

Waves of Development in India

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Development is a process of economic, social and technological change by which human welfare is improved. Anything that raises the level of human welfare contributes to development, anything that reduces the welfare is anti-developmental, a subtraction from development¹. A major goal of development policy and planning say Adel man and Morris should be to guarantee social justice to those in need and that any pattern of economic growth is unjust that fails to improve the standard of living of major segments of the population . Anything contributing to extreme inequality in standards of living is morally unacceptable². Economists like Amartya Sen , Paul streeten and Mahbub-ul-Haq believe that increased incomes should be a means for enlarging human choices and strengthening human capabilities (the range of things people are able to do or be) such as to lead a long and healthy life , to have education , information , knowledge, to have personal and social security , to achieve equality and enjoyment of human rights , to have good governance and so on . People are the central purpose of development and that human will and capacity are its most central resource³. And people are the means and reason for development and fair and equitable development contributes to human welfare⁴. The ultimate purpose of development is to provide increasing opportunities to all people for a better life .Development is therefore a human process of transforming men and societies leading to a social order in which every human being can achieve moral and material wellbeing.

Pro- People Initiatives Taken

Realizing the significance of development India has adopted a number of innovative strategies and approaches for ensuring the basic rights of the people. In the last two decades the strategy of development has mainly focused on poverty alleviation, promoting educational access, ensuring a better livelihood opportunities for poor, making provision for basic amenities and infrastructural facilities through innovative programmes. For intensifying the efforts towards empowering India, the Government of India has shown some innovations in its intervention by introducing some revolutionary initiatives in recent years. The Right to Education ACT 2009 which came into force on April 1, 2010, for ensuring comprehensive elementary schooling has provided a major boost towards the progress of rural education .The programmes for livelihood promotion viz National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), a self-employment programme of Government of India and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme (MGNREGS) introduced in 2010and 2005 respectively have given a new direction to rural development. MGNREGS is the largest employment generating scheme in the world so far offering a bottom up architecture with radical provisions for people centered planning , implementation , social audit and possibilities of creating durable assets leading to sustainable rural development . The National Rural Health Mission, now National Health Mission (NHM) initiated in 2005 is putting health care services on the right track with need basis institutional changes within the existing health care system .To build the infrastructure the

government launched programmes namely Bharat Nirman and Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) in 2005. Under the Bharat Nirman comprehensive and specific action plan had been framed with an aim to promote water supply, Housing, Telecommunication, and Information Technology, Roads Electrification and Irrigation in rural areas. On the other hand a programme like Rajiv Awaas Yojana (RAY) was started in 2011 to provide housing to slum dwellers in cities. The goal is to have slum free India in 2022. To overcome the problem of food insecurity and hunger an ambitious and a revolutionary, Food security Act has been introduced. It will provide food grains to at least 75% of the population- 90% in rural areas and 50% in urban areas. The National Programme of Education for Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL), 2003, now part of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK), 1993, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, 1975, recent Beti Bachao Beti Pado Abhiyan (BBBPA), 2015, and so on are playing key role in ensuring gender equality and empowerment of women in India. The RTI Act of 2005 by ensuring a system of proactive disclosure of information, provision for monitoring and vigilance by citizens, beneficiaries etc. has been playing a key role in ensuring transparency in the operation of most of development programs. More over India has also developed a number of applications to automate the processes of information generation and strengthening its e-governance initiatives.

Issues of concern

Although concerted efforts have been initiated by the government of India through several plans and measures for meeting the needs and requirements of Indian people but the basic issues of health care, sanitation, comparable quality of education, employment and overall quality of life still causes concern for India. Significant funds have been allocated for poverty alleviation yet there has not been a correspondent improvement in the relative rank of India in the Human Development Index (HDI), being placed at 135th position among 187 countries in HDI Report 2014. Studies and statistics show that India's performance has been low and progress remains slow with regard to poverty and tackling malnutrition and under nourishment particularly in rural India. According to National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) survey 2011-12 68th Round the percentage of poor is 21.9% in the country as whole (25.7% in rural areas and 13.7% in urban areas) The census of India estimates that 83 million continue to live below the poverty line in rural India. In the absence of inclusive and effective governance –the people at the grassroots who are intended beneficiaries of different development initiatives are left dependent on a bureaucratic service delivery mechanism –a system, which is bearing a 'cancer' in sustainable development process that is corruption and this fact is very much evident when we look into the Corruption perception index 2014 where India ranks 85th in terms of least corrupt countries. The problem is further compounded by grave problem of unemployment. According to NSSO Report 2011 the unemployment rate in India is 9.4 and as per NSSO Report of 2012 7 crore people are without employment in India.

After more than 65 years of planned economic development social exclusion is still prevalent in Indian society. One-fifth of the households still live in a state of 'abject' or a 'moderate' state of deprivation such as too little drinking water, Pucca (brick) house and literacy not to speak of access to health services. The quality of these services and satisfaction with them are far from being at a desirable level. There has been economic growth without socio economic development. Despite a surplus of 65 million tons food grains, some 320 million people go to bed hungry every night. In 2004 deaths from starvation have been reported in several states like Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and

Rajasthan . Inequality across the social occupational groups has not declined; in fact it has increased during the last decade. Along with this, discrimination based on gender and social status has also increased. There is a striking decline in female – male ratio among children from 927 girls per 1000 boys in 2001 to 914 girls per 1000 boys in 2011. Domestic violence has been increasing day by day. The practice of dowry has increased in various groups where it never existed in the past. Similarly, atrocities against the dalits, tribals and minorities have also increased. High economic growth rate has not benefited the poor even to meet their basic human needs. Markets have not evolved safety networks for work force and large section of population is without social and economic security. Reports on human development in South Asia have pointed out that the overall focus of the organizations working in the region has been more on Gross Domestic product (GDP) growth and balancing budgets, than on the reduction. The Government has not adopted job creation as an explicit policy commitment. According to Kuldip Nayar India is witnessing an uneven progress. There are regional bottle necks highlighting the problem of inequitable development. During the last years many poor have lost their traditional resources of livelihood which used to provide them some relief to cope up with misery. Common resources like common land ,forest and water have been increasingly grabbed by the dominant classes .In the name of so called development ,the state has taken away also from many tribal and non-tribal farmers their land and habitat. The victims have been forced to endorse the decisions of the government. Alternative avenues though sometimes promised have remained on the paper or provided to a few. This has given rise to problems like Naxalism in India. Maoists have become relevant with the gun although they are a problem not the solution. Most of the promises that the Indian Constitution on which the Republic is founded have so far remained unfulfilled. Article 21 promises the right to live with dignity. Article 41 directs the state to make effective provisions for securing the Right to work, education, and public assistance in cases of unemployment, oldage, sickness and disablement. The reason for this is ill will, apathy and lack of coordination among different agencies of development. The implementation of schemes is weak at the ground level. People as well as officials take the developmental schemes for granted. In fact, Riggian ‘ Prismatic Sala Model’ of Development is relevant for India as India faces problems of formalism (theory- practice gap), heterogeneity (co- existence of the traditional and the modern) and functional overlaps (similar functions are performed by different institutions. Sala Model administration in India is characterized by the co- existence of universal official norms and respect for traditions, which is reflected in the influence of family and community on official decisions (e.g. nepotism and favouritism).People vote in every election with the expectation that their representatives would sincerely fulfill the promises.Ironically,democracy has been used to perpetuate power of few to decide the destiny of all .Majority of the people feel helplessness as they have no other way but to put faith in the system .According to C.Douglas Lummis, the present day development model is anti-democratic⁶ .In this context Rajini Kothari observes “Today the state is seen to have betrayed the masses ,as having become a prisoner the dominant classes and their transnational patrons and as having increasingly turned anti-people. The state has in the Third World, despite some valiant efforts by dedicated leaders in a few countries, has degenerated into a technocratic machine serving a narrow power group that is kept in power by holders of security men at the top and a regime of repression and terror at the bottom, kept going by millions of hardworking people who must go on producing goods and services for the system for if they did not everything would collapse” .7.

Exploring Solutions

Therefore to promote development in the true sense of the word India should follow human capital model of development which shifts the emphasis from physical capital formation to human capital formation and from industrial development to rural development, as a basis for overall development. This model seems most appropriate for labour-surplus developing countries, where a lot of underdevelopment human resources having high potential for development exist. Besides, human resources are renewable and hence inexhaustible. Thus, human capital can be substituted for exhaustible non-renewable physical capital in the process of development and thus relax the constraint on development imposed by inadequacy of physical capital to a large extent. As a matter of fact, strategies for development of the tertiary (service) sector, which is the fastest growing sector all over the world, require skilled, experienced and innovative human resources for their success. And this is the path that India should choose to bring about overall sustainable development. Human resource development through nutrition, health, appropriate education, training and empowerment deserves the highest priority. Moreover corruption needs to be tackled at an earliest by making officials from bottom to top accountable to people. The tolerance of corruption by people has to be overcome. For that purpose a social campaign against corruption should be initiated in India. There should be severe punishment to those involved in corruption schemes and for that matter an effective law against corruption needs to be revitalized. India should follow the path Scandinavian countries where the incidence of corruption is very low. Citizens' charters must be promoted to ensure transparency in the administration. Effective implementation of development schemes is the need of the hour to overcome the problems of poverty, unemployment, gender inequality etc. in the society. A synergy between various development agencies especially between central and state level organizations is vital for effective implementation of schemes. India. Institutions like National Institution for Transformation of India (NITI) Ayog, formerly Planning Commission must be rejuvenated by effective planning, organizing, staffing, directing, coordinating, budgeting and so on. Furthermore action on the reports of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India must be taken quickly by the concerned agencies. Finally, development of all sections of society must be equitably promoted to end the problem of social exclusion and regionalism in the country. It would be apt to quote here that though some positive changes have been brought about in the society by the operation of developmental process, a lot needs to be done to usher in a genuine social revolution in the country.

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