is stated that any person who sends through computer or any communicative device of any information, whether

offensive or of menacing character, or sends any information or email that appears to be false, to cause annoyance, inconvenience, danger, obstruction, insult, injury, criminal intimidation, enmity, hatred, to deceive or mislead the addressee or recipient of such message, shall be punished with imprisonment for a maximum of two or three years and with fine.

People from children, youngsters to most of the social activists, are much active and connected on the Social Media. Social media is used much for entertainment and is partly used to provide more awareness on certain social issues and bringing to notice many unknown issues and truth about the actual scenario of India and its society to public and even to other nations. However, we need to admit the fact that, these networks such as Facebook, twitter and blogs are not used for the purpose of good cause, but mostly are used to pass the time as well as to deceive the innocents with false representations.

On the contrary, we have also seen that many cases were filed against the innocent citizens for expressing their views on the political scenarios on twitter, facebook, and blogs, for which the police officers invoke Section 153, 153A and 504 of IPC with Section 66A of the IT Act as a bailable offence. Arresting the innocent for raising voices on various social issues purely amounts to curbing the right to free speech, which is an absolute right of expression in a democratic country where every citizen is guaranteed the freedom of speech under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India.

The intention of the legislators behind providing this fundamental right is to be considered or interpreted in the broader sense, and also to be noted that such

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right can be limited only by the exceptions given there under. According to legislators, this right plays a very important role to criticize the ruling party's errors.

However, Constitution imposed certain reasonable restrictions on usage of free speech in certain issues as specified in clause 2 to 6 which is a duty to follow such restrictions by the citizens. The issues in which freedom of speech of the citizen restricted are integrity and sovereignty of nation, national security issues, public order, decency, morality, contempt of court, incitement to offence, and friendly relationships with foreign states.

The above-stated arrests of many citizens were not made on the basis of their expression on any of the above-cited restricted issues; however, the police invoked other sections of IPC along with IT section 66A. The other Sections of IPC Sections 153 and 153A deal with punishment for the cases registered for incitement to offences such as riots or for provoking communal tension and enmity between the communities, providing 6 months punishment and Section 505 deals with punishment for causing rumors in order to create public disorder, for which 3 years imprisonment can be ordered.

As stated above, in 2012 two Palghar girls, who were college students, were arrested by police for questioning a bandh over a politician's death (bandh was called by Shiva Sena for Late Sri Bal Thackeray's funeral) when by the way of posting on their facebook accounts. This incident had raised a huge uproar over the arrest of these girls and had created a sensation on this issue across the world.

Later Law Minister intervened the matter and sent a circular to all police stations that no arrest should be made in the absence of any written order of SP. This made Ms. Shreya Singhal, a law student who was studying in UK law school to file PIL, challenging Section 66A of the IT Act.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court Bench comprising Justices Mr. J. Chelameshwar and Mr. Rohinton Fali Nariman on March 24, 2015 pronounced the judgement striking down Section 66A in the IT Act based on following reasons:

1. Section 66A has no proximate relationship to public order.
2. Expressions in Section 66A are undefined.
3. Section 66A created an offence which is vague and overbroad, therefore unconstitutional.
4. Section 66A cast so widely that virtually any option on any subject would be covered by it.

Hon'ble Justice Nariman stated that "as citizens of a democratic country, we must realize the importance of giving space to the right to dissent and air views even if they were unpopular and this requires freedom of opinions. While an informed citizenry is a precondition for meaningful governance, open dialogue is of great of importance."

He also stated that Section 66A was offensive to free speech guaranteed under Article 19(1)(a) regulated under Article 19(2). The court accepted that public's right to know is directly affected by Section 66A. Also, the Bench stated that "Section 66A is intended to punish anyone who uses Internet to disseminate any information falling within the sub-clauses of Section 66A. The section makes no distinction between mass dissemination and dissemination to one person.

The Bench noted: "By this verdict, we have retained the right to free speech, the fundamental right guaranteed by the Constitution, which can be limited only by strict exceptions laid down in Article 19(2) to (6).

By striking down the Section 66A, it does not mean that government has no mechanism to regulate the social media publications. The government to regulate online contents may invoke other provisions on IT Act such as Section 69A that provides a three-tier confidential mechanism for blocking. If any person is aggrieved by the social content, he can approach the Nodal Officer in the IT department. Committee of the IT Dept would review the posting and ask to block the posting who posted it. The orders of the IT dept may be challenged in the High Court.

Conclusion

The Supreme Court in its judgement cleared the issue that there is intelligible differentia between the speech on Internet and other mediums of communication and held that the Government was justified in having separate laws to deal with offensive speech on Internet. Bench considered that on Internet every one can air their views and Internet did not exist and operate in an institutional form, and therefore there is need for some mechanism to put checks and balances on this medium.

The verdict of the Supreme Court has been welcomed cheerfully by the social media users and it was appreciated by many global Internet giants like Google as they need not to remove the content after complaints are filed by any party hereafter the pronouncement of this landmark judgement. Also, they are relieved very much because they have to do the content removal only upon any government or court order. Overall, it's a decision to be welcomed warmly. The verdict at last distinguished that Internet is distinct from other media and required suitable laws for its regulations.



Development Administration in Hilly Region of Manipur

S.Hohoi*

[Manipur is located in the north eastern part of India bordering Myanmar. The broad division of the state into the valley and the hilly region is prominent with about 90 per cent of the geographical area in the hills and the remaining portion in the valley. Development of the hilly region of the state, which is a major portion of the state, becomes critical in this whole developmental process of the state. The hilly nature of this large geographical tract and the heterogeneous nature of the people inhabiting this region necessitate a clear view and analysis of the development process that has happened and is happening in this part of the state.]

The developmental constraints are many and at the *same time* the potential for development is immense. Thus, it would be desirable to have an alteration or a creative modification in the working of the conventional administration and incorporate the principles or ideals of development administration into this aspect of administrative functioning.

The developmental constraints are seen mainly in the basic *infrastructural deficits*. These are poorly maintained roads or the absence of roads as is obvious in the conditions of the inter village roads or the absence of such roads especially in the *remotest villages*. There is an inadequate supply of electricity, lack of basic sanitation facilities, lack of supply of drinking water and lack of proper

healthcare facilities as in the inadequate working of the primary health sub-centres (PHSCs) in many of the villages of the hill districts of the state excluding the main towns which house important branches and field offices of public or private sector banks and of the state departments.

Nature of Development Administration

Let us briefly look into the nature and understanding of Development Administration and the universal applicability of the principles or ideals within the context of the hilly region of Manipur. Development Administration is essentially a concept of administration which is action-oriented rather than structure – oriented. Edward Wiedner views Development Administration as “the process of guiding an organization towards the achievement of progressive political, economic and social objectives

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that is authoritatively determined in one manner or another.”

An interesting distinction made by Tarlock Singh between Development and Conventional Administration is observed in the following manner: “In all branches of administration, there is an element of hierarchy and levels of responsibility. But if the lines of authority as they operate in revenue administration or police administration were to prevail in the field of development, it would be extremely difficult to draw the potential knowledge and creative capacities of individuals working at different levels into the general scheme of development. In other words, the very process of development demands a system of open exchange and communication between various levels, so that in a real sense, the gaps caused by hierarchy may be overcome.”

The second distinction between general and development administration is that when there is so much to be done and development embraces a very wide range of activities, the only way to get the work done is to divide it between different agencies. Therefore, various ways have to be searched for achieving coordination between many agencies engaged in allied and complementary tasks. This is the reason why it becomes more difficult to escape boards and committees, and more essential to undertake pre-planning, to have in view a clear scheme for enmeshing diverse activities into a common design and to define responsibilities with a great care.

The third special feature of development administration is that during development, many agencies and institutions which do not belong to the structure of the administration have a vital role to play. Examples of this are cooperative movements, voluntary organizations, institutions for research and teaching and trade unions, etc.

Development Administration is an action-oriented and goal-oriented administration. It is an innovative administration acquiring new skills and ideas and involving a lot of experimentation. It indicates a willingness to take risks in order to encourage change and growth. It emphasizes group

performance and inter-group collaboration rather than individual performance. Along with this, individual roles are continuously changing as structures are shaped and reshaped according to goal requirements.

It involves employing of trained manpower and improving the existing staff using sophisticated aids for decision making and adopting empirical approach to problem solving as well as emphasizing problem finding. It functions in a rapidly changing environment, and also strives to contribute to change the environment itself. Thus, it involves an interdisciplinary campaign looking for the new functions and new dimensions having flexibility, innovativeness, dynamism, participation and goal orientation as its basic elements.

In order to perform more and more diverse developmental functions, within the development administration system as a whole as well as within each organization comprising it, a high degree of division of labour and differentiation takes place to attempt to cope with such functions efficiently and effectively. This trend is further accentuated by the use of modern technologies. Generally for undertaking many types of economic and social functions, the existing departmental organization may be modified and more flexible and autonomous organizations such as companies, commissions, corporations and boards may be set up as the need may arise.

The achievement of goals also requires a lot of innovative ideas and activities which involve a lot of risks. Innovation and change also call for flexibility and adaptability to the changing environment. The system of development administration is required to have the capacity to adapt itself to changing general or contextual environment, and develop meaningful relations with its task environment which comprises other systems or organizations with which it has input-output relations or transactions. The important factor of citizen's participation in the developmental process along with the importance of new techniques and attitudes are the important features of development administration.

Developmental Issues in Hilly Region of Manipur

An important aspect to understand the developmental needs of the hilly region of the state of Manipur is in the understanding of a very primitive form of cultivation known as shifting cultivation which is widely practised out here. In Manipur, vast areas of forests are under shifting cultivation. More than 83 thousand families are reportedly practicing the shifting cultivation or jhumming. The total area under this type of cultivation has gradually increased. The main districts which are largely affected by it are Senapati, Churachandpur, Ukhrul, Tamenglong and Chandel districts of the state.

Let us take a brief look into KasomKhullen, sub-division of Ukhrul District with regard to shifting cultivation. The area of land under shifting or jhumming cultivation is increasing as the population increases and there is no alternative means to replace it. Though there is an increase of cultivation, the yield is decreasing. The cycle of jhumming cultivation is also decreasing compared with that of the olden days. With the population pressure, communities wanting to grow more food have cleared greater chunks of forest lands and returned to the fallow plots much sooner than 10-20 years. The length of the fallow phase between two successive cropping phases has come down to even two to three years in some places. This has resulted in soil degradation; fall in yield, lower returns, and reduction in green cover.

Thus, shifting cultivation which was a predominant mode of cultivation of lands in the past has become unsustainable. It is labeled as 'an extravagant and an unscientific form of land use'. The evil effects of it are devastating and far reaching in degrading the environment and ecology of these regions.

B.K Tiwari, a professor at the North Eastern Hill University (NEHU) Shillong, has defined the modified form of shifting agriculture which got introduced during the past decade with implementation of two development projects. These are Nagaland Environmental Protection and Economic Development (NEPED) in Nagaland and North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project (NERCOMP) in Meghalaya, Manipur and hill districts of Assam. While NEPED

has improved livelihoods through promotion of tree husbandry and cash crops, NERCOMP has done exceptional work in institution building and microfinance. These projects have demonstrated that through multi-pronged external intervention, the productivity of shifting agriculture can be enhanced. Professor Tiwari concludes that the emphasis should be on controlling distortions or retrogressive developments rather than on controlling shifting agriculture itself.

In this aspect of agriculture in the hill areas, the importance of horticulture cannot be undermined. The hill districts are rich in natural resources with the potential to develop horticultural crops which can yield quality products as well as employment to the farmers. Citing for instance, the tasty oranges of Tamenglong district, the tasty passion fruits of Senapati and Churachandpur districts, the beautiful Siroi lily of Ukhrul, the beautiful Dzuko lily of Senapati and the numerous orchid varieties are potential products which can be commercially cultivated for exports.

Scientific approaches in agriculture and horticulture are now developed and also highly trained persons in the respective field who can provide the technical knowhow to the villagers and means to produce profit yielding products from small amount of land are also available. The question is how to enable farmers to gain access to this knowledge. For this, public-private partnership mode in which the governmental agencies partner with private agencies as in the state government joining hands with agricultural and technical institutions and universities like the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Central Agricultural University respectively for the purpose.

New technological inputs in tune with the changing environmental pressures are the need of the hour in order to enhance productivity of crops, quality and sustainable livelihood to the people in this part of the state. This is one important aspect of the process of development administration.

Another very important factor to be noted is the need for the empowerment of village women folks in the developmental process or the much desired

'development administration' in this part of the state. Women folks in these hilly regions represent the diligent workforce in their villages supplementing their family income and even constituting the sole earners in the absence of the men folks.

Let me cite a very interesting study of a village in Ukhrul district called Ngainga for better clarity. The traditional occupations of Tangkhul women revolve around agriculture, which is their main source of sustenance. Nearly every woman knows weaving which she pursues in her spare time. In the past, the products they made were used within the family. Change, however, is sweeping into many villages like Ngainga. Agriculture yield is dropping and the fertility of the soil is decreasing because of overuse, limited land space for cultivation and pressure on land due to an increase in population.

This forces the women to develop alternative means of livelihood. The only other recourse they have is the wealth of their natural resources. They collect mushrooms, black cherries, wild nuts and herbs from the community forest. Few years ago, Ngainga along with other villages in the district were introduced to a project brought to the North-east by the International Food and Agricultural Development (IFAD) organization in collaboration with the Government of India. For the first time funds came directly to the local institutions.

IFAD created a cadre of villagers who went through training programmes in natural resource management. Several positive changes have come to the village through the project. The village now has a drinking water storage facility which has been a blessing to women who had to walk long distances from their hilltop dwellings to fetch water from the lowlands. Water resources are now being protected. Women's self help groups (SHGs) have been formed and are guiding village development. Many families now have a kitchen garden and the occasional sale of vegetables in Ukhrul town has enhanced their earnings. Fish ponds and a garden for the cultivation of local medicinal plants have been started.

The use of the community forest and timber cutting is now strictly regulated. The project also supports

weavers. It has connected them to an exporter who supplies naturally dyed cotton yarn for the weaving of shawls in the traditional Tangkhul designs meant for the European market. They need access to naturally dyed cotton yarn, a link to their customers to understand their requirements and professionally design inputs which retain the unique character of their traditional weaving.

The village also has great potential for organic produce and horticulture. The fruits and vegetables include bananas, plums, pears, wild apples, sugarcane, passion fruit, peaches, drumstick and lemon. Even if production were enhanced, the villagers cannot improve shelf life, find access to packaging materials or easily move their products to markets. Access to cheap transportation and good roads remain primary issues. All these observations have clearly pointed out the important roles played by the villagers especially the women folks constituting self help groups and the role of international agency like the IFAD which is outside the governing system of the state in the developmental process of this region.

Besides the presence of the basic infrastructural deficits of the interior parts of the hilly districts, there also are present potential areas for development in this part of the state. Keeping in mind the abundance of the natural resources and the very intriguing question of what has gone wrong with the developmental processes that have so far been taken up, the underlying causes need to be given a thoughtful analysis.

Local Self Governing Systems at the Grassroots

The administrative systems at the district and the village levels are the primary points of interface between the citizens and the government. It is necessary for these systems to work efficiently and effectively at the grassroots level. The working of the Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) in the hill districts and the Village Authorities assume immense importance.

Dr. S Kipgen, Asst. Professor in his article titled 'Economic Backwardness: The case of tribals in

Manipur' has clearly pointed out important factors relevant to developmental failures. One important factor is the chieftainship factor. Chieftainship is the traditional practice prevailing among the Nagas and the Kukis of the hill districts of the state. It is the main reason behind the preservation and retention of customs and traditions. The institution served as the court of justice where cases are settled as per the customary laws.

It is seen that the tribal chiefs being the sole owner of the land enjoy unlimited power. He has made a distinction between the traditional chieftainship of the Nagas and the Kukis. The Naga traditional system is quite similar to that of the system practised in Nagaland. There is village authority Khullakpa which is headed by the traditional chief. If the traditional chief is unable to perform his functions, there will be an elected headman. He will perform all the administrative and other functions concerning the village.

Land is owned by the community at large and decisions on its apportionment are taken by the authority. However, the village authorities in the case of the Kukis exist for namesake. They are hotchpotch authorities appointed and dismissed according to the whims and fancies of the chief. The chieftainship system has become highly corrupted. With the coming up of many developmental schemes in the hill districts, there also emerge new Kuki chiefs establishing new villages without the presence of actual villagers in the said villages.

Another important factor is the absence of the individual ownership of the land. The villagers are landless even though he has an annual lease for jhumming purposes. Since many villages have no permanent ownership of land, he has no sense of belonging to it. He cultivates the land but the land does not belong to him. Under the chieftainship system, a tribal village cannot develop a piece of land for the purpose of permanent cultivation. This type of practice affects the will to improve the land. It also offers no incentive.

As such credit facilities and other financial assistance either from the government or from other financial

institution is hard to come owing to the absence of the individual rights over the land. Thus over the years, it was found that the land ownership is a major hindrance to the socio-economic development of the majority Kukis. Quoting Khamkenthang, who writes, "They (kukis) are bound to be poorer unless the traditional economic system is modified to suit the changing situation."

The age old land ownership system in which the tribal chiefs hold exclusive rights over it no longer holds good for the people in the present society. The traditional system of chieftainship needs to be reformed by doing away with the practices detrimental to the growth and development of the society and retaining those traditional value systems and adopting certain measures for preserving the culture and identity.

Decentralized planning starts at the lowest level which is the village level and planning at this level needs active participation of the people. It is the local people who are aware of the developmental problems and needs. The surveying and the mapping of resources abounding in and around the villages can be carried out efficiently with the help of villagers who are better aware of their surrounding environment.

The field level personnel of the state departments and the developmental agencies, domestic as well as the international ones other than that of the government agencies have to take inputs and suggestions from the local people. Thus, the importance of having a properly functioning village authority assumes importance. The voices of the people need to be openly expressed and their viewpoints need to be taken in by the developmental agencies.

In this respect, there is no place for an authoritative chieftainship in which people's voices are all relegated to the background. Hence, there is an urgent need for the modification in the functioning of the traditional system of governance under the chiefs. The so-called village authorities prevalent in most of the villages have continued to exist under the whims and fancies of the chiefs. A change of

attitudes is desirable on the part of the chiefs as well as the people to bring about a democratic functioning of the much revered village authorities at the level of the village in order to usher in a new era of development. There are many stakeholders in this whole scheme of developmental process. Besides the local people, there are the departmental field officials working at the village, block, the sub division and the district levels.

Building the administrative capacities of the functionaries through training programmes becomes highly important within the context of the changing environment cooperation and coordination both horizontally and vertically are inevitable steps in the developmental process. The Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) at the level of the district, which are the most hyped local level democratic institutions, play important roles of decentralization and development in the hill districts of the state.

Within the council, there is a democratic element as well as the administrative element and the absolute necessity of cooperation and coordination between them is required. The departments like Medical, Agriculture, Public Works department, Veterinary, Education require adequate technical personnel to carry out the desired services. To cater to the changing demands and scenario for instance, the outbreak of swine flu, the variability in rainfall pattern due to climate change phenomena which can affect the productivity of agricultural lands, etc, the technical departments need to be geared to tackle such uncertain environmental changes.

The important role of education in the development of human capital is immeasurable. The primary and the upper primary levels are the basic building platforms for the higher development of the individuals. Not only the government but also the private sector is engaged in this noble endeavour bringing about a healthy competition and a progressive output. The conventional way of functioning of public administration is moving towards major changes and adaptations in order to fulfill the developmental needs of the people. Herein lies the importance of Development Administration.

Conclusion

A multi-pronged strategy for developmental purpose is definitely the need of the hour. The District Administration cannot be solely left to undertake the developmental tasks nor the Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) or the Village Authorities at the village levels. We need concerted efforts by the government at the state, district and the lower levels along with the active participation of the non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil societies and the citizens. The conventional strictly demarcated functions of the administrative system have to give way to flexibility and adaptability in the system of administrative functioning.

Increasing administrative capacity and capabilities, employing means to ensure greater accountability and reducing corruption are part of the administrative development. Also the time has come to give importance to training and the effective use of technology to bring about change in administrative approach as can be seen in the use of information technology to promote national e-governance at the various points of government-citizen interfaces, etc.

A free channel of communication along with feedback among the levels of governing system is an important factor. The increasing application of social audit by citizens' groups in the implementation of rural developmental schemes as in the National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme, etc as an accountability measure is a process worth emulating in these parts of our state.

In short, to achieve developmental goals, it is necessary that there is proper planning, optimum utilization of resources, skilled personnel, accountability, self-reliance and emphasis on technology. At the same time, we need to develop innovativeness, build capabilities, integrity and decentralized decision-making. Thus, the alterations or the modifications of the conventional administrative functioning in tune with the changing environmental scenario to achieve the developmental needs of the hilly regions of the state of Manipur is the call for the application of the principles and the ideas of Development Administration .

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Basic Literacy in India

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[In a country like India literacy is a key for socio-economic progress. It is defined as the ability to identify, understand, interpret, create, communicate, compute and use printed and written materials associated with varying contexts. The earliest system of gurukul declined gradually and in British India a large number of English primary schools grew and correspondingly the literacy rate in India grew from 3.2 per cent in 1881 to 12.2 per cent in 1947.]

In independent India, the provision of universal and compulsory education for all children in the age group of 6-14 was cherished as a priority in the Directive Policy in Article 45 of the Constitution. In a major breakthrough the Parliament passed 86th Amendment Act, 2002 to make elementary education a Fundamental Right for children. In order to provide more funds for education, an education cess of 2 percent was imposed on all direct and indirect central taxes through the Finance Act, 2004. Despite government programmes and efforts, slow increase in literacy rate and wider gender disparity in the literacy rate continued to be an unhealthy sign for literacy prospect in the country.

Modern Meaning of Literacy

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Originally derived from the Latin word “Letter,” literacy is the ability to read and write in at least one language. Literacy is a human right, a tool of personal empowerment and a means for social and human development. The notion of basic literacy is used for the initial learning of reading and writing for adults, who have never been to school, need to go through. In the context the term functional literacy is kept for the level of reading and writing which adults are thought to need in modern complex society.

Use of the term underlines the idea that although people may have basic levels of literacy, they need a different level to operate in their day-to-day lives.¹ In a clearer term it may be said that to acquire literacy is more than to psychologically and mechanically dominate reading and writing techniques. It is to dominate those techniques in terms of consciousness; to understand what one

reads and to write what one understands. It is to communicate graphically.

Acquiring literacy does not involve memorizing sentences, words or syllables-lifeless objects unconnected to an existential universe- but rather an attitude of creation and recreation, a self-transformation, producing a stance of intervention in one's context.² It is at the heart of basic education for all, and essential for eradicating poverty, reducing child mortality, curbing population growth, achieving gender equality and ensuring sustainable development, peace and democracy.

Several international agencies including the International Council for Adult Education, notes literacy as learning to read and write, reading and writing to learn and developing these skills and using them effectively for meeting basic needs.³ Universal access to quality education in developed countries has helped to shape this concept of literacy. According to it true literacy encompasses much more than just basic skill. It includes the ability to analyse things, understand general ideas or terms, use symbols in complex ways, apply theories and perform other necessary life skills, including the ability to engage in the social and economic life of the community.

This broader concept of literacy is also called functional literacy and opposite to it is the basic literacy concept which focuses on acquiring skills, functional literacy deals with how people actually use such skill to live and work in society. Recent research in fields such as sociology, the cognitive sciences, linguistics, anthropology and education have contributed to an even broader, more inclusive view of literacy, called plural literacy.

According to the United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), 'A plural view of literacy recognizes that there are many literacy practices that are embedded in social, political and cultural processes, personal circumstances and socio-economic structures.'⁴ This view of literacy sees it as an evolving set of skills, with less of an emphasis on a fixed set of generic skills, as in basic literacy, or measurable technical and life skills, as in functional literacy.

Similarly, in addition, there are studies of multiple literacy that focus on encouraging students to take meaning from, and to understand how, literacy can help them in different social contexts. However, both these views-plural and multiple are important because they highlight the many different ways we use language in our homes, workplaces, schools, communities and social groups. What we use literacy to do varies in different settings. But the way of defining literacy affects how problems are identified and what is done to solve the problem. For instance, government literacy policies intended to create employment and develop work-related skills reflect a functional view of literacy.⁵

A plural or multiple literacy approach seeks to achieve more communal results. The exclusive use of functional literacy policies would have little impact on multiple or plural literacy objectives-such as better health outcomes, expanded adult learning and more civic engagement. Therefore, the creation of literacy policies needs to address functional and plural/multiple literacy.

In the circumstances we need a radical redefinition of literacy, one that includes recognition of the vital importance that morality plays in shaping literacy. We need a radical redefinition of what it means for society to have all the appearances of literary and yet to abandon the book as its dominant metaphor. We must understand what happens when the computer replaces the book as the prime metaphor for visualizing the self... It is to remember that those who celebrate the intensities and discontinuities of postmodern electronic culture in print write from an advanced literacy. That literacy provides them the profound power of choosing their ideational repertoire.

No such choice or power is available to the illiterate young person subjected to an endless stream of electronic images. In general on the basis of definitions, literacy has got four levels; (i) Below Basic Literacy- It indicates no more than the most simple and concrete literacy skills; (ii) Basic Literacy- It indicates skills necessary to perform simple and everyday literacy activities; (iii) Intermediate Literacy- It indicates skills necessary

to perform moderately challenging literacy activities and (iv) Proficient Literacy- It indicates skills necessary to perform more complex and challenging literacy activities.

Literacy and Globalisation

In today's world literacy is about more than just words and meaning. It is important because the world is rapidly changing. The effects of globalisation and free trade, better communication and information technologies and the rise of societies that use knowledge and information to create wealth, have resulted in a growing demand for highly skilled workers. This global competition for skilled, literate workers explains why literacy has become so important.⁶ It is important because it affects people's lives directly, impacting their chances of employment, level of income, and type of occupation.⁷

Research shows that higher literacy skills can lead to better jobs, increased incomes and greater productivity.⁸ Literacy skills also affect social status, level of political participation, opportunities for cultural expression, health, survival of language, access to social services and opportunity to learn.⁹ Having good literacy skills enhances a country's quality of life by reducing poverty, lowering unemployment, lessening the need for public assistance and encouraging better parenting.¹⁰

Thus, the word "literacy", while at first glance seems to be a term that everyone understands, at the same time, the concept has proved to be both complex and dynamic, continuing to be interpreted and defined in a multiplicity of ways. People's notions of what it means to be literate or illiterate are influenced by academic research, institutional agendas, national context, cultural values and personal experiences. In the academic community, theories of literacy have evolved from those focused solely on changes in individuals to more complex views encompassing the broader social contexts that encourage and enable literacy activities and practices to occur.

As a result of these and other developments, understanding in the international policy community

have expanded too: from viewing literacy as a simple process of acquiring basic cognitive skills, to using these skills in ways that contribute to socio-economic development, to developing the capacity for social awareness and critical reflections as a basis for personal and social change. Besides these international views of literacy, there are a number of regional and national definitions of literacy and most of the countries define literacy as the ability to read and/or write simple statements in either a national or native language.

Literacy in India, as defined in census operations, is the ability to read and write with understanding in any language. A person who can merely read but cannot write is not classified as literate. Any formal education or minimum educational standard is not necessary to be considered literate. The Indian Constitution has recognised the significance of education and literacy for social transformation. The Preamble affirms a determination to secure liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship and equality of status and opportunity. Literacy forms the cornerstone for making the provision of equality of opportunity a reality. The objective specified in the Preamble contains the basic structure of the Constitution, which cannot be amended, and the preamble may be invoked to determine the ambit of Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy.

There are several articles of the Constitution which provide for its citizens better opportunities relating to education- the key vehicle for literacy. In Fundamental Rights, Articles 12, 14, 19, 21, 29 and 30(1) while Articles 39(A), 41, 45, 46, 51A(h) in Directive Principles of State Policy, directly or indirectly ensure the provisions/rights of citizens to get education and literacy. In addition, there have been specific amendments 42nd, 73rd, 74th and 83rd to the Constitution affecting education. These amendments pertain to provisions to enable education being included in the Concurrent List, devolution of powers to the local bodies and making elementary education a Fundamental Right formally.

Similar to UNICEF's definition the Indian government defines literacy as the ability to read

and write for a person aged 7 or above. A nation's literacy rate is determined, to a great degree, by the definition of literacy and the method used to measure it. Countries struggling to achieve higher rates often tend to lower definitional bars which then makes progress that much easier. India is no exception.

However, even in case of India, the definition of literacy as given by our policy makers needs a revision. *The Hindu* wrote, 'Without addition of any values and qualification for employment, mere ability to read and write is not sufficient. We need to channelise more funds on educational sector to improve the quality of education imparted to Indians, not only in terms of technology and employ ability but also moral values which would make them a responsible citizen of India.'¹¹

Education is not all about knowledge of alphabets; it is much more than that. Education, in its true sense, is when people understand the meaning of development and become aware about the important issues. When they become able to grow themselves and can contribute in nation's growth. This requires information and potential to understand the repercussion of events, which come by proper basic education.

'Recently the increment in literacy rate is really good for a developing country. But apparently the definition of being literate in India would not suffice to meet the educational status'.¹² India's literacy rate has increased six times since the end of the British rule from 12% to 74% in 2011 but still India has the world's largest population of illiterates and at the current rate of progress it will take until 2060 for India to achieve universal literacy.

Prospects in India

Literacy rates in India, 1951-2011

Census Year	Persons	Male	Female	Male-Female % in Literacy
1951	18.33	27.16	8.86	18.3
1961	28.3	40.4	15.35	25.05
1971	34.45	45.96	21.97	23.98
1981	43.57	56.38	29.76	26.62

In India the last census was conducted in the year 2011 and among other things, it showed a positive development in female literacy. More number of females has become literate compared to males in the decade 2001-2011. The largest increase in literacy rate was noticed in Dadra Nagar Haveli by 18.6 points- significant growth from 57.6 per cent in 2001 to 76.2 per cent in 2011 and Bihar by 14.8 points- from 47.0 per cent in last census in 2001 to 61.8 percent in 2011. 'The gap between the literacy rate in urban and rural areas is steady declining in every census. In census 2011, the gap stands at 16.3 points. As per latest statistics, the literacy rate among urban population is 84.1 percent while it is 67.8 for rural population.'¹³

Analysing the census data since 1961, the report suggested that the three-fourth of the population of age 7 years and above is literate in the country. Four out of five males and two out of three females in the country are literate. The total population of literate females in the country was 224.2 million and in the past one decade it increased to 328 million showing a significant addition of 104.6 million literate females in the country.

According to the census the total number of children is 164.5 millions about 660.000 more than the number recorded in 2001. The child sex ratio is an indicator of the further trends of sex ratio. The sex ratio in the age group 0-6 years attempts to bring out the recent changes in society in its attitude and outlook towards the girl child.¹⁴ As a result of free education system in the villages, the literacy rate has gone up tremendously, especially among females. The following literacy rate in India from 1951 to 2011 is a full indicative of the analysis given above.

1991	52.21	64.13	39.29	24.84
2001	65.38	75.85	54.16	21.7
2011	74.4	82.14	65.46	16.68

Source: Census of India

Literacy is an instrument of social change. It empowers individuals and communities, generates an awareness of one's own potentialities and inner strengths equipping people to combat oppression, exclusion and discrimination. Since independence literacy has been given due recognition for social and economic development. It is observed that during 1951-2011, female literacy rate has been increased by 6.3 times whereas in case of male, it is just 2 times. The improvement of the literacy rate among both male and female was quite considerable up to 1961 but this pace could not be maintained during 1961-1971.

Still the female literacy rate is 65.46 per cent as against the male literacy rate of 82.14 and we can notice that the per cent of female literacy is 16.68 per cent less than that of male. Thus, in the context it is urgently required to take up a drastic step to bridge the gap between the two by making special arrangement to enhance the education level of females in India.

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Community Participation in Water & Sanitation Management

Prakash S.Kattimani* & Basavaraj Biradar**

[The community needs to take active participation in all aspects of programmes. Their participation is essential in assessing, planning, implementing and evaluating various programmes. The declaration of New Delhi (UNDP/UNICEF-1990) and the Nordic Fresh Water Initiative (1991) recognize that participation and community management are essential elements for the sustainability of rural water and sanitation projects. The concept of community participation has become a standard in development project, including water and sanitation. Different actions and partners interpret it differently according to their knowledge, experience and convenience. Participation means mobilizing people to approve or accept a project which has been planned and designed for them.]

Gustavo de Roux analyses participation from the point of view of the relationship between the state and community in terms of power and classifies it as:

1. Collaboration in which the community is excluded from decision making and its members are subjects to institutional decisions.
2. Joint management which allows community intervention regarding decision, in other words a degree of autonomy.
3. Self management a form of participation that emerges independently within the community and
4. Negotiation seen as the mechanisms and strategies used by the community to fulfill its needs, when water and sanitation project is considered important to establish the type of participation.

Community Participation in Water and Sanitation Sectors

Community participation in the water and sanitation sectors has a long tradition, especially at rural and small communities' level. The tradition has been promoted based on the community's participation

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through division of labour work. We may observe different concept of community participation:

- Contribution of labour and materials to reduce construction costs or to cover the lack of resources.
- Financing of investment and operations with responsibility for the administrative board in the collection of fee to recover investment costs and to support the operation of the system.
- Community organisation in a place with little knowledge and experience taking charge of supplying water and sanitation services.

Community participation in the project cycle

In Colombia the experience with water and sanitation projects has demonstrated that in order to ensure a sense of ownership and the users' responsibility for the facilities, it is necessary to involve the communities in every phase of the project. The following phases include:

- Planning and design
- Management of resources
- Construction of facilities
- Administration
- Operation and maintenance and

- Monitoring and quality control of the services

UNICEF has taken following steps:

- Advocacy with government to prioritize WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) investments.
- Partnerships with private sector on social marketing of soap, chlorine tablets etc.
- Research activities.
- Investment in water supply systems in communities and schools.
- Training and capacity-building in various communities with appropriate means.

By community participation we may understand that user of water supply and sanitation services participates in a project cycle by assuming a responsibility, authority and control over the setting up of the services.

Community : A group of population having common interest for the system.

Responsibility : The community is the owner of the system with the obligations that this implies in activities.

Authority : The community has the legitimate right to make decisions concerning the system by Panchayat system, local-self government etc.

Control : The community has the right to implement its own decisions by involving community members.

Current problems of water supply and sanitation

In most of the programmes of water developed for communities, more than 30 to 45% of infrastructures have been broken down during the conduct of activities. In urban areas a weak operation and maintenance leading to water leakages up to 50% has been reported in developing countries' water networks. Some of the current problems of water supply and sanitation are mentioned below.

- Date related to operation and maintenance.

- Inadequate and ineffective funds.
- Weak system management.
- Inappropriate design of the system.
- Weak profile of operation and maintenance.
- Inadequate laws and policies and multiple responsibilities for the same resource person; and
- Political interference

Agency Responsibilities

The agency is responsible for using its technical expertise and economic advice to guide and train the community. The agency should appoint one or more representatives to coordinate between community and agency. The agency representative's duties, *inter alia*, include:

- Explaining community benefits of water and sanitation improvement.
- Helping the community to organize a local health education programme.
- Leading the local water and sanitation committee in performing local feasibility studies and gathering field data.
- Coordinating water supply and sanitation with other agencies' local development programmes.
- Explaining the importance of community participation in water and sanitation project, especially to community leaders.
- Arranging training for system construction, operation, maintenance and health education for other community members.

Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water

World Health Organisation (WHO) has conducted research and surveys in various countries to find the progress on sanitation and drinking water and in that Indian scenario reveals as follow:

Use of sanitation facilities in India (Percentage of Population)

Undoubtedly, there has been progress since 1990 to 2011 in water supply and sanitation sectors, as can be discerned from above tables; nonetheless, more needs to be done to improve water supply and sanitation facilities. There is increased need for community participation in water and sanitation management. Use of sanitation facilities in India's

rural communities is to be encouraged to mitigate open defecation. There is stark difference in use of sanitation facilities in urban and rural areas and the difference needs to be narrowed down.

Conclusion

Community participation is one of the key factors in sustainability. Participation is strongly influenced by leadership, responsibility, control and community collaboration. Hence, specific tools should be developed to support and encourage community involvement in order to improve the water and sanitation facilities via community participation.

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