

Social Reformation In Odisha : An Alternative Vision

APPROPRIATE FIELDS OF SOCIAL REFORMATION

1- Corruption, 2-Agriculture and Co-operative, 3-De-addiction, 4-Crime and Violence, 5-Education, 6-Rural Community, 7-Urban Civilization, 8-Religion and Culture, 9- Ballot Box, 10- Peoples' Court, 11-Women, 12-Trade and Commerce, 13-Health, 14-Sports, 15- Natural Resources 16-Industry and Technology.

CORRUPTION: When corrupt people lead the aristocracy, when public salutes them, the public themselves define corruption. When the society is on the verge of political, social and financial catastrophe, the liberty is at a stake. Corruption dominates our bureaucracy, legislature, ballot box and even judiciary. Power politics is the breeding place of corruption. Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Our vicious ambience best justify our mutual aid to fight corruption. Reluctance for this co- operation over a good span of time, conceives extremists who feel themselves responsible towards the revival. They feel them as gadflies who presume to awaken the unreasonably complacent society. The synergy of the co-operation of conscious and dedicated citizens may be tuned up to play the role of contraceptive when small social exploitations loom into a big group of extremists.

A group of intellectuals can go a long way in the direction of the solution. In Odisha mitigation of corruption can be achieved easily if the Chief Minister gives a strong support to an executive group. A few leading personalities of the state may introduce and fix up the strategy. With the support of Vigilance D G, Home Secretary and Chief Secretary a completely independent public intelligence cum information system will be activated. Minimum of ten intellectuals will take the vow to eradicate corruption. It is no less than any espionage work with awaiting martyrdom at every bent. Telephones will be tapped, close circuit cameras will be vigilant and some discussions will be recorded by FM microphones to keep track of corrupt movements. Eradication of corruption is not impossible. It is existent in our society only because till date no group of at least ten capable dedicated intellectuals have tried to take up the mission.

CO-OPERATIVE AND AGRICULTURE: Jungle Rule states as, "Fittest to survive". In reference to animals if we ask ourselves: "Who are the fittest: those who are continually at war with each other or those who support one another?" We at once see that those animals which acquire habits of mutual aid are undoubtedly the fittest. They have more chances to survive , and they attain, in their respective classes, the highest development of intelligence and bodily organization. Collective effort of a group of people can do miracles. In Odisha preferably co-operative should be implemented to encourage financial up gradation of rural people. Their agriculture, cottage industry, market and credit system should be assisted by mutual aid. In our state, co-operative was long since existent as KOTHA. A state level co-operative movement named as Kotha Andolan should be initiated by conscious citizens. It will be a non-political activity with support from all political parties. All intellectuals, Government and private employees should be involved and supposed to take up the responsibility for success by themselves.

In a state like Odisha agriculture and co-operative movement should be given priority over industrial development. In a sustainable movement we should first of all acquire our bread and butter. Agro-based industries should be established. co-operative, agriculture, agriculture allied, agro based industry, cottage industry, rural market and micro credit put together will comprise a single package intending for rural financial progress.

PEOPLES' COURT: "Whenever a separation is made between liberty and justice, Neither, in my opinion, is safe."

When power politicians are custodians of our liberty, everybody in the Bar Council love a conflict approaching them to take shape as a grown up admitted case, yielding a guaranteed income over a longer period and justice has been allowed to be bargained at the law shops. So many cases are pending at our courts that it has become a headache for the Law department and a rice bowl for the advocates. Inter personal and inter community ego enkindles a breach and it becomes severe by intermittent instigations of spectators, listeners and beneficiaries in the vicinity.

"Justice being taken away, what are kingdoms but small robberies? For what are robberies themselves, but little kingdoms."

-St. Augustine

Nobody takes an initiative to extinguish the fire at its very beginning. Nobody has got the time and nobody is expected to be paid for it. Here comes the need for laying foundation stone and establishing a local court for the people, by the people and of the people, as a machinery to handle every conflict or breach before it moves to the police or the court. Mission 'Lok Adalat' will conduct local courts with local judges, juries, advocates and own tailor-made law and tradition.

Law is nothing but strong common sense. The law is reason free from passion. Law is an ordinance of reason for common good, made by him who has care of the community. With this vision, a local guardian, impartial and a well wisher of everybody should be selected by a group of conscious citizens and must be conducted to the chair with due esteem and faith. 'Panch Parameswar' of a village or five persons from the civil society of a township are to support the local justice or magistrate. He should have links with higher courts, legislatures as well as the media. Maintaining an upward linkage will make him more effective, efficient and updated to solve a breach at its bud and uphold the justice in his surroundings. His remuneration should come from a recommended, reasonable and undisputed source.

"Justice is never anything in itself, but in the dealings of men with one another in any place, whatever and at any time. It is a kind of compact not to harm or to be harmed."

-Epicures

People will establish their own court. But well before that they should prepare the pitch, the ground to which our honorable justice will be conducted. Fellow feelings, mutual aid, social functions and interaction regarding different issues should be activated before the mission 'Lok Adalat' comes into effect. Individualistic and self centered attitude should be discouraged. Right environment is the

precondition for all types of wellbeing. How can one cut a caper with his lover in a stormy night? The pitch should be prepared well before the match takes place. Then only the audience can enjoy the courage, pep, spirit, bounce and the win at the end. Joint family concept, community responsibility and collective efforts are the foundation stones on which four columns of our democracy can be erected. These are also the prerequisites for a society of liberty and justice for all.

DE-ADDICTION: Drink has drained more blood,

Hung more crepe,

Sold more houses,

Plunged more people into bankruptcy,

Armed more villains,

Slain more children,

Snapped more wedding rings,

Defiled more innocence,

Blinded more eyes,

Twisted more limbs,

Dethroned more reason,

Wrecked more manhood,

Dishonored more womanhood,

Broken more hearts,

Blasted more lives,

Driven more to suicide,

Dug more graves than any other

Poisoned scourge that ever swept

Its death-dealing waves

Across the world.

-Evangeline Booth

Our Government ignores this statistics only because they earn profound amount of revenue from Excise division. When the energy and vigor of our genius and generosity eclipses, how can we dream of social progress? If the Government can spend 20% of its Excise revenue towards awareness and motivation for de-addiction, then a better social reconstruction may be imagined and designed. Our selflessness, creativity and innovativeness can better flourish if we are not addicted. Addicted

people are more like animals than human beings. In civilized society dignity should not be given to drunken people. The seriousness of social need for de-addiction has to be deeply felt by every conscious citizen. Teetotalers, morale women, social activists, NGO personnel and last but not the least the leaders from electoral politics should be united to bring up a social hatred towards the addicted people. Their income and accounts are to be seized and regulated with the help of their family members and authority. They may be confined to a particular place for a stipulated period if required.

A suitable environment has to be formulated properly to foster de-addiction programme. Moral values are to be upheld. Honest people are to be rewarded properly. Aimlessness in public life has to be replaced by any mission (social or spiritual) or even short-time goals (even like Bol Bom extravaganza on the outset of the rainy season). More NGO programmes , social activists' activities and co operation from political leaders are expected to immune the mass from converting into addicted idiots. Regular research has to be continued to find out the suitable circumstances which will in general discourage people from addiction. Precious human life from birth till death has to be nourished properly to be more virtuous, intelligent, efficient, creative, innovative, professional, generous, and spiritual which can be relayed to the next generation imparting more advanced genes to foster the evolution process. But being addicted their brain becomes defunct and stagnant. Instead of transforming into an intellectual, they define themselves as imbecile self centered scamps. They convert better into animals rather than approaching godheads. The vitality of the threatening ruin should be felt internally by our socially conscious citizens and their immediate participation in any relevant project has to commence.

BALLOT BOX: "Public office is the last refuge of a scoundrel."

-Boies Penrose, 1931

This single line turned to be the measure rod for the security loving intellectuals of India in the post independence era to join politics. They gave way to the scoundrels who gave tongue about politics in their ignoramus and self centered way. And our apathetic educated half intellectuals luxuriated meanwhile. They again noted,

"Democracy is the worst form of Government."

-Plato

Once again they were scared and decided not to join politics in their lifetime. They took it granted that politics is the dwelling of scoundrels and they are no match to disturb these ferocious creatures. However they overlooked what Arisotle and Abraham Lincoln had quoted.

"The good of man must be the end of the science of politics. "

-Aristotle

Hence politics is no way less vital than applied spiritualism. This is the true mandate of evolution for conscious citizens.

“Ballots are stronger than bullets.....When ballots have fairly and constitutionally decided, there can be no successful appeal back to bullets.”

-Abraham Lincoln.

We have to safeguard our democracy, our constitution and social progress. Our bloody history of kings, their conspiracy, slavery, exploitation and wars should be reminded every now and then so that we won't re invite them in our times. Intellectuals should interact over the question and must come to an agreement that politics is definitely their first and foremost resort. When deciding for the credo of a lifetime, an intellectual should not be superfluous to be guided by a single quotation. They should analyze deeply what great men have said, realize properly their relevance in the present day society and go through an intercourse with likeminded intellectuals having scientific progressive attitude who are stronger in reasoning. Then only they can sketch their path and credo for a lifetime.

Political leaders are supposed to be the guardians, the pivotal spearheads of the social progress. In the post independence period the apathy of the intellectuals towards politics took a toll. Now when they come to realize the truth, they should take strategic entry in a group into mainstream political parties. In odisha good people should enter into political parties like Biju Janta Dal, BJP, Congress, CPI (M), CPI, NCP, SJP and Samrudha Odisha. Tradition of pursuing voters with incentives like drink, feast or money just before the election has to be substituted by a healthy culture of people selecting their own leaders before the outset of the election. Mega expenses involved in election publicity come next to the defense expenditure of our nation. Rural community like palli sabha or urban civil societies should select their leaders starting from ward members to members of Parliament and go to their doorsteps to invite them to join politics. The big expenditure can be spend on remunerations of political cadres giving the unemployment problem a new edge. Cadre based politics with required training should be followed. Dedicated political cadres should arrange and specify their remunerations ranging from Rs 1,000/- to Rs1,00,000/- so that they won't expose their appetite in the face of corruption. Proper regulation of constructive and destructive power will again rotate the stagnant earth on the track of evolution.

It's better to light a candle than cursing the darkness. Give light and the people will find their own way. Unnecessarily scolding the scoundrels won't find any solution. They have to be simply replaced by dedicated capable intellectuals.

“If socialism can only be realized when intellectual development of all the people permits it, then we shall not see socialism for at least five hundred years.”

-V.I.Lenin, 1917.

CRIME AND VIOLENCE: Proper regulation, reformation, eradication and prevention of crime is a social mandate. But unfortunately this does not include in the agenda of our politicians, NGO personnel or social activists. Poverty is the mother of crimes and want of sense is the father of them. The society prepares crime; the criminal commits it. Emphasis on value based education and poverty alleviation programmes with a support from true leaders can complete the necessary cycle of precautionary measures for crimes. “Capital punishment is as fundamentally wrong as a cure for crime as charity is wrong as a cure for poverty.”

_ Henry Ford

Reformation programmes have to go a long way outside the jail boundaries. Simultaneously the crime in a particular state should be controlled by the state Home department and the top politicians before the complete eradication of crime takes place. Most crimes are offences against poverty. According to V.I.Lenin, crime is a product of social excess. We are yet a long way to inherit the earth. In the meanwhile the Home department with due support from the Chief Minister and the involvement of selected group of committed citizens, should be knowledgeable regarding all the criminal movements. Even they may have a pseudo partnership in crimes so that they can forecast vital crimes and ignore negligible crimes. The reasoning behind the minds of Maoists are to be studied deeply and interaction with them in presence of social visionaries and intellectuals of the state may be arranged.

“We must not overlook the important role that extremists play. They are the gadflies that keep society from being too complacent, or self satisfied; they are, if sound, the spearheads of progress.”

-Abraham Flexner

Nonviolence as a sustainable condition for co-existence should be inculcated in the mass as a suitable environment for reformation and prevention of crimes. Some people say pacifism won't work in the present day society. They forget that to live and let live is the central theme of co-existence of people from different class, creed and caste in our society. Co-operation or mutual aid is the only sustainable condition for progress and any anomalous violent activity will only drag us to bottlenecks. Also those people who say that they are Gandhians, they argue that being pacific they have got nothing to do with crime and extremism. They are fundamentally wrong and in reality they are half Gandhian. Till financial inequality and moral degradation prevails, corruption and horse trading in power politics is existent in our society, till all education oriented preventive steps are not adequate, crime and extremism has to be properly regulated by the state to minimize it. Proper interaction, negotiation, compromise, dialogue and research work has to be continued to go to the root of crime and extremism. Intellectuals and social activists should get proper regards from bureaucrats and legislatures.