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## Reviewing Important National Policies and Programs For Human / Social Development

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### **Abstract:**

*Sustainable development calls for building up individual/ human capabilities leading to emergence of social capacities in order to increase access to income, employment in a rapidly globalization world economy and foremost for creating an environment in which all people could expand their capabilities and opportunities. Societies/ nations must recognize that their real wealth is their people, an excessive obsession with creation of material wealth could obscure the objectives of enriching human life. Thus, human development is about pro-people, pro- job and pro- nature leading to creation of an environment where people can develop their full potentials and lead productive and creative life lives in accordance with their needs. Fundamental to enlarging their choices is building human capabilities have been globally accepted and enunciated in Millennium Development Goals, as universal primary health care for all , severe malnutrition to be eliminated, family planning services to be extended to all eligible couple, safe drinking water and sanitation for commitment to human and social development. India's commitment to human and social development is well known and to translate the said objectives, it has undertaken a series of national policies and programme and in this article an attempt has been made to examine the progress of some important policies and programmes relating to education, health women empowerment, rural employment, food security, land acquisition, water and sanitation, youth, environment and transparency/ accountability. It has found that the human/ social development programme are progressing with varied pace at varied level and there in need for fullest people's participation, efficient project management and removal of rampant corruption to achieve the desired goal of human / social development.*

*The information and data used in this article has been taken from Human Development Report ( 2001- 2011) Human Development Report of India 2011, websites of concerned ministries, wikipedia site etc and access to information and material of this author as consultant of education, health and women empowerment project in Uttar Pradesh and neighbouring states.*

### **1. Introduction**

Sustainable development could only be achieved by making a series of sincere and meaningful steps towards building up individual/human capabilities leading to the emergence of social capacities. Building up human capabilities are crucial for opening many economic, social and political doors for people and such empowerment would increase access to income, employment especially in context of the rapidly globalizing world economy. Societies that have acquired the relevant knowledge and skill with focus on creating conditions necessary for the emergence of human capital, can successfully compete in the global markets. This has been the experience of Japan, the East Asian industrializing economies (South Korea, Hongkong, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia) and China. By combining their low wages with relevant knowledge and skills, they converted their poverty into an asset and took over the global market through rising labour productivity. While their economic achievement is laudable yet most of them are still far away from achieving the objectives of fully achieving sustainable social development.

The new development paradigm calls for putting people at the center of development and regards economic growth as a means and not an end. It is now well established that, human development is about much more than the rise and fall of national incomes. It is pro-people, pro-job and pro nature. It is about creating an environment in which people can develop their full potential and lead productive creative lives in accordance with their needs and interest. People are the vital wealth of the nation. It gives the highest priority to poverty reduction, productive employments, social integration and environmental regeneration. It also recognizes, that not much can be achieved without a dramatic improvement in the status of women and opening of all economic opportunities for women leading to emergence of concept/parameter like Gender Development Index (GDI). Thus sustainable development is expanding the choices people have to lead their lives that they value and it is much more than the economic growth which is only a means of enlarging people's choice.

Fundamental to enlarging these choices is building human capabilities the range of things the people can do or be in life. The most basic capabilities for human development are to lead long and healthy lives, to be knowledgeable, to have access to the resources needed for a decent standard of living and to be able to participate in the life of the community. It thus calls for full international

commitment and global target for universal primary education, halving adult illiteracy rate, primary health care for all, severe malnutrition to be eliminated, family planning services to be extended to all eligible couples, safe drinking water and sanitation for all and credit to all to ensure self-employment. These are the very minimum target.

The enormity of the task of human development was perceived in the new millennium (source: Human Development Report 2001) indicating the unacceptable levels of deprivation in people's lives across the world which led to the setting up of targets for new millennium development goals. The said report revealed that of the then 46 billion people in developing countries, more than 850 millions were illiterate, nearly a billion lacked access to improved water resources as 2.4 million had no access to basic sanitation. Nearly 325 millions boys and girls were out of school and 11 million children under age five died each year from preventable causes. Around 1.2 billion people lived on less than \$ 1 a day (1998 PPP US\$) a 2.8 billion on less than \$ 2 a day. Such deprivation was not limited to developing countries. According to the said report, in OECD countries more than 130 million people were income poor, 34 million were unemployed and adult functional illiteracy rates average 15 percent. The commitment toward achieving the target sets in the new millennium development Goals pursuing the cause of human development in last one decade have show advancement at very different places and achieving very different levels. East Asia and Pacific have made considerable factor progress towards expanding knowledge to improving services to raising standard of living, South Asia and Sub Saharan Africa lag far behind the other regions with human and income poverty still high, low adult literary, low life expectancy in sub-Saharan Africa to gather with high level of population earning less than \$ 1 a day.

The Human Development Report (2001) pointed out the regional contrast in the pace of progress in human development in past 30 years. South Asia lagged far behind other regions with human and income poverty still high. The adult literacy rate in South Asia was 55% well below the developing countries by 73%. The share of people living on less than \$ 1 a day was 40% in South Asia compared with 15 per cent in East Asia and Pacific and economic growth which generates public resources to invest in education and health services and increases the resources people have to enjoy a decent standard of living and improve many other aspects of life, during 1975-95 per capita income quadruple in South Asia exceed 27% (3.2% in India) compared to 6% a year in East Asia and Pacific regions. All South Asia countries therefore as per Human Development rank in 2001 were classified under the broad head of medium Human Development which included Maldives (rank 77), Sri Lanka (rank 81) India (rank 115) and region with now human development include Pakistan (rank 127), Nepal (rank 129) and Bhutan (rank 130).

India's commitment to Human and Social development since inception is well known. In last one and a half decades the government has initiated a host of policy measures towards reduction in poverty, illiteracy and deprivation besides focusing on the increase in income and increase in facilities like drinkable water, sanitation, health care and empowerment of women, youth and weaker section of the society. A number of steps have been taken for environmental protection and to give a fillip to economic development with higher pace. However, comparison of the pace of progress in human development in India creates a mixed result. The HDI rank of India (among 173 countries) in 1990 was 135, classified under the category of low human development with human development index of 0.510 and that rose to 0.571 in 1999 and declined to 0.547 in 2009 with an HDI rank of 134 as quoted in human development report 2011. It may be mentioned that HDI rank and HDI index in Human Development Reports depend largely on the number of countries reviewed and a variety of adjustments made from time to time in reporting progress of the Human Development index. The trend in certain chosen indicators of human development in a period between 1999 to 2009, indicated the progress in human development indicators in India during the said period. The life expectancy at birth in 1990 in India was 62.9 years which rose to 65.4 years in 2009. The adult literacy rate (% 15 years and above) was 56.5% in 1990 which rose to 62.8% in 2009. Similarly, combined primary, secondary and tertiary enrollment percentage in 1990 was 56 and in 2009, primary enrollment percentage was 116, secondary 60 and tertiary 10.5 percent indicating improvement in overall school enrollment. GDP per capita (PPP\$) was 2248 in 1990 which rose to 3296 in 2009, population not using improved water resource constituted 12 percent in 1999 which marginally went down to 11.9% in 2009. Population using adequate sanitary facilities stood at 31% in 1999 which rose to 48.2% in 2009. Birth attended by skilled health staff showed a good increase of 78 percent in 2009 and maternal mortality which stood at 410 per 1,00,000 life birth in 1999 went down to 230 per 1,00,000 life birth in 2009. The contraceptive prevalence rate in 2009 went up to 54% from 48% in 1999. One year old child lacking immunization for measles went down from 55% in 1999 to 29% in 2009 and to 34% in case of DPT. Population below income poverty line in 1999 earning less than \$ 1 dollar was 44.2% in 1999 which went down to 41.6% in 2009 and national poverty line which stood at 35.0% in 1999 went down to 27.5% in 2009. Even at the risk of repetition it could be said that the pace of human development in India in the last one decade progressed at a slower pace as compared to countries like the Maldives and Sri Lanka in the South Asian region despite the best intention and national commitment to give a boost to human development by launching a series of serial development and empowerment national policies and programs as discussed hereunder.

## 2. Education

### 2.1. Primary Education

After independence looking at the literary rate and overall importance of primary education for human development emphasis was given on achieving education for all children as a national goal. In order to achieve the said objective, in 1968 national education policy was formulated which was upgraded from time to time in the light of experiences, emerging needs and goals of human development leading to emergence of programs of Action in 1992 with a focus on commitment for universalization of elementary education. It provided for :

- Ensuring access and enrollment in school of all children in the school going age.
- Ensuring retention in school of all children up to the age of 14 years.
- Bringing qualitative change in educational level so that child could reach the achievement level.

In order to achieve the above objectives, children belonging to the deprived section of the society and children located in remote areas their access to school was to be ensured by establishing new schools as per the prescribed norms or by opening non-formal education centers. While under operation "black board" scheme emphasis was given to improving classroom, toilets number of teachers etc. in schools other projects such as Andhra Pradesh Primary Education Projects (ODA supported), Education Workers Projects (SIDA supported), Bihar Education protect (UNICEF supported). "Lok Jumbis project (SIDA support) and U.P. Basic Education Projects (IDA supported) were launched in educationally backward areas with an aim to improve access, enrollment and quality of primary education. However, since, the local conditions in different parts of the country varies as per social and cultural conditions, contextuality becomes an important factor in primary education and a uniform policy cannot be adopted for the whole country because of diversity and needed flexibility in the policy as per contextuality leading to the emergence of mega educational programmes such as District Primary Education Projects and Serva Siksha Abhiyan with focus on local factors such as girl's education, education of otherwise abled children, training of teachers, development of teaching learning materials community participation, convergence of other related programme with broader objectives to achieve universal access, enrolment, quality education and capacity building of institution engaged in primary education.

In 2009, with a view to ensure universalization of elementary education , Right to education Act came with focus on right to free and compulsory education to all children in age group of 6-14 years in schools nearest to their habitation. Those children with special needs would also be entitled for free compulsory education. This programme was to be implemented by support of both Central and State Govt. with clear cut demarcation of responsibilities of Central Govt., State Govt., Local bodies, teachers and parents

A cursory look at the achievements of these policies and programmes indicated that while substantial progress has been achieved in improving access, school infrastructure, enrolment and retention, universalization is still a distant goal. There is acute shortage of trained teachers and quality of education is still much to be desired. Effective educational administration and level of commitments of all those involved in the progress of universalization of primary education varies from level to level and region to region which is the basic impediment in achieving the targets of human development.

## 2.2. Secondary Education

Under Secondary Education many important subjects have been introduced such as science, social science, history, humanities, constitutional rights and duties, commerce etc. The education for all programs for secondary education gives emphasis on universalization of access, enrollment, retention and quality of secondary education. In order to enhance the utility of secondary education, there is focus in promoting computer education and vocational education. Model schools like "Navodaya Vidyalaya and residential schools have been set up for promoting innovation in secondary education based on equality and social justice in order to strengthen national integration.

The education for all programs for secondary education is being implemented and it is in the initial year of implementation. The main focus is on universal access, enrollment and teachers training for improving quality of secondary education. Only after an evaluation study is conducted it would be possible to comment on its strengths and weaknesses.

The other educational programs like continuous education where an adult could receive education as per their aptitude Labor Union's sponsored adult education centers for the working class, distance education programs and educational radio and TV program is also in progress to give a fillip to adult education. It could only be said to be progressing at varying pace at varying levels with mixed results.

## 2.3. Higher Education

In higher education, there is a sizable increase in the number of higher and technical institutions. There is expansion of IITs, IIMs A variety of technical institutions in recent years, as approved by UGC and AICTE have come up in the private sector and private universities are being set up under the State Act. The council of higher education is coordinating among higher education at Central and State level, special attention is being given to the quality of education and research especially in the area of agriculture, health technology, law etc., New Research institutes are being set up to conduct research in multi-disciplinary subject and new areas of technology. The open universities and rural universities are being set up for providing education under distance mode. Rural university playing a significant role in the area of micro planning for rural development is being envisaged.

Looking at the demand for technical and higher education, undoubtedly there is a proliferation in a number of technical institutions in the area of Engineering, IT and management so much so that the number of seats available is more than the demand. Medical, agriculture and paramedical institutions are also growing steadily but shortage of trained teachers and instructors and required equipments /laboratory, quality of management of the institutions are the biggest constraint in providing quality technical education. The global survey of university graduation revealed that none of the Indian institution occupies position under top 100 institutions in the world. Hence, no institution in India is world class mainly because of lack of quality of education, low level of researches and low participation in academic and research activities at the international level. Despite the said weaknesses, it could be said that India has succeeded in developing a vast pool of technical and managerial manpower that are not only globally competitive but are engaged in a variety of development activities in the country and abroad.

## 3. Health Care

Creating conditions where no human being is denied health care is essential for promoting human development. Primary health care for all with special stress on immunization of children, elimination of severe malnutrition and halving the rates of moderate malnutrition, family planning services for all willing people, control of a variety of diseases etc. are the major objectives of human

development for building up individual capabilities and thereby building social capacities. With the said objectives in view, National Health Policy was formulated.

National Health policy was initially framed in 1983 had greatly facilitated in expansion of Health Care Structure in the country leading to increase of HC/PHC/CHC to 1,63,18. In 2000 AD, number of all kinds of hospitals becoming 43,322 nation-wide and available number of beds going up to 8,70,161, number of allopathic doctors available at 5,03,900 and nursing staff were 7,37,300. The birth rate went down to 28.1 (S.RS) and estimated death rate to 8.7 (99SRS) The infant mortality rate was 70 (99SRS). There were substantial reduction in cases of leprosy, pox and giworm. The national health policy of 2002 deals mainly with the comprehensive expansion of network of health protection services which is based on local realities of basic health care problems of people. It aims at achieving cycle wise and time frame-wise results between 2002-2015. It deals with the details of the roles and responsibility of Central Govt., State Govt., private sector, civil society etc. in achieving the targets set till 2015. The major targets to be achieved in this period include eradication of leprosy, polio and skin diseases, black fever, filaria, T.B., malaria and waterborne diseases, reduction in death rate by 50% by 2010 and reduction in IMR by 30 per lac child birth etc. The national Rural Health Mission (2005-2012) has been taken up in mission mode with the major target to reduce IMR and MMR, providing universal access to women's health, child health, clean drinking water, improved sanitation, immunization to all and controlling locally infectious disease and epidemic. These targets are to be achieved by locally established autonomous network based on contextuality and adequate funds have been provided for the same. Experiences and micro studies show that the progress towards providing health care to all has many impediments such as acute shortage of qualified doctors and paramedical staff lack of effective mechanism of project administration and above all rampant corruption leading to embezzlement and mis- utilization of funds which broadly explain the slow progress due to lack of effectiveness of programme implementation. Achieving universal health care seems to be a distant dream at present.

#### **4. Women Equality and Empowerment**

The goal for human development reiterates that not much can be achieved without a dramatic improvement in the status of women and opening of all economic opportunities to women. The Human Development Report 1994 (giving date of 1991 indicated a sizable gender gap in terms of important parameters, say, life expectancy of women was 59.9 years as against 59.7 years for men, indicating a very marginal difference in 1992, average age at first marriage was as low as 18.7 years, the literacy rate (15-24 years age in 1980-89) was 40% and enrolment ratio in school enrolment was 84% in 1990 and only 2% of them were in administrative and managerial position.

For implementing the provision of equality of women as enshrined in the constitution and taking comprehensive step for women's development and empowerment a comprehensive national policy was framed in 2001, with basic objectives of (i) capacity building of women for fullest development based on positive social and economic policies enforcing the basis of equality and social justice in a systematic and real manner in political, economic and cultural activities (ii) Providing access on basis of equality for effective participation in social, political and economic life (iii) It also provided for health care of women, quality education, employment, equal wages, social security and protection and access to public services and institutions (iv) Framing and implementing effective laws to end all forms of discrimination against women and bringing women in the main stream of development.

Such massive efforts for gender development and empowerment during 1999 to 2009 ( as per HRD 2011 ) indicate that progress in this regard is being steadily achieved. Life expectancy at birth of female in 1999 was 63.3 years which rose to 64.2 (in years 2004) while in case of male it was 62.6 years, Infant. Mortality rate in 2009 came down to 50 (1,000 per life birth) from 70 in 1999 and under 5 mentality came down to rate 64 (per 1,000 life birth) in 2009 from 98 in 1999. Total fertility rate declined to 2.6 in 2008 and in 2005-06, the coverage of birth attended by skilled staff rose to 39 percent. The contraceptive prevalence rate in 2005-06 was 53.6%. However among women, all types of anemia were as high as nearly 70% in 2005-06 including among adolescent girls. Among BRIC and SAARC countries, India in the worst performer in terms of low birth weight, underweight and wasting. Nearly half of Indian children are malnourished. The literacy rate per female in 2009 stood at 62% (as against 44.5% in 1999) while the male literacy rate stood at 82%. The enrolment of girls at primary and secondary level and their attendance level showed significant improvement and gender disparity in education was 0.93 as against 0.96 at the world level. More girls are now joining higher and technical education and their number as top executive and private sector is steadily increasing. The reservation for women in local panchayat has increased their participation in decision making in public life at grass root level which is a hallmark of their political empowerment. The passage of bill for 33% reservation for women in legislature and parliament in Rajya Sabha is still pending with Lok Sabha and it is expected that when the said bill would come in to effect it would definitely enhance participation of women in political activities on the basis of equality and social justice. One more important happening in the life of rural women was provision for 100 days job opportunity under MNREGA.

However, major areas of concern are the sharp increase in violence of all sorts against women and girls even in big cities causing serious safety concerns for women and girls. Under public pressure, a series of tough laws have been framed by the Govt. and also ensuring expeditious judicial process against offenders. The condition of women belonging to minority and deprived section of society in rural area shows little improvement and still they are being subjected to a variety of gender discrimination and have been denied access to institutions and organizations meant for their development and empowerment. It calls for massive and sustained efforts to develop and empower all women to achieve the goal of women's development and empowerment.

#### **5. Rural Employment**

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme now known as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantees Act 2005, had the major objective of guaranteeing at least 100 days employment to all able bodied workforce in rural areas throughout

the country. The said flagship program was aimed at ensuring employment and income generation at the grass roots level with active involvement by local Panchayat.

In order to implement this program in 2009-10 the total allocation of the fund was 391 billion and in 2010-11 it was 40,100 crores and in the current scenario where there is a substantial fall in GDP the requirement of fund under this Act may rise upto 5% of GDP. However, it is said with these funds could be mobilized by better tax management and plugging loopholes and corruption in program implementation. According to CAG report this program suffers from many weaknesses due to tardy and ineffective implementation. Under this scheme in 2008-09 only 4.50 crore rural household got job under MANREGA but the average per family employment provided was only 48 days instead of proposed 100 days i.e. falling short of target in employment Guarantee by 52%. In 2013-14 according to sources of Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. Of India, the national average of rural able bodied workers getting job under MGNREEGS was only 33% of total eligible workers. MANREGA also focuses on relating a specific set of rural development activities such as water harvesting, forestry, rural communication, flood control, conservation of check dams, ponds, new tanks, land leveling, plantation etc. But by and large, there is no tangible results or effects of such activities on the ground level. It is apprehended that where ever such rural assets have been created by way of MANREGA, in the absence of adequate safeguards and security, it might captured by vested interest in the village. Moreover, it has also found that there is a lack of participation of local people in such local activity and everywhere such activities and being implemented as Govt. sponsored scheme with fixed parameter.

It has been often accused that because of rampant corruption at the local level in Govt., Panchayat machinery etc a particular section of population has been deprived from the benefits of this scheme. It is also being accused that local bodies have issued more number of fictitious job cards than the actual number of workforce in order to acquire more funds which is often embezzled. It is common knowledge that local officials demand money from workers for preparing the job card. Summarily, despite such massive investment which has also affected in a way the economic growth, MANREGA has only partially met its objective of rural job guarantee of 100 days due to mismanagement, corruption and inefficiency and its overall impact is limited to the varied levels of success received in other poverty eradication programs.

#### **6. Food Security Act 2013**

This Act was implemented in 2013 with the basic objective to provide subsidized food grains to approximately 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of India's 1.2 Billion population. Under the provision of this Act, beneficiaries will be able to purchase 5 kilograms of cereals such as rice @ Rs. 3 per kg., wheat @ Rs. 2 per kg. And coarse grain @ Rs. 1 kg every month or 25 kg. Of food grains by a family/house (covered under Antodaya Anna Yojna) per month. Pregnant women, lactating mothers and certain categories of children are eligible for daily meals. This Act also tries to address the issue of severe malnutrition among the women and children by providing the said services.

Food Security Act (2013) which confers the right to food to near 53% of rural and urban poor population was designed as a flagship program of UPA II and for 3-4 years it was intensely discussed over the issue of very high allocation of fund required for its implementation, the exact coverage of population and other modalities. It was only in the monsoon session of the Parliament in 2013 that the said bill could be passed as a political expediency as a game changer of fortune of the ruling party in the 2014 Lok Sabha election based on the experience and results of the loan waiver scheme and other populist program by the Govt. in 2009. The other political parties though supported the bill but not without serious criticism. It was said that food security through public distribution system is being provided for the last few years in a very cost effective manner with few seats like Chattisgarh, Gujarat, Pondicherry etc. and beneficiaries are availing 35 kg of cereals along with pulses, sugar, salt, kail in certain states aiming to reduce severe malnutrition. The high allocation of resources for food security would starve the other sector of development and would adversely affect growth rate. The political parties also demanded cent per cent average of the population rather than proposed 53%. Since the provisions of the Act is in under early stage of implementation and issue pertaining to modalities such as operational storage arrangement for grain transportation, reliable basis for selection of beneficiaries other details are still left to be finalized, we have to wait and see the actual impact of this Act in the days to come with a hope the it succeeds in providing food security to a large section of poor people and in reduction of severe malnutrition. However, the feasibility of this program raises serious doubts.

#### **7. Land Acquisition Act 2013**

The Land Acquisition Act of 1894 was amended in 2013 popularly known as the Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act. Land is a source of power and the said act ensures consent of the landholder, compensation at market value and the rehabilitation and resettlement of land owners in case of land being acquired for public purposes such as infrastructure, housing and by private firms. The said Act provides for obtaining consent of 80 percent of displaced needed by private and PPP projects only when the free acquisition process of social impact assessment is being carried out and once it is obtained there is a mandatory timeline of three years for acquisition to be conducted. However, in case of schedule V areas, again consent of the landowner is needed for acquisition as a result of the rights already enjoyed by people who live there under other laws such as the Forest Right Act, 2006. Under the Act compensation for acquisition has to be paid four times of market value in rural areas and two times in urban areas and the market value to be determined by higher of value for stamp duty and higher of average of top 50% prices of last sale in the vicinity. It also provides for the resale of acquired land with permission of Govt. And in that case there is provision for profit sharing of 48% of profits to the original owners. The Act also enhanced compensation for inconvenience, loss, injury etc., from 30% to 100%. The said act surely is a protection against nation carrying out the kind of wanton acquisition that the 1894 law enabled. In order to uphold the rule of law due process now has to be followed before dispossessing people of their land. It is

said that prior to this Act, acquisition was just one tool and used by a few private firms but now under the Act private purchase and lease are more equitable options that the Act encourages.

However, the Industrialist fears that it will escalate project costs and make them unviable. They were of the opinion that the Act feels good, not a development booster. They fear that provision for higher compensation and consent will lead to political and land mafia intervention besides the question that when companies are being called to give rehabilitation and resettlement what for they pay four times market value. They fear that there will be more litigation and land valuation will be totally arbitrary. The general feeling among the industrialist is that the Act is a disincentive and has forced them to review their investment plan and it is feared that this negative sentiment may impair the already dull investment environment. It is now too early to commit on the outcome of the Act and let it take time to unfold itself.

### **8. National Water Policy 2002 & Draft Policy Bill 2013**

It is the basic right of people to have access to drinkable water and there is a strong need for water preservation and regeneration for the future so as to fulfill the ethical need to guarantee to future generation opportunities similar to the once previous generation have enjoyed. According to Human Development Report 1994 in developing countries, one of the major cause of death was parasitic diseases resulting in death of 4.5 million people from diarrhea diseases. Most of these deaths are linked with unsafe environment particularly polluted water which contributed to the nearly one billion cases of diarrhea in a year. That is why there is an emphasis on ensuring safe drinking water for all human beings especially in the light of the fact that in 1990 safe water was available to 85% of urban people but only 60% of rural people. In India in 1999, overall people not using improved water resource were 12% which called for formulating a national water policy with the major objective to make drinkable water available to all.

As per Rural Development Report 2013 (source the times of India, September 27, 2013), one of the five rural households has none of three basic facilities such as drinking water electricity and sanitation. There were 19.5% of rural household at All India level in 2013 had none of said three facilities and average number of such households were 50.9% in Orissa 50.8% in Jharkhand, 34.3% in Bihar, 30.3% in Rajasthan, 29.8% in U.P. and 25.2% in West Bengal. The average number of rural households having all these three facilities was 18.4%.

Related to drinkable water is an issue of sanitation. As per World Development Report 2001, people using adequate sanitation facilities were 31% in 1999 in India which rose to 48.2% in 2009. Recently it seems that the political class is increasingly becoming conscious of sanitation facilities announcing boldly recently that toilet first temple later. Thus, providing drinking water and sanitation to all households bold is progressing rather with a slow pace and there is need to accelerate the pace in days to come so as to fulfill the basic commitments of providing life claims to all households.

### **9. National Environment Policy (2006)**

Environmental degradation is a major concern for human development. Most forms of environmental degradation have their most severe impact locally but other effects tend to migrate. Polluted Air drifts across national frontiers with sulphur dioxide enticement is one country falling as acid rain in other countries. Similarly, the emission of chlorofluorocarbons and greenhouse gases have global impact causing global warming and consequently increase in sea level. Tropical deforestation, the destruction of wetlands, coral reefs and temperate forest constitute a severe environment threat because of loss of the ability to provide ecosystem services such as water purification, soil regeneration, watershed protection, temperature regulation, nutrient and waste recycling etc.

National Environment Policy 2006 refers to the commitment of an organization to the laws, regulation and other policy mechanisms concerning environmental issues and sustainability connected with preserving the very basis of life. These issues, generally include air pollution, solid waste, bio-diversity, ecosystem management, maintenance of biodiversity wildlife and endangered species, and their preservation for future generation. Policies concerning of toxic substances including pesticides and many types of industrial waste are part of the overall environment policy. The involvement of Govt. in environment is mainly due to the market failure in the forms of forces beyond the control of one person and over exploitation of natural resources causing not only problems at local level but society at large and even breaching the national boundaries. The magnitude of the problem is so vast that the role of Govt in tackling these issues is of paramount importance of implementing environmental policies. Different types of instrument or a combination of such instruments is being used by the Govt. for protection of environment such as economic incentives, market based instruments such as taxes and tax exemptions, tradable permits, fee, voluntary measures such as bilateral agreements, greener public purchasing problems etc.

However; good intention might be it is a common complaint that the projects are being delayed for years as a result of delays caused in getting environment clearances. The massive efforts undertaken for clearing of the river eg Ganges and other rivers have not yielded desired results mainly because of tardy implementation and the absence of active people's participation. The problem of the pollution and water pollution in flood prone areas is growing steadily and instances of deforestation are wide spread. However, in hill states there is growing public consciousness for environment protection. Efforts are being made by the Govt., civil societies and environment activists to build up public awareness and support for protection and presentation of environment. It has led to tightening of norms by project clearance committee, Green Authority, Pollution Board Deptt. Of forest and other Govt. Agencies, which is trying to limit over exploitation of natural resources and the discharge of toxic substance in air and water including more efficient management of waste.

### 10. National Youth Policy 2002 and Draft Bill 2012

Youth now constitute a major portion of the Indian's total population. As per 2011 census, more than 50% of the Indian's population are below the age of 25 years and more than 65% of the total population are below 35 years. This young India is considered as demographic dividend and there is more pressure in the system to quickly respond to their needs and aspiration. They now demand a new approach to redress their problems, grievances and adequate solution to the problems being faced by different categories of youth. The draft National Youth Policy Bill of 2012 recognizes that it is high time young people are given opportunities and platforms to become better and more informed stakeholders in the way of democracy functioning.

As per the 2012 policy the age of the target group of youth is 16-30 years and constitute 9 categories of youth such as student youth, migrant youth, rural youth, tribal youth, youth at risks, youths in violent conflicts, dropout youths, group with social and moral stigma and youth in institutional care. Moreover there are three priority groups among the target age groups i.e. young women, youth belonging to socially and economically disadvantaged communities and differently abled youth.

For the said priority group specific interventions are proposed. For example age 16-20 covering mostly youth who require educational facilities, age 20-25 years require access to employment skill and age 25-30 years requiring access to self employment and entrepreneurial skill.

A set of schemes has been proposed in the said bill for development and welfare of youth such as a National program for youth and Adolescent Development, National Service Scheme, Urban Sports infrastructure scheme, convergence with NPLAD scheme and Panchayat Yuva Krida and Khel Adhiyan. Adequate arrangements of fund have been made for implementation of this scheme.

In the light of above it could be said that draft bill makes an attempts, to address the basic issues of youth and has formulated strategies to ensure their development, participation and empowerment. Since youth is a super sensitive category full commitment and sincerity would be required to implement, these schemes in order to avoid any kind of unrest and chaos. The youth policy of 2002 could be said to have progressed with varied pace at varying levels but more consistent, result-oriented and dynamic efforts would be required to program implementation of the proposed bill by allowing full and active participation of youth in implementing the said programs.

### 11. Right to Information Act

It was implemented in 2005 is a major step towards empowering the ordinary citizen to seek transparency in the Govt. departments, Public Sector Institutions/ organizations, NGO and civil societies receiving substantial state funding etc. Now political parties have also been brought within its ambit which is being highly resisted by the political parties and there is a move to scuttle it by amending the Act. It empowers the citizen to obtain information, copies of documents etc. from the said organizations within 30 days and in case of delay/denial there is provision for an appeal to the appellate authority and to central/state Information commission. Each such organization has appointed a Public Information Officer and Appellate Authority and their activities are managed and co-ordinated by Central /State Information Commission which is an independent body to appellate function. There is only a set of information of Defense / Security information of a personal nature, etc., which cannot be provided to the RTI applicant.

In recent times, this right is being used to seek information in a routine manner and has helped a lot in solving many issues of varied nature including in exposing many scams and scandals which speaks volumes above its effectiveness. Undoubtedly, the right to information has provided great power in the hands of people, however, there are numerous examples where this Act have been misused causing unnecessary harassment and retarding the speed of disposal of work. However, this Act has definitely succeeded in generating a sense of accountability among functionaries as they are aware that their misreporting misdeeds and manipulation could be easily exposed simply by an application under RTI. In order to make it further effective, there is need to strengthen and properly equip the central and State Information Commission by allowing it to really function as quasi-judicial body with adequate autonomy. The main purpose of this article is to inform, do understand, deliberate and decide to ensure active participation of the masses especially youth and women in accelerating the pace of Human Development. Such an awakening would also prompt the Central and State Govt. local bodies, Private sector and civil society to take up the causes of speeding human development as a crusade which is crucial for making India a true super power with a high degree of individual capabilities and social capacities to be able to meet any kind of challenging situation.

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