

Managing Change for Sustainable Development: A South Asian Perspective

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Abstract—The need of the moment is to understand 'change', the kinds of change that system can absorb the 'good' change and distinguish it from 'abrupt' change which systems cannot cope with. We also need to understand how to increase and sustain the capability of people, economies and nature to deal with change.

Countries like India China, Brazil and Mexico which were not the major contributors to the history of world development so far. Rise of China as the 'workshop' of the world, the status which was classically enjoyed by Britain is a special milestone of the recent history of world business. Similarly elevation of the status of India as the 'back office' of the world has similar importance. These new participants in the recent major players of the world development are likely to remain notable players for at least another 50 years, likely to grow rapidly as the two emerging eastern powers on the planet. It is high time for theoreticians as well as practitioners to take a long term perspective on these issues.

Index Terms—Consumerism, development, forestry mental conservation.

I. INTRODUCTION

Since 1990s, the world has witnessed a new multi polar world order with increasing importance of new countries like India China, Brazil and Mexico which were not the major contributors to the history of world development so far.

Rise of China as the 'workshop' of the world, the status which was classically enjoyed by Britain is a special milestone of the recent history of world business. Similarly elevation of the status of India as the 'back office' of the world has similar importance. These new participants in the recent major players of the world development are likely to remain notable players for at least another 50 years, likely to grow rapidly as the two emerging eastern powers on the planet. It is high time for theoreticians as well as practitioners to take a long term perspective on these issues. The character of the change underlying visible short term phenomenon needs to be understood and addressed. The need of the moment is to understand 'change', the kinds of change that system can absorb the 'good' change and distinguish it from 'abrupt' change which systems cannot cope with. We also need to understand how to increase and sustain the capability of people, economies and nature to deal with change.

II. DEVELOPMENT AND CONSUMERISM

If India were to accept without question that the western

precedent is the only way to develop, then by 2050 the number of cars in India might well exceed the number in United States. India is far more crowded country than U.S. where as there are thirty two Americans per square mile of America, there are some 840 Indians per square mile of India (Mark Tully, 2007).

However, the prevalent modern economics teaches us that it is attachment to things, the desire to possess and consumerism that power the engine of growth. It is assumed that the economy is in good shape when consumerism is rampant, when the tills in the high street are ringing messily and banks are pouring money into housing market. But, it would seem that the main beneficiaries of high house prices are the speculators and estate agents. The most vulnerable people in the housing market, such as young couples trying to buy their first home, don't regard the price they are asked to pay and the mortgage they are burdened with as a good idea at all. The tingling tills in the high street only reveal that people have been persuaded to waste their time and money buying things they don't need unless they really do find retail therapy effective. In his book the hungry spirit, the British management guru Charles Handy says, "If we go on growing at our present rate, we will be buying sixteen times as much of everything in one hundred years' time. Even if the world in the wake of industrial development, the forestland has been a first and foremost casualty in every part of the world. The change in the use of forestland encompasses the changes in the ecosystem as well as in stake holders' access to forest and eco-system goods and services. Since these changes may entail loss of forestland and goods and services, the concept of Net present value (NPV) was introduced in India as a means to compensate for the loss. The payment of NPV is for the protection of the environment and not for any proprietary right. Most of the Indian states have agreed to recover NPV from the user agencies on condition that they would manage the accrued money. This is one of the most interesting innovations introduced over the last decade regarding the valuation of the ecological cost of the projects, the entire credit for which must go to the supreme court of India. Under the scheme a Compensatory Aforestation Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) has been constituted in 2002 under which every party that works to divert forest area for non-forestry purpose has to deposit a certain sum equivalent to the total value of ecological benefits lost per hectare diverted for such purpose. By the end of financial year 2011, Rs. 11000 crores were available to various state governments for reforestation purposes.(Jairam Ramesh 2010) This innovation can serve as a great lesson for other south Asian countries as well.

Now all the marketers are working comfortably on 7 Ps of marketing but the need of the hour is to promote and

Manuscript received April 20, 2012; revised May 16, 2012.

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focus on the eighth P i.e. planet. At macro level we must develop a system to convert gross domestic product (GDP) in to Green Domestic product that must reflect the consumption of precious depletable natural resources in the process of calculating national income. By 2015, it is estimated that India will adopt a systems of Green National Accounting. Nobel Laureate Kenneth Arrow along with others have calculated that genuine domestic investment rate in India is around 2.3 percent lower than the normally reckoned domestic investment rate for the period 1970-2001 after taking into account the environmental costs as a proportion of GDP (Jai Ram Ramesh, 2010).

Id's environment can tolerate the burden, what are we going to do with all that stuff?

III. DEVELOPMENT AND FORESTRY

Environ In the wake of industrial development, the forestland has been a first and foremost casualty in every part of the world. The change in the use of forestland encompasses the changes in the ecosystem as well as in stake holders' access to forest and eco-system goods and services. Since these changes may entail loss of forestland and goods and services, the concept of Net present value (NPV) was introduced in India as a means to compensate for the loss. The payment of NPV is for the protection of the environment and not for any proprietary right. Most of the Indian states have agreed to recover NPV from the user agencies on condition that they would manage the accrued money. This is one of the most interesting innovations introduced over the last decade regarding the valuation of the ecological cost of the projects, the entire credit for which must go to the supreme court of India. Under the scheme a Compensatory Aforestation Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) has been constituted in 2002 under which every party that works to divert forest area for non-forestry purpose has to deposit a certain sum equivalent to the total value of ecological benefits lost per hectare diverted for such purpose. By the end of financial year 2011, Rs. 11000 crores were available to various state governments for reforestation purposes.(Jairam Ramesh 2010) This innovation can serve as a great lesson for other south Asian countries as well.

The time has come to value forests for their benefits in a landscape context, rather than seeing them as fragmented units of resource flow only. The legal and institutional frame work has not been sound and effective till now. It gives precedence to the interests of the industries over the collective interests of communities and environment. Many a times, the amendments in the existing environmental laws in all the South Asian Nations are focused on facilitating clearances rather than enforcing environmental regulations effectively. In such situations the imperative is on the regulatory authorities to weigh the costs of developing a project against the environmental impacts and disobedience of the law. It will not suffice to change the method of approval and to improve the efficiency of the system. The environmental priorities of the nation must be completely reconceived

IV. MENTAL CONSERVATION EFFORTS

The actions initiated by the Government of India in the

field of environment conservation must be viewed as its concern over public health issue aiming to check air, water and industrial pollution. Environmental public health as a formal discipline should ideally integrate streams of knowledge from diverse discipline, integrating learning and perspectives from life science, especially human biology, immunology and ecology, quantitative sciences such as bio-statistics and demography, social sciences such as environmental health economics, environmental toxicology, waste management and occupational health.

In the field of environment conservation in India, project Tiger can be cited as a case for deeper analysis. Launched in the year 1973, today India has declared 39 project tiger reserves so far with a number of 1700 tigers which accounts nearly half of the world's tiger in the wild. The initiation and subsequent management of the project is laudable, but going forward, the rights of forest dwellers must be recognized just as much as the needs of the wild life must be secured. Many a times, while creating wild life sanctuaries and national parks, forest departments had not implemented the provisions to recognize and settle the rights of local people. In Karnataka the Biligiri Rangaswami temple wildlife sanctuary was established in 1974 by displacing the soliga tribals from their cultivation sites to settled colonies but still 400 families are awaiting their land titles. In another case of Sunabeda sanctuary in Orissa, which was established in Nuapara district comprising 22000 people of 64 villages out of which 42 are revenue villages. But no revenue settlements were made for the displaced tribals. 87 per cent population of this sanctuary comprises the tribes like Gonds and Bhunjia. So is the case with Mudumalal sanctuary in Tamilnadu and Melghat sanctuary in Maharashtra (Times, 2011). There is a close proximity between sustainable development and sustainable conservation of our forest resources. Our wild life and other related acts must be enacted in such a way so that they are fair and sensitive to the need of local people also.

V. NUCLEAR CAPABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Now I want to touch the most sensitive part of my address which has sensitized the entire world after the Japan's Phukushima nuclear plant devastation. In almost all the developing nations including some of the south Asian Nations' super ambitious nuclear expansion plans are based on the rosy assumption that a global "nuclear renaissance" is under way and that nuclear power is the best solution both to the climate change crisis and to the national energy security question. But there is no nuclear renaissance. Nuclear power is in decline worldwide. Nuclear power generation peaked in 2006 and is now annually falling by 2%. The number of operating reactors has declined from 444 in 2002 to 438 in 2009. A major reason for this is that nuclear power is unpopular and reactors are seen as bad neighbours.

Nuclear power generation is ineluctably fraught with ionizing radiation, an invisible, intangible and insidious poison, which is unsafe in all doses, however small. Radiation causes cancers and genetic damage, for which there is no cure, antidote or remedy. Nuclear plants expose

not just occupational workers, but also the general public, to radioactive hazards in numerous ways.

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