

## Chapter XI

### ***GROWTH OF EDUCATION AND ITS IMPACT ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT***

“The whole population owing a common rule may be known as community”(1) Two important functions are mainly performed by the community that is ‘Common defence and maintenance of the common rule’.(2) Community also brings change and evolution in the social structure sometimes the society is also unaware of it. The ideas of liberty, equality and fraternity brought French revolution, even very committed society also can be changed - with different ideologies such as facism, communism, socialism and Gandhism. Again through evidence of history we know that ‘socio-cultural changes have been brought about by the personal influence of great men.’(3)

Sometimes we observe that change comes from outside the society such as in our country. British rule and Western influence also had considerable influence in bringing about a social change. The modern outlook brought change in many fields such as many evil customs like Sati, Polyandry, polygamy, sacrificing the first child etc. were abolished. There was socio-economic and educational development side by side an educated and liberal class of people came into the society who gave all their effort to make common people conscious politically and educationally and people participated actively in the politics, in the struggle for freedom. After freedom came modernisation and liberal outlook in all the fields. Leaders of free India has given importance on modern science and technology which has brought transformation and modernity in every field and change of outlook in different communities. So the fact is education has brought change in India during the past five decades. For an example according to Prof. M. Dasgupta modernisation of

agriculture has transformed raw land into a vastly more productive resource than it was in its natural state; second agricultural education has provided substitutes for cropland. With some local exceptions, the original soils of Europe were poor in quality. They are today highly productive; reason behind is progress of education and research. The original soils of Finland were less productive than the nearby western parts of the Soviet Union, yet today the croplands of Finland are superior. Japanese croplands were originally much inferior to those of Northern India, they are greatly superior today. In both high and low income countries these changes are partly the consequence of quality of people which is dependent upon quality education. Education is the new substitute for fertility of cropland or land augmentation.(4)

India gave importance on having socialist pattern of society. Socialism demands the strong and the weak member of the family must exist together. The strong should help the weak and in this process should try to bring them upwards with justice. But in India cities and towns held as an important sector of the Indian community whereas "rural India stood on the periphery. She was there to subserve the middlemen parasites rollicking in the cities. She offered 2nd class citizenship at best to those who dwelt therein. The first five year plan itself discovered this travesty. It brought in the concept, as we have seen already, of the National Extension service as the agency and community Development as the approach for the shift in focus."(5)

In October 1952 the Community Development programme started with the support of 194 million people in more than 2000 Development Blocks and it was expected that within ten years the programme will spread to the whole country.(6)

During 2nd five year plan it was decided that 40 per cent of the national extension blocks should be converted into community development blocks. 3800 Development blocks should be taken up under the national extension scheme and of

these 1120 will be converted into community development blocks. Some information have been given regarding distribution of provision between different heads of development in the *Table 1.1*.

It was found out there was marked progress in different fields besides agriculture for example (a) in co-operative farming (b) in development of Panchayat for village development (c) consolidation of holdings (d) development of village and small industries, (e) programme organisation for the small farmers, landless tenants, agricultural labourers and artisans (d) intensive work among women and youth and in tribal areas - Importance given also to meet some simpler needs such as village roads, water supply and sanitation and opportunities for education.(7) It is felt that villagers should be aroused from their slumber should look forward for new knowledge and develop ambition for better ways of life.

It has been observed more or less same ideas were pursued in the third five year plan because development of a large public sector and co-operative sector were needed for transition towards socialism and emphasis should be given on social values and on developing a sense of common interest and obligations among all sections of the community.(8) In the fourth plan stressed given on rapid economic growth accompanied by expansion of social services, specially education, health, family planning, nutrition, hygiene and housing. The policy gave importance on bringing greater economic and social equality and integration within the community.(9)

In the meantime during third five year plan for ground-level personnel viz. the Gram-Sevaks (village level workers) and Gram Sevikas about 150 training centres have been opened in different parts of the country. Special courses have been introduced for training in extension for agriculture and animal husbandry personnel. Many training centres opened for industries extension officers, public health workers and Co-operative Extension Officers. There are also training centres

Table 1.1

*Distribution of Provision between different heads of development*

	<u>Rs. crores</u>
1. Personal and equipment Block headquarters	52
2. Agriculture (animal husbandry & agricultural extension, irrigation and reclamation)	55
3. Communications	18
4. Rural arts & crafts	5
5. Education	12
6. Social education	10
7. Health and Rural Sanitation	20
8. Housing (for project staff & rural housing)	16
9. Community Development Miscellaneous (Centre)	<u>12</u>
Total	200

*Source : Chapter XI.p.89, Government of India, Planning Commission,  
Second Five Year Plan,1956 (Summary)*

for the training of Block Development Officers and Social Education organizers, Ministry of Community Development is running all these training centres for the development of the personnel.(10)

‘At the apex of the whole system is the National Institute of Study and Research in community development. This institute looks after orientation of high-level key personnel. It also conducts and co-ordinates research connected with Community Development in collaboration with Universities and other institutions of learning in the country. The national Institute is also responsible for giving academic guidance to training centres gets interwoven into a common fabric.’(11)

To carry on the work of community development a new idea was introduced. The new idea is Panchayati Raj. Government realised people’s involvement is important to carry on the huge work. People’s organization should come up and for that Government of India had appointed a study team headed by Shri Balvantray Mehta who submitted its report in 1958. “The Committee recommended a three-tier interlocked system of democratic administration at village Block and district levels. The agency of Government at each level was to be made subject to the control and guidance by elected representatives of the people, thus providing for the growth of democratic administration from roots upwards.”(12)

Village Panchayat’s role become predominant in the village level. They send their elected representatives to the Block Panchayat Samiti. The Samiti also takes co-opted members representatives from women, scheduled tribes and castes and depressed.

The Presidents of Block Panchayat Samities together with MPs and MLAs in the district constitute the Zilla Parishad. The Zilla Parishad in collaboration with the Collector and the technical departments offers guidance and assistance to the Block Panchayat Samities but do not control them. So this is the Constitution for community development which is implemented in all the States in India. All the

programmes introduced by people's organizations are to be approved by the state legislature. 'Thus is democracy travelling from Parliament to the Panchayat.... But democracy also has a stomach. The stomach has to be served without the man being silenced in the process. Then alone can democracy lead to its ultimate consummation-freedom-Destination man.'(13)

The associate organizations are also involved in the community development project such as the Yavak Mandal, the Bai Mandal, the Mahila Mandal, the Dastkar Mandal, and the Multitude of other organizations.(14)

Another important media for community development is to be mentioned that is the role of Bank. The service co-operatives are affiliated to central co-operative banks in each state. These institutions get help from the state and also depend on the Reserve Bank of India to give advances to agricultural production and marketing. The Reserve Bank functions as banker to strengthen structure. In all the states Central land mortgage banks also have been set up. Here again Reserve Bank helps all these land Mortgage Banks.(15)

Theories of development are changing very fast. According to Prof. M.Dasgupta the Keynesian doctrine of investment is necessary to understand the problem of development, which suggested that the higher rate of investment in physical capital will bring the higher rate of growth and development. But investment even if increased in some selected areas or industries would not filter down the benefits to large section of people. Industrialisation created certain enclaves or islands of plenty amidst poverty all round. In the Keynesian theory per capita income was considered as the main criterion for the progress and development. At present economists are given emphasis on social indicators for development as opposed to physical capital. For the sample of developing countries used by UNDR (UN Development Report), estimated elasticity of output to capital

output for 1960-87 is -0.4 which means for every 1 per cent capital increase, output increases by about 0.4 per cent. On the other hand many studies account the high returns on education. In the past studies of growth, education has been roughly fixed by literacy rates or primary school enrolment ratio. Research for the UNDR report suggests that increasing the average amount of education of labour force by one year, raises output by 9 per cent and three years of education raises output or GDP by 27 per cent. The UNDR holds that education in general and educating women in particular are the key to development. Failing to raise women's level of education closer to men's detracts from the social benefits of raising men's. An additional year of schooling (boys and girls) has raised Farm Output by nearly 2 per cent in Korea and 5 per cent in Malaysia. In Thailand farmers with four years of schooling were three times more likely to use new technology than farmers with one to three years of schooling.(16)

The latest Human Development Report of the United Nations Development Programme places India 89th among 101 nations on the scale of Capability Poverty Measure (CPM). The CPM on average percentage of births unattended by trained health personnel, underweight children below five years of age and female illiteracy. This is a good indicator of the status of women. China is ranked a healthy 24 and Sri Lanka 26 and India 70th. Health statistics for Indian women are frightening with 80 per cent of them being anemic and only a third of the child births being attended by trained health personnel. So maternal mortality is high 460 per one lakh live births, six times that of Sri Lanka and five times that of China. Over two-thirds of the infants are underweight while 53 p.c. of the children under 5 years of age either continue to be underweight or lose the advantage they had at birth with social tags attached in favour of boys, girls outnumber boys in the underweight category. In the early theories emphasis had been given on 'investment' and 'physical capital' for development. In the Human Resource Development (HRD) the emphasis is on

individual's health and education also on status of women and children and increasing the quality of life of the people.

In the investment approach expenditure on education and health was considered as consumption but in HRD approach each individual is considered as potential capital and expenditure on education and health is a part of capital expenditure.

Most of the underdeveloped countries have excess population. According to the HRD approach the birth rate and death rate can only be controlled by higher literacy rate of men, especially of women and retention of boys and girls in the school. Higher literacy rate is negatively associated with population growth and positively associated with higher productivity. Adaptability of the new technology becomes better with higher literacy rate.

In the population structure 50% are women and about 35% are children and boys and girls belonging to the age group upto 20. It is insisted in the HRD approach that the status of women in terms of enlightenment and 'empowerment' should be increased. Keynesian type of approach neglected the problems of 50% of women population but HRD approach gave importance on health, education and empowerment.(17)

It is the human resources of a nation that are largely responsible for its overall economic and social development.

This is also true in case of Darjeeling hill areas since educational system largely reflects the economic and social structure of the societies in which they exist. Any programme or set of policies to make education more relevant for development needs must operate at various levels.

The economic and social incentive outside the educational system are largely determining the magnitude, structure and orientation of the aggregate private

demand for education and consequently there is state response in the form of finance, supply of school places, equipments etc.

The internal effectiveness and equity of educational system by appropriate changes specially in rural areas are to be observed and parents view of the whole educational system and their willingness to impart quality education to children is an important area of the issue of growth.

Education is a very powerful media of political, economic and social change. Field work in different educational field in Darjeeling shows that though there is no remarkable progress in the rural areas but some kind of progress is visible; at least people are conscious politically and educationally. Political consciousness brought Gorkha Hill Council for the Hill region of Darjeeling which is looking after the development of the hill region in all the levels, educational, economical and social. Darjeeling hill region is now changing from simple and poor society to a modern and affluent society. People are now searching new ideas, new values for the improvement of the region. However, constraints in the field of development are also found many such as poverty is a common problem in Darjeeling district.

According to "Background Report - problems and prospects for Development of North Bengal" prepared by Government of West Bengal in 1976 it was pointed out that per capita income of Darjeeling is lower than the State average.(p.17) The per capita income for 1970-71 in the five districts of North Bengal had been estimated at Rs.268, Rs.370, Rs.332, rs.304 and Rs.198 per annum (in constant - prices with 1960-61 as base) for Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar, West Dinajpur and Malda respectively.(18)

About economic and social incentive it can be said that Government both Central and State is quite concerned about the Hill areas because Hill areas forming part of larger composite state in Assam, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal in the Himalayan and Sub-Himalayan region. Though primary responsibilities for these

area goes to the concerned state government, the need for Central assistance also realised as far back as the second five year plan and arrangement in this regard systematised since the commencement of the Fifth Five Year Plan. While disbursing the fund equal weightage is given to these area and population of the hill areas.(19)

It was felt that new approaches will have to be introduced for meeting basic needs of hill people comprising water, food, work, fodder, feed, fuel and fertiliser. NREP and development projects in the fields of forestry, animal husbandry, fisheries, horticulture, agro-forestry and cottage-industries should be carried on. Since women do most of the jobs in hills they will have to be given opportunities for upgrading their skills in Krishi and Van-Vigyan Kendras.(20)

The plan was fully funded by the Central Government "The programmes are implemented through the constituent units of central organisations. The NEC's five year Plan 1974-79 was Rs.90 crores and actual expenditure was Rs.86.67 crores. The outlay provided in the Sixth Five year Plan for NEC's programme is Rs.340 crores.:(21)

The Government both Central and State is having special educational programme for the backward class. The main emphasis is given on raising literacy and improving the educational levels of the backward classes through scholarships, provision of books, stationary uniforms, coaching classes, boarding grants, hostel facilities etc. However, it has been observed that in the Fifth Plan period, the contribution of financial institutions in backward areas has been inadequate in relation to need. There is also criticism regarding complex pattern of administration. "A multiplicity of Government Departments are advising beneficiaries for development activities and separation of revenue, judicial and development administration has caused confusion and resulted in lack of confidence in administration.... The chain of command can be from the State level through the Commissioner of a Division Collector of a district, project administrator of ITDP,

BDO to block level extension officer and to the village level worker.”(22) In the Sixth plan emphasis was given on unified administration. Sometimes trained personnel for housing, health and education is not available in remote village area so local youths should be trained for this work, decided.(23)

Through community development project people specially in the rural area - contributing in cash or in kind for their own betterment. It is bringing social change through the utilisation of local resources human and material which otherwise would remain ideal. Darjeeling District has been covered by 10 CD Blocks. Of these three, Darjeeling, Pul-bazar, Rangli-Rangliot and Sukhiapokhri are in stage II. Five in Kalimpong, I & II in Gorubathan, Mirik and Siliguri are in Stage I and the rest Kurseong, Kharibari and Phansidewa are in pre-extension stage.

In all these Blocks attempts have been made for conducting village survey and collecting socio-economic data.(24)

In India as well as in Darjeeling importance is given on universal education and quantitative expansion along with traditional lines and emphasise adaptation to the needs of a rapidly changing society. So at present schools are giving importance on qualitative as well as quantitative education. It is demanded that schools should be relevant to the needs of the student and education should be given in such a way so that they learn to deal with contemporary problems. But schools are having many problems which have been discussed in previous chapters. On the whole schools are not giving importance on developing skill, developing individuality and personality and conducting problem-oriented research. Education is till now not relevant through out India, besides the school were creating two types of societies urban and rural societies. So because of this rural students are lagging behind in every aspects of competition. Most of the technical and medical schools and Colleges give chance to the handful of students from the town than the rural students. So it has been observed that urban doctors do not go to villages and the urban bankers fail to

understand the problem of rural areas - The education system has been criticised because it has been giving importance on 'elitist' education for the benefit of a few people who control all the resources or decision making process. Elitist education has created a dualistic society and this system is creating a problem of growth which should be solved immediately. Education and growth are simultaneous, with the development education spreads and with the spread of education growth and development occur.

At present in Darjeeling hill region all the hill communities are going through a period of rapid change. As the place is famous as a tourist spot, in the economic sector hotel business side by side transport such as private taxi and buses and communications such as different tele-communication centres, STD, ISD etc. have developed in the town. Shops of various kinds such as arts and crafts shop, food shops, shops for cloths and various garments and also shops of various kinds which attracts tourists attention is developing very rapidly. Many people both male and female working as sales workers and service workers.

Because of Nepal and Bhutan Border some open illegal marketing centres also developed in the hill areas as well as in the plain areas and a very large no. of people are now engaged in these centres. A large no. of people are engaged in this smuggling business from both hills and plains and the fact is that Government is not unaware of this and all these activities go on with the help of certain section of police force.

Tea agriculture and forestry is providing employment opportunity but unfortunately there is no big, small or medium sized industrial concerns in the hill regions.

Many local people are engaged in administrative and clerical fields. In the teaching professions, in the primary and secondary level 90% local people are engaged in the hill region.

A very marked change is observed in the political tradition. At present G.N.L.F. is the biggest political party which in later part of eighties got support from every corner of the hill region. Now different regional parties have come up with their demand for jobs, demand for educational and civic amenities, law and order etc.

It has been observed that a good number of people have been engaged into the local political parties through participation in election, modernising political parties and Government decision making policy. People are slowly developing politically conscious due to educational development. According to Dr. Puspa Shrestha "education is seen as a necessary pre-condition for economic participation in the modern sector for the process of industrialization and general development of the country."(25)

Though Darjeeling hill areas never had some rigid caste system, child marriage, dowry or dowry death etc. but instances of evil system in other fields are found in plenty such as early marriage by elopment which is in many cases sanctioned by the society, drinking habits, illegal divorce etc. Position of women specially in the lower level of society is found very unsafe. This point is discussed in the previous Chapter but it can be said again that because of this 'informal sector employs a large segment of the female workforce in India. It covers marginal workers as well as workers living on the borderline of starvation and survival. Not only in India but in most of the developing countries of Latin America, Africa and even in some developed countries like Mexico almost throughout all informal economic sectors the proportion of women is double than that of men.(26) However, women's employment in other formal enterprises and Government and semi-Government services is too minimum. For example it has been observed that 35739 women were employed in formal sector enterprises in 1981. Out of them 26671 are absorbed by the tea-industries only. Hill women in the formal sector are engaged in limited no. of specific occupations and in the agricultural areas and in the

tea garden they work as cultivators - agricultural labourers and tea-garden labourers at low wage rate.(27) Many are engaged in petty trade and home-based production.

A good number are engaged in vending, construction work, domestic service, knitting and weaving etc.(26)

Some modern social problems are also been observed in the hill society as in other state and society such as drug-addiction specially among the students which is bringing, though very slowly, other social crimes such as HIV, murder and rape. However, no correct figure is available till now in this sphere.

Few rehabilitation centre has been introduced. Many teachers and social workers are aware of this problem and some voluntary measures have been taken to eradicate this evil through seminars and discussions etc. Through proper knowledge and education people could be aware of this evil system. It is said "if social progress has to take place through evolution rather than revolution education is the best and rational instrument."(29)

However, Hill areas need more developmental activities, new job opportunities, more industrial concerns, solving water and electricity problem. Another problem of heavy building construction work which is spoiling the beauty of the place should be checked immediately. Serious ecological problem is observed everywhere, natural scenic beauties are destroyed, trees are up-rooted, concrete five-six storied building of mostly hotels and holiday homes are coming up everywhere.

Inspite of many difficulties and constraints change and modern outlook is visible in all the levels of hill society. Modernisation is coming very slowly indeed. "Modernization is generally used to characterise the change in social life taking place in any country in the course of its socio-economic development. Processes of social, economic, political and ideological change have a great impact in altering the pattern of life and work of vast number of persons in such countries, creating modern or transitional societies."(30) It is expected that public and private concern

of the hill area will take active step to eradicate the problem and give their attention to create a modern important and transitional societies.

### ***SUMMARY***

The whole population owing a common rule may be known as community. Common defence and maintenance of common rule is the main function of the population. Change also comes from outside the society. British rule and western influence brought change in our country. Many evil customs were abolished and there was socio-economic and educational development which took place and gave rise to a developed society with people having liberal and educated mind.

After freedom, modernisation and liberal outlook came in all the fields. Modern science and technology brought transformation and modernity in all the fields of education. Modernisation in agriculture has changed raw land into a vastly more productive resource.

India is a socialist country yet in India rural areas are neglected whereas urban centres are developing fast. However, the fact was discovered and in October, 1952 community development programme started in 2000 development blocks. Gradually through different plan heads community development programme improved and this brought progress not only in agriculture but in co-operative farming, in development of Panchayat, consolidation of holidays, in development of village and small scale industries, programme organisation for the small and landless farmers, agricultural labourers and artisans, intensive work for the women and tribal youth, in developing the rural infrastructure such as village roads water-supply and sanitation.

Sri Balvantry Mehta Committee in 1958 recommended three-tier interlocked system of democratic organisation at village block and district level. Village Panchayat will work in the villages. Their elected representative should be sent to Block Panchayat. The Samiti also takes co-opted members representatives from women, scheduled castes and tribes. The President of the Block Panchayat Samiti together with MPs and MLs of the district together constitute the Zilla Parishad. This constitution of community development is being implemented in all the states in India. The associate organisations are Yavak Mandal, the Bal Mandal, the Mahila Mandal, the Multitude of other organizations.

Another important media for community development is the role of Bank. The service of co-operatives are affiliated to Central Co-operative banks in each state. These institutions get help from the State and also depend on Reserve Bank of India to give advances to agricultural production and marketing. In all the states Central land Mortgage Banks have also been set up.

The Keynesian doctrine of investment suggested the higher rate of investment in physical capital will bring the higher rate of growth and development. The theory also gave importance on per capita income. At present economists give importance on social indicators for development as opposed to physical capital.

India according to UNDP has been placed in 89th position among 101 nations on the scale of capability poverty measure. It also said about status of women. Health statistics of Indian women are very bad, 80 per cent of them are anemic; only a third of child birth is being attended by trained health personnel. 53% children under 5 years of age either continue to be underweight or lose the advantage they had at birth with social importance given to boys. In the human resource development the emphasis is on individual's health and education and also on status of women and children and development of the quality of life.

Most of the underdeveloped countries have excess population. According to the HRD the birth rate and death rate can only be controlled by higher literacy rate of male and female.

People of Darjeeling Hills at present educationally and politically conscious which brought in the forefront Gorkha Hill Council for looking after the development of the hill region in all the levels educational, economical and social but we observe constraint in the field of development that is poverty. The project report on the per capita income had been estimated at Rs.268, Rs.370, Rs.332, Rs.304 and Rs.198 per annum for Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar, W.Dinajpur and Malda districts respectively - However, it was felt that new approaches will have to be introduced for meeting basic needs of the hill areas such as water, food, work, fodder, fuel, feed and fertiliser.

The Governments both central and state are having special educational programme for the backward classes through scholarships, provision of books, stationary, uniforms, coaching classes, boarding grants. Since trained personnel for housing health and education is not always available local youth should be trained for the work. People also learnt through this project to contribute in cash or in kind for their own benefit. Darjeeling District is covered by 10 CD Blocks and in all these blocks attempts have been made for conducting village survey and collecting socio-economic data.

However, in India as well as in Darjeeling schools are creating two types of societies - urban and rural. Students from urban areas get chance in every field but rural students are lagging behind in every aspect of competition. Education system giving importance on elitist education not on vocational education.

At present Darjeeling hill region is going through rapid change. The place is famous as tourist spot so hotel business is flourishing side by side transport such as private taxies, buses and communications with different telecommunication centres;

STD and ISD etc. shops of various kinds such as arts and crafts shops, food shops, cloths and garments shop etc. which attracting tourists attention. Because of Nepal and Bhutan border many illegal marketing centres also has been developed. Though Tea, agriculture and forestry is providing employment opportunity but unfortunately there is no big, small and medium sized industrial concerns in the hill regions. Many local people are now engaged in clerical and administrative job. In the primary and secondary schools now 90% local people are engaged.

In Darjeeling, informal sector employs a large no. of women belonging to marginal workers as well as workers living on the borderline of starvation and survival. A good no. of women are engaged in vending, construction work, domestic service, knitting and weaving also as labourer in agricultural field as Tea-garden labourer. Women's enterprise in informal enterprises and Government and Semi-government services is too minimum.

However, Hill areas need more developmental activities, new job opportunities, more industrial concerns, solving water and electricity problem, ecological problem etc. It is expected that Government and Private effort will be there to eradicate the problem and give their attention to create a modern and transitional society.

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