

PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The concept of reform has pervaded across the world in the 1980s. The concept in true sense got momentum during the 1990s. The very concept gave birth to the rise of so many important scholarly questions in the process of the functioning of state-machinery. The state as an institution right from its very origin intervened in the process of bringing socio-economic changes. Such actions on the part of the institution of the state have been interpreted in terms of the concept of bureaucratic intervention by the scholars of public administration. However, the nature and scope of such intervention has been changing in nature from time to time. At the initial stage when the state assumed as police-state, the functions of the state were confined only to the maintenance of law and order and the smooth collection of the revenues from the citizens of the state. The role of the state under the canopy of capitalistic modes of production was very much bureaucratic in nature. But with the inception of the concept of welfare state, the question of state-intervention in the process of bringing socio-economic changes became crucial. The concept attracted the attention of the scholars, statesmen of the Third World Countries including India. India right from her independence, tilted in favour of the state controlled development. India's political and economic functions were directed towards making sure that the state has its control in most of the giant economic sectors of the country. For the achievement of such goals India opted for planned economic development.

Modern economy is conceived in terms of free economy i.e. an absolute freedom from any sort of intervention on the part of the state. The place of market in the process of bringing development is being held in high esteem. It is argued that the market has a unique and spontaneous character of bringing development.

The process of the so called reform in the post cold war period in bringing development is being understood in terms of liberalization, privatization and globalization commonly known as LPG. The process has been vehemently opposed by the Marxist scholars since its inception as they argue that in order to keep up its pace of

exploitation smooth, the present form of reform is being marketed by the scholars of the liberal school.

However, the process of liberalization was initiated in India during 1980s and in order to keep up the pace of liberalization with the country's infrastructure many restrictions upon the economy of India have been removed. Many sectors which were once under the direct control of the government have been privatized to assure that the structure of the economy of India becomes suitable to be in the line with the open economy and emerges as an integral part of globalization with ease. In fact the three concepts i.e. liberalization, privatization and globalization have provided a new direction to the concept of structural reform.

Scholars share different views on this particular issue. It has been found that in the initial stage the process of reform had to tackle different obstacles. It was argued on the part of the conservative economist that once the economy of India was exposed to the liberal assumptions of the economy, the very vitality of the so-called nationalistic economy would be at stake. But these resistances could not stand in the way of exposing the economy of India to such liberal assumptions. In 1991, with the inception of New Economic Policy (NEP) the state functioning of India with its economy was given a new direction and a new shape as well. By the end of 2008 it has been found that the necessary adjustments in the process of reform have not yet been given a sound shape. Still there are many sectors which have not yet been put under the rubric of reform process with a view to providing the utility and benefit of such reform in a country like India.

Hence, it has been argued by the pro-globalization scholars that the complete infrastructure of globalized open market has not yet been achieved. It is being argued that at present for resorting to globalization through reforms, India has been able to enjoy a better standard of development. But the scholars of pro-globalization are still not fully satisfied with the reform activities of India. Causes are not so difficult to understand.

The proposed study aptly takes into consideration the question of globalization. Under the globalized perspective state is a capitalistic state which aims at removing all sorts of obstacles for making a free market leading towards the process of globalization

through the building of a common economic pattern for the entire world. In this context, India's response to such an important issue i.e. free-market economy is of prime importance.

The proposed study seeks to present the degree, nature and course of response on the part of a country like India in an elaborate and comprehensive manner. It also takes into consideration the question of the utility of the adoption of such economy for a country like India.

In the present research work a macro level study about the changing role of state and market in India in the context of structural reforms since 1980s has been initiated by dividing it into seven chapters.

In Chapter-I there is an introductory presentation about the present work. There is a statement of the problem in this chapter. It follows the presentation of the review of the literature and objectives of the present study. Research questions that the present work seek to answer and the research methodology that it follows also find their places in this chapter. Finally, there is a description of the chapter wise plan of the proposed study.

In Chapter- II there is a theoretical debate as regards the role of state and market in the attempt of experiencing development for any country in the world.

Chapter-III deals with the techniques and the nature of the state intervention that India opted for bringing development right from her independence.

Chapter-IV discusses the concept of globalization and the background which paved the way for India to opt the path of liberal (open) economy.

Chapter -V takes into consideration the process and politics of structural reforms in India.

In Chapter-VI the impact of economy reforms on India's socio-economic political conditions has been taken into consideration at length.

Finally, Chapter-VII summarizes the main findings of the study & suggestions.

At the time of writing this library based research work I have largely taken the help of different newspapers, journals, periodicals, books etc. available in the central libraries of North Bengal University, Burdwan University and Krishna Chandra College. I received a lot of help and cooperation from all the staff working in those central libraries.

In preparing this research work I owe a profound debt to my esteemed supervisor Dr. A. K. Datta; Professor, Department of Political Science, North Bengal University, without whose proper guidance and effective supervision it would have been quite impossible for me to complete the work. Apart from this my parents, family members, friends and well-wishers have been great sources of inspiration in the process of the completion of this research. No word of gratitude is good enough for all of them.

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I owe an apology if, by chance any error crept into my writing. Hope I would be excused.

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