

A painting of a large, dark brown wooden water pot (matka) resting on a circular wooden platform. The platform is situated over a body of water, which is depicted with light blue and white brushstrokes. The background shows a landscape with trees and a sky with soft, blended colors. The overall style is expressive and somewhat abstract.

SA

Distributive Justice in India

Indu Upadhaya

Distributive Justice in India

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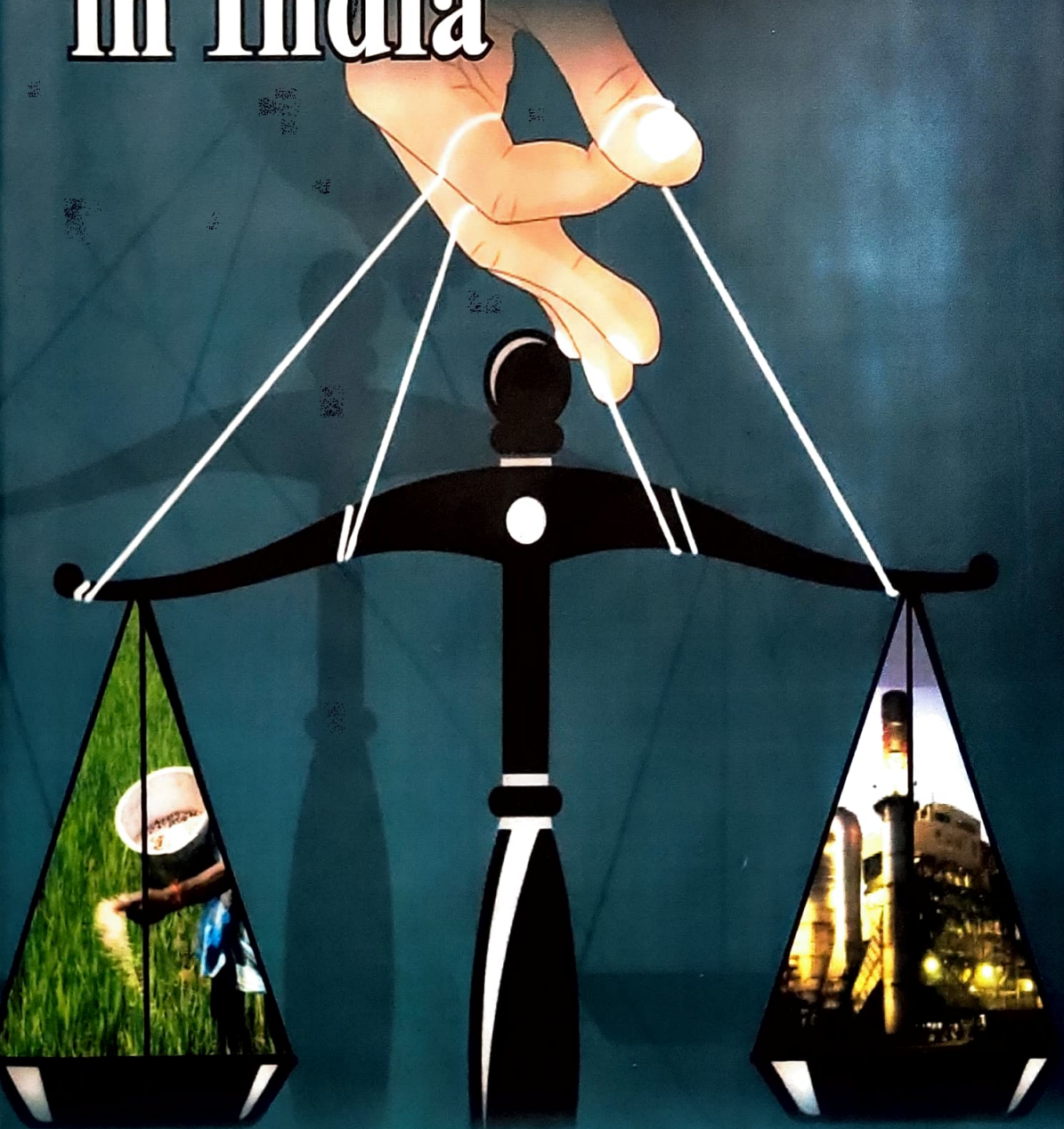
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Edited by : Indu Upadhyay
Nairanjana Srivastava
Arti Kumari

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Anshu Shukla
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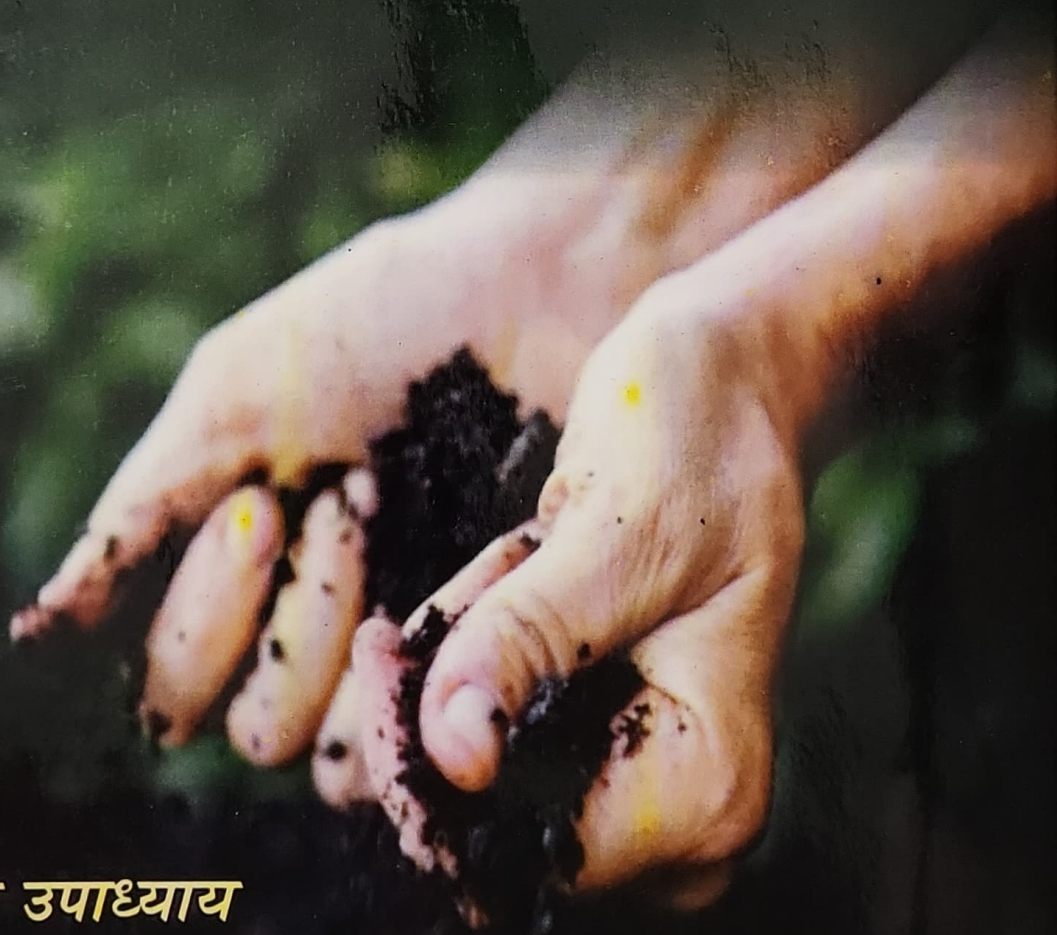
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इंदु उपाध्याय
नैरंजना श्रीवास्तव
आरती कुमारी

भूषि... अधिकार और अधिग्रहण के प्रश्न

संरक्षिका

प्रो० रचना श्रीवास्तव
प्राचार्या
वसन्त कन्या महाविद्यालय
कमच्छा, वाराणसी

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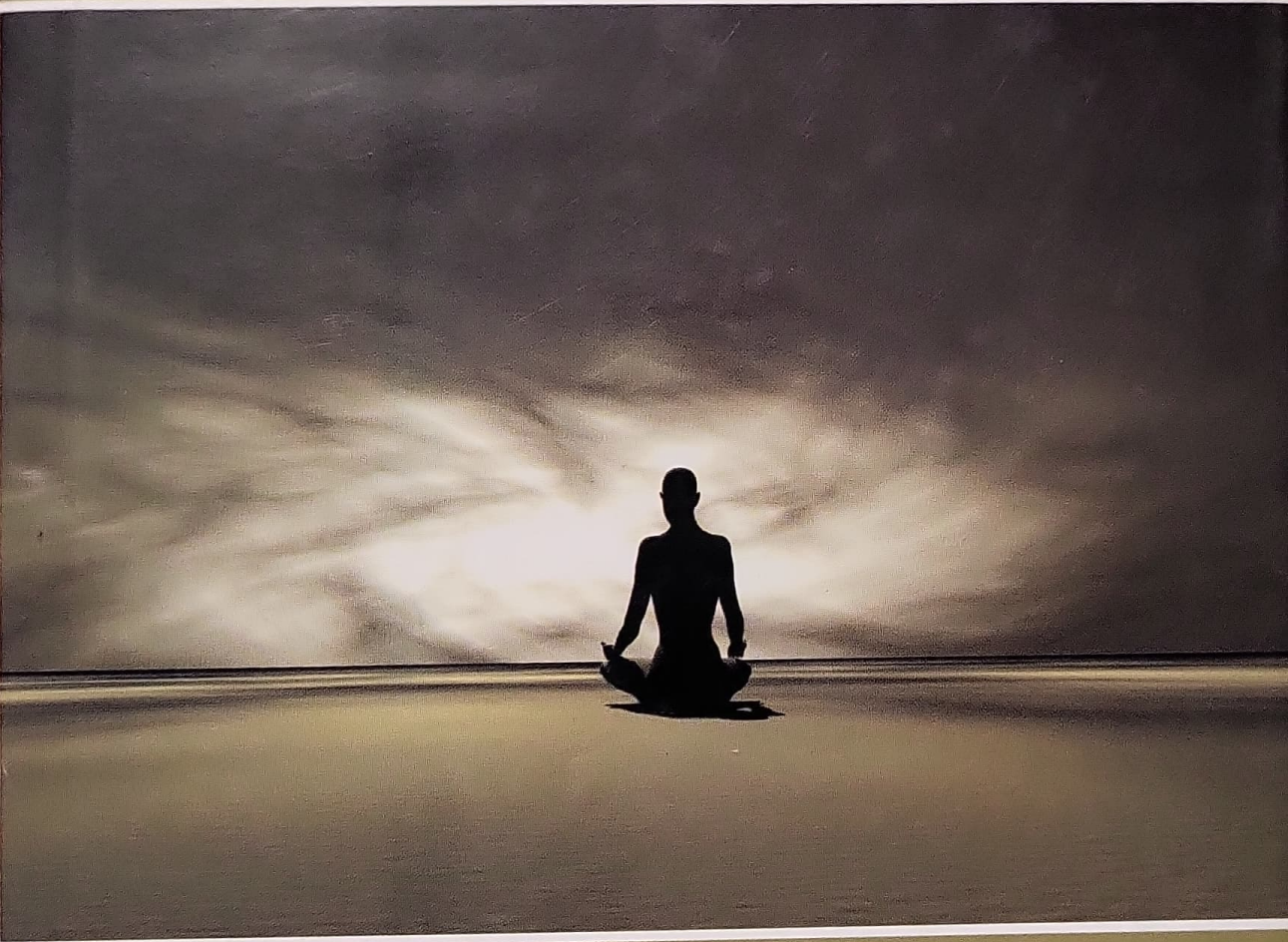
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DEVELOPMENT MEANINGLESS

Dr. Indu Upadhyay*

Development is a long and sustained change in the equilibrium condition which forever changes the technical and living standard. Mere increase in GDP cannot be called development unless it is accompanied by better health condition of the people. Health is one of the most important indicators of development, if we say development means more economic growth, it means the realisation of human capacity and the satisfaction of human wants. Good health not only means development but also acts as a driving force for development. Good health is not only a pre requisite of development but also an essential element of social welfare. A healthy community is considered as an infrastructure for building an economically viable society as unhealthy people can hardly be expected to make any valid contribution towards development. Healthy people are more productive as compared to unhealthy one. It needs no emphasis that healthy labour force leads to lesser absenteeism and lower medical bills therefore even by cost benefit analysis the benefit is more due to the health aspect as compared to cost. Therefore, present paper is an attempt to look at the condition of health towards inclusive development. The indicators selected for the purpose are infant mortality at birth, percentage of people surviving upto the age group of 40 years, sex ratio etc.

It needs no emphasis that there is prosperity in the industrial world but actually it is a paradox. Food production considered adequate is 2700 calories per person per day for every man, woman and child in the world. Still, millions are suffering from malnutrition in the more populous newly developed countries and from the life style diseases due to over consumption of food in more developed countries.

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There was no shortage of food as such what is lacking is the equal accessibility and affordability due to the dramatic skewed consumption pattern. It is no longer a question of just ensuring that good healthy food is accessible to all persons global food security now has encompassed the important issues of health and social justice and environment.

It should however be pointed out that the transformation of the agrarian economy from a one of the acute scarcity into the so called surplus economy should not obscure the fact that a sizeable section of the population continues to be underfed and undernourished. In the context of this paradox of surplus food grains coexisting with an underfed and undernourished population. Therefore, a common concern of both the developed or the underdeveloped is not only attainment of health but also to secure an acceptable level of health for all through the application of primary health programme in order to develop the whole economy on uniform basis and secure the goal of inclusive development.

It needs no emphasis that infants are the near and dear of each and every family irrespective of the fact that they belong to a rich or poor country therefore the health of the infant is the best indicator to define the condition of health in a society.

Infant mortality is the number of infant per thousand that die before the age of one year. No doubt it is one of the important indicators of development still one thing that should be taken into account is that after five year if the child dies, sets question mark before the health care system. If we look at the statistics of India regarding infant mortality of 0-5 years it is very clear that though the infant mortality has reduced to some extent 70 boys and 79 girls out of thousand die before attaining the age of 5. One thing that should be taken into account is that the girls are biologically stronger than boys still the infant mortality rate of girls is more as compared to boys. There can be two reasons behind this one is the desire of having a male child on hand brings about better health care of male child as compared to female child and other one is failure of our health care system to bring about inclusive development. One basic point that becomes clear from this analysis is that health care cannot be seen in isolation, one need to correlate the system with the education and food security as well.

Table 1.1 Under Five Mortality Rate by Gender

State	Male		Female		Persons	
	1998-99	2005-06	1998-99	2005-06	1998-99	2005-06
Andhra Pradesh	88.2	85.6	94.5	71.1	85.5	63.2
Assam	86.8	90.3	71.5	100.3	89.5	85.0
Bihar	104.6	82.7	116.0	108.3	105.1	84.8
Chattisgarh	-	107.7	-	103.3	-	90.3
Delhi	61.4	47.2	53.2	45.5	55.4	46.7
Goa	-	32.9	-	31.4	46.8	20.3
Gujarat	92.4	72.2	89.0	82.3	85.1	60.9
Haryana	66.0	55.2	94.2	63.0	76.8	52.3
Jharkhand	-	111.1	-	113.7	-	93
Karnataka	89.7	71.4	76.6	60.6	69.8	54.7
Kerala	30.6	22.3	21.1	16.6	18.81	16.3
Madhya Pradesh	141.7	103.6	148	112.7	137.6	94.2
Maharashtra	69.4	55.8	70.6	50.7	58.1	46.7
Orissa	121.3	103.7	109.9	84.4	104.4	90.6
Punjab	55.4	51.3	87.4	58.9	72.1	52
Rajasthan	115.7	87.7	134.9	99.4	114.9	85.4
Tamil Nadu	62.3	42.3	66.8	47.9	63.3	35.5
Uttar Pradesh	120.9	100.9	144.2	124.7	122.5	96.4
West Bengal	74.7	74.8	67.1	55.7	67.7	59.6
India	97.9	69.7	105.2	79.2	94.9	74.3

Source: NFHS 2 and 3, India Human Development Report, p.282, 2011

One more indicator which shows the failure of this system is number of people who do not survive beyond the age of 40 years

Table 1.2 Percentage of persons not expected to survive beyond the age of 40 years

States	Males		Females		Persons	
	1991	2004	1991	2004	1991	2004
Andhra Pradesh	15.0	17.5	14.9	15.6	14.9	16.4
Assam	21.1	21.0	22.5	23.9	21.8	22.4
Bihar	17.3	19.8	22.1	22.7	19.5	20.8
Gujarat	16.0	15.8	17.6	15.7	16.7	15.7
Haryana	14.3	14.4	16.6	17.7	15.4	15.8
Karana taka	15.4	15.2	16.0	13.9	15.7	14.6
Kerala	6.0	7.5	4.4	4.2	5.1	5.6
Madhya Pradesh	23.5	22.9	27.3	27.1	25.3	24.2
Maharashtra	12.1	13.6	12.5	12.0	12.3	12.8
Orissa	21.6	-	23.0	-	22.3	-
Punjab	13.8	13.8	13.5	12.2	13.8	13.0
Rajasthan	18.3	19.2	21.7	21.0	19.9	19.7
Tamil Nadu	13.3	13.7	13.4	11.8	13.4	12.7
Uttar Pradesh	19.8	20.1	25.0	24.1	22.2	29.9
West Bengal	14.2	-	15.4	-	14.8	-
India	16.9	17.2	19.1	18.5	18.0	17.7

Source: From Sample Registration based Abridged Life Tables. India Human Development Report, p.290/2011

It needs no emphasis that 17.7 percent of the population in India cannot live more than 40 years of age. An average adult in India is

expected to survive for more than 60 years of age. The effect is 18 percent of the population is losing 20 years of potential life which if supported by sufficient resources could drive economic growth. This again poses many questions before our health care system.

It needs no emphasis that the we have come a long way since independence when our economy was suffering from high death rate. The economy has reduced the death rate, infant mortality and mortality of 0-5 years still the bitter truth that persists is that we have to go a long to reach to the goal of inclusive development. Development is never to achieve the higher GDP growth rate. Development in real term should be better living standards for citizens where they can enjoy better health which accompanies education as well. There is a requirement of changing outlook towards indicators of health also. Infant mortality, and mortality 0-5 years is considered one of the indicators of health development and all the Government policies tires to reduce the same. The age group of 5-10 years do not receive proper attention and ultimately it is thrown out of the net of inclusive development. So the policies of health care and food security should keep into consideration everyone is to be brought into the periphery of development otherwise the development will become meaningless.

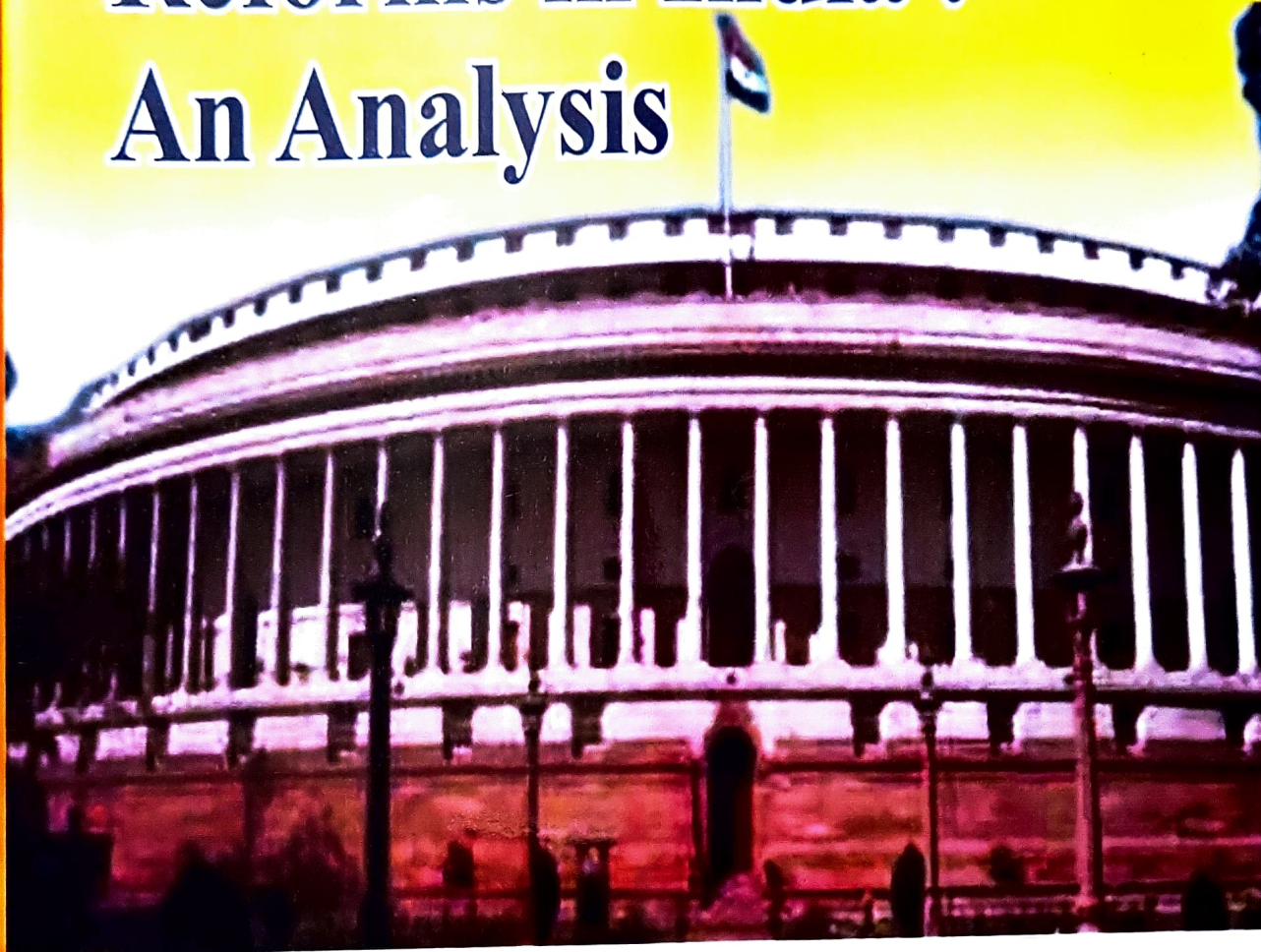
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- * India Human Development Report, 2011
- * National Family Health Survey 2 and 3, 2016.

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Editor-
Dr. Ashish Kumar Sonker

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Confused Public Choice in Representative Democracy

Dr. Indu Upadhyay *

Elections are the most important part of representative democracy. Democracy can function on this faith that elections are free, fair and not manipulated. In representative democracy not only collective preference but individual preference should be undertaken to make the society based on welfare principles. It has rightly been pointed out in the theory of representative democracy the politician functions as an entrepreneur and tries to maximise the votes to stay in power. He does so by providing a bundle of public services which are preferred by the voters. Thereby the politician serves the interest of the voter just like an entrepreneur serving the interest of consumers in order to have more and more profits. In order to do the same the politicians wishes to maximise the size of budget. The politician does so because a larger budget serves his interest of keeping intact the vote bank. It needs no emphasis that implementation of the preferences of the individual is not for the sake of welfare only but it can be used for manipulating the voters in their favour. The manipulation not only depends on the size of the Government but also on the conduct of macroeconomic policy. These policy makers try to realise the

* Associate Professor, Dept. of Economics, Vasant Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Kamachha, Varanasi.

Confused Public Choice in Representative Democracy

importance of economic condition for the success in elections. It has been empirically proven that there is a correlation between election results and economic variables. It has been proved that the party in power is blamed for the poor economic performance and is rewarded for its success. It should however be pointed out that role of public expenditure cannot be underemphasized in effecting the public opinion through voting. It should however be pointed out that the role of campaign financing is disturbing element in the fiscal decision making process. With the recent rise of Public Action Committee and their expected lobbying activities will further add to the dependence of political candidates on the support of well-funded interest group. A vast fund is spent on rallying to get support from the voters. These built pressure on tax and expenditure policy and the impression is that the revenue is spent to promote expansion or restriction of the public sector.

This paper is an attempt to look into relationship between funds spent for the purpose of election and the probability of success in the election. It has an objective of studying the effect of recent changes in socio economic condition to outcome i.e. success in election. It deals in detail about the dilemma which a voter faces while voting. The voters are sometime confused by the increasing public expenditure vs welfare and at times they are not in position to make up their mind in favour of individual preferences or group ones.

It should however be pointed out that individual consumer who is the beneficiary of the public services, its consumption gets reduced when the resources are transferred to public sector in the form of taxation. The question arises how preference on the matter can be expressed and implemented. Decision can be very easily reached by a process of negotiation

A Debate on Electoral Reforms in India : An Analysis

and bargaining but the process can be done only for a small group. Negotiation is important for not only the individual but also to all those who enter into the process of bargain. Negotiation tells about the nature of public good to be supplied and the contribution for the same. In real world this situation can be in the case of small town or village meetings. In such smaller situation bargain can take place but the outcome will be efficient it is doubtful. These bargaining solutions may not be feasible if there is a large population. Here the contribution of one individual acting alone is too small to make a difference and the number is so large to make the arrangement of negotiation a costly affair.

However, the voter enters the voting process in order to make contribution towards decision making. The role of a politician can be equated to the role of a firm competing with other firms to attract the buyers similar is the politicians competition for the voters in the political area or constituency. Economic competition and political competition are similar, the economic competition, under certain assumption, guides producers to supply in line with the preference of the consumers, so does the political competition under certain assumption guide the representatives to act in line with the interest of the voters. One can very easily find the same in the theory given by Anthony Downs, which offers an interesting interpretation of the democratic process¹. The voters objective is to maximise the net benefits which he or she derives from Government expenditures over voters tax. People will cast vote in favour of those who best represent their interests, and politicians will offer programmes which best serves the interest of their constituents. The process is same as the equilibrium of demand and supply for a commodity or service. Consumer

Confused Public Choice in Representative Democracy

demand those commodities which he prefers and the producer supplies those commodities which are demanded by the consumers and hence reach to equilibrium. Politicians who come closest to the interest of the voter will receive maximum number of votes and hence are able to gain political power. In this way politicians competition for votes resembles the producers' competition for consumers and the demands of voters are served in the process.

It should however be pointed out that the role of politicians in the context of representative democracy cannot be under emphasized. The role of politicians in context of representative democracy can exert pressure on the preference patterns and thereby on the legislative results. It should be noted that provision of social good is one way to snatch the vote bank. The overexpansion of public expenditure more is the chance to get the support of people. It is true that while only 51 percent of the population join in legislating a particular programme which meets their interest, the tax cost is to be tolerated by the whole group. Let the source of finance is a head tax, the cost to majority will be only 51 percent of the total and this major part will disregard the remaining 49 percent. Over all supply will only consider that part of the cost which will borne by the 51 percent who were in the favour of the plan leaving aside those who were against it.

Such may be the case but the opponents of the project do not consider it as a loss of benefits as the project was denied. In order to establish a general bias towards this over expansion, it is shown that the proponents are in the better position to organise than are the opponents or that proponents feeling strongly about their project, find more worthwhile to

A Debate on Electoral Reforms in India : An Analysis

spend money and efforts to secure a majority vote. Perhaps so, but a manipulation may be in either direction and a priori conclusion is arrived at.²

One more cause of oversupply is the fact that the taxpayers underestimate the tax burden which they actually will have to face. Voters are seen to support the particular expenditure legislation without being fully aware that an opportunity cost is involved with it or they may assume that the cost will be borne by someone else. This is particularly the case when tax is invisible. Thus an increase in income tax and property tax is more painful and results in more opposition as compared to indirect taxes especially when the tax is levied at production stage rather than on the retail bills. With invisible taxes less opposition is done because it is considered costless and that over expansion will result. Under the condition of deficit finance the increase in expenditure seems to be more costless. Similar will be the case when tax revenue rises not due to the hike in legislated tax rate but due to an automatic increase. Such a gain may be because of economic growth and inflation may permit additional outlays which might not have been agreed, if a tax increase had to be done through specific legislation.

It needs no emphasis that fiscal revolution exists but again there is a dilemma for the voter. While the taxpayers can underestimate the tax burden, it may underestimate the expenditure benefit also. Benefit which one gets through private purchases can be felt and is ratified by purchase price. Moreover, it has been said that the political process leaves a deficiency i.e. less than optimum production in the provisioning of social goods because the voter (consumer) is

Confused Public Choice in Representative Democracy

subject to intensive advertising pressures from producers of private goods, due to which its perceived needs gets distorted in voters' favour.³

One thing that is of concern is that a vote to raise expenditures through taxes lacks popularity not the same is the case for deficit financed additional outlays. Voters do not like the funds raised through taxes which carries a visible opportunity cost to the taxpayer. The case is not when the additional expenditure is financed through deficit financing. Voters try to ignore the future cost of debt service and view the increase in programs as being more or less costless. Therefore deficit finance, even though it may at times be needed for the purposes of stabilisation, try to expand the budget⁴. Similarly surplus finance i.e. more of tax as to public expenditure compared generates a curbing effect.

One more confusion is in the form of overexpansion, is said to result because public employees as voters support large budget simply because it creates job for them, and quite independent of the benefits derived from public services. However, it may be noted that recent decades of public sector expansion have been associated with a declining share of the public sector in the total employment. Voting bias is not the only cause behind overexpansion of budget. Bureaucrats and Politician also contribute to it. They do not serve to implement the wishes of the voters but strive to impose their own will. They find it in the interest to expand the budget and they are in the position to do so. Bureaucrats also confuse the voters, they try to maximise the size of their bureaus (perhaps to raise their salaries or extend power) and submit a budget which asks for more funds than needed to perform a given function, secondly,

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overstates the benefits that are to be derived with given services and inflates the total in anticipation of the cutbacks. The granting agency can very easily be befooled through it, but an excessive activity may result even if cheating is ruled out. The granter of the budget will accept those proposals which are worth money in the sense that the total benefits do not fall short of total costs. The bureaucrats will propose the largest budget compatible to this condition.⁵

In this the bureaucrats provide an interesting equation with the private sector. One can view it from a different angle public employees function as civil servants and contribute their services towards the society in the form of firstly, to provide technical expertise in the design of the programmes, so that the elected representatives can make better decision and secondly, to implement and operate programmes once they are enacted⁶. It needs no emphasis that the civil servants function only as aids to elected representatives but they effect the outcomes as well. The programs are complex and elected officials may have neither the time nor the expertise to analyse them. While giving advice the technicians can hardly avoid introduction of its own judgement, thereby influencing policy outcomes⁷.

The role of the politicians cannot be under emphasized for the same. The theory of representative democracy claims that politicians try to maximise votes in order to be in power. He does so by encouraging the provision of public services which are expected to be liked by the voters. Therefore, he serves the interest of the voters like a profit maximising entrepreneur, who serves the interest of the consumers. Politicians like bureaucrats like to support large budgets. It may be due to his interest in gaining power, influence or income. With this objective the politician is not interested in

Confused Public Choice in Representative Democracy

presenting a programme which maximises votes but to advocate a larger programme which can secure majority⁸. The budget may well desired by the median voter.

Other source of confusion for the voters is the campaign financing. The role of campaign financing is as a distorting process in the decision making for the voters. With the rise of media campaigning, campaign cost and the political contribution which have vastly increased nowadays make a voter more confused regarding making a rational choice. The recent rise of PAC (political action committees) and their lobbying activities has further added to the dependence of political candidates on the support of well-funded interest groups. The Government manipulating the public rather than implementing their desires depends not only on the size of the Government but also on the conduct of macroeconomic policies. The ruling party knows the relevance of economic policy therefore try to have macroeconomic policy to have favourable effects on election. Many empirical studies have been made to understand the relation between election and economic variables⁹. It has been seen that outcome of election depends upon economic variables such as unemployment, inflation and change in real income. The party in power is blamed for the poor economic condition and rewarded for success. However, the success depends on the analysis, it matters a great deal how much of a response lag is allowed for (does only the record of the election year matter because the voter does not have a longer memory) and how the unit of economic performance is defined. Therefore, elections are presided by expansionary policies to stimulate employment or by structural policies to attract a certain sections of the

electorate. The Government may initiate a politically based business cycle¹⁰.

An alternative approach to analysis of an individual behaviour of a single voter, official or politician is effected by being part of class and groups, so that the fiscal process is seen as a matter of group behaviour¹¹. This approach can be said to resembling with Marxists view, where by State (ruling class) is seen as an instrument of exploitation of subjugated (working class). Policies adopted can be seen as the class struggle. People correlate between monopoly capital and fiscal state. Groups expect surplus output to be diverted towards public outlays, especially on defence or on rising levels of transfer payments. This type of fiscal politics is in line with the Marxist philosophy of class struggle. One shouldnot be surprised with the fact that tax and expenditure decision is a major instrument of class struggle. Dissatisfaction due to taxation is one of the foremost causes which is behind revolutions as is evident in history and the redistributive measures are never liked by the capitalist class. But at the same time the budgetary policy can change from class struggle to social accommodation. Therefore, budget policy in case of modern welfare State has laid emphasis on progressive taxation and transfer payments.

It needs no emphasis that fiscal interest group play a crucial role in class struggle process for example capital and labour in construction industry will unite to promote highways while capital and labour in defence industries will combine in favour of a defence programme. Consumers who receive both wage and capital income prefer to the benefits which they

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grade higher. Therefore, interest structure is much more complex than simple division of capital and labour suggests. Similar will be the case for taxation, various tax paying groups join hands to represent their interest. The ruling party is under pressure of these interest groups. It can be oil industry arguing for reduction in taxes on them or University representatives wanting depletion of tuition fees. Consumer of particular commodity unite against the taxes levied on it and will be supported by the producer and workers producing that commodity.

It should however be pointed out that by providing a well organised reflection of voters concerns, interest group make a very healthy contribution in representative democracy. At the same time many interest groups have more financial resources to pressurise their views for their vested interest, this is not the view that plays constructive role towards nations development. Therefore, while making a public policy a balanced representation of interest groups is required¹².

It needs no emphasis the realistic fiscal group stakes into account various interest groups formed on the ground of economic conditions, demographic stage or regionalism. The voter remains confused with various things which is sometimes good for the society but many a times it harms the society. Some times the fiscal interest of majority i.e 51 percent may not lead to welfare of the society, it may be due the fact a smaller group may be down trodden and needs to be uplifted but the majority is against it therefore any policy cannot be framed due to it. A policy that is based on fiscal behaviour

should be made on the recommendation of interest groups in a balanced way rather than individual voters or self-interested-bureaucrats. It is in broader national interest that a policy should not be implemented mainly because it is liked by majority of people but it should be in welfare of all. Sometimes it is the vested interest amongst the political parties especially ruling party to snatch the vote bank or to incur election campaigning. There are various examples in world that how the ruling party used the funds of central bank for their own interest or some time in election campaigning. The Wall street Journal has reported that more than 1700 banks have pulled their shutters down within 12 months when President Donald Trump accused the Central bank for his deficit swelling tax cut¹³. It happened in Turkey when RecepTayyipEndogan sharply increased the interest rates to control a currency crisis that slashed the market worldwide which caused the inflation to rise to 18 percent and slashing the 40 percent of Lira's value against dollar. Italy's deputy Prime Minister Luigi Di Maio, is also fighting against the European Central Bank on Rome's borrowing and spending case. Di Mao does not wants money for election campaigning but for the sake of populist promises such as lower taxes and income for the poor¹⁴. Same is the case of India where Indian Government is interested in having reserves of RBI for their own purposes which has widened the gap between RBI and Government of India. It needs no emphasis that the expenditure incurred by the Government no doubt pleases the people but sometimes it may have more disastrous effect than what is expected. Therefore, expenditure

incurred is not for the welfare of many as it may appear but it can be for manipulating the semi-literate voter who is confused with intentions with which it has been made.

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SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**Through Innovative
Management Practices**

**Prof. Ashish Singh
Dr. Rajani Srivastava**



Sustainable Resource Management through Innovative Management Practices

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Sustainable Solutions to Indian Agrarian Crisis

Dr. Indu Upadhyay & Varsha Yadav***

Introduction

In an underdeveloped country like India agriculture sector and rural economy plays a very important role in providing employment, ensuring food security and contributing factor and product towards industrial and service sector. It should however be pointed out that development of an economy leads to lower contribution of agriculture towards national kitty i.e. GDP the same is witnessed by India. The reason behind is that its share of industrial sector increases which in turn depends on the agricultural sector for raw materials but as it develops the dependence goes on declining. Infact, the agricultural sector develops a dependence on industrial sector for new inputs such as fertilisers, insecticides, machines etc. Industrial agriculture depends upon off farm sector for its needs. Initially in traditional societies agriculture was self-dependent. It had manure to provide for the nutrition of the soil, insecticides, pesticides for crop protection, seeds, bullocks to provide mechanical energy etc. On the other hand in modern agriculture the farmer had to depend on industrial society for its needs which leads to monoculture by disturbing the biodiversity amongst plants and animals, chemical fertilisers, insecticides and pesticides are polluting soil, air and water ultimately harming health of environment and human being, depleting the soil profile which is making it less fertile and declining productivity of land, use of water has increased leading to fall in water table.

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Today most of the land under gone through capital intensity are suffering from the problem of declining productivity, deteriorating soil profile, reduced profitability and threat to human and animal health. Now, large number of people are questioning the social, economic and environmental impact of new agricultural strategy of India. In this connection this paper is an attempt to look at the problems of agriculturist and suggest various ways to sort out the problems and make the agriculture sustainable. There is a need to look at the Indian agrarian crisis as to why this problem cropped up when new and cost effective agriculture was adopted. It should however be pointed out that sustainable agriculture is that agriculture that takes into account various variants of conventional agriculture that often called organic, ecologically sound and uses low inputs. Only using organic inputs does not guarantee sustainability. A farm in order to be sustainable must produce adequate amount of the food grains not only in terms of quantity but also nutritious quality, cost effective and be environmentally safe and profitable. One of an important characteristics of agriculture is provision of nutritious food. It needs no emphasis that agriculture based on industry consumes more and more fossil fuel, water and chemicals which is eaten away by animals and fishes leading to death of marine animals. One of other risks which is associated with it is the danger to human health after consumption of these industrial crops and animals.

It should however be pointed out that present will deal with present position of Indian agriculture and look at whether Indian agriculture needs any change or not. It is one of the facts that in a poor country the demand for food grain increases with the increase in income. This is a good news for the farming community as it will lead to a increased income and standard of living. In reality the position of farmers is different, they are facing a deteriorating standard of living. One of the causes behind it can be bad terms of trade between the industry and agriculture.

Index of Terms of Trade between Agriculture and Non-Agricultural Sector

Year	Agricultural Terms of Trade
1961-62	80.6
1962-63	79.6
1963-64	72.9
1964-65	94.0
1965-66	102.9
1966-67	115.6
1968-69	105.1
1969-70	101.8
1970-71	100.0

1971-72	97.5
1972-73	103.5
1973-74	109.6
1974-75	99.9
1975-76	84.6
1976-77	90.6
1977-78	90.7
1978-79	85.4
1979-80	88.6
1980-81	87.3
1981-82	88.7
1982-83	91.4
1983-84	91.6
1984-85	93.9
1985-86	93.6
1986-87	95.7
1987-88	97.4
1988-89	98.3
1989-90	99.4
1990-91	101.9
1991-92	105.6
1992-93	103.9
1993-94	103.6
1994-95	106.6
1995-96	105.3
1996-97	103.1
1997-98	105.6
1998-99	105.2
1999-2000	102.7
2000-01	100.9
2001-02	102.8
2002-03	103.6
2003-04	101.0
2004-05	81
2005-06	83

2006-07	84
2007-08	89
2008-09	94
2009-10	100
2010-11	103
2011-12	100
2012-13	97
2013-14	96

*Provisional Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture.

Source: Keynote paper on Agriculture, Structural Reforms and Agriculture: Issues and Policies, S. Mahendra Dev, Chairman, CACP, Soni, R.N, Leading issues in Agricultural Economics, p188 .Economic Survey, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, 2014-15,p.19

Table 1 shows the terms of trade between industry and agriculture. Terms of trade is rate of exchange of goods between the two sectors. The ratio of agriculture prices vs. industrial prices. Whichever sector is in the favourable position develops at the cost of the other. Table1 clearly divides the terms of trade into four parts. Phase one starts from 1961-62 to 63-64 in this phase the terms of trade is unfavourable for agriculture .The terms of trade series, based upon the price data released by Economic Advisor shows that the terms of trade in 1961-62 were unfavourable to agriculture when compared with those in 1952-53.The causes attributed for the purpose is that the first plan was completed successfully which brought down the prices of the agricultural products. Secondly, the assistance under PL480 obtained by India kept the prices of agricultural commodities in regulation .The second phase which started in 1964-65 to 1973-74, the terms of trade was favourable for agriculture. Many factors were responsible for this change in terms of trade. The assistance under PL480 came to an end which the agricultural prices. Government also stopped the policy of price control which raised the price of agricultural commodities. The important change which created a positive atmosphere for the agricultural commodities was the foundation of Agriculture and Price Commission in 1965.Minimum support price of the commodities was changed since than which made agriculture a better profession. The third phase started from 1974-75 to 1985-86 ,the TOT (Terms of Trade) became again unfavourable for the farmers. One of the reasons stated for the deteriorating terms of trade was a sharp increase in prices of inputs of agricultural commodities purchased for capital formation. Terms of trade was favourable for the fourth phase which started from 1986-87 to 1998-99.It was felt by the Government that if the prices of the agricultural commodities are not increased, it would harm not only the agricultural sector but also the economy as a whole. These pressures led to increase in prices of the agricultural goods since the beginning of 1980's.It is interesting to note that the prices of the

agricultural inputs multiplied still the price of agriculture was in a more favourable position. It should however be pointed out that the price of the commodities like groundnut, cotton, etc. were not higher than the price of wheat, paddy etc. Secondly, due to the adoption of the new economic policy in 1991, reduction in the import duties of the agricultural commodities made the agricultural commodities more dearer. The phase fifth started in 1999 onwards till the date, the terms of trade is unfavourable. During the period the prices of the agricultural commodities and the non agricultural commodities rose but the non agricultural prices rose more than the agricultural commodities. The prices of the agricultural inputs like fertilisers, insecticides and fixed machinery rose which made the TOT more vulnerable. One of the important causes behind the deteriorating TOT increase in the price of the agricultural inputs as well as extension of institutional credit facilities. At the same time liberal imports of agricultural commodities like pulses, cashew nut, jute and sugar after 1999-2000 and also ban on export of certain agricultural commodities checked the prices of various agricultural commodities from rising. Needless to say that the imports of agricultural commodities affected their domestic prices adversely because the international prices of most of these commodities had been continuously falling since 1997-98.

It needs no emphasis that the way of cultivation changed after adoption of green revolution in 1966. Before green revolution labour intensive technique was being used for cultivation. In order to make people adapt with the changes to be made under green revolution Government subsidised capital i.e. fertilisers, irrigation, pesticides, insecticides and machines. In the process the farmers were since rational producers in order to maximise the profits they tried to minimise the cost of production. For the sake of minimisation of cost they choose those inputs which are more subsidised and less of those which are less subsidized. This has depleted the soil profile of the Indian farmers. With the disproportionate use of chemical in form of fertilisers and insecticides have reduced the productivity of the soil and loss of bio diversity on one hand and on the other the profitability of the farmers is on an decline.

It needs no emphasis that there is illiteracy amongst the Indian farmers is a big problem of rural India. They are not aware about the chemical requirements of the soil therefore they have limitlessly utilised the nitrogenous fertilisers more as compared to phosphatic and potassic fertilisers because the nitrogenous fertilisers are more subsidised as compared to the other two fertilisers. The problem is equally serious about the indiscriminate use of pesticides. The application of insecticides in greater quantity makes the food poisonous, in an empirical survey in one of villages of Punjab mothers milk had traces of DDT. The indiscriminate use of chemicals has not only effected the productivity of the soil but also the cost of production of the crops. Traditionally, the farmers had seeds, manures, organic pesticides at their home free of cost while nowadays they

have to purchase seeds, fertilisers and pesticides which is increasing their cost of production. The goods produced by agricultural sector is necessarily of life therefore they are not in the position to increase the price as they are regulated by Indian Government. The only way left is to reduce the cost of production by using organic fertilisers and insecticides instead of chemical. It would create a great problem for the farmers in learning new technology which will not only increase the productivity of their resources but also save the environment. The problem is not for the developed countries where quantity is not problem, the population increase in these countries is lesser therefore have adequate quantity of food. The effort is to sort out the environmental problems associated with agriculture. The problem is of developing countries like India where population is increasing rapidly bringing about the problem of malnourishment where thinking about environment is a difficult task because the capital for environment is severely limited.

The agrarian crisis which India is facing can be dealt into two parts by minimisation of cost and maximisation of revenue. Minimisation of cost will require lesser cost incurred on fertilisers, pesticides, irrigation and machines. For this purpose we require a second green revolution which will focus on use of more and more manure, organic pesticides and use of lesser machines. There are 17 nutrients which are needed for proper plant growth. Of these nutrients primary macro nutrients i.e. nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium are needed in greater quantity whereas secondary macro nutrients are required in a lesser quantity. Y Micro nutrients are equally important for plants development, they are needed in small quantity but their deficit sometimes lead to bad crop health. Agriculture altersthe natural cycling of nutrients of the soil. Intensive cultivation depletes the soil fertility in short term interest of human being therefore increasing use of bio fertilisers should be done in the interest of not only present generations but also future generations. We can take the example of Odisha which has reduced the fertilisers application, The State of Orissa is using 58 kg of fertilisers as compared to national average of 100kg. Integrated Nutrient Management is essentially needed for balanced application of nutrients according to the need of the soil. As Orissa has done it every State of India can do the same, it will not only reduce the cost of production but also increase return from its resources in long run. It should however be pointed out that though organic agriculture was practiced in India in pre green revolution and has therefore become a newer concept for the farmers. It will therefore pose serious challenge before the policy makers. Still one can say that rejuvenation is easier than creation. Rejuvenation leads to increased market share and profit maximisation (Berenson and Jackson, 1994). Though it is less risky, cost effective, save time and help gain market share than development of a new product. Still this has to have cost of adaptation. Mass media has to come into picture in order to sort out the problem of dissemination of information. Still

one thing that should be taken into consideration is that these inputs can be distributed through market or through the Government controlled mechanism. A large change in infrastructure needs to be erected in order to make the current practice of cultivation transform into organic cultivation. New technology needs more and more research work by microbiologists for rejuvenation of organic techniques, technical training and quality control practice given to the producers, providing organisational training to the extension workers to popularise the technology. The cost of information for private sector will make the technology costlier and in return the price of good will increase. Therefore, it is in broader national interest that the initiative towards organic cultivation should be taken by the Government and slowly it should be handed over by the private sector.

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PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN INDIA

Dr. Indu Upadhyay

Introduction

India is a developing country where largest number of underfed and under nourished live¹. It should however be pointed out that the Government has been continuously trying to sort out this problem. In this regard Government of India adopted green revolution in 1966² in order to increase production of food grains. Green revolution brought about an revolution in use of inputs in Indian agriculture. In pre green revolution era the farmers focused on self-dependence for use of inputs. They themselves use to produce seeds, manure, insecticides to be used inputs in agriculture. Now things changed when green revolution was adopted. Farmers were now dependent on industries for their input requirements. With the application of chemical fertilizers, HYV seeds, chemical insecticides and pesticides as inputs in Indian agriculture farmers became dependent on industries for their input requirements. No doubt this change brought about a positive change in food grain production but now India is facing a complex set of problems. On one hand we are

exporting food grain because our granaries are full on the other we have largest number of under fed people in the world³. The position is really tragic not to produce enough to fulfill the belly of hungry people. The problem is not of India alone rather it is the problem of many countries of world. The problem is due a competition between the production of food-grains and population in the world and population seems to be the winner, leaving the poor people in a deplorable state.

As the requirement of capital for agricultural sector increases with the adoption of capital intensive technique of production. Initially, the industrial sector comes to its rescue but later on the requirement of industrial sector also increase and therefore industrialists allocate funds for capital formation in industry⁴. The dependence for raw material from agriculture also declines as industry passes through the process of development. On one hand the dependence of industrial sector declines on agriculture and on the other there is an increase in dependence of agriculture on industry. This ruins the terms of trade of agriculture with industry on one hand and on the other it has a negative effect on farmers profit and health of soil. This paper is an attempt to study the effect of industrial raw material on the farmers and society. On one hand it will discuss the economic and social effects of industrial raw material on Indian farms and on the other suggest ways to sort out the problem.

Methodology: The paper is based on secondary source of information. The data is collected from various Economic Surveys, reports of CACP, reports of Agricultural Statistics at Glance. The data so collected is presented in form of tables and diagram. Various statistical tools like average and percentage are used for analysis of the data collected.

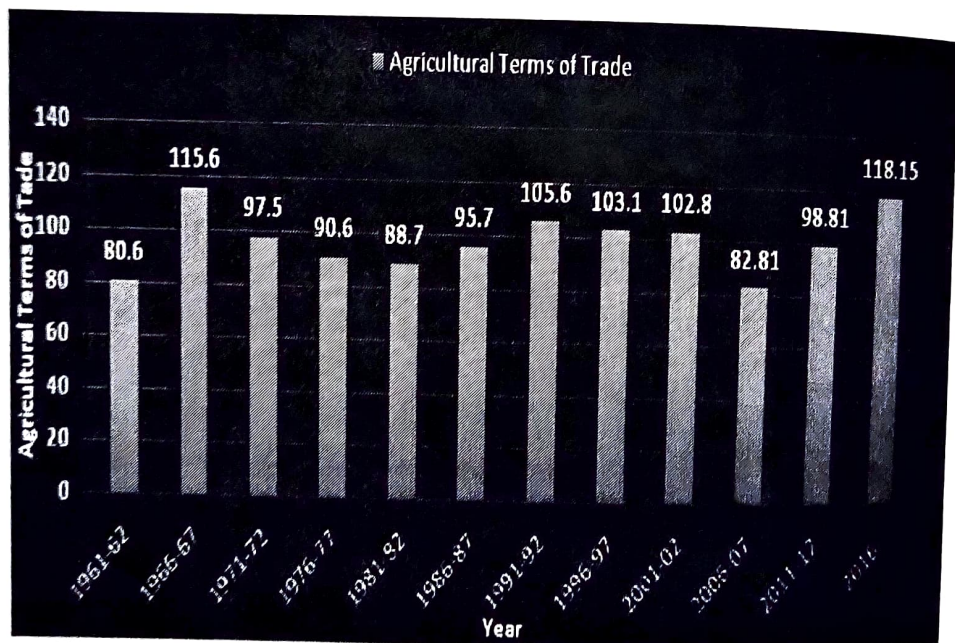
Objectives:

1. To study the causes behind deteriorating terms of trade of agriculture.

2. To plan ways to manage the deteriorating terms of trade.

There are many studies which focus on the causes of deteriorating income of the farming community. It needs no emphasis that the effect of input structure on the farm income is still to be explored deeply. Therefore more and more studies should be undertaken in order to study the role of industrial inputs on the farmers. This chapter is an attempt to study the role of industrial inputs towards the increasing cost structure of Indian farms and also to suggest various ways to substitute these expensive inputs. Various variables like terms of trade between agriculture and industry, consumption of fertilisers, pesticides, HYV seeds are used as indicators to study the level of dependence on agriculturists on industries.

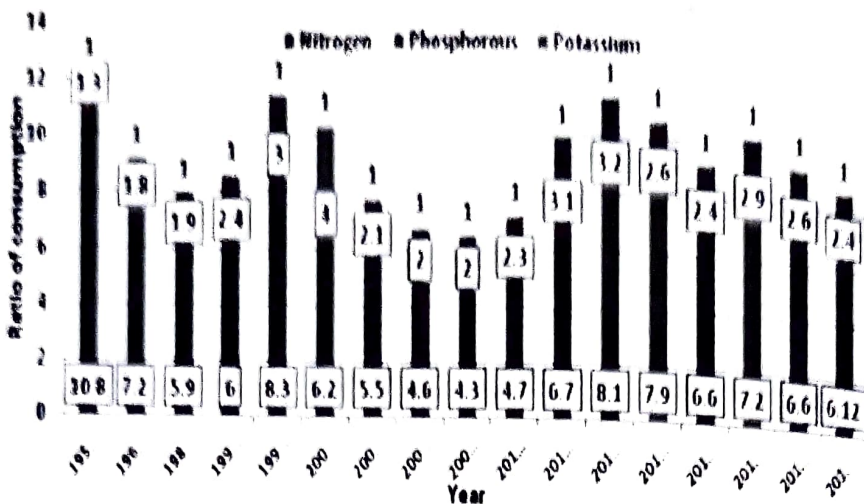
Chart 1.1 Index of Terms of Trade between Agriculture and Non-Agricultural Sector



Source: Keynote paper on Agriculture, Structural Reforms and Agriculture: Issues and Policies, S. Mahendra Dev, Chairman, CACP, Soni, R.N., *Leading issues in Agricultural Economics*, p188. *Economic Survey, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, 2014-15*, p.19, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture

The diagram reveals that terms of trade (TOT) i.e the rate at which exchange between agriculture and industry takes place was negative in 1961-62 which had a better shape in 1966-67. Many factors can be attributed for the same American assistance of PL 480 came to an end which raised the price of the agricultural products. Second reason behind it may be the initiation of Agricultural Price Commission which started the process of minimum support price which made the process of exchange take a better shape. The period which started in 1971-72 to 1986-87 was not good for agriculture because of the rise in price of capital which was being purchased by the farmers for the sake of capital formation⁵. From the period 1991-92 to 2001-02 TOT was favorable for agriculture as the price of agricultural commodities rose after 1989. Though there was rise in price of capital inputs like fertilisers, insecticides and pesticides still the prices of cotton, cereals, pulses, meat, sugarcane made the terms favourable for agriculture. The TOT was not favorable during 2006-07 to 2011-12 because the prices of the industrial inputs which was being used by the agricultural sector rose at a higher pace than the agricultural commodities. Further, in 2016-17 TOT was favorable, shows that the standard of living is in a better position for the farms in Indian agriculture. Now the question arises as to why the farmers are not interested in continuing with their profession⁶. This means that there is some very serious reasons behind the dissatisfaction of the farming community as a whole which needs studied upon⁷. This dissatisfaction amongst the farmers is forcing them to leave their profession and approach cities for an alternative source of livelihood⁸. Therefore, it is desirable to look into the cost of production of the farmers in order to understand the cause behind this dissent amongst the farmers.

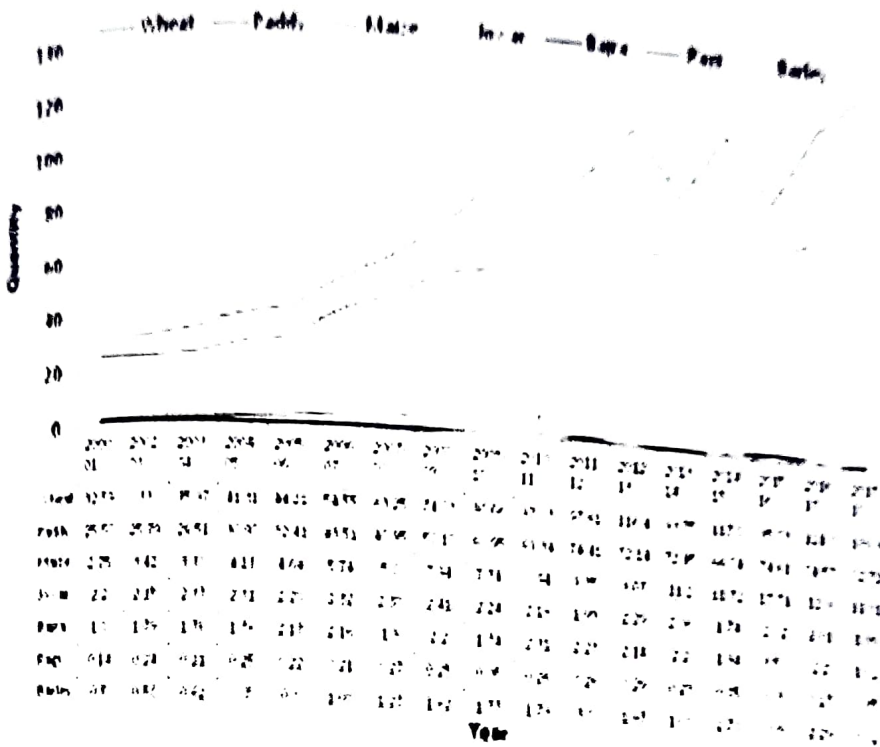
Chart 1.2 Ratio of Consumption of Fertilizers



Source: Economic Survey Government of India, Ministry of Finance, 1998-99, 2006-07, Department of Fertilisers, Ministry of chemical and Fertilisers, 2015

The first and foremost input used for development of agriculture used is fertilisers. The consumption of fertiliser is to make the land more fertile provided it is used in the desired proportion as is required by the land. Fig. 1.2 shows the use of fertilisers by the agriculturists in India. Mostly it differs according to the type of soil. The ideal ratio for Indian soil is 4:2:1, i.e. if 4 kg of nitrogenous fertilizers is applied, 2 kg phosphorous and 1 kg of potassium should be applied in order to meet the requirement of the soil. Indian farmers have been using fertilizers in a different ratio. In 1955-56 it was 10.8:1.3:1, in 1980-81 the position was a bit better as the ratio of the use of the fertilizers was 5.9:1.9:1. In 2008-09, it was used in the proportion of 4.6:2:1 but again the ratio it increased to 6.7:3.1:1 in 2011-12. In 2012-13 the ratio was as high as 8.1:3.1:1 but happily it declined to 6.6:2.6:1 in 2016-17. The composition of fertilizer used by Indian farmers is different from the ratio that should be ideally used by an Indian farmer. The steering committee of planning commission found that the subsidies provided on nitrogen was more than other fertilisers which made the use of it more than the required ratio⁹

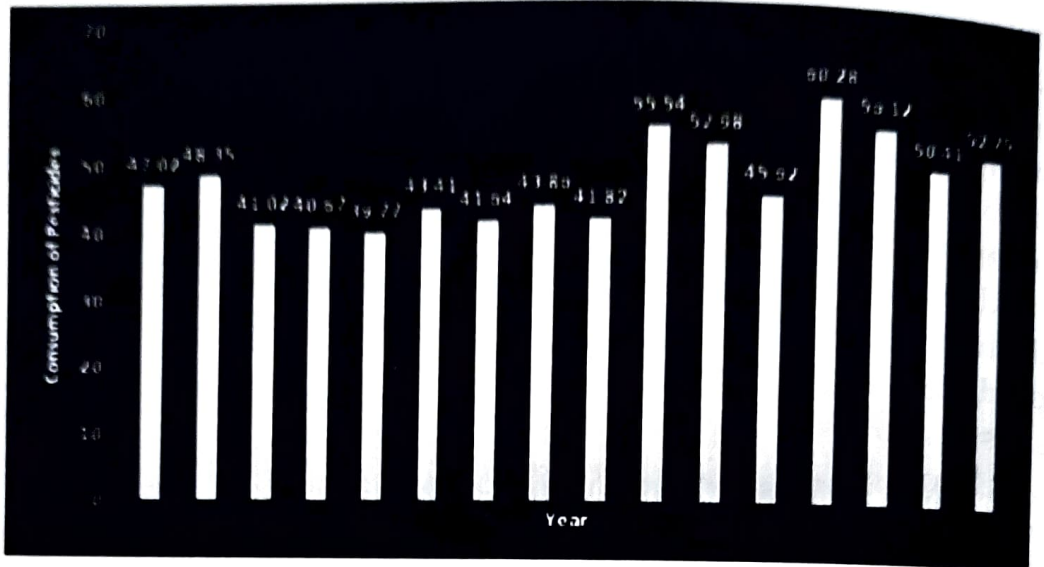
Chart 1.3 Crop wise Distribution of Certified/Quality Seeds (lakh Q)



Source: Agricultural Statistics at Glance, p.329, 2018

Second reason of increasing cost of production is use of HYV seeds by the Indian farmers. Fig. 1.3 shows use of HYV seeds in case of some selected crops. The consumption of HYV seeds for wheat increased by 327 percent while increase in case of rice was 222.55 percent. Increase in case of ragi was 150 percent. Only the consumption of jowar showed a negative growth of -9.5 percent rest other crops showed an increase in consumption of HYV seeds. This increase led to increase in cost of production for the farmers. Earlier the seeds were produced by the farmers themselves¹⁰ therefore were able to save the money which is now spend on seeds.No doubt, the HYV seeds lead to increased production but at the same time they need more fertilisers, water and insecticides¹¹ as they are more prone to diseases and moreover the farmers cannot use the finished product as seed.

Chart 1.4 Consumption of Pesticides (Technical Grade Material) 000 Tonnes



Source: Agricultural Statistics at a Glance, 2018, p. 310

Chart 1.4 shows the level of consumption of pesticides by the farmers. In order to protect the crops from various pests the farmers use pesticides but the use is not only harmful for the crops but also for the environment¹². The consumption has increased by 12.18 percent during a period of 16 years. The production of the farm products need to have increased at a higher pace if we have selected the correct model of increased consumption of chemicals for increasing production. If we compare the position of production of our crop rice with the best producing country in the whole we find Indian production in a bad position. China is the highest rice producing State with production of 6932.4 kg/hectare while the highest producing state of Punjab produces 3974.1 kg/hectare¹³. This means we have somewhere gone wrong. Our farming community has been consuming fertilisers and insecticides and all the modern equipment's in order to increase production of the agricultural commodities but are not able to win the race. Now it is high time we need to plan for a sustainable agriculture which is not only producer but also consumer friendly.

The application of industrial inputs is making the exchange against the agriculturist on one hand and on the other reducing nutrient content in the agricultural commodities. One way of sorting out the problem is by avoiding chemicals and using organic inputs. This is same way of production which was being used by the farmers some decades back. One of the problems will be that chemical inputs when substituted by organic input will pose a new problem of decline in physical production. Since India is an over populous country therefore decline in production will not be a problem only for the producer but also for the consumer. Therefore, it needs to be substituted by a factor which will give equal returns and its cost should be lower in order to maximise revenue for the farmer. Use of animal product like skin, hair, blood, etc. of a dead animal can be used as a manure. Urban wastes which is a headache for municipalities of the respective states can also be a source for organic nutrition for the soil. These all things can be used as manure which is not only cheaper than its chemical substitutes but also more nutritious for the soil. Biggest challenge in its use is the lowering of production which in turn will lower down the income for the farmers and discourage its use. Other problem is that farmers will not like to use animals and human waste. Next is use of the municipal wastes i.e. the city refuse is dumped in some place in the same city and it pollutes the soil, water and air. This problem can be easily sorted out by converting it into manure which is highly nutritious for the soil and a burden for the city. The animal wastes from slaughter houses are not being used for manure. Here the Government can support by encouraging plants which can convert animal wastes into manure. Only production of a new input (manure produced with animal, plants and human waste) is not sufficient, distribution of this input is equally important. Indians do not prefer use of animal or human waste for the sake of increasing agricultural production. This will become a great problem before the Government because supply is in the market but it does not

has demand. This indifference on the part of farmers will discourage the distributors because they have to incur extra cost of production i.e. cost of adaptation. This would rise due to the hesitation on the part of farmers, as to they should use this new input or not. This needs complete planning and management by the Government. It need to support the distributors until people start trusting the organic manure. Adding to it Government need to bear cost of providing information to the farmers. Since the input is a new one therefore the users(farmers) need to be informed about the input and its use. The information should be provided into local language so that the farmers can understand it properly. Mass media and local NGOs can be used for the purpose. This process of disseminating information will take time therefore Governments support will be needed by the distributors. One more obstacle which needs planning is the opposition by the distributors of the chemical inputs, here also Governments support will be required¹⁴. It needs no emphasis that the farmers of developing countries produce goods which are less than the demand in the market. Their income is very less therefore they are not in the position to wait for two to three year when everything will become normal. This is one side of the problem the other is of the input manufacturer having higher cost of production for this also Governments support is required. Next challenge is posed by the farmer towards reluctance in using the new input and should be accepted by the Government. Therefore, Government have to support both the sides of the marketnamely suppliers (organic input suppliers) and the consumers (farmers as a consumer of organic input). Though they form both forces of market without which market cannot function properly but they (input suppliers and farmers) cannot be left at the mercy of the market. It is in a broader national interest to support both of them namely the supplier and the consumers in order to make the development of agriculture more sustainable.

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(Footnotes)

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- ⁶<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/indias-deepening-farm-crisis-76-farmers-want-to-give-up-farming-shows-study-43728>, 12 March 2018
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¹⁴See R.N. Soni (2011), *Leading Issues in Agricultural Economics*, p.137.

The Indian Renaissance and Swami Vivekananda



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Relevance of Vivekananda for Inclusive Development of India

✦ Dr. Indu Upadhyay

Food is a very important component of life. Therefore right to food is a human right. Right to food ensures that every individual should have the ability to feed himself in dignity. "The right to adequate food is realized when every man, woman and child, alone and in community with others, has physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement"¹ "the right to have regular, permanent and unrestricted access, directly or by means of financial purchases, to quantitatively and qualitatively adequate and sufficient food corresponding to the cultural traditions of the people to which the consumer belongs, and which ensures a physical and mental, individual and collective, fulfilling and dignified life free of fear."² It requires that the Government should take steps to eliminate hunger because it will ultimately increase the efficiency of the country by reducing the medical bills on illness and absenteeism which will lead to increased productivity of the economy as a whole. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has stated the absence of hunger as 'access by all people at all times to enough nutritionally adequate and safe food for an active and healthy life' (FAO 2000: 1). In this regard, there has been mounting concern over the state of world's food stocks. The first step promoted by the modern welfare states was the need for a programme that would ensure the sustainability of agriculture, that is the output would increase so as to adequately meet the growing demand in a sustained manner.

✦ Associate Professor, Department of Economics, VKM.

This concept became very popular and a lot of work was done in the laboratories and in the field and there was much optimism that agriculture was on the right path. Today, food insecurity has become a global concern, it is still considered to be the best form of attack. It should however be pointed out that if sustainable development measures would have been followed in full vigour, most of the food problems facing the global community today would not have arisen; at least the present tragic consequences would have been considerably reduced.

The industrial development and later its service industries became the model of development. Poorer countries were now self sufficient in food and could concentrate on developing their economies. The growth rates surged spectacularly, stock markets were on a seemingly never-ending northern path³, and the standard of living of these developing countries rose which shocked the world. It was because the gains were based on solid industrial growth, which led to huge outlay on the infrastructure.

There was prosperity in the industrial world but actually there lay a paradox. Food production was considered adequate at an estimated 2700 calories per person per day for every man, woman and child in the world. Still, millions were suffering from malnutrition in the more populous newly developed countries and from the life style diseases due to over consumption of food in more developed countries. There was no shortage of food, as such; what was lacking was the equal distribution and affordability due to the dramatic skewed consumption pattern. It was no longer a question of just ensuring good, healthy food accessible to all persons; global food security now has encompassed the important issues of health, social justice and environment.

In the context of this paradox of surplus food grains with an inadequate amount at the outset, the transformation of the agrarian economy from one of acute scarcity into the so called surplus economy should not obscure the fact that a sizeable section of the population continues to be underfed and undernourished. It should however be pointed out that shortage and surplus exist side by side. If we look from the point of view of an Indian customer, food security and the

country's self-sufficiency in food grains are reduced to empty rhetoric. This brings into focus the question of access to food in terms of not only physical access, in the sense of mere availability, but also economic access which should be equated to the livelihood security. It is only the way in which the poor household could be empowered with purchasing power to access food by way of providing a means of livelihood or employment. Recently, M.S. Swaminathan has added another dimension to food security. He equates food security to livelihood security for the households. It should however be pointed out that food is a private good and when a person does not possess the capacity to purchase a private good, the market immediately excludes the individual from the market. Therefore, it is the duty of the Government to provide food at cheaper prices in order to maintain a minimum standard of health to its citizens specially in an underdeveloped country which is inhabited mostly by poor people.

Access to or intake of calories and nutrients (includes micronutrients) relative to requirements that vary largely by age, sex, and activities are critical for measuring hunger. Hunger is mostly directly apparent in inadequate food intake and a poor diet and is directly related to malnutrition. Over time, the combination of low birth weight and high rates of infection can result in the stunted growth of children. The most extreme manifestation of continued hunger and malnutrition is mortality. In a wider context, malnutrition emanates from eating too much or eating too little, or eating an unbalanced diet that lacks necessary nutrients. The last two are major nutritional problems in India. Eating too little or eating an unbalanced diet leads to under nutrition, which is defined as the failure to consume adequate energy, protein, and micronutrients to meet the basic requirements for body maintenance, growth, and development. This in turn leads to nutrition related problems characterized by low height for age (stunting), and/or low weight for height (wasting), and/or low weight for age (underweight). There are three major dimensions of hunger namely, (a) chronic or endemic hunger, (b) latent hunger, and (c) transient hunger.

Table 1.1 Hunger Index of Selected Indian States, 2008

States	Prevalence of Calorie Under Nourishment (per cent)	Proportion of Underweight Children Less than 5 years of Age (per cent)	Under Five Mortality Rate (Per 100)	Hunger Index (HI)	Rank as Per HI
Punjab	11.1	24.6	5.2	13.63	1
Kerala	28.6	22.7	1.6	17.63	2
Andhra Pradesh	19.6	32.7	6.3	19.53	3
Assam +	14.6	36.4	8.5	19.83	4
Haryana	15.1	39.7	5.2	20.00	5
Tamil Nadu	29.1	30.0	3.5	20.87	6
Rajasthan	14.0	40.4	8.5	20.97	7
West Bengal	18.5	38.5	5.9	20.97	8
Uttar Pradesh	14.5	42.3	9.6	22.13	9
Maharashtra	27.0	36.7	4.7	22.80	10
Karnataka	28.1	37.6	5.5	23.73	11
Orissa	21.4		40.9		9.1
Gujarat	23.3		44.7		6.1
Chhattisgarh	25.3	47.6	9.0	26.73	14
Bihar	17.3	56.1	8.5	27.30	15
Jharkhand	19.6	57.1	9.3	28.7	16
Madhya Pradesh	23.4	59.8	9.4	30.87	17
India	20.0	42.3	7.4	25.30	

Source: Menon et al. (2009), Human Development Report India, 2011, p. 131

It is evident from Table 1.1 that there is not a single state whose Hunger Index is less than 9.9, suggesting thereby that all the states have a serious to extremely alarming situation of hunger. The

best performing state is Punjab, with a Hunger Index of 13.63, categorized as having a serious problem of hunger, in spite of its fairly high per capita income. The gap between the best performing state and the worst performing state is quite large, indicating that disparity in hunger across states is high. The data shows that incidence of hunger is very high in India. One thing that should be noted is that the position of relatively less developed States is sometimes better than the States which have higher per capita income. The State of Rajasthan and the State of Uttar Pradesh enjoying 7th and 9th rank in hunger index are in a better position as compared to the State of Gujarat which is more developed as compared to the two counterparts and is on the 13th rank. No doubt, the position of all the States is vulnerable in the case of hunger but the position of relatively poorer States is better as compared to the developed States which sets a question mark on the administration to deal with the hunger problem. The Government needs to take necessary action regarding the same. Since it is one of the necessities of life without which one cannot survive, therefore when a person is not in the position to purchase the nutritious food he goes on purchasing goods which are relatively cheaper and of less nutritious value. It needs no emphasis that the price of wheat and rice (carbohydrates) is lesser as compared to the pulses (protein), vegetables, fruits (minerals) therefore the poorer people go for purchasing wheat and rice rather than dal and vegetables, but in balanced diet a balance is required for consumption of carbohydrates, proteins, and minerals. So, close attention is required as to what kind of goods are the people purchasing to deal with the problem of hunger.

Table 1.2 Nutritional Status of Children: SAARC and BRIC Countries, 2000–7

	Low Birth Weight	Under Five Underweight Children (WHO Reference Population)	Wasting (Moderate & Severe) (NCHS/ WHO)	Stunting (Moderate & Severe) (NCHS/ WHO)
BRICIndia*	28	43	19	38
Brazil	8	4	-	-
China	2	6	-	11
Russia SAARC	6	-	1	4
Afghanistan	-	33	7	54
Bangladesh	22	41	16	36
Bhutan	15	14	3	40
Maldives	22	-	13	25
Nepal	21	39	12	43
Pakistan	19	31	13	37
Sri Lanka	22	23	14	14

Source: The State of the World's Children Report, UNICEF 2009.

It should however be pointed out that a comparison is required between the SAARC and BRIC countries because all these countries belong to the developing world. Therefore, the trends regarding hunger can be easily evaluated as well as the steps taken whether in this regard are sufficient or not. Table 1.2 shows the comparative analysis of hunger in various developing countries of BRICS and SAARC. The indicators selected for the purpose are low birth weight, underweight children in the age group of five, wasting and stunting. India's performance is the worst in terms of low birth weight⁴, underweight children⁵, and wasting.⁶ For instance, 43 per cent of under-five children in India were underweight during the period 2000–7, which is the worst in South Asia and worse than the worst performer in the Sub-Saharan African region. Even the least developed countries were found to have performed better than India. In stark contrast, China had only 6 per cent under-five children who were underweight

during this period and Brazil had only 4 per cent. Similarly, among SAARC countries India trails behind Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Pakistan. As per the *Nutrition Report* (2009) of the *National Family and Health Survey 3 (NFHS 3)*⁷, the average of 26 Sub-Saharan African countries in terms of under-nourished children under five years was only 25 per cent, almost half the Indian average of 48 per cent. In fact, except for Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Sikkim, Manipur, and Mizoram, all other Indian states were either at par or below the average of Sub-Saharan African countries. The Table clearly reveals that highest number of children is underweight in India as compared to the other countries of BRIC and SAARC. The matter of concern is that in a country like Bangladesh which is relatively an underdeveloped country as compared to India, still the nutritional status of children is better as compared to the children of India. Therefore, attention is required towards availability of food to the people, so that the children of India will work with complete physical and mental efficiency towards inclusive development.

It needs no emphasis that in order to get rid of hunger even after so many years of independence we require to follow the ideals set by Vivekananda. Vivekananda was the most amazing personality of modern India. Instead of renouncing the world he was deeply involved with it. Traditionally, a mahatma is considered as a man who is indifferent to the suffering around him and engaged in salvation and practicing *laissez faire* of spirit. He was a different kind of a Mahatma who was touched by the sufferings of the people and he could not be indifferent to these people. Even this concept was not liked by his fellow colleagues of Ramakrishna mission. He himself said that mahatma is a person who is touched by the hunger and sufferings of the people all around him otherwise he considered him as *duratman* or a wicked soul. Formally, he did not propose any model to overcome the sufferings and hunger of his fellow citizens, still there is a implicit model in his teachings, which has been used by the modern welfare States in order to provide a better living standard to the people. He says- "So long as the millions live in hunger and ignorance, I hold every man a traitor who, having been educated at their expense, pays

not the least heed to them. I denounce those men who strut about in their finery, having got all their money by grinding the poor wretches so long as they do not do anything for the two hundred millions who are now no better than hungry savages!"⁸ It is very clear that he asked the haves to take responsibility of the have-nots. The same thing is practised by the modern welfare Governments by levying progressive taxation. The policy is to collect money from people whose marginal utility for money is less whereas to spend the same on the section of people who have a higher marginal utility for the same i.e. the poor people. The Indian Government is practicing the same since independence but still there is hunger which can be understood by the prevailing infant mortality, maternal mortality in India. It is very clear that some times our position is worse than our neighbouring countries that are less developed than us. We can take the example of Sri Lanka and Bangladesh who are less developed than us in terms of physical indicators of development that is GDP, per capita income etc. but are enjoying a better position in terms of social indicators like education, infant mortality etc.. That means that we are somewhere wrong in the spending part of our national income. It needs no emphasis that dissatisfaction on the part of the individuals leads to revolution. All the revolutions including Russian revolution, French revolution etc. were due to the dissatisfaction on the part of have-nots. The same has been rightly felt by Vivekananda who held that human suffering can be put to an end through the system of socialism. V.K.R.V. Rao, an eminent economist regards him as Vedantic Socialist⁹. Even today his ideals can be used to end hunger and misery. No doubt, with the adoption of New Economic Reforms, India had to control the expenditure because it was increasing its fiscal deficit. The unfortunate thing was that in order to regulate the expenditure, the Government has curtailed the social sector expenditure. Social sector expenditure is done on health, education etc. and that means that the Government has curtailed the expenditure on health and education which has led to mushrooming of private educational and health centres on one hand and increased out of pocket expenditure of the people on the other hand. This leads to

betterment of haves and decline in the position of have-nots. The above mentioned policy pushes people in the vicious circle of poverty.

Swami Vivekananda preached two tools for the upliftment of the masses which were provision of education and eradication of hunger. They are even today relevant for upliftment of the masses. The Indian Government has made various provisions for the same, such as providing food at subsidized rates, mid day meal scheme, providing nutritious food to pregnant and lactating ladies etc for the sake of eradication of hunger. In education, the Indian Government has started the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan of providing free primary education to all. No doubt, it has been trying but still more expenditure is required to be incurred on these heads so as to end hunger and misery. It is in the broader national interest to make the process of development more inclusive rather than development alone.

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