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INSIDE

Editorial	
Imperiled Peace!	5
<i>B.K.</i>	
The US Empire at War: The Consequences	7
<i>Eddie J. Girdner</i>	
The India-Russia Relationship and Regional Context	10
<i>Dr. Deepan Das</i>	
Sensation of Financialization	17
<i>Jomo Kwame Sundaram & Dr. Michael Lim Mah Hui</i>	
Anthropo-geographic Inversion: Tireless Othering	19
<i>Anis H. Bajrektarevic</i>	
Rural Development Schemes – An Overview	26
<i>Durlav Borah</i>	
Agriculture Development in Tribal Areas	33
<i>Dipen Saikia</i>	
Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in New UDPs	37
<i>Dr. Meenakshi Khangarot</i>	
Turmeric Cultivation in India	46
<i>Rathod. Kiran & Dr. Khyser Mohd</i>	
Gandhi and Congress on Bhagat Singh's Martyrdom	51
<i>Saurav Kumar Rai</i>	
Status of Tribals in Different States of India	53
<i>Inder Kumar</i>	

Imperiled Peace!

Global peace is severely imperiled in the wake of ongoing trade spar between China and United States, ongoing stand-off between Teheran and Washington, uncertainty over nuclear weapons of North Korea along with host of other factors like new asymmetrical warfare, increasingly easy access to powerful weapons, violent extremism, cybersecurity and adverse impacts of the vagaries of climate change. These and other related developments have led to the emergence of a new security paradigm wherein the diversification of threats and actors portend new challenges to the defence and security of almost all countries. Geopolitical shifts in tandem with globalization and migration in the wake of changing nature and balance of power along with increasing access of individuals to technological and social resources have proved instrumental in catapulting the world's vulnerabilities to new levels and casting adverse impact on global peace and security.

Global outlook for peace is seemingly bleak as per the 2018 Global Peace Index because 2018 has been the fourth successive year having witnessed deterioration in peace level. Peace levels in six of the nine regions in the world have been witnessing deterioration since 2017 and even the so-called most peaceful regions – Europe, North America, Asia-Pacific and South America – have been characterized by deterioration in peace levels. Apart from recording phenomenal increase in battle deaths in conflicts – at a 25-year high – the number of refugees and displaced persons is also at a six-decade high. Interestingly, the Fragile States Index for 2016 makes it discernible that of the 177 countries assessed, some 125 are in the “warning” or “alert” category, including some EU-neighbouring countries. Growing scepter of violence has cost global economy very dearly with the total economic cost estimated to be \$ 14. 76 trillion (PPP) in 2017, equivalent to 12.4% of world GDP. Over the past decade, there has been deterioration in peace level in 61% of the countries of Europe and past three years have witnessed continuous deterioration in all major peace indicators, especially on the intensity of internal conflict and relations with neighbouring countries.

In the aftermath of the withdrawal from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, both Moscow and Washington announced launching of new programmes designed to develop new nuclear-capable missiles, hitherto, banned by the INF Treaty. Both have justified new initiatives on the plea of their strategic disadvantages *vis-à-vis* other nuclear powers, especially China. Another worrisome development has been phenomenal increase in global military expenditure that almost more than doubled since the end of the Cold War. Undoubtedly, global military expenditure has been hovering around \$ 1.7 trillion annually since 2009; nonetheless, in 2017 it stood at \$ 1.74 trillion, recording an increase of 1.1% as compared to 2016. Countries of Asia, Oceania and the Middle East are major importers of arms. China's rapid pace of modernization militarily, technologically and politically and its emergence as an economic powerhouse has started giving the Western world a run for its money. Apart from challenging Western military technological superiority, China is nurturing the ambition of becoming a global naval power. According to broad estimates, China is seemingly reaching near-parity with the West in some capability areas – especially in the air domain – air-to-air domain and air-to-air missiles. Confrontation between the West and China, currently over trade tariffs and 5G, does not bode well for world peace.

Terrorism, civil unrest and transnational organized crime are seen as leading threats to national security and global peace. ISIS or ISIL is globally seen as a serious leading threat to national security and peace albeit with important variations among countries. Curiously, transnational organized crime organizations are estimated to entail whopping budget of \$3 trillion – twice larger than all military budgets combined – and interestingly 60% of the firearms listings are linked to products that originate from the United States. Threats to national security and global peace emanating from the vagaries of climate change have come to dominate international agendas thereby shifting defence and geopolitical paradigms. Broad estimates by the United Nations demonstrate that 40% of the internal conflicts over the past six decades pertained to natural resources. Besides, conflicts pertaining to natural resources and/or environmental degradation are twice as likely to return to violence or become ‘re-wars’ within a short time. There is growing emphasis on the environment-security development nexus with the avowed objective of saving humankind from climatic catastrophe. — BK

The US Empire at War: The Consequences

Eddie J. Girdner* (Retired Professor)

[From all indications, the United States is preparing for a new war against Iran, using almost exactly the same script that was used to drum up a war against Iraq in 2002 and 2003. Perhaps the officials believe that people will not remember how the neo-conservatives in the George W. Bush Government lied the United States into that war. A new war is apparently being drummed up by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and National Security Adviser, John Bolton. Thousands of additional US troops are being sent to the Middle East in June 2019.]

It is said that President Donald Trump does not want a new war in the Middle East. But with Congressmen in Washington, such as Representative Tom Cotton and others, things may spin out of his control. It seems that nothing is easier for the USA than going to war. The country certainly has a lot of experience at it. The United States of America has been continuously at war now for almost thirty years. Since the US invasion of Iraq in 1991 under George H.W. Bush, the father of George W. Bush the country has been at war. That is twenty-eight years. So, a person younger than thirty years old in the USA has never known their own country to be at peace. Of course, the USA was at war continuously from 1961 to 1975 in Vietnam for fourteen years.

Go back sixty years. Over that time period (1959 till 2019), the USA has been at war for at least forty-two years out of sixty. This does not count all the proxy wars that the USA carried out in Central America, as in Nicaragua and Grenada. Also, Afghanistan, and other countries. Indeed, in many places all across the globe where the US Central Intelligence Agency destabilized governments. This means that a person in the US who is sixty years old has only known eighteen years of peace in his or her lifetime. There is no other country in the world that I can think of that has engaged in so much war over the last sixty years. If the US mission is to preserve the peace in the world, that is a hell of a way to do it. Fighting for peace is like having sex for virginity, as we used to say in the sixties about the Vietnam war. It is still largely true.

But the USA will keep on waging war all over the world. I am confident of that. The officials in Washington will keep on drumming up needless wars as John Bolton and Mike Pompeo are now doing with Iran and Venezuela. So far US efforts in Venezuela have failed, which is good. It seemed, at one point, that US President Donald Trump might end some of the continuous wars and bring some troops home, like he promised to do. But if he was serious about that, he has been defeated by the deep state that insists on keeping the wars going. Trump said that he would get US troops out of Syria a few months ago in 2019, but that did not happen.

The military-industrial-corporate complex wants war profits. They don't need them, but they do want them. The roads, bridges, and other infrastructure in the US are falling into a state of collapse. But the US Government prefers to print money for wars, rather than putting money into fixing the roads and airports. There are many other things besides war that the USA could have done over the last sixty years.

It was trillions of US dollars down the drain in Vietnam. Like Marx said, war is like dumping a portion of the national wealth into the sea. The US lost the war there. After 1975, Vietnam unified, tried socialism for a few years, then began shifting to the successful East Asian Model of state-guided capitalism. This model was followed by Japan, Taiwan, and then China after Deng Xiaoping moved toward state-guided capitalism. The Vietnamese saw that this model was successful, far more than the American

liberal model. Chalmers Johnson on Japan and all that. US economists claimed that the model did not work, but this was wrong as Johnson pointed out in his writings. The model successfully developed the countries of East Asia. China became the great work house of the world with massive exports to the USA.

So, all of that destruction and chaos, the killing of three million Vietnamese and sixty thousand American soldiers in Vietnam, many more wounded, many more suicides of veterans and so on, was completely unnecessary. Except, that is, for the making of war profits. The war did contribute to the development of South Korea, just as the war in Korea in the early 1950s contributed to the development of Japan. When it comes to the war in Iraq, hardly anybody now claims that this war was a good idea. That is, except for a few people like Bolton, Pompeo, Dick Cheney (the former US Vice President) and so on.

And then there is the war in Afghanistan. Don't even mention it. The Taliban were still winning, the last time I checked. But the war goes on now, after about eighteen years. It keeps pumping out war profits for the ruling class in the USA. The US Generals know that the whole thing is a farce, but they have to wait till they retire to tell what is really going on. What a waste on an international scale.

So, I will put it bluntly. It would have been difficult to devise foreign policies more destructive than those followed by the USA over the last sixty years. Destructive of both life in the USA and around the world. That is, if one wanted to have a peaceful world, it takes real talent! But the guys in Washington are not about to let the world down! They can provide new wars. And, of course, every US president has to have his own war. If not, then they are seen as a failure. Remember Jimmy Carter. Poor guy. He never started a war anywhere. So, he was sent back to grow peanuts on his farm in Plains, Georgia.

But he probably saved a lot of people from dying in useless wars. There are many things that the

USA could have done if the country had been a democracy that served the people instead of only the One Percent and US corporations. The USA could have had a wonderful world-standard health care system that was available to the whole population, like most of the developed world has. Even Turkey has guaranteed health care for citizens at a very small cost.

The USA could have had a university system that was free and available to all, like Germany, Slovenia and many other countries. Now university graduates are saddled with debt and cannot find jobs. Some end up leaving the USA to teach in China. Salaries are much smaller in China, but they find themselves a lot better off than they would be in the USA. The US could get rid of the crippling student debt of over one and a half trillion dollars in the USA. This would be a great help to young people trying to start their careers. Not a chance of it ever happening, however.

Surely, providing some benefits for the people was not out of reach for the USA. After all, dollars for the wars have been created out of thin air by the US Federal Reserve and just added to the US debt tab. The USA has not even pretended to pay for any of these multi-trillion-dollar wars. The debt just generates more profits for the bankers. Why not print a little money for social welfare? Not a chance of it ever happening, unfortunately. The US didn't have to pay for the wars because it had the world's reserve country. It just shifted the debt off onto other countries in inflated dollars. So, money was not the problem.

The USA could have built one of the best high-speed rail systems in the world, as France, Japan, China and some other countries have done. It would not be difficult. Much of the USA landmass is relatively flat. The technology exists for building tunnels through mountains. It is old technology. The Chinese or Japanese could have shown them how to do it. Even Turkey has high-speed trains. Now much of the infrastructure in the USA is old and falling into a state of decay. But the US is not doing much to repair the systems, while spending massively on new wars.

People who do not fly in the USA are travelling on the old slow Amtrak trains. Actually, I love them. Personally, I love old, slow trains. But they do not get people anywhere fast. The US needs an alternative to airports and personal cars. People have to drive or fly everywhere to travel. Such travel is difficult for the elderly. High speed rail is the answer, but it would threaten the auto and airline industries. The USA could have had a capitalist economic model that provided good jobs and benefits, like the European model of stakeholder capitalism that allows workers to share the profits. Not a chance of it happening, unfortunately. Wall Street corporate interests are too strong for that under stockholder capitalism.

The USA could have been a great place to live and a model for the whole world. Instead, the politicians in the USA just warn people to be careful or they might end up being just like Europe. Actually, most people would love to be just like Europe, if they only had a clue about the benefits people enjoy in Europe! In the event, the USA missed the boat over the last sixty years. That was the price of being the oligarchy that it is.

Today, the USA is losing the war. Not only in hearts and minds, but in real democracy and social welfare for its people. Just look at the many thousands of homeless young people living in tents in Los Angeles and other places in California. Official figures are way over one-hundred thousand just in California alone. Surely, the scenes of degradation one sees on the streets

of Los Angeles is shameful for a country as rich as the USA. It would be a shame for any country.

The lack of a national health care system in the United States is a national disgrace. One wonders how the officials believe that one can run a country without taking care of the health care needs of the people. It boggles the minds of those in most developed countries, such as Europe. Again, politicians in the US warn Americans to be careful. They could end up being just like those in Europe. This would be funny if it was not so absurd. Some Americans have started leaving the USA for a better life elsewhere and find that they are better off.

Some go to universities free in Europe, such as in Slovenia, Germany or France. Some young Americans find it easier to live well and pay off their student loans by teaching English and other subjects in China. So much for the so-called evils of communism! Americans have started to retire abroad because their small social security checks give them a higher standard of living in Mexico and many other countries than they would have in the USA.

Wall Street and the corporate oligarchs in the USA, on the other hand, are mostly happy. Today, that is obviously the top priority. The US Empire is not yet over, but on the down-side of history. Perhaps that is the bright spot on the horizon. How many more imperialist wars will it take to finally bring down the American Global Empire? That is the historical question.



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The India-Russia Relationship and Regional Context

Dr. Deepan Das*

[In the changing dynamics of international politics set in motion by the end of the Cold War and the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991, there were paradigm shifts in the nature of relations among countries. India and the Russian Federation, however, were soon able to find a new basis for reestablishing their close and friendly relations.]

Within a span of nine years of the end of the Cold War, Indo-Russian relations had evolved into a strategic partnership. This implied a qualitative higher level of relationship reflecting mutual trust and confidence. It was this compatibility of geopolitical and strategic interests that augured well for Indo-Soviet ties in the past, although the context was different, and augurs well now for Indo-Russian ties.

Thus, the regional scenario has been in a state of constant flux. For Indo-Russian relations, the regional context presents not only new challenges to their relationship, but new opportunities as well. In order to analyze India's relations with Russia.

The Regional Context

After the breakup of the Soviet Union, there was uncertainty about the future of India's relations with the Russian Federation. Indian concern was whether the special relations it enjoyed would undergo a change or not. Immediately after the breakup of the Soviet Union, there was a debate even in Russia about its future policy towards South Asia. There was a view that Russian policy should be equidistant, in which both India and Pakistan enjoyed the same emphasis.

Hence, in the early years, Russian policy towards India was one of benign neglect. This phase soon gave way, and in January 1993, during President Yeltsin's visit to India, the earlier treaty was replaced by a new one: The Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation. However, it was with Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's visit to Russia in June 1994 that Indo-Russian ties were put on a firm foundation. "The Moscow Declaration on the Protection of Interests of Pluralist States" signed by India and Russia had become the bedrock of the relations.

The Declaration drew attention not only to the nature of the challenges faced by the two countries, but also focused attention on the source from which this threat emanated for both. It also reiterated support of the signatories for each other's territorial integrity. This is highly important given the fact that India and Russia were battling with these challenges in Kashmir and Chechnya, respectively. In the changed context, it was the space that lay between India and Russia that acquired significance.

Once again, it was the commonality of their geopolitical interests that paved the way for the relationship to become strong and stable. Later, India and Russia backed opposition to the Taliban that had crystallized into the Northern Alliance. On the issue of religious extremism and terrorism, India and Russia share many

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commonalities: the source of tension, funding, training, etc. India and Russia wanted a secular Central Asia working towards a democratic setup.

From this perspective, stability and security were important. Instability hampers growth and helps in sustaining extremism and terrorism to an extent. Consequently, India and Russia have established institutional linkages to strengthen this aspect. To date, this commonality has not diminished. Russia views India as a major regional power whose involvement in international politics would make a positive contribution.

From Russia's vantage point, the unfolding developments in Europe, Eurasia, and the energy security issue were reminiscent of the Cold War mindset. Its response was the propagation of the idea of a multipolar world. In this regard, a historic agreement with China on a "Multipolar World and the Formation of a New World Order" was signed in Moscow in April 1997. This was the beginning of a partnership with China. A multipolar world is an order that is just and fair and democratic in which all nations are considered as equals and more importantly, enjoy equal security. It is a world order in which there is no place for hegemony. In this order, the UN would occupy a position of centrality.

On its part, India upheld that the world order was not a unipolar one, as new centers of power and influence were emerging. While acknowledging the need for a multipolar world, the Indian approach was not in terms of blocs, but the need to maintain a balanced and stable world order. Since a unipolar world could lead to instability, there was a need for a balancing force.

Among the other initiatives taken by Russia was the idea of an India- Russia-China strategic triangle, coming together in the interests of the challenges faced by them in the region. During

Primakov's visit to India in December 1998, he proposed at an informal level that India-Russia-China should come together and form a strategic triangle in the interests of peace and stability in the region.

The initial response of India was one of caution that could be explained by the fact that a strategic triangle implied common perceptions and convergence of interests vis-à-vis a common threat. Similarly, China expressed no opinion on this idea. One of the impacts of the events of 9/11 has been that China has developed a positive attitude towards the idea of trilateral cooperation. Possibly, the renewal of Pakistani-American cooperation could have had an impact on Chinese strategic thinking. It was perhaps with the idea of furthering the cause of trilateral cooperation that President Vladimir Putin embarked on his Asian tour by visiting China and later India in December 2002.

In a TV interview, Primakov said, "It is shared interest in maintaining security and stability in Central Asia and Afghanistan that may give flesh and blood to the idea of a Moscow-Beijing-Delhi triangle." The foreign ministers of the three countries had been meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly to discuss issues of common concern at the global and regional level. Issues such as energy security, trade and enhancing contacts had been discussed. In May 2005, the foreign ministers of the three countries had their first full-fledged meeting.

As mentioned before, the turn of the century saw fundamental changes in the region. The Western military presence in Afghanistan and Central Asia radically altered the geopolitical landscape. With the passage of time, Russia was convinced that a multilateral approach was best suited to the evolving situation. Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov in an interview said that multilateral approaches are the best solutions to

global problems and regional conflicts.

With increasing focus on multilateral approaches, a regional grouping that has come into prominence is the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Prior to the formation of the SCO in June 2001, it was known as the Shanghai Five with a limited agenda of maintaining peace and stability on the border and promoting a good neighborly attitude in the region. The Shanghai Five felt the need to transform itself into a regional grouping as the security problems in Central Asia became complicated and a collective approach was necessary.

The SCO's agenda expanded to include security and economic issues. The essence of the SCO lay in peace and good neighborly ties among the countries. The primary concern of China, an active participant of SCO, was the security of its periphery and its Xinjiang region. A declaration by the heads of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (June 7, 2002) stated that the SCO has been established with a view to strengthening mutual trust, friendship and good neighborliness. The objectives of the SCO were combating religious extremism, separatism, and terrorism, and, at the economic level, it meant energizing economic links.

In August 2003, the first multilateral anti-terrorism military exercise was held within the framework of the SCO. At the wider political level, the SCO had expressed its views on issues of international significance. For instance, a statement issued at the end of the St. Petersburg Summit in 2002 reiterated support for the One-China Policy and the principle that "Taiwan is an inalienable part of China." Similarly, in a clear reference to the US-led war in Iraq, it was stated at the Moscow Summit in 2003 that "we have a common stance. There is no alternative to the

UN as a universal organization in an international system."

Although the SCO has emerged as a proactive and dynamic regional grouping, it nevertheless faces certain challenges. A great deal depends on the nature of Russia-China relations, the two most powerful players in SCO. In the opinion of the author, differences among them cannot be discounted. Similarly, as the Russian and Central Asian societies evolve towards democracy and openness, albeit slowly, would their perception of SCO also undergo a change? Moreover, the SCO faces a challenge from the CSTO, of which Russia is an active member. The CSTO also espouses similar objectives. For the present, it seems that the SCO is not likely to expand its membership.

Currently, there are India, Iran, Mongolia and Pakistan as countries with observer status in the SCO. India could play an effective role in the grouping. Firstly, India has a rich experience in multilateral diplomacy. After all, it was the founder of the Non-Aligned Movement. India has also been a member of G-77, South-South Cooperation, etc. Secondly, Indian experience in combating extremism, terrorism and separatism could be useful. Indian membership would certainly make it broad based, and given India's rising profile, would certainly lend weight to the SCO. It appears that for China, the SCO is a tool to engage with Central Asia for the foreseeable future ensuring its core objective of maintaining peace, stability and good neighborliness on its common borders.

The CSTO, a Russian initiative, is also emerging as an active grouping, although its focus appears to be on military and vigorous defense cooperation among the member states. The CSTO is not likely to open its membership to states other than those of the post-Soviet space. As mentioned, this emphasis on multilateralism has

to an extent diluted the regional context of Indo-Russian relations, especially when India is not a full member of these regional groupings. India's role is stymied in this situation. New areas of cooperation have nevertheless emerged. One area is joint cooperation in Central Asia. India and Russia stand to benefit by increasing their involvement in Central Asia.

The systemic transformation in these countries is still incomplete. India-Russia cooperation in broadening the basis of the Central Asian states' economy is probable in the spheres of textiles or textile machinery, light industry, and agriculture in the use of new farming techniques. In addition, Central Asia's industrial base shows that light and food industries are common to all. This is followed by machine building, metal processing and ferrous metallurgy. Indian experience in operating a Soviet type of industrial infrastructure could be useful. At another level, Indian managerial skills can be matched with Russian expertise in upgrading, modernizing and building new enterprises in the medium- and small-scale sector.

Indian and Russian cooperation in the energy sector as well as the defense industries located in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan could be accelerated. India has already invested nearly \$2.7 billion in the Sakhalin project on natural gas. Indian cooperation in building the export pipeline infrastructure holds significant promise.

Secondly, India-Russia cooperation in the developmental activities of Central Asia can be accelerated if they can provide the landlocked countries access to the outside world. In this regard, the North-South Corridor connecting St. Petersburg with Mumbai is the best option. The corridor, a combination of sea, rail, and road routes was planned in 2000 with Russia, Iran, and India agreeing to this ambitious project. Russia has already constructed a container

terminal at Ol'ia and Makhachkala on the Caspian Sea. On July 1, 2003, Kazakhstan also joined the North-South Corridor, and one branch of the corridor now goes to Aktau on the Kazakh side of the Caspian Sea.

From the Russian side, it is much easier and cheaper to provide this Eurasian region with goods from India than from Europe. Although the North-South Corridor is operational, it is not functioning up to the desired capacity. Difficulties need to be resolved. In order to open the Siberian part of Russia, it is necessary to give this isolated region access to the outside world. This is possible if one branch of the Trans-Siberian (transsib) Railway from Omsk Oblast could be connected to Aktau in Kazakhstan. Such a proposition is not too difficult because Aktau is connected by a rail and road network. Kazakhstan, on the issue of a transport corridor, would certainly like to widen its options.

Hence, it could be India-Iran-Kazakhstan and Russia (Omsk Oblast). It could give this region an outlet to the south. A whole new vista for Indian goods could open up not only in Central Asia but in Siberia as well. Landlocked Siberia would also be able to interact with Southeast Asia, Africa, etc. Importantly, the opening of the Siberian region via the North-South Corridor would facilitate Indian labor to go to the region. In Siberia, there is a shortage of labor. Indian labor is known to be efficient and hence could play an important part in the development of Siberia.

The question is how to ensure the smooth functioning of this corridor when the North-South Corridor is operating below capacity. One option could be to have sub-regional cooperation among Russia, Kazakhstan, Iran, and India. If sub-regional cooperation takes off, many of the problems related to the transport corridor could be sorted out. A joint coordination committee

could be set up comprising of members belonging to the four countries. The committee could oversee and address problems such as the harmonization of trans-shipment rules, custom duties, tariffs, etc., and ensure the smooth functioning of the corridor in the interests of all concerned. The physical infrastructure and development that would occur in the process could act as a tool for development and strengthen cooperation.

Bilateral Context

While regional input has played an important role in Indo-Russian relations, the bilateral context is equally substantial. At the political level, both India and Russia have steadfastly supported each other on issues of crucial importance. Russia's position on the Kashmir issue is very close to India's position. Taking note of President Pervez Musharraf's speech of January 12, 2002, a joint statement issued at the end of Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov's visit to India (February 3–4, 2002) said, "Pakistan's commitment can only be judged by the concrete action Pakistan takes on ground." In other words, Russia showed complete understanding of India's position on cross-border terrorism and its reluctance to engage in a dialogue with Pakistan at that time, while on the Chechen issue, India expressed support for the steps taken by Russia to protect its territorial integrity and constitutional order in the rebellious Chechen Republic.

On the question of terrorism and the need to initiate countermeasures, India and Russia had similar views. At an international forum, India and Russia have vigorously championed the need to combat this menace with a greater sense of urgency. The two countries have often reiterated their deep commitment to fighting religious extremism and terrorism. Several institutional linkages have been established to facilitate exchange and sharing of information and advancing the common interests in the best possible way.

The congruence of views between India and Russia had a favorable impact on defense cooperation. This cooperation was put on a firm footing with the landmark Sukhoi deal signed in late 1996. The salutary features of Indo-Russian defense cooperation were its long-term-basis transfer of technology, modernization of existing equipment, and access to the latest equipment, weaponry, etc. in the Russian arsenal. In fact, defense cooperation had gone beyond the main "buyer-seller" syndrome and had moved to the plane of joint design, research, and production. Recently, the chief of the Indian Armed Forces was in Russia to assure the Russians that enhanced interaction with the United States would not lead to a drift towards that country on the question of defense cooperation.

Even on the nuclear issue, Russia showed considerable understanding of the Indian position when the Pokhran-II blasts took place in 1998. Initially, there was disquiet in Russia over the blasts, but later, Russia did not go public in criticizing India. Importantly, it did not impose sanctions. In fact, in June 1998, an agreement for the construction of two 1000-MW reactors at Kundankulam was signed during the visit of the Russian minister for atomic energy, Evgenii Adamov.

The partnership that had acquired a new qualitative character, that of a Strategic Partnership during the visit of Russian President to India in 2000, has virtually institutionalized annual meetings between the Prime Minister of India and the President of Russia and meetings have been held regularly since then. During the 2010 visit of President Dmitry Medvedev, the relationship was elevated to the status of a Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership. So far, eighteen Annual India-Russia Summits have been held since 2000. These have led to personal contacts and close understanding at the highest level between our leaders.

Moscow and New Delhi have institutionalized dialogue mechanisms that report to two leaderships. These are the Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC), co-chaired by the External Affairs Minister of India and the Deputy Prime Minister of Russia and the Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-MTC) co-chaired by the Defense Ministers of both countries. These meetings identify priorities and review cooperation on a regular basis and are key platforms to take our cooperation forward.

Coinciding with the observance of 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations, India participated as Guest Country in the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum-2017. The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi was the Guest of Honour. During this time the 18th Annual Bilateral Summit was also held, which saw the adoption of the historic St. Petersburg Declaration: Vision for the 21st Century, and signing of 12 Agreements in economic and political areas.

In addition to the Annual Summit, 2017 saw visits to Russia by the senior most leadership of India, such as External Affairs Minister, Defence Minister, Finance Minister and National Security Adviser. From the Russian side, two Deputy Prime Ministers have visited India, and more high-level visits are planned till December 2017. India has participated in all major economic forums in Russia including SPIEF, Eastern Economic Forum, Innoprom, Technoprom, IT Forum, Arctic Forum and others.

Bilateral cooperation in the realm of defence has continued to make strides. In 2017, two rounds of the India-Russia Military-Industry Conference were held in March and August in which a large number of companies from Russia and India

participated. India is the largest buyer of Russian military equipment and, at the same time, Russia is India's principal defence partner. The first-ever Tri-Services Exercise, Indra 2017, that India has ever held with any country was held with Russia on 21-29 October 2017 in Vladivostok, in keeping with the close cooperation between our two countries in the defence sector. Several steps are being taken to increase training of officers in each other's Institutions and more military exchanges.

Bilateral trade between India and Russia in 2015 amounted to US\$ 7.83 billion. In 2017 there had been an upward trend in the trade figures. In terms of volume, the present figures do not reflect the strength of the relationship or the potential of our economies, which is immense. Realising this, India has set a target of total trade in goods and services of US\$ 30 billion each way by 2025. In 2016, the top three items of import into India from Russia were precious metals, mineral products and chemicals.

Chemical products, engineering goods and agricultural products have been the largest exports from India to Russia. India ranks fourth in the world in terms of production of generic pharmaceutical products. Both sides are working to expand the trade basket and identify new areas of trade. Moscow and New Delhi are reportedly making progress towards achieving the target of mutual investment of US\$ 15 billion each way by the year 2025.

Russia is an indispensable partner of India in the sphere of nuclear energy and the Russian company Rosatom is building six units of nuclear reactors at the Kudankulam site in Tamil Nadu. Two units are already operational and the next four are in different stages of implementation. This is in line with the "Strategic Vision" document signed in 2014 between President Putin and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

India's recent decision to acquire the much-needed S400 Air Defence Missiles from Russia has evoked reactions from Washington which has warned India that its decision to procure S400 missile system from Russia could invite American sanctions against India. However, India has argued that it is in its national interest to get that missile system. However, negotiations are still in progress by the middle of 2019 in this regard.

Conclusion

It can be said with some degree of certainty that Indo-Russian ties will not witness any drastic fluctuations. As long as core interests continue to coincide, such a possibility is ruled out. Moreover, there is no direct clash of interests to anticipate such an eventuality. The above-mentioned new areas of cooperation would further strengthen the relationship.

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Sensation of Financialization

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[Over recent decades, the scope, size, concentration, power and even the purpose and role of finance have changed so significantly that a new term, financialization, was coined to name this phenomenon. Financialization refers to a process that has not only transformed finance itself, but also, the real economy and society. The transformation goes beyond the quantitative to involve qualitative change as finance becomes dominant, instead of serving the needs of the real economy.]

Financialization involves the growth and transformation of finance such that with its hugely expanded size, scope and concentration, finance now overshadows, dominates and destabilizes the productive economy.

The role and purpose of finance has been qualitatively transformed. Finance used to profit from serving production and trade. Traditionally, financing production involved providing funds for manufacturers to finance production, and for traders to buy and sell.

Financialization, on the other hand, turns every imaginable product or service into financial commodities or services to be traded, often for speculation. Instead of seeking profits by financing the productive economy and trade, finance is now more focused on extracting rents from the economy.

Finance is hegemonic, dominating all of society without appearing to do so, transforming more and more things into financial products and services to be traded and sold. But financialization could not have happened on its own.

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Its nature and pace have been enabled and shaped by ideological, legal, institutional and deliberate policy and regulatory changes. Regulatory authorities, both national and international, can barely keep up with its transformative consequences.

Size matters

One aspect of financialization refers to the size of finance relative to the whole economy, with the financial sector growing faster and securing more profit than other sectors. The simplest and most popular measure of finance uses national income accounts for 'finance, insurance and real estate' (FIRE).

In the US, finance's share of GDP grew from 14% to 21% between 1960 and 2017, while manufacturing's fell from 27% to 11%, and share of trade declined from 17% to 12%. The financial sector is almost twice as large as both trade and manufacturing sectors.

The growth of shadow banking, referring to activities similar to traditional banking undertaken by non-bank financial institutions that are not regulated as banks, is a growing and significant source of credit and accounts for much of the growth of finance.

Such institutions include hedge funds, private equity funds, mortgage lenders, money market funds and insurance companies. These financial institutions, including traditional banks, have used

securitization, ‘off-balance sheet’ derivative positions and leverage to create, manage and trade securities and derivatives, ballooning its business volume.

With heightened concerns about growing financial fragility, more sophisticated measures have been introduced to estimate ‘shadow banking’. Most country-level measures show shadow banking increasing rapidly before, and more worryingly, after the 2008-2009 global financial crisis!

At the same time, finance has also secured the most gains in the US, taking advantage of the sector’s ability to leverage more than non-financial corporations, engaging in financial innovations and trading complex and opaque products netting super profits.

During 1960-2017, finance almost doubled its profits, from 17% to 30% of total domestic corporate profits, while manufacturing’s share shrank by almost two thirds from 49% to 17%.

Jim Reid of Deutsche Bank estimated that that the US financial sector made around US\$1.2 trillion (US\$1,200 billion) in ‘excess profits’, relative to the previous mean, in the decade before the 2008 global financial crisis.

Greater concentration

There are contrasting views of whether bank concentration leads to greater or less financial stability. But size certainly does not guarantee either good banking practices or financial stability.

In fact, the global financial crisis suggests that the “too big to fail” syndrome encouraged moral hazard. Big banks take on excessive risk as they believe they have a safety net — governments will bail them out to prevent a financial system collapse.

Over the years, US banking has become more concentrated. This accelerated with the abolition of the Glass-Steagall Act and its replacement with the Graham-Leah-Bliley Act in 1999 which saw the creation of universal bank behemoths combining commercial and investment banking activities.

The top five banks in 1990 held less than 10% of total bank assets; by 2007, they had 44%. Seven years after the 2008-2009 Global Financial Crisis, the US banking industry is just as concentrated, with the top five banks – JP Morgan Chase, Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Citibank and US Bancorp – holding US\$7 trillion, or 44% of total bank assets.

Meanwhile, asset management is even more concentrated than banking. Together, the ‘Big Three’ – Blackrock, Vanguard and State Street – are the largest shareholders in four-fifths of listed US corporations, managing nearly US\$11 trillion, thrice the worth of global hedge funds. Such asset management relies on banks for leveraged access to financial markets.

Undoubtedly, many regulators have replaced previously weak regulation, which failed to check spreading systemic risk before the 2008-2009 global financial crisis, with new rules. But these do not seem to have effectively checked more recent abusive practices.

“Money is what powers economy” – as professor Anis H. Bajrektarevic writes – “but our blind faith in (constructed) tomorrows and its alleged certainty is what empowers money.” Recent technological, ideological, institutional and political changes have drastically transformed finance, enabling it to penetrate and dominate all spheres of life such that financialization is the new avatar.



Anthropo-geographic Inversion: Tireless Othering

(Imperialism of Imagination – I Part)

Anis H. Bajrektarevic*

[Economic downturn; recession of plans and initiatives; systematically ignored calls for a fiscal and monetary justice for all; €-crisis; Brexit and irredentism in the UK, Spain, Belgium, France, Denmark and Italy; lasting instability in the Euro-Med theatre (debt crisis of the Europe's south – countries scrutinized and ridiculed under the nickname PIGS, coupled with the failed states all over the MENA); terrorism; historic low with Russia along with a historic trans-Atlantic blow with Trump; influx of predominantly Muslim refugees from Levant in numbers and configurations unprecedented since the Second World War exodus; consequential growth of far-right parties who – by peddling reductive messages and comparisons – are exploiting fears of otherness, that are now amplified with already urging labour and social justice concerns; generational unemployment and socio-cultural anxieties, in ricochet of the Sino-US trade wars, while rifting in dilemma to either letting Bolivarism or supporting Monroeism... The very fundamentals of Europe are shaking.]

Strikingly, there is a very little public debate enhanced in Europe about it. What is even more worrying is the fact that any self-assessing questioning of Europe's involvement and past policies in the Middle East, and Europe's East is simply off-agenda. Immaculacy of Brussels and the Atlantic-Central Europe-led EU is unquestionable. Corresponding with realities or complying with a dogma?

One of the leading figures of European Renaissance that grossly inspired European renewal is Dante. Alongside with Petrarca and Boccaccio, he is considered as one of the three fathers of European humanism. Hence, Dante puts Prophet Mohamed to the 8th circle of his famous *Inferno*. The only individuals bellow Mohamed were Judas, Brutus, and Satan. "Islam was seen as the negation of Christianity, as anti-Europe...and Muhammed as an Antichrist in

alliance with the Devil..." as Rana Kabbani noted in her luminary piece *Imperial Fictions*.

However, both religions trace their origins back to Abraham. They both lived in harmony (or at least they successfully cohabitated) for centuries within the MENA proper, notably in Lebanon, Syria Egypt and Iraq. Why then there was no harmonious relationship between Christian Europe and the Middle East? Was Europe opting to demonise the Muslims in order to artificially generate a homogenous European self? No enemy at gate, no unity at home?

This is a story of the past centuries – one may say. Still, absence of any self-reflection on the side of the EU towards its policy in the Middle East today, makes it worth to revisit some of the bleak chapters of European history, and the genesis of its pre-secular and secular thoughts.

Civitas Dei Brussels: Extra Euro-Atlanticum, nulla salus

Europe came to be known as 'Christendom' because its identity was imagined or invented as the Catholic in contradistinction to the Islamic Middle East and to the Eastern (*authentic, true* or Orthodox) Christianity.¹

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The Christianity, of course, originated in the Middle East not in Europe. It was subsequently universalised and, by spreading onto peripheral world, Europeanised by the Balkan-born Roman Emperor – Constantin the Great (*Edicto de Milan*, 313 AD). He himself spent much of his life on Bosphorus and hence, was buried in Asia Minor. Surely, it was by the legal design of this glorious Emperor (fully backed by the Empire’s political elite) that the city of Rome was (re)turned into an administrative periphery, politico-ideological outcast and geostrategic suburbia (by 324 AD). The official seat of Roman Empire including the Roman Senate – by yet another historic edict of 330 AD – became Constantinopolis (Constantinople), and it remained as such until a very end of the Empire, 11 centuries later.

Therefore, the post-Roman/Byzantine inauguration of ‘Christendom’ as a pure Western culture necessitated sustained intellectual acrobatics – starching the truth away from an elementary geography and historical evidence. Such an inversion by which an ideological and geopolitical periphery presents itself as a centre required considerably emasculation – both, physical coercion and imposed narrative over the extensive space and time.²

This *a la card* creation of Catholic Christendom or to say; Western Ummah, served two vital objectives: domestic and external. Both helped solidification of the feudal socio-economic and politico-military system, and based on that of a precolonial European collective identity. Domestically, it served for a coherent sense of selfhood – us vs. them paradigm: Unity, oppression and obedience. *Extra ecclesiam nulla salus* – no salvation outside the church, following the old Roman rational ‘no world beyond *Limes* line’, or the modern one: ‘no prosperity outside the EU’.

Externally, here was found the ‘moral’ narrative – a justifier for the subsequent military voyages and other forms of organized plunders. Such an image build-up, of course, was coupled with a

coercive societal identity – the ‘Dark ages’ for at home, crusaders for abroad.

This is how Europeans started to view the religious conflict as the identifying attribute of the system’s formation, while elsewhere on the globe the interethnic and interreligious coexistence was a traditional *modus operandi* within and among countries.

By the time of Renaissance, Catholic Europe came to realize that, in order to effectively project itself – to physically and/or mentally colonise overseas territories – it needed either coercion (rarefying and assimilation), labour-camp detention (slavery) or final solution (physical extermination). These strategic dilemmas over the instruments to use, influenced and dominated European debates of the time. It brought about the conception of the ‘noble savage’ – who could be assimilated, versus the ‘ignoble savage’ who was destined for either labour detention or final solution. That coercion-exterminate dilemma of ‘soul salvationists’ even culminated within the pre-Westphalian Christian Ummah. It was best epitomised in the famous Valladolid controversy of 1550, by which Juan Ginés de Sepúlveda’s notion of the *ignoble savage* faced off against Bartolomé de Las Casa’s view of the *noble savage*.

In both cases – the claim was offered – the Amero/Afro-Asian Natives deserve salvation as they have a ‘strong desire for it’, but the views differed on whether the Natives’ prone wishes exceeded their mental capacity to receive Christianity. Hence, the debates – which were the roots and origins of the later liberal theories as well as the early precursors to the subsequent *regime change*, *humanitarian intervention* and *preemption* doctrines, and to the (one-sided ultimatum of) *EU Accession criteria* – always presupposed the inferiority (and passivity) of the Natives.

Frankly, this remains a constant behaviour in international relations: E.g. views on Libya differed, as they differ today on Syria. However, what is common to all views is; nobody consults

the local population and considers what they would like for themselves.³

Legitimizing the imperialism of imagination

In a course of subsequent centuries, the notion of final solution underwent through a sophistication, and was eventually replaced by the combination of *cultural conversions/ submissions* (induced submissiveness), politico-military obedience and socio-economic apartheid. A subtle apartheid (that is easy to deny, but hard to prove) is usually better than the brute genocide (which is traceable and easily quantifiable). At the peaks of imperialism, a *noble-ignoble savage* dilemma was embodied in an implicit and explicit racism. Debate was focused on a question whether the nations' inferiority can be remedied through the imperial 'civilizing' mission, with social Darwinists and 'scientific' racists being rather pessimistic, but more forthcoming on possible solutions.⁴

The so-called central dilemma of liberalism – *Is it liberal to impose liberal values on illiberal societies* – was of course only an innocently looking tip of the large iceberg, of the tireless othering. This 'epistemology' was further soft-embedded in the so-called Peter Pan theory with a romanticised image of the *other* as more childishly careless and helpless, than intentionally cruel and barbaric. Foreign remained *other*, but 'became' rather alluring, promiscuous and exotic. Essentially, the East as a child enveloped in innocence, a derided inferior who would never grow up. This, of course, gave rise to various binary categorisations, the *us-vs.-them/ either-or* listings, in order to manufacture rift and hence to facilitate a decisive and long-lasting differentiation between the constructed West and the East.⁵

The West as a constructed male vs. the East as a constructed female. A 'mind-oriented' west vs. a 'body-oriented' east. Phallusoid peninsulas and islands of (Atlantic-Scandinavian) Europe vs. womb-like continental landmass of Afro-Asia; Erective and explosive vs. reflective and

implosive; an Omnipresent (ever seafaring and trading) extroverted male vs. humble, handcrafting, waiting female. Masculine, phallusoid, progressively erected temporal linearity vs. periodic menstrual leakages of femininity in regressive cycles of stagnation. Clearly, anything beyond that was deemed inconsequential.

Physical, material, ideological, active, polarizing, determined vs. metaphysical, spiritual, esoteric, atmospheric, inclusive, holistic. No wonder that all operationalized ideologies originated solely in Europe. What else, since no one ever, but Asians revealed any significant religion to the world.⁶ Ideology penetrates, religion embraces.

Agit-Prop – Non-stop

Gradually, the imperial civilizing mission (*Expansion is a path to Security*) got a new form, often under the watchful care of 'Five Eyes'. It became a moral duty – R2P (*Responsibility to Protect*), as much as the parental duty is to raise their infant child. The handsome, masculine and strong Western *Prince Charming* has one duty – to emancipate his Eastern *Sleeping Beauty*. Giving a 'kiss' meant projecting the western physical military presence, Christianity and commerce.⁷ Who was/is the Eastern *Sleeping Beauty*?

Rudyard Kipling's famous 1899 poem, *The White's Man Burden* offers some answers while describing the Eastern peoples as 'half-devil and half-child'. "The blame of those ye better / The hate of those ye guard" – Kipling warns and instructs; he describes and invites. In his classic novel of 1847, *Tancred – The New Crusade*, much celebrated British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli claims "A Saxon race, protected by an insular position, has stamped its diligent and methodic character of the century. And when a superior race, with a superior idea to Work and Order, advances, its state will be progressive...All is race!"⁸ Quite intellectual acrobatics for Disraeli himself, who was neither Saxon nor Christian.

Over the period, western Catholic missionaries constituted one of the most powerful and influential lobbying voices for this civilizing mission. It was of course weaponisation of religion, a notorious misuse for ideological purposes. Same like today, fanatics then and there, were identified, manipulated and further radicalised, to say 'inspired'. In that time Europe, they would have usually got hired as the AGITPROP – an Ideological police by the predatory elites which hid behind the Feudal European states.

Naturally, the justifications were looked upon in any Biblical narrative. E.g. the re-invoking the Genesis story of Noah's three sons, and interpreting it as the 'duty' of Japheth (Europe) to absorb Shem (Asians) and enslave and colonise Ham or Canaan (Black Africa and Indians of America). Amazingly, according to Genesis ch.9, verse 27: "God shall enlarge Japheth and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem, and Canaan shall be his servant".⁹

(While Europe was to face a holocaust of 30-years War among essentially Rimo-Catholic Christians, "Asian commercial and cosmopolitan cities formed a network of hubs spanning numerous multi-ethnic and multilingual empires" – says Parag Khanna.)

The later Protestant revival infused the next wave of Christian missionaries to force this narrative into the matrix of colonisation as 'willful' implants onto the minds and bodies of overseas peoples. Therefore, James Lorimer and other architects of that-time political and international legal order, divided the world in three segments: civilized White, barbarous Yellow and savage Black. *Yellows* were 'fallen people', inhabiting a *terra infantilis*, bound to civilize (what will later evolve into indirect rule, with a social apartheid in place). The area occupied by the *Blacks*, *Redbones* and *Aborigine* was a 'borderless space', *terra nullius* just to conquer and settle, since the indigenous have no 'birthright' to it (meaning: physical colonisation and direct rule, displacement final solution and genocide).

Even the champion of European rationalism, Max Weber, divinised Europe: "Protestant Reformation and the Protestant ethic it spurred played a key role in facilitating the rise of modern industrial society in Western Europe." Before him, the world's most famous egalitarian, Karl Marx – who saw nations and states not as a statistical reality but as a revolutionary cause – was not so enthusiastic in preaching the proletarian revolution beyond the narrow western world. In Marx's writings, Revolution is reserved for the advanced peoples (that even excludes the eastern European Slavs), and is not meant for those civilisationally behind.

Nevertheless, the unfinished business of 'salvation of the world' came back home; to Europe of the 20th century. Hitler's interpretation of it was: civilized *White* (Arian) – Central Europe; *Yellows* (fated for indirect rule, with 'only' social apartheid in place) – Atlantic and Scandinavian Europe; *Blacks* (whose territory is predestined for a physical colonisation by the superior race upon a decisive final solution and genocide) – all Slavic states of Eastern and Russophone Europe.¹⁰

Indeed, ever since the 18th century on, European notion that 'civilization' was the monopoly of the West, clearly implied that there is no civilization – and therefore, salvation – outside the western model.¹¹ To comply fully with this new myth, the civilizational late comer from the geographic suburbia – actually a remote peninsular northerly extension of the huge Asian continental mass – started calling itself an *Old Continent*. Historian Toynbee calls it "a secularized version of the primitive Western Christian proposition *Nemini salus ... nisi in Ecclesia*." See for yourself how much current debates, sparked by the ongoing refugee crisis, follow the above patters.

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- (Footnotes)**
1. Western animosities towards Russia that are constantly here (with some short-lived exceptions during the Metternich post-Vienna congress period, Bismarck chancellorship and Yeltsin dizzy years) are escaping any rational explanation. The only possible logics to find is if going back to the moment of split of the Christian Church, mid XI century. That is the time when the Roman curia decided to compete with Constantinople by organising

- the invading tribes in Europe for its ‘civilising’ mission (read: geostrategic ends), alongside the parallel process that have started with the Russophones undertaking a similar mission in the norther and north eastern portions of Eurasia. Two parallel ‘civilising’ missions, competing over concept and territories for centuries.
2. Transferring the official seat of the Roman Empire to Bosphorus marked far more than just an event of the peripheral maturity; periphery pressing onto the centre. It meant that – at the peak times of the Milan’s Edict of Constantin the Great – the peripheral power successfully relocated itself closer to the centre; ideologically (metaphysically, religiously) but also geopolitically (physically, geographically). Not to insert itself (like during the subsequent Crusaders), but to transcend. That is a real meaning of the transfer of imperial capital from Rome to Bosphorus once for good. This will be the first and the last such a successful move from Europe, in human history. With this adjustment– past its failed European experiment, Roman Empire returned to its origins; Balkans and the Middle East, which extended the Empire’s life impressively – for over 1,000 years.
 3. For centuries, it follows the same matrix: doctinated/induced inferiority, denouncing, attack, marginalization, passivation, plunder, indirect rule, remote control presence. Or, reduced to a binary code formula: victimisation-criminalisation. Namely: *humanitarian intervention*.
 4. E.g. Cecil Rhodes, the 19th century British businessman and the architect of Apartheid, used to say that to be born an Englishman was to have ‘won first prize in the lottery of life’. He is also remembered of the following: “I contend that we are the first race in the world, and that the more of the world we inhabit the better it is for the human race.” Large part of colonial Africa was called after his name – Rhodesia, until rather recently, 1979.
 5. Small surprise that the 43rd US President (Un) famously claimed: ‘you are either with us or against us’. His father, the 41st US President, viewed the Cold War and summarised its epilogue effectively: ‘We win, they lose’. For the Atlantist’s world all should be Kierkegaardian *either-or*, a binary choice
 6. To this end: Inventive, proactive, scientific, rational, disciplined, self-controlled/self-constraining, sane, sensible, practical, ‘mind-oriented’, independent, and most of all paternal West. The East, of course, was on the opposite side and inferior: imitative, passive, superstitious, lazy, irrational, spontaneous, insane, emotional, exotic, body-oriented, dependent, and above all, child-like. Tall, matured ‘masculinity’ vs. immature and physically underdeveloped ‘femininity’. The masculine phallus of military, industry, technology, shipping and trade that is welcomed, if not heartedly invited, to tap and drill the womb-like dwell of resources, while at the same time seeding the ideological semen of ‘civilization’.
 7. To this very day, most of the so-called Multinational/Cross-continental Trade Pacts are closer to the capitulation agreements (like those that Britain imposed on China after the Opium Wars) than to any fair, balanced and mutually beneficial commercial accords. Their stipulations are regularly kept away from public eyes. When was the last time you have seen one of them publicly available? No wonder, what a popular language of today calls *barriers to trade* are in fact the remaining socio-economic sovereign rights and other rarefied *checks-and-balance* instruments of nation’s well-

being that these Trade Pacts are derogating. “By hook or by crook”– as the *Dutch East India Company* formulated it in its XVII century business model moto.

8. The novel itself is named after the Norman leader of the First European Crusades, that later became the Prince of Galilee, and regent of the satellite Europe’s state on the territory of today’s Syria and Turkey – Antioch.
9. “The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me...” /Mark 14:7-9 (NIV) New International Version/ was a Biblical verse, allegedly spelled out by Jesus from Nazareth. It was among most quoted and misused lines– as to justify Europocentrism, exceptionalism and institutionalisation of inequality which then and there has started its global conquest.
10. To illustrate a centuries-long residual climate of jingoism, later conceptualised and postulated as the European ideology of Biologism, let us quote the III Reich’s Biology schoolbook: “The meaning of all life is struggle. Woe to him who sins against this law. Our Führer reminds us: ‘He who wants to live must fight, and he who does not want to fight in this world of perpetual struggle

does not deserve to live!’ (Mein Kampf, p. 317) Hence, ‘the world does not exist for cowardly nations’. (Mein Kampf, p. 105). “(For the full quote see appendix: *Biology for the Middle School, The 5th Grade Girls; chapter: The Laws of Nature and Humanity, Textbook of 1942*)

11. *The Spirit of Laws* and other writings of Montesquieu were the most decisive influencers on the French revolutionaries, Jacobins and Napoleon himself. In the hands of French revolutionaries, Buonaparte and later his own nephew– Napoleon III, the Montesquieu’s teaching shaped the administrative and legal order of Europe up to this very day. How did Montesquieu see Europe and the world? Well, Montesquieu registered the geographic regularity in prosperity and poverty concentration. His explanation to it was the geography hypothesis: that people in tropical climates tended to be ‘lazy and to lack inquisitiveness.’ Consequently, they didn’t work hard, were not innovative, which ultimately led them to poverty. Montesquieu further speculated that lazy people tended to be ruled by despots – due to their tropical location – a political phenomenon linked with economic failure, and harsh primitive dictatorships.



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Rural Development Schemes – An Overview

Durllav Borah*

[‘Agriculture and rural development’ have been the key mantra for a sustained and long-term economic growth in India. The same is in the sharper focus today with the Government taking keen interest to ensure a comprehensive and visible uplift of this sector through effective implementation of various old and new schemes.]

The Government runs its large-scale rural development schemes mainly through the Ministry of Rural Development, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), and Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). Besides, some autonomous bodies like District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA) and Council for Advancement of People’s Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) are also working in tandem with the Government for a better ‘Rural India’.

Given Below is an over-view of the various schemes of NABARD and KVIC related to the rural development:

Nabard

NABARD was set up with a mission to promote sustainable and equitable agriculture and rural development through effective credit support, related services, institution building and other innovative initiatives. Primarily its objectives are to (i) serve as an apex financing agency; (ii) take measures towards institution building for improving absorptive capacity of the credit delivery system, including monitoring, formulation of rehabilitation schemes, restructuring of credit institutions, training of personnel, etc.; (iii) coordinate the rural financing activities of all institutions engaged in

developmental work at the field level and liaise with Government of India, state governments, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and other national level institutions concerned with policy formulation; and (iv) undertake monitoring and evaluation of projects refinanced by it.

Schemes Available

Investment Credit (Medium and Long Term) Refinance

Special Focus: Refinance on liberal terms for strengthening the rural credit delivery system for the development of North-Eastern region; Guidelines of hi-tech and export-oriented projects in farm and non-farm sectors and set-up Agriculture Development Finance Companies in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka for financing hi-tech/commercial ventures.

Beneficiaries: State Co-operative Agriculture & Rural Development Banks (SCARD-Bs), State Cooperative Banks (SCBs), Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), Commercial Banks (CBs), State Agricultural Development Finance Companies (ADFCs) and Primary Urban Co-operative Banks.

Period of Refinance: 15 years

Quantum of Refinance

In the range of 90 – 100 per cent of the project depending upon the nature of financial institution involved, Region of Project (whether North-eastern region or another region) and category of sector involved.

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Interest on Refinance

6-6.75 per cent (based on the loan size and activity/region).

Production Credit

NABARD provides short-term refinance for various types of production/ marketing/ procurement activities. Different types of refinance available, term of refinance, eligible financial institutions and rate of interests chargeable for that are given in Table 1.

Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)

Beneficiaries: State governments, Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs), Non-governmental

organisations (NGOs) and self-help groups (SHGs).

Activities Covered: Primary schools, primary health centres, village haats, joint forest management, terminal and rural market, Rainwater harvesting, Fish jetties, Mini-hydel and system improvement projects in power sector, Rural drinking water supply scheme, Citizen information centres, Anganwadi centres and Shishu shiksha kendras.

Methodology: All new “project concepts” received are placed before the Projects Sanctioning Committee (PSC) for approval before accepting detailed projects.

Table – 1

Production Credit

Sl.No.	Available to Whom	Activity/Purpose	Rate of Interest (%)
1.	SCBs on behalf of all eligible DCCBs in the form of a consolidated limit	Seasonal Agricultural Operations (SAO)	If level of NPAs is up to 20% then 5.25, otherwise 5.75 SCBs. In North Eastern Region, Jammu & Kashmir and Sikkim the interest will be charged at the rate of 5.25 p.a.
2.	SCBs on behalf of all eligible DCCBs in the form of a consolidated limit	For financing approved short-term agricultural/ allied and marketing activities	6.50
3.	SCBs on behalf of all eligible DCCBs in the form of a consolidated 6.00limit	Marketing of Crops	6.00
4.	SCBs on behalf of all eligible DCCBs in the form of a consolidated limit	Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies (PWCS) for production and marketing of cloth	6.00
5.	State Cooperative Banks	For financing Procurement and Marketing of cloth and Trading in yarn by Apex / Regional Weavers Cooperative Societies.	6.25

6.	Scheduled Commercial Banks	For financing Working Capital requirements of Primary Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Societies (PHWCS)	6.25
7.	State Cooperative Banks /Scheduled Commercial Banks	For financing Working Capital requirements of SHDCs and SHnDCs	6.25
8.	SCBs on behalf of all eligible DCCBs	For financing Working Capital requirements of cottage, Village, small scale primary and Apex Industrial Cooperative Societies	Apex Societies: 6.25 Primary Societies : 6.00
9.	SCBs on behalf of all eligible DCCBs	For financing Working Capital requirements of Labour Contract and Forest Labour Cooperative Societies.	Apex Societies: 6.25 Primary Societies : 6.00
10.	SCBs / DCCBs	For financing Working Capital requirements of Rural Artisans for production and marketing	6.00
11.	SCBs / DCCBs	For financing of collection and Marketing of minor forest produce	Apex Societies: 6.25 Primary Societies : 6.00
12.	SCBs on behalf of DCCBs and RRBs	For financing of Working Capital requirements of Fisheries Societies / fishermen of PACS	5.75
13.	SCBs on behalf of DCCBs	For financing for Procurement, Stocking and Distribution of Chemical Fertilizers and other Agricultural inputs.	SCBs: 6.50 Others: 6.25
14.	SCBs against pledge of Government Securities	For (i) Financing Seasonal Agriculture Operations (ii) meeting share of SCBs in conversion of ST loans into MT loans against pledge of securities representing investment of	6.00

		Agricultural Credit Stabilisation fund (ACSF) and (iii) General banking business.	
15.	Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)	For financing seasonal Agricultural Operations (SAO) and Other than SAO	NPA ST-SAO Up to 20% 5.75 6.00 Above 20% 6.00 6.25
16.	Liquidity support to State Cooperative Banks by way of ST refinance on behalf of DCCBs	For supporting conversion / rescheduling of farmers dues at ground level under the Schemes of farmers in Distress and Arrears.	6.50
		Medium Term Refinance	
17.	SCBs / DCCBs and RRBs	Medium-term (non-schematic) loans for 22 approved agricultural investment purposes	5.75
18.	SCBs on behalf of DCCBs in the form of MT credit limits	For financing purchase of shares in cooperative processing societies.	5.75
19.	SCBs on behalf of DCCBs and to RRBs against the loans converted/rescheduled/ rephased	Against the loans converted/ rescheduled / rephased of farmers affected by natural calamities.	Same as applicable to the ST (SAO) loans converted.
		Long Term Refinance	
20.	State Government	For contribution of share capital to cooperative credit institutions for period up to 12 years	8.00

Research and Development Fund

Objective: To acquire new insights into the problems of agricultural and rural development through in-depth studies and applied research and trying out innovative approaches backed up by technical and economic studies.

Beneficiaries: Approved re-search institutions, organisations and other agencies, which are engaged in action-oriented applied research.

Other Schemes

Besides the above-mentioned schemes, NABARD is also running 'Kisan Credit Card' and 'Micro-finance' schemes. Both these schemes are not discussed here as they have already been covered in detail in an article published elsewhere in this journal.

KVIC

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is a statutory body established by an act of Parliament in April 1957 for the development of Khadi and village industries in India. Broad

objectives for its establishment are social objectives of providing employment, economic objective of producing saleable articles and the wider objective of creating self-reliance amongst the poor and building up of a strong rural community spirit. The highlights of the main schemes of KVIC are as follows:

Schemes Available

Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP)

KVIC launched Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) or Gramodyog Rojgar Yojana for creating two million jobs under the KVI sector in the rural areas of the country and generating new avenues of employment for rural unemployed people. The main objectives of the programme are as follows:

- To generate employment in rural areas.
- To develop entrepreneurial skill and attitude among rural unemployed youth.
- To achieve the goal of rural industrialisation.
- To facilitate participation of financial institutions for higher credit flow to rural industries.

Beneficiaries: Individuals, institutions, cooperative societies, Trusts & self-help groups (SHGs) and Public Limited companies owned by State/Central Government. The scheme is applicable to all viable village industries' projects set up in rural areas.

Eligible Projects: Projects up to Rs. 25.00 lakh are eligible under the scheme.

Quantum of Assistance

Capital subsidy in the form of Margin Money at the rate of 25 per cent (30 per cent in case of weaker section) of the project cost (excluding cost of land) up to Rs. 10 lakh and 10% on the balance project cost up to Rs. 25 lakhs are provided. Banks finances 90-95 per cent of the project depending upon the category of the beneficiary. Eligible amount of margin money is

kept in form of Term Deposit of two years in the name beneficiary at the lending bank branch, which gets credited to the beneficiary loan account after a period of two years.

Natural Death	Rs.20,000
Death due to accident	Rs.50,000
Permanent total disability (loss of 2 eyes / 2 limbs due to accident)	Rs.50,000
Permanent partial disability (loss of one eye / one limb due to accident)	Rs.25,000
Educational Expenses in the form of scholarship up to two children from Class 9th to 12th	Rs.1,200Per annum

Rural Industries Consultancy Services (RICS)

Sustainability of any project depends on fulfillment of certain basic requirements. KVIC has launched Rural Industries Consultancy Services (RICS) to provide support services to the first-generation entrepreneurs mainly under the REGP mentioned above. Its objective is to provide guidance for technical and managerial support to the prospective entrepreneurs.

Beneficiaries: The Rural ICS Cell established by KVIC mainly focuses on the project requirement of educated and unemployed youth, rural artisans, self -help groups (SHGs), rural youth already trained in the training institutes of KVIC/KVIB and other government agencies, weaker sections of the society viz., SC/ST/OBC/ minority/PHC/ ex-servicemen and women rural artisans/ entrepreneurs.

Product Development, Design Intervention & Packaging (PRODIP) Scheme

To strengthen KVI sector to face competition from the advent of alternate materials; organised industries and imported goods, the product quality

and design issues have become most essential requirements. To operationalise design related initiatives KVIC has commenced a PRODIP Scheme.

Beneficiaries: KVIC Departmental Project/ KVIP Board project; Public institution project like projects of government agency, quasi-government agency, research institutions recognised university or affiliated college etc.; KVIC institutions project and REGP Beneficiaries project are eligible under the scheme.

Financing: Assistance under the Scheme is provided on the following pattern:

- i. Institutions: Rs. 2 lakh or 75% of the project cost, whichever is lower.
- ii. Individual: Rs. 1 Lakh or 75% of the project cost, whichever is lower.

Group Insurance Scheme for khadi Artisan

With a view to provide safe and secured life to Khadi Artisan, a Group Insurance Scheme for Khadi Artisans has been introduced. The Scheme covers all the spinners, weavers, pre-spinning artisans and post-weaving artisans engaged in Khadi activity, associated with Khadi Institutions (NGO's) throughout the country.

Contribution: Under the scheme, a yearly contribution of Rs. 200 is made per artisan out of which Rs. 25 is paid by the Artisan and rest is borne by Khadi Institution (NGO), CKVI and Social Security Fund of Government of India.

Financial Assistance: Financial assistance available under the scheme is as follows:

Export Incentive Scheme

For providing Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) to exporters, KVIC has launched an Export Incentive Scheme for exporters of KVI products. As per the scheme

export incentive @ 5% of actual export realisation of FOB value of exports is extended to the exporting KVI Institutions/REGP units KVI sector.

Other Schemes

In addition to the above-mentioned schemes, KVIC has also introduced the following three schemes for up-lift of Science and Technology in the KVI sector:

- i. In-House Test Laboratory Scheme
- ii. Scheme for Implementation of ISO – 9001-2000
- iii. Guidelines and Procedure for Implementing R & D Projects

DRDA

None of the anti-poverty programmes can have any impact unless they are implemented with clarity of purpose and a commitment to the task. The District Rural Development Agency is visualised as specialized and professional agency capable of managing the anti-poverty programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development on the one hand and to effectively relate these to the overall effort of poverty eradication in the district.

NIRD

National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) facilitates rural development through government and non- governmental initiatives. NIRD is the country's apex body for undertaking training, research, action and consultancy functions in the rural development sector. It works as an autonomous organization supported by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.

NRRDA

Construction of rural roads brings multifaceted benefits to the hitherto deprived rural areas and also an effective poverty reduction strategy. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) was taken up by the Government of India with an objective to provide connectivity to the unconnected Habitations in the rural areas. In 2002 the National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA) was established to extend support to PMGRY through advice on technical specifications, project appraisal and management of a system of national quality monitors, management of monitoring systems and submission of periodic reports to the Ministry of Rural Development.

Capart

Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) is an autonomous body registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and is functioning under the aegis of the Ministry of Rural Development. CAPART is involved in catalysing and co-coordinating the emerging partnership between voluntary organisations and the Government of India for sustainable development of rural areas.

Other Schemes of Rural Development

Beside the above-mentioned schemes, some more schemes of the Government of India like National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Rural Health Mission, Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission, Rural Infrastructure, Rural Electrification and Indira Awas Yojana are also available but as this compilation stresses on NABARD and KVIC schemes, these other schemes have not been discussed.

Relevant Websites

1. NABARD: www.nabard.org KVIC: www.kvic.org
2. DRDA: www.rural.nic.in/drda.htm
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PERSPECTIVES ON WOMEN

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Agriculture Development in Tribal Areas

Dipen Saikia*

[There are as many as 573 tribes and sub-tribes in India. They have been broadly classified into different classes, groups depending upon their present state of development and factors namely, mode of living in forest, shifting villages, forest villages, community villages and revenue villages. They have got a heterogeneous cultural pattern with variegated economic condition and activities largely based on ecological settings and ethnic environment.]

The basic economic activities of the tribals may be classified under the following heads. (1) Food gathering, (2) Pastoral, (3) Shifting hill cultivation, (4) Handicrafts, (5) Cultivation, (6) Trade and Commerce, (7) Labour. The need for tribal development in India hardly requires any justification. Their primitive way of life, economic and social backwardness, low level of literacy, hackneyed system of production, absence of value system, sparse physical infrastructure in backward tribal areas and demographic quality of tribal areas coupled together make it imperative for a systematic process of development of tribals and tribal areas. Below are explained some important factors for tribal development in India.

The increasing role of new technology for agriculture development has been well established by the results of agricultural research stations. They claim that an optimum package of new technology consisting of High Yielding Variety (HYV) seeds, chemical fertilizers, insecticides, etc., leads to substantial increases in the yields, especially of paddy and wheat. A fast-growing population and frequent drought and

floods have made it absolutely essential to raise the level of agriculture output and maintain it so.

In fact, “the man who is bounded by traditional agriculture cannot produce much food, no matter how rich the land. Thrift and work are not enough to overcome the niggardliness of this type of agriculture. To produce abundance of farm products requires that the farmer has access to and has the skill and knowledge to use what science knows about soils, plants, animals and machines”, (Schultz, 1964). Therefore, the study of the problems of transforming traditional agriculture in tribal areas, particularly where the farmers are generally accused of practicing the traditional method of agriculture owing to their rigid socio-economic attitudes, deserves special attention.

According to the agriculture census of operational holding held in 1981, the operational holdings below 2 hectares have gone up over the years with devolution by inheritance as well as redistribution of land, but skewed distribution of land among different size classes of operational holdings still persists. The number of holding below 2 hectares went up from 49.63 million in 1970-71 to 6.6 million in 1980-81. These constituted 74.5 per cent of the total

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holdings in 1980-81 against 69.9 per cent in 1970-71, but operated only 42.6 million hectares or 26.3 per cent of the total operated areas in 1980-81 against 20.9 per cent in 1970-71.

Land Reforms

The objectives of the national land reforms policy are: (i) Abolition of intermediary tenures; (ii) tenancy reforms aimed at security of tenure; (iii) ceiling in land holdings and distribution of surplus lands; (iv) consolidation of holdings; (v) compilation and updating of land records. The sixth Plan provided that legislative measures to confer ownership rights in tenants would be enacted in all the states by 1981-82. The programme of taking over and distribution of ceiling surplus land was to be completed by 1982-83. Compilation and updating of land records was to be completed by 1985 and the consolidation of holdings was to be taken up in all the states with the aim of completing it in ten years with priority being assigned to command areas of irrigation; projects.

According to the available information none of the Sixth Plan targets on land reform measure has been fully achieved. Although most of the intermediary tenures have been abolished, there are quite a few states where legislative provisions do not exist for conferment of ownership rights on tenants and share-cropper. In some states the rent payable to landlords is higher than the limits of 1/5th or 1/4th of the gross produce as laid down in the national policy. Oral and informal tenancies with cultivating possession continue to exist under the guise of 'personal cultivation'.

Despite the law for imposition of ceiling on agriculture holdings having been enacted by most state Government the programme of taking over

possession and distribution of ceiling surplus lands is still far from complete. Consolidation operations were also reported not to have made much headway in many states due to fear of displacement among tenant and share-croppers, advantage of having land in fragmented parcels in the events of floods and other natural calamities and apprehension that big farmers would get a better deal.

Surplus land to scheduled tribes

The national land reforms policy envisages imposition of ceiling on individual land holding so that sufficient surplus land is available for redistribution among the rural landless. Laws on imposition of ceiling on agriculture holdings were enacted in several states during the 1950s and implemented with varying degrees of effectiveness in different states. The ceiling set by these laws were very high in many cases and exemptions granted from the operation of ceiling law too many. There were also many loopholes in the laws that rendered their implementation difficult.

In order to bring a certain degree of uniformity in the ceilings imposed in various part of the country, top loopholes in the national guidelines on land ceilings were still allowed in 1972 by the Conference of Chief Ministers. Laws were enacted in various states in conformity with the national guidelines; however, there were no ceiling laws in Meghalaya, Nagaland and Mizoram where communal ownership of land predominates. There are also no ceiling laws in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Goa, Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep.

In view of the revelation made by the agriculture census data for 1980-81 that skewed distribution of landholdings still continued, the Union

Department of Rural Development advised the state Governments to consider re-determining ceiling limits so as to expand the availability of surplus ceiling land. The position of ceiling limits in each State during 1986-87 as against the national guidelines of 1972 and the lower ceilings suggested by the Central Government may be seen at Annexure I.

A statement showing the areas of land declared surplus due to implementation of land ceilings laws and the area allotted to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other beneficiaries in various States/UTs since the inception of the schemes up to 31 March 1987 may be seen at Annexure-II. It would be seen there from that out of the total area of 76.33 lakh acres declared surplus an area of 59.54 lakh acres was taken possession of constituting 78 per cent of the total area declared surplus. Against this, an area of 44.09 lakh acres was distributed, constituting 74.06 per cent of the area taken possession of and 57.76 per cent of the area declared surplus, thus still leaving about 26 per cent of the area taken possession of and 42.24 per cent of the area declared surplus to be distributed. Out of the total area distributed, an area of 15.07 lakh acres (34.18 per cent) was distributed to the Scheduled Castes, 5.81 lakh acres (13.18 per cent) to the Scheduled Tribes and 23.21 lakh acres (52.64 per cent) to other beneficiaries. Out of the total number of 40.67 lakh beneficiaries the number of Schedule Caste beneficiaries allotted land was 14.15 lakh (34.70 per cent), that of the Schedule Tribes (5.63 lakh or 13.83 per cent) and that of the other beneficiaries 20.89 lakh (51.37 per cent).

Financial assistance to assignees of surplus land

Since the beneficiaries of the allotment of ceiling surplus land are mostly poor and much of the surplus land is of poor quality, it needs development so as to render it cultivatable. A Centrally-sponsored scheme, viz. financial assistance to assignees of ceiling surplus land, is being implemented by the land Reforms Divisions of the Union Department of Rural Development since 1975-76. Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided to the states for distribution among allottees of ceiling surplus land. Assistance by way of grant is given @ Rs. 2,500 per hectare for various purpose like land development, provision of inputs as well as immediate consumption needs. This amount is shared equally by the Center and the States.

An amount of Rs. 22.43 crore was released as grant since the inception of the scheme up to 1984-85. During the Sixth Plan an amount of Rs. 10.34 crore was released by the Central Government while an amount of Rs. 10.88 crore was utilized by the states. During 1985-86, an amount of Rs. 3.10 crore was released. An outlay of Rs. 15.60 crore was made for the Seventh Plan. The scheme has been recommended by the Union Department to be integrated with other schemes of rural development like the IRDP, NREP, and RLEGP etc. by entrusting its implementation to DRDAs.

It is contemplated that assignees of surplus land would be given priority in the enlistment of beneficiaries under the IRDP and that they are to be made eligible for a total subsidy up to Rs. 8,000 per family from all sources. Assistance from the different programmes of rural development would be so channelized as to help the assignees of surplus land to develop their land for purposes of agriculture or allied activities and enable them to build around that

land a variety of economic activities which could provide them a viable source of income round the year.

Alienation of Tribal lands

In spite of legislative and executive measures taken by various state governments to prohibit transfer of lands belonging to Scheduled Tribes persons to non-tribals, alienation of tribal lands still continued. Such provisions were made either in the revenue laws or in the Regulation made under the Fifth Schedule to the Constitution. The problem existed in varying degrees in the tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujrat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The state governments concerned were requested to furnish data the measure taken by them to meet this problem. In Andhra Pradesh the transfer of land belonging to members of the Scheduled Tribes to non-tribals in the Scheduled Areas of the state was prohibited under the Andhra Pradesh Land Transfer Regulation 1959.

However, the State Government lands in the Scheduled Areas already encroached upon by the non-tribals, while persons other than landless poor persons should be straight away evicted from the lands occupied by them, landless poor persons should not be evicted from the lands under their occupation up to a maximum extent of 2.5 acres of wet or 5 acres of dry land.

Conclusion

If globalization were superimposed on a poorly-educated and poorly-trained tribal people, particularly in states like Bihar and Jharkhand with poor systems of governance and infrastructure, it would not lead to growth nor

reduce poverty. Globalization may no longer be an option, but a fact. However, it must be implemented with a human face. The efforts to become competitive often hurt the social sectors first. It is most often these sectors that face budgetary reductions when liberalization policies are implemented. Conservative monetary and fiscal policies are often undertaken and these too, independent of reduction in the size and scope of social sectors, can indirectly reduce allocations to social services and basic provisions. Such cuts in social spending are likely to hit the tribals the hardest who already have limited access to education and health facilities.

It has been accepted as an undisputed fact that rural and tribal particularly women have a very intimate and symbiotic relationship with the ecology around them as they are untenably linked to the natural resources. In India, people adversely affected by development have been mainly Dalits and tribals and among them women, who suffer even severe forms of discrimination. Repeated displacement, migration and drastic changes in livelihood patterns have socially and culturally denuded the status of the indigenous people, increasing violence and abuse against them.

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Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in New UDPs

Dr. Meenakshi Khangarot*

[Cities in the developing world are witnessing unprecedented growth rates. It is expected that 70 percent of the global population will live in cities by 2050. They are hubs of economic growth, employment and cultural life and due to these reasons, population shifts from rural to urban areas known as Urbanization. But Urbanization has its own disadvantages such as poor services, infrastructure, transport, housing and environmental problems etc., which results pronounced socio-economic inequalities and social exclusion in society. So, there is an urgent need to recognize and respond to emerging and different needs, concerns, interest of poor and excluded especially men, women, girls and boys so that urban development programmes should concern these marginalized groups.]

New Urban Development Programmes (UDPs) contemplated by Government of India in recent years are very ambitious and are reported to be designed to meet the growing challenge of regular increase in the influx of rural population to neighbouring urban centres to seek greener pastures.

In India, there is a great tendency to view urban planning as gender neutral which assumes that both the sexes are affected equally but in reality, gender neutral usually has a male perspective and overlooks women's perspective. In urban areas, as in rural areas, women and girls are often the primary users, providers, and managers of water in their household, and are the guardians of household hygiene and health. In spaces of urban poverty, such as slums, women and girls experience multiple deprivations that arise from insecurity of land tenure, informal access mechanisms, over-crowding, and the various stresses of urban life.

So, government should concern's women perspective before making plans and policies for urban development. Using India, with its burgeoning population and growing number of urban poor as the context, this paper assesses how women and girls are impacted by poor

access to water supply, transport health and sanitation and how they can be engaged in the design and management of new urban development programmes. It will also analysis the need for addressing GESI in urban programmes and throws light that how can urban development programmes respond the women's need. At last there will be some suggestions for achieving these ends.

Gender: - The word 'gender' refers to the socio-economic definition of man and woman-the way societies distinguish men and women and assign them social roles. The distinction between sex and gender was introduced to deal with the general tendency to attribute women's subordination to their anatomy. For ages it was believed that the different characteristics, roles and status accorded to women and men in society are determined by sex that are natural and therefore not changeable. Gender is seen closely related to the roles and behaviour assigned to women and men based on their sexual differences.

Equality: - Equality is about ensuring that every individual has an equal opportunity to make the most of their lives and talents, and believing that no one should have poorer life chances because of where, what or whom they were born, what they believe, or whether they have a disability.

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Equality recognises that historically, certain groups of people with particular characteristics e.g. race, disability, sex and sexuality, have experienced discrimination. The premise for achieving gender equality through urban planning is that women and men have different needs (such as safety, ergonomics, activity patterns) and that a lack of or inadequate access to urban infrastructure and services has a disproportionate impact on women, especially in urban poor settlements (Beall, 1996; Commonwealth Secretariat, 2009; UN-Habitat, 2013; Tacoli, 2012).

Gender Equality, according to UNICEF, “means that women and men, and girls and boys, enjoy the same rights, resources, opportunities and protections. It does not require that girls and boys, or women and men, be the same, or that they be treated exactly alike.” Thus, gender equality, also known as sexual equality, is the state of equal ease of access to resources and opportunities regardless of gender, including economic participation and decision-making; and the state of valuing different behaviours, aspirations and needs equally, regardless of gender.

Social Inclusion, according to United Nations, is defined as the process of improving the terms of participation in society, particularly for people who are disadvantaged, through enhancing opportunities, access to resources, voice and respect for rights.

So, in brief “Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)”, refers to a concept that addresses unequal power relations between women and men and between different social groups. It focuses on the need for action to re-balance these power relations and ensures equal rights, opportunities and respect for all individuals regardless of their social identity.

Again, GESI mainstreaming refers to the process whereby barriers and issues of women and poor and excluded people are identified and addressed in all functional areas of infrastructure development system: policies, institutional

systems, work environment and culture, programme and budget formulation, service delivery, monitoring and evaluation, and research.

Birch et al. (2011) have argued that the current process of urbanization has led to changes in lifestyles, including altering the ways in which water is accessed and used. However, despite these changes, traditional gender roles have remained intact and women and girls continue to be responsible for managing access to water supply and sanitation for the household. With around 70% of India’s 1.2 billion people living in rural areas and still suffering the burden of sub-optimal water provision as well as the indignity of poor/no sanitation, the job of providing water, sanitation and hygiene for the household invariably falls on women.

According to an estimate 36 per cent of the world’s population – 2.5 billion people – lack improved sanitation facilities and 768 million people still use unsafe drinking water sources; more than half that number belongs to India and China.

Addressing GESI in Urban Development Programmes

The urban development programmes aim to pursue reform, good governance and planned development in urban areas. It seeks to set up participatory, transparent and accountable processes, mechanisms and institutions to enable all citizens - poor and rich, men and women – to access equitable and legitimate basic services. It is a response to concerns arising out of the rapid and unplanned urban growth and the economic disparities that are creating ‘dual cities’, one face of which is modern and developed while the other is under-developed and without basic amenities. It is where the less productive, less skilled, less wealthy citizens who have lower voices and power live; often excluded from the formal economy and from the modern city.

Gender-based urban development is about promoting cities that respond equally to men and

women. However, 'because women experience cities differently' (Beall, 1996: 2), meeting women's needs becomes critical to promoting sustainable/equitable urban development. In patriarchal economies such as India, women's interests have conventionally been underrepresented in policy and planned development. Enhancing women's role and participation in urban governance is vital in creating equitable cities and will be a key measure of the success of UDP.

But these programmes are generally assumed to be 'gender neutral' i.e. providing equal access to men and women. This idea; however, is misplaced and physical infrastructure projects (roads, transport services, water supply and sewerage, housing, schools, hospitals etc.) that seemingly respond to diverse standards for men and women, may actually have very dissimilar impacts on the two groups. Provisioning of community-based water supply services that increases time spent by women in water collection; reduced frequency of buses in non-peak hours that increases travelling time for women; and roads designed without women's safety needs /or streetlights, that increases crimes against women are not 'gender neutral' infrastructure services. Thus, infrastructure development which appears to benefit women in a broad-brush way does so effectively only if gender specific interventions are planned, budgeted, implemented and monitored.

Crucial adjustments are needed in urban project designs and planning processes to ensure equal gender benefits. To take a very basic example, the provisioning of toilet facilities for women is inadequate. For example, the norm for toilet seats for men (1 urinal for 40) is different from that for women (1 seat for 20); however, since young children generally accompany mothers, women's sections are always under supplied. So, in brief making progress in urban services will encourage social inclusion; improve gender equality, livelihood opportunities, education and life chances of girl children, good health of family, safety and many more.

The Need to Mainstream Gender within UDPs

This objective of equitable urban development is also enshrined in India's national poverty-reduction goal, endorsed in the Global Millennium Development targets and set out in the Government's National Common Minimum Programme. Safe water, sanitation and hygiene are also essential to SDG 3 "Ensuring healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages". Under SDG target 3.9, countries are working to substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination by 2030. Additionally, safe water, sanitation and hygiene are needed to reduce maternal mortality and to end preventable deaths of newborns and children as called for in SDG targets 3.1 and 3.2.

In urban areas, as in rural areas, women and girls are often the primary users, providers and managers of water in their household, and are the guardians of household hygiene and health (WSP, 2009). Consequently, they are most affected by inadequate water supply. While the time taken to access water in urban areas is less when compared to rural areas, women and girls face greater challenges, such as health risks associated with contaminated water, safety risks related to fetching water, and reproductive risks linked to poor water quality and quantity (Birch et al., 2011).

Women are also more affected than men by inadequate sanitation services; in particular they face greater safety and health risks as a result of poor facilities. Among women and girls too, the impact of inadequate water, sanitation and other basic services is felt more by those living in poverty. In spaces of urban poverty, such as slums, women and girls experience 'multiple deprivations' that arise from insecurity of land tenure, informal access mechanisms, overcrowding, and the various stresses of urban life. These further affect women's access to water supply and sanitation services.

The limited access to water supply and sanitation services in urban areas disproportionately

impacts women and girls, these consequences are not being measured in a systematic way. And, even as women and girls are often looked at as key beneficiaries of water supply programs their involvement in designing, managing and operating urban development programs remains limited. Particularly now, when it has become clear that the millennium development goals (MDGs) of having the population without access to improved water supply and sanitation will not be met, it becomes critical to re-think urban development policies and programs in a way that they address the rapidly increasing urban population and engage with the specific needs of women, girls and socially excluded groups. Emphasis needs to be stressed on policy formulation in accordance with the targets of the sustainable development goal SDG-3 of 2030 Agenda.

Key Issues and Concerns Relating to Women

Lack of basic services affects both men and women. Women in cities, especially in low income communities and slums, are more severely affected by inadequate services. Some obvious areas where the differences are visible are:

Women Perspective on Water Supply

Women are generally responsible for water collection and storage. Time spent on filling and fetching water increases if the number of taps is less than optimal, or the water supply is irregular or if the water pressure is low. Time spent by women in accessing services (waiting for water tankers or for the municipal supply) reduces the time available for income earning activities, leisure or education. Often working women in single, nuclear or women-headed households have to buy water, because the irregular and erratic water supply is unreliable.

This also impacts the household budget. Quality is another aspect; poor quality water supply impacts the health of all people, adds to household health expenditure and results in wage loss from sick days; thus, deepening household poverty.

Women Perspective on Sanitation

Slum dwellers have poor access to toilets. Slums are generally unconnected to city sewerage. Since most slums are illegal, slum dwellers cannot build toilets at home. Non availability of/ and unfriendly community toilets (poorly designed/ maintained with bad infrastructure, inadequate numbers of seats) increase people's health risk from gastrointestinal/reproductive health problems. In particular, poor women undergo tremendous hardships in their search for safe spaces (increasingly rare in big cities) and timings (before sun rise and after sunset) to defecate. Where poor people dig toilet pits inside huts for safe and dignified defecation, women scavenge faecal matter from homes to drains.

Women Perspective on Solid Waste Management

Ineffective solid waste management creates highly unsanitary conditions in cities with huge environmental threats to all residents. In slums, it has resulted in huge mounds of un-disposed waste. Because women spend more time inside homes/settlements – either in home-based occupations or as home makers, the health risk from highly unsanitary environments to them is higher.

Women Perspective on Waste Water Disposal Systems

Waste water disposal systems are non-existent in squatter settlements and low-income areas, as these are not networked to city sewerage lines. Women bear the burden (physical and health) of scavenging waste water from drain pits excavated outside homes.

Women Perspective on Urban Spaces – Land, Housing and Finances

People who own land benefit from the economic and social security that legitimate ownership offers. Poor people occupy just five percent of all urbanized world land, according to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS), primarily as squatters. Since living in slums is

illegal, slum-dwellers are under constant threat of eviction. Women; however, have traditionally been excluded from land ownership; an asset-less-nests that has contributed to their continued poverty/insecurity. Only a very small percentage of all women have legal title to housing/land. Among the poor, women land owners are likely to be a negligible number. Women's lack of title/ownership makes them a voiceless and vulnerable constituency.

Living in illegal slums and the lack of land ownership denies the urban poor any formal identity (ration or voter ID cards), forces them into informal sector employment, lowers their access to formal credit/basic services (no formal bank account or availability of collateral), and exposes them to rent seekers (work contractors) and exploitative markets. The gang rape of a young girl on her way to answer nature's call is a vivid affirmation of the harassment, molestation and indignity to which women/girls and young children in urban areas are exposed, in the absence of access to toilets. Besides being unsafe and undignified, open defecation is a serious health and environmental hazard.

Women Perspective on Urban Transport

Men are generally owners of personal transport; having greater control over spending family finances. Women are much more dependent on public transport to move about the city. According to UNHABITAT, 'in all society's men have better access to superior transport, whether it is more regular use of the family car or additional disposable income to take public transport instead of walking. Gender inequality in transport is a consequence of social organization and the outcome of differential access to economic, time and other resources. The greater domestic responsibilities of women, coupled with weaker access to household resources, have significant consequences for their transport and travel status'.

(In turn) the lack of mobility generally, combined with poorer job and educational opportunities, plays an important role in perpetuating the

economic disadvantages of women. In poor families, it is usually the male head of household who will use public transport leaving the women (who often earns more money for the family coffers) to walk. The inequality in this arrangement is heightened when one considers that a bicycle, or other non-motorized mode of transport, might ease a woman's travel burden considerably. Women use transport differently from men based on the type of work they do.

Women also work different hours from men and travel more often in off-peak periods. They are often accompanied by children or elderly people who need to be supported. Studies have shown that women across age and income groups make more shopping and family business trips, using public transport. Because of complex household responsibilities, they are sometimes forced to make multiple trips that add to their expenses. Moving on foot or using crowded/irregular / slow/public transport puts women entrepreneurs at a comparative disadvantage.

Additionally, transport costs may actually cutback profits. Rude and abusive behaviour by the staff on the bus or auto-rickshaws are other hazards faced by women. As more and more women join the workforce in cities, travel patterns are also changing. This is evident from the travel arrangements that are being made by the Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industry, where women work in shifts and require transport for their newly emerging mobility needs. In general; however, poor transport services add to women's perceptions of insecurity and risk.

Women Perspective on Safety

Design of urban spaces affects women's sense of security, especially for those women who work outside the home. Design of the physical environment can have an effect on criminal behaviour; with good design leading to a reduction in crime as well as to a reduction of the fear of crime. Dark neighborhoods/parks/parking lots, inadequate street lighting, underground subways, lack of night police /

limited access to police/phone booths especially in unsafe zones, inadequate and safe public transport systems at night /non-peak hours, all increase women's anxiety and place limitations on their mobility and economic productivity.

Designing spaces where other people can be seen or where one knows there are others who can provide help, if required, helps in creating a sense of security. Places that are open make it difficult for criminals to hide, similarly places which are frequently used, reduce the risk of crime. In slum areas also, safety is far from adequate. Due to the absence of basic services such as sanitation facilities or power supply, women face indignities and threats on a regular basis.

A baseline study conducted in New Delhi in 2012 revealed that 92% of women had experienced some form of sexual violence in public spaces in their lifetime, and 88% had experienced some form of visual and verbal sexual harassment (UN WOMEN, 2013).

Barriers of Addressing GESI in UDP

India does not have a formal urban development policy at the national level. The last two five-year plans of India have positioned 'inclusive growth' as the primary development agenda. The present national government recognises the importance of urbanization and identifies 'empowering women in all aspects' as one of the main pillars of effective governance (The Gazette of India, 2015), as mentioned in the cabinet resolution for constituting the National Institute for Transforming India (NITI Aayog).

The National Urban Transport Policy recognises the role of transport infrastructure in enhancing the safety and security of women. India has recently launched the National Urban Sanitation Policy and the National Water Policy, although these policies do not identify gender as an independent component that needs to be addressed. In India, each state has its own Town Planning Act as the legal backbone of urban planning exercises. Reference to women or gender in these acts is hard to find, but recently revised Urban and Regional Development Plans

Formulation and Implementation Guidelines recommend the inclusion of gender-sensitive tools, methodologies and approaches in urban planning.

Overall, gender is seldom considered at the inception stage of planning. Gender does not appear as an important aspect in the given mandates of these plans. Specific interventions for gender mainstreaming were found to be largely missing such as a mandate to assess gender implications of these plans, conduct gender-related capacity-building workshops, or gender budgeting. This suggests that the plan-making agencies such as the urban development authorities see gender as being of less importance.

The planning processes and modalities seldom include gender mainstreaming as a conscious choice, other than a few sporadic examples where it appears mainly driven by funding agency requirements. Use of sex-disaggregated data, gender-sensitive norms and standards are not common, except for a very few exceptions.

The proposed projects and interventions in the plan documents generally focus on proposals for creating physical infrastructure. Overall, infrastructure and services critical for gender equality are included but in a manner that is not cognizant of the ways in which these impact different genders. Public open spaces receive less attention, while access to water and sanitation, and creating safe public spaces in general have not been dealt with in detail except for a very few exceptions. Notably, care-giving facilities, which could enable women to find time for engaging in paid work, are completely missing. Monitoring mechanisms involving women are vaguely mentioned only in few plan documents.

Overall, gender mainstreaming seems to be missing from the different stages of a project cycle (i.e. conception through implementation). Capacity of countries to mainstream gender in urban planning while the policy and regulatory framework can set enabling conditions for

gender mainstreaming, the country level implementation of SDG-5 will hinge on the capacity of the national and local institutions. The availability of and access to technical and financial resources are important in this context.

Data – lack quality and thus reduce the robustness of planning exercises Deepening the understanding of the status of gender equality requires a gender-disaggregated database. The absence of a comprehensive database has implications for problem identification and programme design (Parvati, 2012).

Gender is not a core competence among urban local institutions or managers, ‘who remain largely concerned with the provisioning of basic services’ (Khosla, 2009). Even when good-quality data and gender planning toolkits are available, planners involved in the project lack understanding about how to use these effectively (interview with experts). The patriarchal mindset of planners and decision-making authorities leads to the gender equality agenda not being prioritised and, in many instances, being seen as a formality to be completed without conducting due diligence and fact-finding (interview with experts).

The interviews conducted suggest that men’s perceptions are largely to do with ideas about women enjoying more freedom in certain urban societies. On the other hand, women respondents identify tangible gaps in city infrastructure and service provision that make it difficult for women to have equal opportunities.

In addition, capacity constraints plague initiatives attempting to bring gender and urban planning together. This is especially true in smaller cities, where municipal staff is busy ‘fire-fighting’ day-to-day issues. In India, there are no urban planning posts. Municipal engineers manage planning activities without any formal training.

The research shows a disconnection between urban planning and gender-inclusive policy, except for a few recent examples such as the GESI guidelines in Nepal and the PMAY in India. The legal and regulatory frameworks seldom provide for the convergence of these two

domains. However, knowledge resources exist at both global and local levels that can provide for gender-sensitive principles and standards for urban planning. There is sporadic consideration of gender equality in urban planning tools and institutional mechanisms; however, these considerations fail to get mainstreamed into robust institutional procedures and thus are not reflected in all plans in the same country.

Initiatives supported by external agencies, and the ones involving NGOs, tend to include greater consideration for gender. However, these result in success in the short term but fail to initiate long-term structural changes. Quotas for women are a tangible mechanism for ensuring women’s participation in decision-making processes. Although this does not ensure effective representation and leadership, it sets in place a process of change. Inadequate skill sets, resource availability, and the mindset of urban institutions and officials are major deterrents to more gender-inclusive urban planning, while the lack of convergence between multiple plans is a barrier to streamlining complementary efforts.

The availability of reliable gender-disaggregated data remains a constraint in India, which often fail to measure the outcomes of plans. In general, urban growth, which has occurred in an unplanned and haphazard manner, has forced urban authorities to act more responsibly. Unfortunately, the same has not necessarily translated into a focus on gender or other vulnerable groups.

Conclusion and Suggestions

Urban development spans spatial planning and design of urban spaces and services to enable cities to become vibrant and dynamic economies. Vibrant cities must create ‘spaces’ for all its citizens, especially those who are currently excluded because of their gender. Since men and women access urban services in different ways, building equitable cities will require effective and gender sensitive spatial planning processes. There should be actions required at three levels to address gender and social inclusion issues in

UDP. In order for urban planning to reflect the needs and concerns of both men and women and poor excluded, they must participate at all levels.

At the first level, i.e. Policy level should support participatory planning inclusive of the voices of poor women, girls, boys and men. It should also support collection of sex-disaggregated data to inform gender aware policy making and programming.

In order for institutions to respond adequately to the needs of poor, excluded men and women, resources must be allocated to support capacity building at the second level i.e. institutional level. This level should support conceptual and analytic awareness and understanding on gender, gender equality and social inclusion. It should strengthen the capacities of officials/implementers on existing national policies, gender dimensions to develop and allocate budgets and also strengthen the capacities of official's knowledge, skills, guidelines and tools to support and enabling environment. This level also requires strengthening of institutional mechanism of collaborating partners at municipal levels and to ensure monitoring indicators and support collection and analysis of sex disaggregated data.

At the third level, Beneficiary level should strengthen community collectives to enhance their participation and integration into municipal decision making. It also should support participation of community, particularly women, to assess their needs and participate in implementation, monitoring and maintenance.

Next concerns are related to gender and social inclusion, which can be addressed either through small initiatives targeting specific issues or through larger initiatives that take a more holistic look at these issues. The critical issue that determines the effectiveness and sustainability of any program are the institutional arrangements put in place to support the initiative – which includes building capacity, generating awareness, encouraging participation from all key stakeholders and political and bureaucratic support.

With institutional capacity, community participation, political commitment and a supportive bureaucracy, and the combined efforts of the private sector and the NGO sector, the focus on gender and social inclusion in urban development programmes could be strengthened in Indian cities, and efforts can be made to address a challenge that is expected to grow with increasing urbanization. It will be successful when gender concerns are integrated into each and every project activity, with clear guidelines and steps to achieve the objective. In brief, if we consider the above cited provisions and suggestions in making the plan and policies for urban development, definitely we will get positive outcome and we will achieve our objective to make gender-friendly cities which means cities friendlier for all.

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Turmeric Cultivation in India

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[India is basically an agrarian society where sole dependence has been on agriculture since time immemorial¹. In the olden days, the agricultural produce was fundamentally bartered by nature where farmers exchanged goods for goods and also against services². Gradually, the scenario changed with the changing times and agriculture produce began being sold with an element of commercial value.]

Tradings and marketing of agriculture produce began for exchange of money, besides, the way of traditional selling. The marketing as a term is broader than traditional trading³. Agricultural marketing as a concept is still evolving in Indian society. In India, there are networks of cooperatives at the local, regional, state and national levels that assist in agricultural marketing⁴.

The commodities that are mostly handled are food grains, jute, cotton, sugar, milk and areca nuts. Initially the agricultural market is very competitive as the producers are very small and large in number, hence they don't have a great influence on the price of their products. So, they are known as price takers, as they have little or no influence on the price of their output⁵. Similarly, there are several risk elements involved in agricultural marketing as the pricing of the produce depends on factors, namely, seasonality and perishability and demand and supply.

Horticulture is generally classified as a subdivision of agriculture that deals with plant gardening, it is actually different from agriculture as it relates to two activities as mentioned which is due to techniques employed are used interchangeably in both sciences, for instance in the cultivation of crops in an agricultural process,

many horticulture methods are employed, hence , Horticulture is a complete science of its own as well as a full industry.

Horticulture is defined in the strict sense as the science that employs special techniques and methods to cultivate plants, including methods used to properly condition the soil for seed planting or planting tubers. The domain of horticulture includes cultivation, plant propagation, breeding of plants, production of crops, plant physiology as well as biochemistry and genetic engineering. The plants looked at are mainly vegetables, trees, flowers, turf, shrubs, fruits and nuts.

Horticulturalists carry out extensive research in their domain in order to get better quality crop yields, improve their nutritional value to humans, make crops pest and disease resistant and adjust to environmental stresses. The most notable difference from agriculture is that horticulture deals with small scale gardening and usually in enclosed gardens although this is not a necessity while agriculture is done on large scale with extensive crop cultivation.

Horticulture strictly involves plant cultivation only while agriculture deals with cultivation of crops as well as animal farming. It includes plants that are not for human consumption while horticulture mainly focuses on crops for human consumption and is done on smaller, enclosed plots while agriculture is done on extensive pieces of land on large scale.

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Objectives of the Study

The main objective of study is to explore the problems and prospects of Turmeric cultivation in

India Hence, the specific objectives are:

1. To Analyse growth of Turmeric production in India.
2. To discuss State-wise area and production of Turmeric cultivation.

Turmeric (*Curcuma Longa*) is an ancient spice and native of South East Asia, which is used from antiquity as a dye and condiment. Turmeric is cultivated primarily in India, China, Taiwan, Sri Lanka, Java, Peru, Australia and the West Indies. It is still used in rituals of the Hindu religion and as a dye for holy robes, being natural, unsynthesised and cheap. Turmeric is in fact one of the cheapest spices. Although use of turmeric as a dye is similar to saffron, culinary uses of the two spices should not be confused and turmeric can never replace saffron in food dishes. Use of turmeric dates back nearly 4000 years to the Vedic culture in India where it was used as a culinary spice and had some religious significance. In many languages, turmeric is simply called 'yellow root.'

India is the biggest producer of turmeric, supplying about 20,000 tonnes each year. Turmeric enters the international market in the form of dried whole rhizomes or as round rhizomes. The major importers of this spice are Iran, Sri Lanka, Middle Eastern and North African countries.

It is also known as the 'Golden Spice of life' and is one of the most essential spices used as an important ingredient in culinary all over the world. It is an important commercial spice grown in India. Indian Turmeric is considered best in the world. Turmeric is grown only in 6% of the total area under spices and condiments in India and India is the largest producer and exporter of turmeric in the world and accounts for 78% world's total production. Further, Turmeric is

second largest foreign exchange earner among Indian spices and India consumes nearly 80% of turmeric.

The major turmeric cultivating states in India are Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala. The average results indicate that Telangana and Andhra Pradesh produce the maximum quantity and also has the largest area of turmeric cultivation followed by Tamil Nadu and Orissa as significant turmeric cultivation states in India.

Turmeric can be used in different ways, but broadly they can be grouped into Food additive, Medicinal uses and miscellaneous purpose they are discussed in the following likes, Turmeric is a mild aromatic stimulant used in the manufacture of curry powders, and is used in products that are packaged to protect them from sunlight. Turmeric also forms a substitute for mustard in the cattle feed. The oleoresin component of turmeric is used for oil-containing products. Sometimes in pickles and mustard, turmeric is used to compensate for fading. The curcumin solution or curcumin powder dissolved in alcohol is used for water containing products. Turmeric is also used for colouring cheeses, salad dressings, margarine, yoghurts, cakes, biscuits, popcorn, cereals, sauces, etc.

It has also been used since ancient times as a traditional medicine and also for beauty care. In the Ayurveda system of Indian medicine, it is an important herbal medicine prescribed for various ailments. It is very commonly used throughout India as an ingredient for traditional beauty care treatments. In fact, it is even used in modern times to plug radiator leaks in water-cooled radiators.

Turmeric is also believed to ward off snakes and the presence of turmeric plants around the house acts as a barrier for them. Turmeric paste is used in Indian medicine for snakebites. The leaves of turmeric are said to act as mosquito repellents. It is used as a colouring agent for filter paper used in scientific tests. And also, it

has been recently discovered that in water cooled type of radiators, a spoonful of turmeric added to the water plugs any leaks.

Review of Literature

The related studies are presented below.

Karthirvel and Maniam (1999) studied turmeric as one of the major spices cultivated in India, in an area of 1,24,600 ha with a production of 487.6 lakh tones. It is grown largely in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, West Bengal, Kerala, Assam and Maharashtra. Turmeric production results in earning foreign exchange by export of turmeric powder. Tamil Nadu accounted for 12.2% of the total area and 17.2% of production of turmeric during 1996-1997. The general practice in conventional method of harvesting is to wet the crop after the removal of the cut foliage and the turmeric rhizomes are dugout after a week by skilled labourers with a special fork type of spade/pick axe. Normally, turmeric digging is done by contract labour who demand very high wages during the peak season.

Ramarao et.al., (1995) conducted a study on turmeric cultivation in Andhra Pradesh. It has about 18000 hectares under turmeric cultivation and accounts for 30% of 50% of the total production of this valuable commodity in the country. A number of varieties are grown in different parts of the state but no systematic study has been carried out on their performance. With a view to avoid disease and have high-yielding varieties, a scheme for research on turmeric was therefore initiated in the state at Paddapalem during 1955 under the spices of Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

A study conducted by Singh (1995) on production of turmeric in Bihar indicates that area, production, and productivity of turmeric in the state of Bihar was expected to increase and the state was likely to become a surplus state with respect to turmeric production by the end of the century. The study recommends for extending improved technology of turmeric production in a big way to the farmers in order to increase the productivity.

The study conducted by Vigneshwar (1986) reveals that there are several marketing problems such as excessive input cost of cultivation, involvement of intermediaries, transportation and storage, absence of grading and standardization and other problems such as absence of adequate finance facilities, non-availability of efficient marketing information system, lack of packing and occasional gluts during main harvesting period. Inferior quality of the produce due to spurious seeds and substandard pesticides lead to denial of minimum supporting prices in the market. Increase in input cost, small land holdings (mostly taken on lease basis), failure of borewells in some areas, lack of awareness etc., landed the farmers in huge debts causing much distress specially among small farmers.

Das (1982) conducted a study in Telangana region of Andhra Pradesh and revealed that in spite of number of inherent defects, farmers have been selling their produce through the traditional channel of communication agents. This is not a healthy feature for the future of the institution of commission agent. It is high time for the commission's agent to adopt some suitable measures to improve their services to the farmers. Unless the commission agent provides adequate and meaningful services to the community of farmers, their existence is at stake.

Garge et al., (1977) used the random sampling method for estimation of production of turmeric and have found out that the area which harvested the crop was estimated as 1741 hectares which yielding 5858 tones of dry cured turmeric. The average yield at the district level was estimated at 190.66 quintals per hectare in terms of raw rhizome.

Turmeric Production and India

India accounts for about 78 per cent of world turmeric production, and is the largest producer of turmeric. It is also the biggest consumer and exporter of turmeric. Other producers in Asia include China, Bangladesh, Burma (Myanmar) and Nigeria. Turmeric is also produced in the Caribbean and Latin America, Jamaica, Haiti,

Costa Rica, Peru and Brazil. Major importers are the Middle East and North African countries, Iran, Japan, Sri Lanka and now Singapore. These countries represent 75 per cent of the turmeric world trade, and mostly imported from Asian producers.

Growth of Turmeric Production in India

The total area under turmeric increased gradually over the past decade, and at the same time the

production has also risen. The yield has varied from year to year, rising and falling in alternate years. Total area under turmeric cultivation in India gradually decreased from 218.60 thousand hectares in 2011-12 to 185 thousand hectares in 2015-16. Similarly, the production decreased from 1166.80 thousand MT in 2011-12 to 957 thousand MT in 2015-16. The yield decreased from 5337 kg/ha in 2011-12 to 5173 kg/ha in 2015-16. (See table 1.1 for details)

Table 1.1

Area, Production and Yield of Turmeric for Last Five Years

Area in hectare/Production in tonnes/Yield kgs/per hectare			
Year	Area('000ha)	Production('000tonnes)	Yield(kg/ha)
2011-12	218.60	1166.80	5337
2012-13	194.20	971.10	5000
2013-14	232.67	1189.89	5114
2014-15	184.00	830.00	4511
2015-16	185.00	957.00	5173

Source: Secondary data, Agriculture statistics at a glance-2016

Table 1.1 reveals about the Area, production and yield of Turmeric and it is evident from table 1.1 that, in the year 2013-14 the area of Turmeric cultivation is 232.67 Hectares and the production was 1189.89 tonnes and the yield is 5114 Kgs/Hectare which is less when compared during the year 2011-12 i.e. nearly 223 kgs/Hectare is less. This may be due to different parameters like climate conditions and other nature attributes which were not suitable for the crop. And in the other years like 2012-13,2014-15,2015-16 the cultivation area and production and as well as yield is decreased may be due do bad supporting factors like cost of cultivation has increased and

low return on investment which leads to distress situation and not shown interest in Turmeric cultivation.

State wise Area and Production of Turmeric

In 2013-14, India had approximately 207570 thousand hectares under turmeric cultivation. Tamil Nadu occupied the largest area coverage and production share in India. It does mean to say that Tamil Nadu topped in both area and production of turmeric. The second largest area is covered by Telangana, i.e. 49638 hectares with a production of 252061 in kg/ha during 2013-14. Other major states where turmeric is cultivated highly are Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Karnataka, Assam, Gujarat, Mizoram, and Orissa.

Table 1.2**State Wise Area and Production Details of Turmeric**

Spice	State	2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		2013-14	
		Area	Production	Area	Production	Area	Production	Area	Production
Turmeric	Tamil Nadu	51446	277980	67246	368413	35760	190100	76983	461990
	Telangana	-	-	-	-	-	-	49638	252061
	Andhra Pradesh	69159	466928	81170	506865	68000	439000	17822	151906
	Karnataka	18035	90448	25439	128245	16104	100000	13975	65406
	Gujarat	1936	28468	2971	50493	2975	30493	2975	50493
	West Bengal	15779	38300	16029	38950	15800	42000	15800	42000
	Orissa	26830	202920	26880	209080	2480	30000	2480	30000
	Mizoram	4500	22500	5580	29239	6050	22990	6050	22990
	Assam	14963	10623	15450	13440	16241	15429	16309	15782
	Total including others	23202	1268280	251824	1398862	194330	986690	207570	1092628

Source: Secondary data, Indianspices.com

Table 1.2 reveals about the state wise Turmeric production during Different years and it is evident from Table 1.2 that Turmeric cultivation and production is done in different parts of the Country. And the table reveals that during the year 2010 – 11, 2011 – 12 the Area in cultivation of Turmeric and Production is increased in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, West Bengal, Mizoram, Assam in general. The area and production are increased in both the years but whereas drastic decrease in area and production has got reduced in Tamil Nadu may be due to favourable climatic conditions and price fluctuations in the year but whereas other states like Karnataka was also fall in the similar problem in area and production. But the overall area in cultivation and production during the years was not consistent due to different reasons. But at the overall level there is a distress in the Turmeric farmers in the upcoming years whether to cultivate the crop or not is uncertain.

Suggestions

The Spices Board has to initiate several steps to encourage farming and processing of Turmeric

in India. The Spices' parks should be established by the government in various turmeric producing states. While the cost of cultivation has been increasing steadily every year, there has not been a corresponding increase in the selling price. Hence, the government should encourage farmers by fixing a remunerative price. The Spices Board should provide strong research support for cultivation of turmeric in various states of the country. State-wise demand of turmeric must be informed by the government to the farmers prior to cultivation. The government can establish a separate Demand Estimation Committee at state level. This well help to match the demand and supply of turmeric and thereby price fluctuation could be reduced to some extent.

Conclusion

Currently, the cultivation of turmeric has not been studied scientifically. A single state survey may provide much more information. Precision farming involves the use of most advanced technologies like GPS, GIS, remote sensing and VRT (Variable rate technologies). Such systems are designed to monitor, analyse and control plant production parameters with the aim to optimize expenses, reduce the ecological ill effects and

increase yields. To fulfill such contrasting aims, the first prerequisite is to select the best suitable crop for an area or the best way to enhance soil quality specifically for turmeric cultivation. A land suitability analysis will best meet such a basic need.

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Gandhi and Congress on Bhagat Singh’s Martyrdom

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There are several ‘myths’ pertaining to modern Indian history and India’s struggle for independence. While some of these myths were created by the colonial state itself to weaken the ongoing independence movement, some of them were constructed out of vested political interests in post-independence India. One such powerful myth is regarding Mahatma Gandhi’s alleged silence on martyrdom of Bhagat Singh and comrades.

It should be noted that Bhagat Singh and two of his associates Shivaram Rajguru and Sukhdev Thapar were sentenced to death by the colonial state in the Lahore conspiracy case and were hanged on 23 March 1931. Now, it is often alleged that Mahatma Gandhi and the Indian National Congress could possibly avert this execution. At the same time silence of prominent Congress leaders following the death of Bhagat Singh is often cited as glaring example of Congress’s insecurity towards soaring popularity of Bhagat Singh and his associates. Thus, a binary of Mahatma Gandhi/Congress vs. Bhagat Singh/Revolutionaries has been created over a period of time resonance of which can often be heard in various discussions and debates in public sphere.

However, careful dissection of this alleged ‘silence’ gives some interesting insight on the whole issue. It should be remembered that the execution of Bhagat Singh and comrades took place around the same period when the Gandhi-Irwin settlement was in force. Consequent on the conversations that took place between the Viceroy Lord Irwin and Mahatma Gandhi, the Congress agreed to temporarily suspend the ongoing Civil Disobedience Movement and to participate in the Second Round Table Conference. Subsequent to this, instructions were issued for the guidance of all the Congressmen carrying on propaganda so that there may be no complaint of breach of understanding arrived at between the Congress and the Government.

Now, one such instruction stated ‘If any lawful orders are passed, right or wrong, they should not be disobeyed.’¹ Further, ‘During the period of truce [our] speeches should not be an attack

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on Government. There is now no necessity to show past misdeeds of misgovernment.’² Moreover, it was instructed that ‘we should not make any approving references to acts of violence; congratulation of bravery and self-sacrifice on the part of persons committing acts of violence are unnecessary and misleading, except when made by persons pledged to non-violence in thought and deed as Gandhiji.’³

These instructions explain the unusual silence of the prominent Congress leaders over the execution of Bhagat Singh which was eventually ‘a lawful order’ passed by the competent judicial authority. At the same time, bound by the instructions to prevent any breach of understanding, they could not openly criticize the Government for its unforeseen haste in this matter nor could they celebrate the heroics of Bhagat Singh.

Nonetheless, it was not that nobody spoke against this brutality of the Government. In fact, the very person, Mahatma Gandhi, who is charged of being insecure of Bhagat Singh’s popularity and of being guilty of remaining silent in the whole matter, spoke on more than one occasion against the entire logic of hanging Bhagat Singh and his associates. Mahatma Gandhi, on 23 March 1931, made a final appeal to the Viceroy in the interest of peace to commute the sentence of Bhagat Singh and two others. He emphatically argued that ‘popular opinion rightly or wrongly demands commutation; when there is no principle at stake, it is often a duty to respect it.’⁴ Subsequently, Mahatma Gandhi himself penned a moving yet powerful resolution on Bhagat Singh and comrades adopted by the Indian National Congress on 29 March 1931. The resolution stated as follows:

‘This Congress, while dissociating itself from and disapproving of political violence in any shape or form, places on record its admiration of the bravery and sacrifice of the late Sardar Bhagat Singh and his comrades Syts. Sukhdev and Rajguru, and mourns with the bereaved families the loss of these lives. The Congress is

of opinion that this triple execution is an act of wanton vengeance and is a deliberate flouting of the unanimous demand of the nation for commutation. This Congress is further of opinion that Government have lost the golden opportunity of promoting goodwill between the two nations, admittedly held to be essential at this juncture, and of winning over to the method of peace the party which, being driven to despair, resorts to political violence.’⁵

Thus, contrary to popular myth of ‘unforeseen silence’, Mahatma Gandhi did admire the bravery and sacrifice of revolutionaries like Bhagat Singh. The difference between them was basically over the ‘use of violence’ as a mean to attain independence. In fact, people today often fail to fathom the depth of the virtues which drove our leaders to struggle for independence. Political opposition and difference of opinions nowhere stripped them of the warmth which they shared among each other at personal level. Hence, binaries such as Gandhi vs Bhagat Singh, Gandhi vs Subhas Chandra Bose, Nehru vs Patel, etc. hardly do justice to the cause for which these towering leaders devoted their lives.

(Endnotes)

Notes:

1. See ‘Circular for Congress Workers’ in *The Selected Works of C. Rajagopalachari, Vol. V*, Orient Black Swan, New Delhi, 2019, p. 7.
2. *Ibid*, p. 7.
3. *Ibid*, p. 8.
4. “Gandhi’s Letter to the Viceroy regarding the sentence of death to Bhagat Singh, 23 March 1931” (<https://www.mkgandhi.org/faq/q26.htm>, accessed on 18.02.2019).
5. See ‘Resolution on Bhagat Singh and Comrades, 29.03.1931’ in *The Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi, Vol. XLV*, Publications Division, New Delhi, 1971, p. 363.



Status of Tribals in Different States of India

Inder Kumar*

[Tribal people are characterized as isolated in ecology, demography, economic aspects, political organization and other social behaviour from other ethnic groups of India. The concept of the tribe as a socio-cultural organization is of great significant. It is needless to state that the habitat of the tribal communities is generally hilly, forest and other inaccessible tracts. In the past they remained isolated from others except having some economic interactions with neighbouring communities.]

There are 636 Scheduled Tribes notified under Article 342 of the Constitution of India, spread over different states and Union Territories of the country. Scheduled Tribes in India form the largest proportion of the total population in Lakshadweep and Mizoram followed by Nagaland and Meghalaya. Madhya Pradesh has the largest number of Scheduled Tribes followed by Bihar. Bastar district of Chhattisgarh consists of largest number of Scheduled Tribes. There are no Scheduled Tribes in Punjab, Delhi, Chandigarh, Pondicherry, Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir.

Features of Indian Tribes

Over the last 20-25 years, the international tribal community has been incessantly trying to draw the attention of the world's leading power blocs to save them from perennial miseries. Currently, there are about 300 million indigenous people living in over 70 countries. They have come together to seek help from the UNO to put an end to their poverty as well as to social discrimination against them. In response, UNO has taken some decisive steps.

Long before this international effort, India had already made attempts to improve the condition of its tribal populations consisting of 461 groups, they constitute 8.6 per cent of the total population of the country, making for a total tribal population of 10,42,81,034; according to the 2011 census.

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Among them about 80 per cent live in the 'central belt' and across the states of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa, West Bengal and Tripura in east.

Remaining 20 per cent live in the north-eastern states of Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and in the Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep. A few of them live in southern states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Andhra Pradesh has the largest tribal population among southern states of the India, (Rath 2006: 16).

Tribals are mainly distributed in the forest areas of country through the ages. From time immemorial tribal communities constitute an important segment of the Indian society due to their living condition. In the past, they were isolated from other segments of Indian society. Forest and tribals have had a symbiotic relationship through the ages. They know better, and still follow their own customs practices as to which type of plant is to be cut and at which appropriate time of the year. Such as, all the tribals collect hill bamboo shoots during rainy seasons as a food item: but while collecting the same they invariably spare the healthy and robust ones and pluck weak ones, (Behura 1994:1-8).

Tribal people are characterized as isolated in ecology, demography, economic aspects, political organization and other social behaviour from

other ethnic groups of India. The concept of the tribe as a socio-cultural organization is of great significance. It is needless to state that the habitat of the tribal communities is generally hilly, forest and other inaccessible tracts. In the past they remained isolated from others except having some economic interactions with neighbouring communities. Due to living in isolation in the natural surrounding they developed certain specific features viz typical cultural background, ecology, economy, language, identity, political system etc., (Sinha, 2001:359).

Tribal religion in India seems to have a common feature that all being are endowed with a living spirit. Animal, plants, rivers, mountains are exception to this rule. Dead who have apparently left us are yet with us, and it is through remembrance of offerings that we have to renew our relationship with them on due occasions. Dead are again reborn as off springs in the present generations. All these practices are similar to Hindu religion. In the forest, where some of the more isolated communities live, a few trees are never touched or cut, for they represent the primal grove, Pipal tree is also considered sacred and abode of Basudeo, a Hindu god. It is never cut down, (Thakur 1997:17).

It is almost obvious that the tribal community in India is extremely backward and poverty stricken – 61.9 per cent in rural areas and 35 per cent in urban area (GOI, Planning Commission, 2013). Tribal communities continue in the pastoral of shifting cultivation stage of economy even till today. Tribal economy is intimately connected with the forests. Forest regions are, generally, inhabited by the tribal communities who are lagging behind in the economic development as compare to the other communities in the country.

Agriculture sector in the tribal regions is under-developed due to the tough terrain and poor technological as well as institutional development. Whereas the acidic soil certainly acts as a constraint on increasing productivity by indigenous methods, inadequacy of irrigation facilities. Tribals are considered socio-

economically weaker sections of the society as they suffered a lot at the hands of the local rulers, traders, colonial powers, non-tribals and the like forces. They have adjusted themselves in their ecological and geoclimatic conditions throughout the country.

They belong to the various linguistic, social, cultural and ethnic groups and have attained various levels of socio-economic development. They are having some special salient features which make them unique. The cultural identification or way of living is still strong among them.

In fact, prior to India's independence, British Government adopted a policy of isolation of the tribals. This policy kept them off from the mainstream of the other Indian life and culture. Though the preservation of the tribal culture was the idea behind this policy of isolation, this led to the development of a cleavage between the tribal and non-tribal communities, (Sahu 2001:1). Tribals have been the victims of colonial domination, illiteracy, ignorance, caste prejudice, poverty and isolation.

When India declared independent, the question of the socio-economic development in respect of the scheduled tribes came into being under Article 46 of the Indian Constitution to prevent their exploitation by the other groups of the society. To tackle these problems, various committees were appointed by the Constituent Assembly (CA). On the basis of the reports of these committees, some special provisions have been made in the Constitution of India for the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes.

Government of India (GOI) initiated wide spread Tribal Development Programmes (TDP) effectively since the Fifth Five Year Plan (1974-79) under the new name Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) to improve their socio-economic condition, quality of life and asset accumulation, (Fifth Five Year Plan). Long term objectives of the Tribal sub-plan approach were to narrow the gap between the tribal and non-tribals and improving the quality of life of the tribal communities. In

brief, the approach envisaged tackling of tribal problems by categorizing them under three identified areas and groups:

- a) In regions of substantial tribal concentration, an areas development approach is to be combined with the focus on the tribal population and their problems.
- b) In smaller areas of dispersed tribal population, where the Scheduled Tribes live and merged with the general population, a modified area approach on account of the truncated nature of the habitat.
- c) Certain extremely backward and smaller tribal groups living generally in pre-agricultural level of the technology in accessible areas and facing the problem of their very survival would be treated as a special category both within the areas of tribal concentration and outside. Special group-oriented programmes would be formulated for them.

The three categories were brought under the Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP), Modified Area Development Approach (MADA) Packets, and Primitive Tribe Projects respectively, (Sahu 2001:127-128).

Health is intimately linked to these essentials of living. Health status of India's tribal communities is in need of special attention. Being among the poorest and most marginalized groups in India, tribals experience extreme levels of health deprivation. Tribal community lags behind the national average on several vital public health indicators, with women and children being the most vulnerable. The maternal health show poorer nutritional status, higher levels of morbidity and mortality (212 per thousand), and lower utilization of antenatal and postnatal services among tribes.

Under-five mortality rates among the rural tribal children is still high. It is double than the national under-five mortality. Health problems prevalent in tribal areas include endemic infectious diseases like malaria, tuberculosis, and

diarrhoeal diseases, apart from malnutrition and anaemia, (Swaminathan, 2014: No.209).

Seventy-Five per cent of India's tribal population defecates in the open and 33 per cent does not have access to a clean source of drinking water. Insanitary conditions, ignorance, lack of health education and poor access to healthcare facilities are the main factors responsible for the poor health of the tribals. Government has provided for the establishment of Primary Health Centers (PHC's) in tribal areas for every 20, 000 populations and sub-centers for every 3,000 population, quality health care is not available to the majority of tribals.

Though some traditional practices and superstitions persist, acceptance of modern medicine has increased in recent years, but access to good care is the major issue. Levels of illiteracy are high, with 47 per cent in rural areas and 21.8 per cent in urban areas being unable to read and write. Most tribal groups are traditionally hunter-gatherers and not accustomed to agriculture-their diets, therefore, are now severely limited; not to talk of fruits and vegetables as well as good source of protein, (Swaminathan, 2014: Vol.4).

Madhya Pradesh Tribes

Madhya Pradesh is not only the largest state in India, but also has the biggest tribal population of the country. Since the state is located in the centre of the Indian Union, its borders are adjoining the tribal regions of bordering states. Geographically, the state extends more than 1000 kilometres from north to south and east to west. The vast area of the state and the sparseness of the population in the tribal regions make it more difficult and expensive to provide the same level of the facilities and services as in other states of the country. Therefore, in spite of its large size and great potential, Madhya Pradesh remains one of the most backward states of the Indian Union.

State has been divided into five cultural zones. The western region, having highest concentration of tribal population, is predominantly inhabited

by Bhil and Bhilala tribes in Jhabua, Dhar, West Nimar, EaswtNimar and Ratlam districts. The central region is predominantly inhabited by Gonds, Korkus and Baigas. The major concentration of the tribal population is in Mandla, Balaght, Chhindwara and Seoni districts. The north-eastern region is predominantly inhabited by Gonds. Kol is another backward tribe inhabiting this region. The heavy concentration of tribal population is in Shahdol and sidhi districts.

The eastern region is rich in forest and mineral resources. The predominant, but population is that of Oraons, Gonds, Kanwar and Pahari-Korwas tribes. The southern region, which is popularly known as Maria-Muria track, is endowed with a sizeable population of Gonds, Halbas, Bhatras and Dorlas (Nanaria & Vaishnavi, 1998:85).

Madhya Pradesh is the largest state in India with vast physical and ethnic diversity. It has been the home of several primitive tribes of India and has the largest tribal population in the country. According to 2011 census, the tribal population of the state is about 15.31 million out of 72.62 million which accounts for 21.10 per cent of the total state population. The major tribes of the state are Abujmarhia, Baiga, Bhil, Birhor, Bhatra, Bharia, Gond, Kamar, Pando, Korba, Gond, Pando, Kol, Oraon and Sahareiya etc. and distributed in different tribal zones. Majority of the tribes inhabit ants of or around the dense forest areas and their entire life is wholly or partially dependent upon the forest resources.

Orissa Tribes

Number of the tribal people in India is perhaps the largest in the world, after Africa. Half of India's tribal population is concentrated in the relatively underdeveloped states: Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. According to the 2011 census, as much as 22.1 per cent of the total population of the State of Orissa belongs to the scheduled tribes, among whom about sixty different, ethno-culturally separate communities are recognized. There are districts like,

Mayurbhary, Koraput, Sundergrah, Keoughar and Phulbani, where the tribal population ranges from 40 to 60 per cent of the total population. The concentration of the tribal people varies widely in the remaining districts, ranging from the low 3 per cent in Cuttack district to the high 28 per cent in Sambalpur district, (Kumar 1994:190).

The State of the Orrisa hosts more than 9.7 percent of the total tribal population of the country. It consists of sixty-two communities. About 45 per cent of the total area in the state is declared as scheduled area under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution. Forest area in the state is 9963.30 sq.km constituting 38 percent of the total area. The districts of Sundergarh, Mayurbhanj, Koraput and Raygada, five entire subdivisions, viz., Keoujhar Sadar, Champua, Phulbani, Balliguda and Kuchinda, one full tehsil, i.e., Udaigiri part of Suruda tehsil and five Community Development Blocks, namely, Nilagiri, Thuamul, Lanjiagarh, Gumma and Kashipur comprise the Scheduled Areas in Orissa.

As many as 22 tribal dialects are spoken. Predominant tribal people are the Khond, Saura and the Bhuiya, Gond, Santal, Oraon and the Munda. In addition to these, communities like Juang, Bhuiya, Dongria and KutiaKhonds and Langiasaora are included in the list of primitive tribes, (Pathy 2004:231).

There are 62 tribal communities in Orissa out of which 12 communities are declared as primitive tribes. 2011 census shows that among the ST population 4.77 per cent of the total workers work in the household industry 33.35 per cent are cultivators and 46.85 per cent are agricultural labours. The tribals, thus, mostly work in agriculture. Under Article 244 (fifth schedule) Orissa is covered under the 'Scheduled Area'. In Orissa the districts of Mayarbhanj, Sundargarh, Koraput, Raygada, Nawarangpur, Malkangiri and parts of Balasore, Keonjhar, Sambalpur, Gajapati, Ganjam, Kalanandi and Phulbani are covered under 'Scheduled Areas, (Mishra 2010: 862-65).

In Orissa, Oriya is the predominant language spoken by more than 80 per cent of the population. It is the official language of the state. Literacy level is low, 16 out of 30 districts are below the state average literacy. Literacy rate of the ST in the state is 23.31 per cent.

Bihar Tribes

Bihar occupies important place in the 'Tribal India'. In Chotanagpur plateau it contains a tribal belt covering some of the largest tribes of the country such as the Oraon, Munda, Ho, Santhals, etc. The tribal population of Bihar is around 9 million (2011 census) which comes about 10.06 per cent of the total population of the state. Although Bihar is placed at the twelfth position in terms of the ranking of the states by schedule tribe percentage but in term of absolute number it is behind only Madhya Pradesh and Orissa.

Of the total Scheduled Tribe population of the country, the tribal people living in Bihar constitute about one fifth segment. Most of these tribes inhabit Hazaribagh, Dhanbad, Singhbhum, Palamu and Santhal Pargana. Besides these, considerable tribal population is found also in Saharram, Bhabhua, Bhagalpur, Mungher, Purnia and Champaran. Among the main and relatively known tribes come Munda, Oraon, Ho, Santhal, Kharia, Pahariya and Birhor, (Hasnain 2011: 151).

Himachal Tribes

Total population of Himachal Pradesh according to 2011 census is 68,64,602 with a density of 123 persons per sq. km. The highest density in Hamirpur district which is 407 persons per sq. km. and the lowest is 2 persons per Sq. km. in Lahaul Spiti district. About 90 per cent of the population lives in rural areas. According to 2011 census, the number of females per thousand males was total 974. Total scheduled caste population of Himachal is 17,29,252 which is 25.19 per cent of the total population. Scheduled tribe population of Himachal is 3,92,126 which is 5.7 per cent of the total population of the state, (Census of India: 2011).

Scheduled Tribes of Himachal Pradesh represent a marked difference in their way of life as distinguished from other communities inhabiting this region. Not only this, even the life style of one Scheduled Tribe differs from the other Scheduled Tribes in other parts of the country. Scheduled Tribes of the Himachal Pradesh inhabit the inaccessible part of the region, the geophysical isolation of these tribal communities in sequestered in mountain valleys of the Western Himalayas. They have been isolated altogether from the mainstream of the socio-cultural development of the mainland since centuries.

Geographical factor has thus, been one of the main reasons for the evolution of the localized socio-cultural customs and tradition of their own. Moreover, each Scheduled Tribe of this region can be identified with specific geographical region (Kinnaur, Lahaul Spiti, Bharmaur and Pangi) and as such the area of their activities is normally restricted to their particular limit.

Nonetheless, there are some Scheduled Tribe communities like Gaddis and Gujjars who, although possess nomadic character, are associated with Bharmaur and Kilar areas of the Chamba district. They are always seen roaming with their quadrupled wealth in the pasture lands around Shiwalik and elsewhere. Some of the Kinnauras and Lahulas have also established their secondary habitats in the Shimla hills and Kullu respectively in order to further their mercantile pursuits.

Historically, each scheduled tribe in this region is a separate entity in itself. Such tribal communities settled in the particular geographical limit in the area at different times. Inhabitants of Kinnaur and Lahaul Spiti districts are the earliest settlers whereas Gaddi and Gujjar made inroads into their present habitat recently during medieval period from the main land.

Gaddis and Gujjars had been influenced by the predominating religious beliefs of that time and as such the religious sacraments are reflected in their marriage and other ceremonies. Since the native people of Kinnaur and Lahaul-Spiti remained away from the Brahminic influence of

the plains and as such secular character in their marriage and other social ceremonies reflects. Thus, the time gap in the settlement of different tribal communities in the region had influenced the socio- cultural life of these people to a greater extent.

Ethnically also, the scheduled tribes of the Himachal Pradesh are different from one and other. e.g. the Kinnaur and Spiti tribals are more akin to the Mongolian group of human races whereas the Gaddis and Gujjars found their resemblance with the people of mainland. Likewise, Kinnauras and Lahulas are considered to profess the tradesmanship qualities of the Mongolian races and as such lead a settled life whereas, Gaddis and Gujjars are basically shepherds and as such are migratory communities. Thus, the ethnic characters of the Scheduled Tribes of Himachal are clearly visible in their way of life, (Kapur 1993:17).

Conclusion

The tribes constitute a small but important segment of the Indian population. These are descendants of the earliest inhabitants of the sub-continent. They contributed to the variety and riches of cultural forms in the country. Over the centuries they have preserved a distinctive style of life; in terms of quality life and cultural ethos. There are significant differences among the tribes themselves in different parts of the country. Tribal groups represent different levels of socio-economic development. They differ greatly in their numbers and complexity of social organization and there is variation in their customs and institutions.

About 55 per cent of the Scheduled Tribe's population is concentrated in the east and central belt including West Bengal, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and parts of the Andhra Pradesh. About 28 per cent are in the western belt consisting of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Dadra, Nagar Haveli and Goa, Daman and Diu. Only 6 per cent of the Scheduled Tribes population is found in the southern states of the Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. About 10 per cent resides in the North-

East India. 0.83 per cent are in Himachal Pradesh and 0.10 per cent in Lakshadweep and Mimicry islands and Andamans and Nicobar Islands.

It is estimated that where the tribal area constitutes about 20 per cent of the total geographical area of the country, about 70 percent of the mineral resources, bulk of the forest and water and hydel power sources, are located in these areas. Although, socio-economically the tribal areas are rich in the resources; position of the tribes indicates their vulnerable position. It also reflects the gap between the general population and tribal development after seventy years of Independence.

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