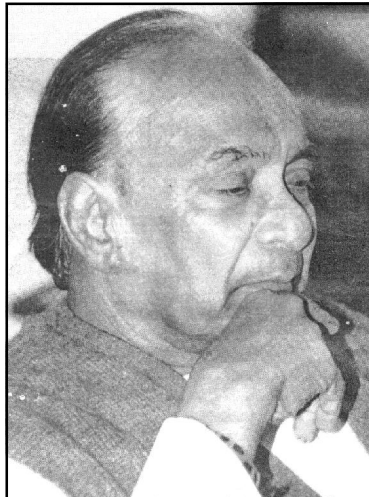


## Biju Patnaik : His Vision of Panchayati Raj

*Dr. Shridhar Charan Sahoo*

Biju Patnaik, our late and beloved Chief Minister, was not a political scientist or an armchair theorist on the Panchayati Raj System. He has not left behind any systematic theory of democratic decentralization of power and responsibility to build up democracy at the grassroots level. However, he had a vision of his own on the Panchayati Raj System and rural development. As it were, he had deep faith in the power of the people and great confidence in their ability to participate in the process of governance and in the process of development at the grassroots level. In many respects, he was far-sighted in his thinking so far as Panchayati Raj System or rural development was concerned. His conceptualization of Panchayat industries in 1960s during his first spell of Chief Ministership is a brilliant epitome of his dynamism and vision. In respect of his decision to reserve 1/3rd of seats for women in Panchayat Raj institutions during his second spell of Chief Ministership in 1990s, he emerged as a pioneer in India. His message in this regard was implemented in the 73rd Constitution Amendment Act of 1992. Here, an attempt has been made to give some shape to his ideas and vision and systematize them. To understand and appreciate



Biju's vision of Panchayati Raj, a bird's eye-view of relevant dimensions of Panchayati Raj System in India and Orissa appears necessary.

The institution of Panchayati Raj has been designed as a systematic scheme for the devolution of power to the lower rungs of administration. Such democratic decentralization of power and responsibility was to build up democracy from the grassroots. The Balwantray Mehta Committee Report (1957) provided the genesis for the three-tier system of Panchayati Raj (Gram Panchayat in Village level, Panchayat Samiti in Block level and Zilla Parishad in district level). For the first time, it provided for an integrated approach to rural development.<sup>1</sup>

However, the institution of Panchayati Raj is nothing new so far as our country is concerned. There were Panchayati Raj laws in many parts of India. But unfortunately, the functioning of those institutions remained far from satisfactory. Often they stood superceded. Mahatma Gandhi, a great votary of the Panchayati Raj institutions treated villages as units of his visualized polity. Art. 40 of the Constitution vibrated this Gandhian spirit when it said, "the State shall take steps to organize village

panchayats and endow them with necessary authority to function as units of self-government."

Hardly any attention was paid to actualize the spirit behind Article 40 until Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi took some serious interest and initiative to bring forward a constitutional amendment. Even though the proposed amendment of Rajiv Gandhi could not be made during his regime it became a reality during Narsimha Rao's regime. In this connection, the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act 1992 and the Constitution (74th Amendment) Act, 1992 are remarkable milestones in the evolution of local self-government institutions in India. Whereas the 73rd Amendment Act gave constitutional recognition and protection to the Panchayats, the 74th Amendment Act accorded this recognition to the Municipalities.

As per the 73rd Amendment Act, a three-tier system of Panchayati Raj is envisaged in every state. Panchayats have to be elected directly by the people as is done in case of popular houses in the Union and State level. These Panchayats cannot remain superceded for long and fresh elections would have to be held within six months of the dissolution of the Panchayat. Over and above, seats would be reserved for women. There shall be a fixed five-year term for all Panchayats. They shall have their own budget, power of taxation and list of items in their jurisdiction. In their respective areas, the Panchayats shall be able to formulate their own development plans and implement them. Every state shall have a State Election Commission for the conduct of Panchayat Elections. Every five years, a State Finance Commission shall also be constituted to study the economic condition of the Panchayats.<sup>2</sup>

It was hoped that it would begin 'a new era of real representative and participatory democracy' with nearly three and half million elected representatives - one-third of them women - being involved in governance all over India

would bring power to the people where it belonged.<sup>3</sup>

### **Biju Babu and the Panchayati Raj System**

In Orissa, the three-tier system of Panchayat Raj was introduced in 1959 with the passing of the Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad Acts. But prior to this, Panchayats were functioning at the village level in our State according to Orissa Panchayat Act of 1948. With the introduction of Panchayati Raj in Orissa, the Panchayats in the village level were now organically linked up with the Panchayat Samities and Zilla Parishads.<sup>4</sup> As per the new Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad Acts of 1959, elected Panchayat Samities and elected Zilla Parishads were formed in January 1961 and March 1961 respectively. In the Block level, the B.D.O. remained under the non-official elected Chairman of the Panchayat Samiti. The Zilla Parishads also started working under the elected Chairman.<sup>5</sup> Thus these three-tier systems of Panchayat Raj Institutions were introduced in Orissa in the year 1961.<sup>6</sup>

This was the year when Biju Patnaik became the Chief Minister of Orissa. He functioned as Chief Minister from 23.06.1961 to 02.10.1963 apart from his second spell as Chief Minister from 5.3.1990 to 15.3.95. This first spell of Biju's Chief Ministership in 1960s brings out his mind set and vision on this great experiment of democratic decentralization of power and responsibility at the grassroots level. His vision of rural development through the Panchayat Industries Scheme which is an important dimension of the work of Panchayati Raj institutions also comes out in bolder relief epitomizing his far-sighted and development-oriented mindset.

Biju's speech delivered in Orissa Legislative Assembly on November 20, 1961 is a valuable piece of literature, which shows his democratic

mind and vision on this great experiment of Panchayati Raj.

In his view, Panchayati Raj constitutes the 'People's Parallel Executive Apparatus'. He had deep faith that this parallel executive apparatus made up of the representatives of the common people could perform better than our present administrative apparatus' in carrying out development work.

Biju was a unique mass leader who lived and moved, and had his being in the context of the hopes and aspirations of his people. He called upon the members of the Orissa Legislative Assembly to share his trust and confidence in the people and in their elected representatives under the Panchayati Raj system. As he said on the Panchayat movement : 'we are on the threshold of a very great experiment, perhaps the last experiment whether we can trust our people or not, whether our people with proper guidance and assistance can prove to be more efficient collectively than our present administrative apparatus.....'.

Biju Babu was a committed exponent of 'democratic decentralization or Panchayati Raj as is popularly known in our country' which aims at making democracy real by 'bringing millions into the functioning of their representative government at the lowest level'. He realized that this movement can only succeed if 'we give that authority to people right down from the bottom of our social ladder who can exercise effective leadership'. It is 'a people's movement' he said. Leadership building or 'building up leaders of men from the lowest rung of our society' was what he conceptualized in his vision of Panchayati Raj.

Biju was dead-against any direct interference in the normal administration of the Gram Panchayat Movement either by the MLAs or MPs. What he said in his own words would unravel the man and his vision of Grama Panchayat Movement in the most befitting manner. As he

articulated his vision : "..... I do not see any reason why the members of this House or Parliament should have any direct interference in the normal administration of the Gram Panchayat Movement. We, from this house by our own judgment, are creating a child, a new democratic child with the hope that with the growth of this child it would be able to develop the leadership which our people need; the leadership of execution.... In the process of development, I submit that we would hamper if we do not allow that development movement to grow in its own way without attempting directly to interfere or directly interest ourselves in the affairs of that movement... whereas I heartily welcome the association of the members of this House in the deliberations of the committees of Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad, I would not like that members of this house would participate in the elections or the voting of the office bearers of the Panchayat Samities and Zilla Parishad or even vote for a decision of some creative activities or the locations of such activities. It would not be proper that this house which has given rise to a movement with one hand and would take the powers and its own apparatus of development by another hand. It would be wrong in principle; it would be wrong in concept'.

Biju Babu apprised the broad democratic ethics and ethos of the Panchayati Raj Movement to members who felt apprehensive of their status and position sans voting right or power of direct deliberation in the PRIs. He also addressed to their aggrieved concern that Sarpanchs and Panchayat Samities could execute their development agenda 'without any reference' to them or any consultation with them. He said to them : "I would like to tell those Hon'ble members who think on those lines that we are taking a terrible restricted view of a movement to which we ourselves give birth. I would like the Hon'ble members to think with me and feel with me that we are unleashing or attempting to unleash the greatest latent powers of the people by giving an

authority to Panchayati Raj conceived by the Father of the Nation long long ago, we have already originated this idea and this thought. We are merely trying to give it some shape. Let us not pollute that idea by trying to put our fingers in the heart of that movement by trying to directly intervene.<sup>7</sup>

As indicated earlier, the three tiers of Panchayati Raj Institutions were introduced in Orissa in the year 1961. 'By the end of 1961, as many as 13 Zilla Parishads and 314 Panchayat Samities started functioning and through these representative institutions development plans and programmes were implemented. It is to note that Sarpanchs were called as Chief Ministers of their Gram Panchayat.'<sup>8</sup>

Biju Babu as a progressive and dynamic Chief Minister of 1960s, seriously pondered over the problem of poverty in the rural areas and its eradication. For this, he conceptualized an innovative scheme of agriculture based small industries to be implemented in Mofusil or rural areas under different Panchayats. Out of this conceptualization was born the scheme of Panchayat Industries. It was the brain-child of Biju epitomizing his dynamism and vision in the realm of rural development.

Under this innovative scheme of Panchayat Industries, seven sugar mills, twenty tile making units, ten carpentry units, ten small foundries, a paper mill and factories based on agricultural products were established in a single year.<sup>9</sup>

In adopting this idea of Panchayat Industries, he had an idea to industrialize each Block in due course, to utilize the available resources and to generate employment for the rural people.

To encourage and promote this scheme for industrialization at the Block level, a number of prizes were declared for every district and the Panchayats were called upon to compete in implementation of development programmes in

their areas. Those Panchayats and Panchayat Samities which showed excellence were given prize money, that ranged between Rs.25000 to Rs.1 lakh. It was no small amount at the time for small-scale industries. Over and above, those Panchayats and Panchayat Samities which won prize money could avail of loans from Cooperative Banks and other capital investing financial institutions to establish small scale industries. That apart, the three revenue divisions of Orissa declared prize money of one crore each for the best Panchayat Samity for its achievement in development and industrialization.

It was an innovative scheme of rural development and a practical village based poverty eradication programme. By conceptualizing this scheme in 1960s he became the torchbearer of the 'Garibi Hatao' programme subsequently nurtured by Mrs Indira Gandhi. This Panchayat Industries Scheme was greatly admired by the Planning Commission of India and was recommended as a model to be followed by other States. Many lecturers in the faculty of economics took it up as a research project for the award of Ph. D Degree. Even, journalists of repute made special study of this scheme and published articles. It was said : "It will complement in a good measure the back to the village call of Gandhiji".<sup>10</sup>

This scheme of Panchayat Industries of Biju in the arena of rural development in the grassroots level was greatly admired by no less a person than Chester Bowles, the then ambassador of U.S.A. in India. He highlighted, in his reputed book 'Making of a Great Society and significantly said that had this scheme been properly pursued and implemented, Orissa would have achieved the same excellence with Japan in the field of industrialization.<sup>11</sup>

Apart from Chester Bowles, Jaya Prakash Narayan was also attracted by this innovative scheme of Panchayat Industries. He came down to Orissa as Biju's honoured Guest and stayed at Tulasipur to study this scheme.<sup>12</sup>

This Panchayat Industries scheme of Biju acquired an importance of its own in the national level. It was said that "if Balwant Rai Mehta was the father of Panchayat Raj, then Biju Patnaik is the father of Panchayat Industries in India.

This scheme of Panchayat Industries has been rightly considered as 'a unique scheme meant to eradicate rural unemployment'. Bengalis say 'what Bengal thinks to-day, India thinks tomorrow'. In the same vein we can say what Biju thinks today, India thinks decades after'. As it were, Biju thought of eradicating unemployment through small scale and cottage industries in 1960s. On the other hand, Govt. of India started work in the second part of 1970s and established District Industries Centres for development of small-scale village industries. Biju took up a programme of constructing tile-roof houses and provision of tap water in villages during 1960s when he was Chief Minister. Even though it was criticized by the Opposition Parties and the so called economists and intellectuals, it was a revolutionary social security and social justice - conferring measure in rural areas epitomizing the Biju vision of 1960s. The Indira Awas Programme and the Govt. of India Plan of providing safe drinking water in villages, being stressed upon now was thought of, by Biju in 1960s.<sup>14</sup> That simply speaks of the man and his far-sighted vision.

Thus, Biju was the first leader to take very bold steps in regard to grassroots level democracy. In early 1960s as Orissa's Chief Minister, he restructured the rural and urban local bodies with suitable amendments in the existing Acts of 1948, 1959 and 1960.<sup>15</sup>

Biju Babu became Chief Minister of Orissa on 5.3.1990 and functioned in this august office upto 15.3.1995. During this second phase as Chief Minister of Orissa in 1990s, Biju Babu wanted to broad-base and enrich Indian democracy by ensuring political participation of

women in the three-tier Panchayat Raj Institutions. He wanted to see that women become partners in the decision-making process concerning development. For this, he made Orissa the laboratory of his new experiment. Instead of sermons and slogans he saw to it that women were given thirty-three percent reservation in the three-tier Panchayat Raj institutions in Orissa. True to his vision, the Orissa Assembly passed the three Panchayat Raj Bills, the Orissa Zilla Parishad Bill 1991, the Orissa Panchayat Samiti (amendment bill 1991) and the Orissa Gram Panchayat Bill 1991 in March 1991<sup>16</sup> providing thirty-three percent of reservation for women including SC and ST women.

In this respect he was the pioneer - the beacon-blaze as no other State or even Government of India took any such step of women empowerment in PRI institutions till then.

What is significant is that 73rd and 74th Constitution Amendment Acts of 1992 provided for similar provisions in rural and local bodies. Biju led and India followed.

Thus, Orissa became 'the first State to streamline the Panchayati Raj and Local-self government institutions to make democracy participatory and not the aristocracy of a few nitpicking intellectuals.'<sup>17</sup>

In this connection, it may be said that 'since 1990, Biju's government took steps to revive the 3-tier Panchayat Raj system in order to strengthen grassroots democratic institutions. Under Biju's leadership, the Orissa Gram Panchayat Act 1964 and the Orissa Panchayat Samities Act 1959 were amended in 1991, 1992 and 1993. The Orissa Zilla Parishad Act 1991 was also enacted in 1991 to constitute Zilla-Parishads at the district level. This act has been extensively amended - to bring it in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution Amendment Act 1992.<sup>18</sup> It also adds to the credit of Biju's government that 'after a lapse

of eight years', it conducted elections to Gram Panchayats in the year 1992 for 5264 Gram Panchayats in the State.<sup>19</sup>

Some salient features of Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samities and Zilla Parishad deserve mention as these were the outcome of the amendments made during Biju's Chief Ministership to which we have referred.

In case of Gram Panchayat three mentionable points are

- (a) 'The post of Naib Sarpanch is reserved for the women members, if the Sarpanch is a male';
- (b) 'One third of the total wards are reserved for women candidates including S.C. and S.T. women candidates';
- (c) Gram Panchayats have been vested with the power of supervision of women and child welfare programme, social forestry, rural housing, small scale industries and public distribution system in addition to other normal functions.<sup>20</sup>

As regards Panchayat Samities the following features deserve mention :

- (a) One third of the total seats are reserved for women members including women members of S.C. and S.T. Category.
- (b) Provision has been made to the office of the Vice Chairman for a woman in case the Chairman is a male.

The Zilla Parishad ceased to exist in the state with effect from 1968. The State Government enacted the Orissa Zilla Parishad Act, 1991, in order to transfer the power of planning, control and supervision of developmental activities to Zilla Parishads at the district level'. Obviously, credit is due to Biju Patnaik for reviving Zilla Parishads and endowing them with power in the district level. After the enforcement of the Constitution Amendment Act,

1992, it became necessary to amend the Orissa Zilla Parishad Act, 1991.

The following features after necessary changes need mention:

- (a) Reservation of seats for S.C. and S.T. members has to be done on the basis of their ratio to the total population of the districts.
- (b) One third of the seats are to be reserved for women members including S.T. and S.C. women.
- (c) The post of Vice-President should be reserved for women if the President is not a woman.<sup>21</sup>

The State law has provided that no person having more than two children will be eligible to contest in the election to Zilla Parishad. Similarly persons having more than one spouse have been disqualified from contesting the election.<sup>22</sup>

It is also said that the government of Biju Patnaik set up quite a few commissions of finance for the Panchayat Raj Institutions in order to offer methods and mechanisms for resource funding thus unleashing some purpose to the decentralization of power.<sup>23</sup>

Thus Orissa under Biju Patnaik became the first State to streamline the Panchayat Raj and Local-self government institutions. That his government held election after a lapse of eight years in Gram Panchayats showed Biju's commitment to restore status and dignity to this valuable unit of self-government at the grass-root level. In a way, the amendments to Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad Acts in Orissa in his second spell as Chief Minister bear the mark of his farsighted personality - as a path indicator in respect of empowerment of women in the Panchayati Raj system. The area of participation was not only expanded and made meaningful through association and empowerment of women under Biju's inspiration; he also

rejuvenated the Panchayati Raj and local self-government institutions to function as meaningful units of self-government by endowing them with power and authority in the process of development. It may be recalled that he had also rejuvenated the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the 1960s and described each Sarpanch as Chief Minister of his Panchayat.<sup>24</sup>

### Conclusion :

We have before us the vision of Biju Babu on the Panchayati Raj system or the scheme of decentralization of power to make rural self-govt. a real experience. He prioritized the imperative necessity of actualizing people's power in governance and development at the grass-root level. The 73rd constitution amendment act of 1992 also seeks to take this great experiment of Panchayati Raj to greater heights of democratic excellence. To what extent, the Biju vision or 73rd Amendment guidelines have been implemented in both letter and spirit and at all levels is the million dollar question. Let Orissa - my beloved Orissa be the best model in this great democratic experiment which Biju wanted it to be.

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Dr. Shridhar Charan Sahoo is a Reader in Political Science, Ravenshaw Junior College, Cuttack

## Effectiveness of Panchayati Raj Systems, Problems and National Declaration

*Harihar Sethy*

Particularly, in the developing countries, to operate a highly democratic form of government, local self government institutions can play very vital role in the process of political legitimisation and develop a sense of public participation for the best implementation of the political as well as the social and economic integrity of the local environments. The effectiveness of democracy greatly depends on the association of the people at diverse administrative fields. The Panchayati Raj has been introduced in India with a view to associating people with administration at the grassroot level and people have been assigned an active role in the formulation and implementation of their plans.

The Panchayati Raj has been introduced in India in pursuance of article 40 of the constitution which directs the government to take necessary steps to organize village panchayats and endow them with such power and authority which may be necessary to enable them to work as units of self government. Accordingly, the government appointed a committee, under Balwantrai Mehta which recommended a three-tier system of rural local self government institutions. On the basis of these recommendations, Panchayati Raj institutions were introduced in a number of states.

### **Meheta's Three Tier System**

The Panchayat is an executive body of the village ward members headed by the Sarapanch.

It mainly consists of the representatives elected by the people of the villages. There is also a provision of two women and one schedule caste and schedule tribe if they do not get adequate representation in the normal course. The panchayat is a body accountable to the general body of the villages known as Gramasabha. As regards the main function performed by the village panchayat, they include maintenance of roads, wells, schools, burning and burial grounds, sanitation, public health, street lighting, libraries, reading rooms, community centres.

The panchayat also keeps records of birth and deaths. It takes necessary measures for promotion of agriculture and animal husbandry, Cottage industries, Co-operative societies etc. Some times minor disputes among the denizens of villages are also settled by the village panchayat.

### **Panchayat Samitis or Block Level Bodies**

The block is the intermediary in the three tier system and is the centre of developmental work. The panchayat samiti consist of by taking

(a) about 20 members elected by all the panchayats in the block;

(b) two women members and one member from SC and one from ST, if they do not possess adequate representation otherwise by the process.



Panchayat Samiti is headed by a chairman elected by the members of the samiti.

The main work of the panchayat samiti is to co-ordinate and to supervise various activities of the panchayats. It also looks after the developmental aspects within its jurisdiction.

### **Zilla Parishad**

Zilla parishad is at the apex of three tier systems and treated as the higher developmental agency in the State. The organization of zilla parishad differs from state to state. Still, it consists of the elected members of the panchayat samitis, members of the state legislature and parliament, medical officers of the district, district collector, officers of agriculture, veterinary, education engineering, public works, public health etc. Being a developmental body, its main function is supervisory within its areas. It approves budgets of the panchayat samitis in certain states and also gives necessary advice to the government regarding the implementation of programme and developmental works. Besides this, it deals in maintenance of education, dispensaries, hospital minor education etc.

### **Significance of Panchayati Raj**

The democratic decentralization took its shape with a view to better administration and developmental perspectives for quick rural development and co-operations of local people. State government does not possess adequate wisdom of local affairs and problems. In this sense, it constitutes a significant contribution to the theory and practice of nation building activities in the developing areas.

### **Problems**

Diverse and huge problems in the functions and working patterns of the Panchayati Raj system which we are facing in the day to day activities can be broadly described as mentioned below.

Initially, the domination of the bureaucracy over PRIs. The agent of implementation of all major programmes (CDP or IRDP) has always been the State administration, various parallel bodies that have grossly undermined the importance of the PRIs.

Secondly, inadequate financial resources to carry out the administration is a serious problem. The grant-in-aid is the major component of the PRI revenue. The government should realize this difficulty and try to solve it permanently.

Besides, other major problems are also affecting the structure. These are

- (a) incompatible relations among the three tiers;
- (b) undemocratic composition of various P.R. institutions;
- (c) political bias; and
- (d) un-cordial relation between officials and people.

### **National Declaration for Local Self Governance**

In the year April 2002 there was a conference regarding Panchayati Raj held in New Delhi. It was significant for two reasons.

- (a) It diagnosed the problems of panchayats.
- (b) Recommended the prescriptions which, if implemented, can ensure proper devolution of power from the State Governments to the grass root levels.

Inaugurated by the Prime Minister, the conference was attended by 1600 elected heads of 3,40,000 panchayats from across the country. The conference called for amending the constitution if necessary. So that the panchayats could become autonomous both financially and functionally.

The vital theme of the conference was the adoption of a 15 point recommendation or the national declaration for local self governance. The major highlights include :

1. The District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) and other parallel bodies should be brought under the control of respective Zilla Parishad with the chair person of the parishad as head.
2. The State Government should implement the recommendations of the state financial commissions and enable the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to raise requisite resources.
3. The centre should provide non budgetary resources as loans to PRIs.

4. The panchayat should have a panchayat planning committee to advise the panchayats in formulating the developmental plans

5. The district planning committee should be made functional by December 31, 2002.

6. The centre and state will make provisions for training panchayat representatives

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Harihar Sethy is a Research Scholar in A & A Economics, Utkal University, Vani Vihar, Bhubaneswar.

### **ORIIYA FILM & CULTURAL FESTIVAL AT BANGALORE**

At the initiative of the Minister, Information & Public Relations Shri Debasis Nayak, an Oriya Film and Cultural Festival is being hosted at Bangalore from March 7 to 9 as a part of inter-state cultural exchange programme. Slated to be organised at the Chowdiah Memorial Hall, G.D.Park Extension under Bangalore Sangeet Nataka Akademy, the programme could be a gratifying experience for the thousands of non-resident Oriyas in Bangalore who hunt for a taste of the language, art and culture of their own.

Earlier, this programme has been organised at Thiruvantapuram, Goa & Mumbai with huge success. This has helped to strengthen the cultural ties of other states with Orissa. The Orissa Information & Public Relations Department orchestrates such celebrations to facilitate a pan-Indian presence for Orissan art, music, culture and heritage.

# Panchayati Raj : Grassroots Democracy

*Siddhartha Dash*

India's democratic structure has three levels of governance - national or federal, state or regional, and the grassroots level called the Panchayati Raj and Nagar Palika systems. The Panchayati Raj system covers the village, the tehsil and the district, and the Nagar Palika system serves towns and cities. If democracy means people's participation in running their affairs, then it is nowhere more direct, clear and significant than at the local level, where the contact between the people and their representatives, between the rulers and the ruled is more constant, vigilant and manageable. Lord Bryce said : "The best school of democracy and the best guarantee for its success is the practice of local self-government". Decentralisation is a prime mechanism through which democracy becomes truly representative and responsive. The democratic ideals of decentralization, development, and increased, continuous and active popular participation in the process of nation-building can be secured only through the working of an efficient system of local government. Without a well organized system of local government, no democratic political system can be expected to become stable and really developed.

## **Panchayati Raj : An Evolutionary Perspective**

Panchayats as institutional vehicles for development have been part of the Indian system for ages. In ancient times, Panchayati Raj system prevailed during the Chola period. In fact, Rippon's Resolution of 1881 and 1882 can be taken to be the origin of modern local government in India. It was seen as Gram Swaraj by Mahatma Gandhi. Interestingly, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was not in favour of the Panchayati Raj institutions; yet, he agreed to give it a place in the Constitution of India in Part IV through Directive Principles of State Policy.

In the year following the independence (1947), Prime Minister Nehru inaugurated the Community Development Programme (CDP) on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi (October 2) in 1952.

The CDP was followed by the National Extension Service in 1953. NES blocks were earmarked as the lowest unit of development of administration. But both the programmes had a flaw : neither of the two was free from the control of bureaucracy. This shortcoming prompted the government to appoint a committee headed by Balwant Ray Mehta in 1957. The committee recommended a three-tier system of Panchayati

Raj from village to the district level - Gram Panchayat at the village level, Panchayat Samiti at the block level and Zilla Parishad at the district level.

As per the Balwant Ray Mehta Committee Scheme, Panchayati Raj was launched on 2nd October 1957 in Nagaur district of Rajasthan. Andhra Pradesh and many state governments followed Rajasthan. Yet, by the mid-sixties the hype to strengthen the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) gave way to a growing tendency of centralization and the PRIs descended to ground zero.

In 1977, the Janata Government tried to revive the PRIs. Accordingly a committee headed by Ashok Mehta was appointed to review the working of the PRIs.

The committee suggested a minor change in the Balwant Ray Mehta Scheme. The three-tier system of PRIs was to be replaced by a two-tier i.e. Zilla Parishad at the district level and Mandal Panchayat (consisting of a number of villages) below it. In addition, the committee also recommended the creation of Nyaya Panchayat.

However, owing to the disintegration of the Janata Government in 1980, the recommendations of the Asoka Mehta Committee could not be implemented. (Though Karnataka Govt. established mandal Panchayats). For the next five years or so, no progress was made.

One committee under the chairmanship of G.V.K. Rao reported in 1985, suggesting appropriate improvement in the representative character and strengthening of the capability of the people's representatives and administrative personnel in the PRIs. In 1986, the L.M. Singhvi Committee of the Department of Rural Development, Government of India, recommended constitutional status for Panchayati

Raj. In July-August 1989 the then Congress government introduced the 64th Constitutional Amendment Bill with a view to streamline the Panchayati Raj. However, the bill was defeated in the Rajya Sabha. V.P. Singh government also tried to push a bill in 1990 on Panchayati Raj, it lapsed with the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.

### **Panchayati Raj under the 73rd Constitutional Amendment**

At last P. V. Narasimha Rao's government enacted the 73rd Constitutional Amendment, which was passed by Parliament on 23rd December 1992 and became effective on 24th April 1993. This Act has added Part - IX to the Constitution of India. It is entitled as 'The Panchayats' and consists of provisions from articles 243 to 243-0. The Act has given a practical shape to Article 40 of the Constitution and gives a constitutional status to Panchayati Raj Institutions. The Constitutional Amendment ensures, a three tier structure at the zilla, block and village levels, an election commission to hold election periodically, a state level finance commission to find out ways and means to increase resources for local bodies, reservation of 1/3 of seats in all the position of the three tier for women, reservation of seats for SC/ST in proportion to their population in all the positions of the three tiers, establishment of Gram Sabha for enhancing people's participation for their own development, and establishment of planning committee for local bodies; and an earmarked list of 29 items under 11th schedule.

Now, the world's most populous democracy has the constitutionally mandated 2,32,332 village panchayats, 6,000 intermediate panchayats and 534 zilla panchayats. The three tiers of these elected bodies consist of as many as 27, 75, 858 village Panchayat members, 1,44,491 members of intermediate panchayats

and 15,067 members of zilla panchayats. This is the broadest representative base which exists in any country of the world. (India Panchayati Raj Report, 2001, NIRD). Besides breadth, depth of these figures can be gauged from the fact that more than fifty percent of these grassroot representatives are from the downtrodden and marginalized sections of the society, namely women (one third of the total), the SCs, STs and OBCs (as per their proportion of the population).

This kind of constitutional provision has created a scope for accomplishing development with social justice, which is mandate of the new Panchayat Raj system. The new system brings all those who are interested to have voice in decision making through their participation in Panchayat Raj Institutions. The Panchayati Raj system is basis for the "Social Justice" and "Empowerment" of weaker section on which the development initiative have to be built upon for achieving overall, human welfare of the society.

### **Problems and Prospects of Panchayati Raj Institutions**

To reach a viable Panchayat three hurdles have to be overcome. These have remained what they always have been.

First, is the domination of the bureaucracy over the PRIs. The agent for implementation of all major programmes (CDP or IRDP, to name a few) has been the bureaucracy. Various parallel bodies such as the DRDA have grossly undermined the importance of the PRIs. Either they have to be disbanded or made accountable to the PRIs.

Second, is the lack of adequate financial resources to carry out the administration. Grant-

in-aids is the major component of the PRIs revenue. This need to be supplemented with the adequate collection of taxes by the PRIs and a compulsory transfer of some of the state government's revenue on the recommendation of the state finance commission duly established for the purpose.

The last hurdle is related to the lack of training programmes for the participants of the PRIs. Without proper training, they lack the direction and know-how of the administration.

To conclude, admitting that the PRIs in India are weak and assuming that it will not be smooth sailing for them even after the 73rd Amendment, they do have an important role to play in India's development. Already, the PRIs have several achievements to their credit. These institutions have enhanced the political consciousness of the people and initiated a process of democratic seed drilling in the Indian soil. What the government should attempt now is gradually to delimit the role of bureaucracy, to promote local leadership, to remove structural deficiencies, encourage PRIs to strengthen their financial resources, bring in effective coordination among these institutions and between PRIs and the state governments and give them effective powers in relation to planning and its implementation. For this, the will to decentralise and delegate, on the part of the state governments, is a prerequisite. Action on these lines is the least that is expected of the rulers proclaiming their faith in and loyalty to Gandhian principles.

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Siddhartha Dash lives at N4-205, IRC Village, Bhubaneswar-15

## Laxman Naik - The Immortal Martyr of Quit India Movement

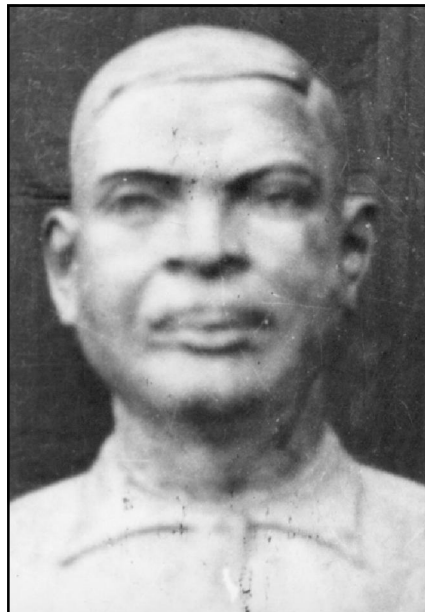
*Braja Paikaray*

Laxman Naik, the well known martyr of Quit India movement, though a tribal by birth and was far away from modern education and urban society, had joined the historic movement in response to Gandhiji's call "Do or Die". He fought for truth, non-violence, justice, and gave his life heroically on the gallows set up by the imperialist British Administration.

Laxman was born in the year 1893 to Sri Madhab Naik of village Tentuligumma near the banks of River Kolab and under Mathili Police Station in the Koraput district of Orissa, which abounds in flora and fauna. In his earlier child-hood, he learnt the witch craft, hunting and the art of herbal medicinal treatment. By the application of herbal medicine, Laxman could cure the diseases of the people and thereby gained their confidence and love. Laxman could notice the sorrowful plight of the people under the British Raj and made up his mind to fight back against the oppression and tyranny of the foreign rulers. He believed that Swarajya could be attained only through non-violent methods and

therefore joined the training centre of Nuaput village. He learned the spinning and listened to the speeches of the Congress Leaders with rapt attention and followed the strict Gandhian principles in his daily life.

On 1st August 1942 the All India Congress committee passed the famous "Quit India" resolution and gave a call for mass struggle under Gandhiji's leadership. On the same night Gandhiji declared :-



"I am not going to be satisfied with any thing short of complete freedom. Here is a mantra, a short one that I give you. The Mantra is "Do or Die". We shall either free India or die in the attempt. We shall not live to see the perpetuation of our slavery."

On 9th August Gandhi and other Congress Leaders were arrested. In Orissa, all the Congress Offices were declared unlawful and the movement soon spread to rural areas. People started Satyagraha in all corners of the State and attacked Post Offices, Police Stations and Tehsil Offices to paralyse the

Government and force the British to quit India. The British authorities never apprehended mass upsurge of this magnitude and under the slightest provocation, resorted to lathi charge and firing.

On 21st August, 1942 Laxman responded to Gandhiji's quit India call and alongwith his people started a peaceful agitation in front of Mathili Police Station defying the prohibitory laws. The agitators tried to unfurl the national flag on Mathili Police Station and four Satyagrahis were killed as a result of people firing. Laxman, the leader of the Satyagrahis, though not killed, was severelly wounded by the police bayonet and due to profuse bleeding became unconscious. Considering him dead, the police left him on the wayside alongwith other dead persons. After a long time, Laxman regained his consciousness and walked 32 miles to Jaypore. He met Balabhadra Pujari, a Congress worker, and stayed in his home for some days. By Pujari's advice, Laxman went to Ramgiri hills to hide himself from the eyes of the police. But, when he learnt about the police atrocities on the people, he returned to his village.

Police got the news of Laxman's return and surrounded his house and arrested him with handcuffs.

A false case was registered against Laxman accusing him for the murder of one forest guard namely Ramaya. The Court verdict went against him, although, he pleaded himself not guilty.

On 29th March 1943 Laxman was hanged in Berhampur Jail. His last words uttered before the execution was "When Swaraj comes, all injustice will end."

Laxman Naik, the great patriot is no more with us. But his brave personality and heroic struggle will be inspiration to the youth of this land for many years to come.

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Braja Paikaray lives at 342/B, Jagamara (Barabari), Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar-751030.

### **ORISSA TABLEAU TOPS IN THE REPUBLIC DAY PARADE AT NEW DELHI**

The tableau that represented Orissa at the Republic Day Parade - 2007 at New Delhi has been awarded the first prize for best presentation. This is for the first time that a tableau from Orissa was conferred the top honour.

It is noteworthy to mention that the design of the tableau was conceptualised by Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik himself. The State Information & Public Relations Department crafted the tableau design with direct supervision of State Information & Public Relations Minister Shri Debasis Nayak, Commissioner-cum-Secretary Shri Digambar Mohanty and Director Shri Baishnab Prasad Mohanty.

While showcasing the traditional folkart, toy and mask crafts of Orissa, the tableau also displayed some spectacular dances like tiger dance, horse dance, bull dance and colourful hand-made artistic images like Nabagunjar and ten headed Ravana. Besides, the musical songs of Orissa was also adjudged another best award.

## Biju - A Living Legend

Jayakrishna Tripathy

*"All the world's a stage  
And all the men and women are merely players,  
They have their exits and their entrances  
And one man in his time plays many parts"*

-William Shakespear-

And, there are men on this earth who make history by their consistent endeavour and selfless service to mankind. Twice the Chief Minister of Orissa, Biju Pattanaik, an epitome of courage and adventure from childhood, was born on 5th March 1916 in the millennium city of Cuttack at Ananda Niwas, Tulasipur. He was the son of an illustrious father Laxmi Narayan Patnaik and mother Ashalata Roy. Biju was a brave and unchallengeable boy, who was educated from the famous Cuttack Collegiate school that boasts of Subhash Ch. Bose as one of its illustrious alumni and then moved to Ravenshaw college for doing his B.Sc and then joined the Royal Air Force as a pilot. From school days, Biju was prominent for his love towards game, sports and adventure. He was also a good football and hockey player. He was thrice Ravenshaw



College athletic champion. His Ravenshawian days are notable and nostalgic for the intervening Cuttack-Peshwar cycling. He persuaded and pampered friends, and made them agree to this adventure freak and set out on the odyssey of covering 4000 kilometres. The marathon cycling that speaks of their dream, aspiration and ambition is historic and sets an adventurous path breaking record. Ravenshaw College, infact, matured and perpetuated the young Biju that had an aspiring future.

Once, it so happened that he was on the same boat with Utkalmani Pandit Gopabandhu for distribution of foodgrains and clothes for the marooned villages of Ali-Kanika area. Due to strong wind, Das's umbrella fell down on the swelling river and everybody was helpless. Biju jumped into the dreaded river and recovered the umbrella from the swelling water. Everybody exclaimed that only for the shake of one umbrella an youngman's life was in danger. Biju remarked, "it was not a simple umbrella, it was *Das Apane's* umbrella and it carries the fragrance of Orissa's culture in it". Pandit remarked that this small boy would be a future statesman of India one day.



During Biju's days, a bicycle riding was a handsome piece of luxury and symbol of aristocracy. But, when a helicopter touched Cuttack ground with one British military officer on ride, Biju, with his friends, was inspired to atleast touch the "*Puspakjan*" as it was told on those days. Biju, the young tall boy, brimming with enthusiasm and ecstasy, surveyed ahead to be as near as the helicopter as possible. He wondered to see the magnificent white bird and was determined to, one day, fly such an aircraft and the days were his. He became the most successful pilot even to lift president Sukarno from Jogdjakarta.

After his taking over charge as Chief Minister of Orissa in 1961, there was flood in Mahanadi delta i.e. nearly eight kms. upstream west of Sambalpur. The catchment area of Mahanadi was experiencing incessant rains and the Hirakud reservoir was rising alarmingly. The dam officials were nervous and frigid with fear that further rains might ingress more water into dam and opening of sluice gates in dam would add to the agony of the vast delta dwellers downstream. Pressure surmounted on the Chief Minister Biju Pattanaik to order for opening of more sluice gates to release more flood waters. Officers and officials flocked to him and flooded with disastrous messages and with the communications received from the dam site.

But Biju, the dare devil, was firm in his decision. He nearly encountered un-surmountable dilemma. He could estimate the suffering and misery, the agony and outcry of millions of people and livestock in coastal belt of Orissa. He could conceive that the danger to Hirakud dam would be so much that it could wash away and would fail to retain the influx of water to this dam. All the bureaucrats and political people watched him in silence. But, determined in this decision, Biju



Biju Pattanaik at Indonesia

exclaimed "let us wait and see." In fact, there was no rain in the catchment areas and no opening of sluice gates and no havoc of the people. He was Biju, the decisive head.

Biju, as a freedom fighter, was famous for India's Independence and was imprisoned on January 13, 1943 and after two years of jail he was released on parole. He could feel that once Kalinga was the most prosperous and powerful kingdom in ancient India. In military might and maritime activities, in trading merchandise and producing silk and spices, in mastering Pali and Sanskrit languages, in the preaching and propagating religions like Budhisim and Jainisim, Kalinga was in its excellence. Why not today. He formed Kalinga Airlines, Kalinga tubes, the most coveted Kalinga prize and built the infrastructure of Kalingan development by completing the Paradeep project. The Prime Minister of India Pandit Nehru found the excellence in him and appointed him as the crisis manager in Indonesian freedom movement to help the Sukarno regime. He had a formidable industrial empire of 179 crore rupees with OTM, Kalinga Tubes, Kalinga Pipes, Kalinga Iron works at Badbil, Kalinga Airlines and Kalinga Refractories. As a pilot he was straight and lovely. He loved to fly for the men around him and for the public. As a pilot, he

intimately followed the foot steps of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who always influenced and encouraged the tall pilot from Orissa.

June 23, 1961 witnessed the swearing-in-ceremony of the Kalinga Ratna Biju Patniak as Chief Minister by the then Governor of Orissa Sri A.N. Khosla. Biju's dream of being elevated to the august office of Chief Minister of Orissa was a precursor to be the king of Kalinga. The monarch of a vast and prosperous Kalinga empire. Mahamegha Bahana Aira Kharavela, Kapilendra Deva, Lalatendu Keshari and Jajati Keshari, Gajapati Ananga Bhim Dev were the ancient emperors who annexed territories, expanded tread and commerce, established colonies overseas in Java and Sumatra.

As Chief Minister, he dreamt of uplifting the rural mass of Orissa including the rural women who lived in sheer emaciated circumstances. To eradicate the frightening and fatiguing provety of Orissa, massive industrialisation and modernization was his dream and panacea. Apart from his efforts for modernisation and industrialization, what emboldened him was his personal proximity to Pandit Nehru, the Prime Minister of India. With his hold and accomplished operation in Indonesia, he was endeared to Nehru which was also the cause of envy to many front ranking leaders of India. The Chinese aggression on India on 20th October 1962 unfolded another opportunity to Biju. He planned military strategies in tandem with Generals; and Marshal. B.K. Kaul, the then Army Chief was quite unequivocal in praise to the legendary hero. Nehru wisely banked upon Biju to chalk out operational aspect of Chinese war. At his instructions, Biju flew to USA to persuade JFK, the then president of USA, to

supply weapons and other needed equipment to fight against the Red Army. He persuaded the union government to set up the MIG factory at Sunabeda, REC, Rourkela and REC, Bhubaneswar with magnificent grant from the Central Government. He founded the Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology. He earmarked a vast chunk of land for the REC, Rourkela with the ambitious design of making it a sprawling and prestigious institute of Engineering and Technology at par in excellence as the Masechusettes Institute of Technology in USA.

Biju was dear to every body including Bidhan Ch. Roy, Pratap Singh Kairon, Morarji Bhai Desai. G.B. Panth, S.S.Sukla and also dearer still to the oppressed millions of Orissa and the village women under Purdda system sans education and social status.

He was rightly adjudged and awarded the Bhumiputra Samman by the Indonesian Government. One thousand millions of Indians know Biju Patnaik as the savour of Orissa and the builder of destiny of modern Orissa. He was the most prominent political figure in India and abroad. Man are born free and are made great by dint of their act of sacrifice to the mankind. Biju Patnaik will be remembered as the Kalinga Kharvela for all the time to come.

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Jayakrushna Tripathy lives at MIG-51, Rajiv Nagar, Aiginia, Bhubaneswar - 751019.

## The Biju Phenomenon

*Prof. Surya Narayan Misra*

Recently, former Indonesian President Meghawati Sukarnoputri was on a special visit to Bhubaneswar. The visit was indicative of emotional attachment of the family members of the late legendary Indonesian leader and President Mr. Sukarno with the family of another legendary figure of Orissa, late lamented Biju Patnaik. The relationship dates back to late 1940s, when the Indonesians were carrying on their freedom struggle against the colonialist Dutch. It was on the advice of the Indian Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru, Biju Patnaik took up the challenging task, and safely escorted and flew the Indonesian leaders out of Indonesia under a skilled and intelligent flying operation. It speaks of volume about the capacity of Patnaik and also the confidence reposed in him by the Prime Minister of India.

Late Biju Patnaik belonged to a rare breed of politicians. He was a politician among statesmen and a statesman among politicians. He was and is a household name in Orissa and shall

continue to remain as same as long as the present herd of politicians remain in currency. Thus, he had emerged as a legendary hero during his life time and will continue as a phenomenon.

Biju loved adventure. The evidence of his adventurism was writ large in his dare devil cycle journey from Cuttack to Peshawar during his college days. When top brass among the Congress



Biju Patnaik's adventurous cycle expedition from Cuttack to Peshwar.

agitationists were confined in the Ahmednagar jail, Biju could intercept the system and contacted them. Further, he could land with the first group of security personnel when Pakistan launched a deceptive limited war to annex Kashmir immediately after independence.

He was a multi-national freedom fighter. Not only did he play a significant role in the Indonesian freedom struggle, but also exhibited the similar enthusiasm when situation in Nepal demanded action.

The institution of UNESCO-Kalinga Award bore testimony to his love for science and

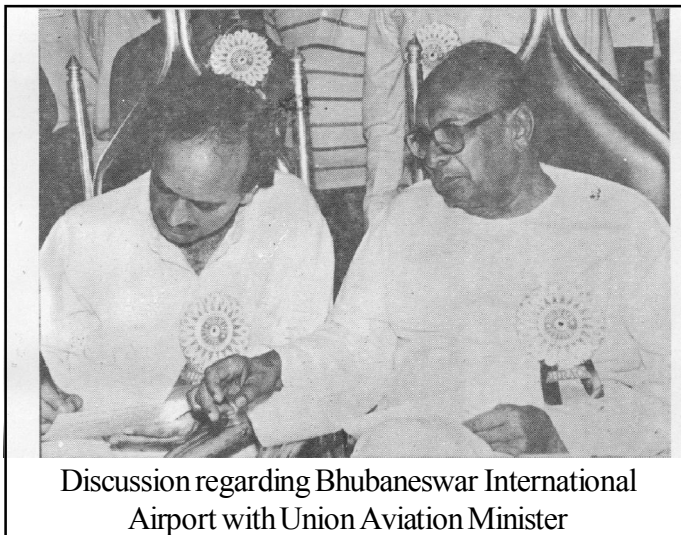
technology. His association with JBS Haldane was not between a politician and scientist, rather it was between a visionary statesman who was ahead of age and class in terms of scientific temper and a research scientist.

The Balimela Dam, Paradeep Port and Express Highway give us a taste of Biju Patnaik and the material which made such a great soul. When he led Congress to a decisive victory in the first midterm poll held in 1961, not only many eyebrows were raised in the opposition circle, but the erstwhile coalition leaders Mahtab and Singh Deo started choosing a new course in their political career - founding of Jana Congress, and merging of princely party ganatantra parishad with All India Swatantra party respectively.

Where as Jana Congress could not make a major dent in the non-Congress opposition circle in the country, the Utkal Congress formed by Biju could become a centre of future non-Congress formation through Pragati Party; then Bharatiya Lok Dal to Janata Party and the Janata Dal.

Biju was a crisis manager. He was a frontline legislator. The remarks and observations made by late Patnaik on the floor of assembly

and union parliament were of quality participation. Once during Desai government, the opposition grilled the party in power and the then Steel Minister Biju Patnaik's strong defence of the government on the floor of the House speaks about his capacity to respond during crisis situation. V.P. Singh could become Prime Minister because of Mr. Patnaik and the centre of the activity was Orissa Bhawan during early December 1989.



Discussion regarding Bhubaneswar International Airport with Union Aviation Minister

Mr. Patnaik's second term as Chief Minister was of stupendous legislative support. He personally could cause 123 out of 147 seats fall in his bag. The same Patnaik was rejected twice in 1980 and 1985 by Orissan voters. Even Biju lost all the elections he fought

in 1971. But within less than a year he bounced back with a record margin in the by-election held for the Rajnagar seat. Since then he never lost any election he fought. On couple of occasion he was the match winner. The Biju Phenomenon continues unabated when a regional outfit was constituted under the banner - Biju Janata Dal.

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Surya Narayan Misra is a Professor in the Department of Political Science, Utkal University.

## Eminent Freedom Fighter - Biju Patnaik

*Pabitra Mohan Barik*

Bijaya Nanda Patnaik, very well known as Biju Patnaik, is a great son of mother India. He was a man of sagacity, political wisdom, courage and his contribution towards the freedom struggle is remarkable. He raised voice against British imperialism. People called him "Biju Babu" with respect. He made significant contribution to the social, cultural and political life of Orissa and whole country as well. Biju babu was a mass leader. He was a born leader. Due to his heroic personality people were attracted towards him. He was a great patriot and nationalist.

Biju Babu was born on March 5, 1916 at Ananda Nivas, Tulasipur, Cuttack. Laxmi Narayan Patnaik and Ashalata Ray were his father and mother. Biju babu was the second son of Laxmi Narayan's three sons. He was very brave from his childhood. He studied in Ravenshaw Collegiate school. In his school days, he was famous for his love for games, sports and adventure. He was a good football player. Ravenshaw collegiate school

football team won the inter-school championship for three years when Biju babu was a key player of the team. Then, he studied his I.Sc. and B.Sc. in Ravenshaw College, Cuttack. But, he did not appear the final exam of Bachelor Degree. He joined as a trainee pilot in the Royal Air Force of British Empire. In his college days, a remarkable achievement of Biju babu was a journey from Cuttack to Peshawar by cycling. Peshawar is situated in the north-western tip of Bharat. The city tells us about the legends of Purus and Alexander. That city was also the capital of Kaniska, the Bouddha emperor.



After completion of training, Biju babu joined the Royal Air Force as a pilot in 1937. That event changed entire life of Biju babu. He was inspired by the mass movement from the very beginning. His mother Ashalata

Devi told him about heroic achievement of freedom fighters. In 1940 he came in contact with the eminent freedom fighters. In 1942 "Quit India Movement" started by Gandhiji. That was the last

weapon of Gandhiji based on truth and non-violence against British power. The Quit India Resolution was passed on 8th August in the working committee of National Congress party. After that, to suppress the mass movement, the Britishers arrested the fire brand leaders of the national movement like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Ballav Bhai Patel etc. In this critical period, the socialist leaders came forward to fight for the motherland. Socialist leaders like Jaya Prakash Narayan, Achyut Patwardhan, Narendra Dev, Ram Manohar Lohia and Aruna Asaf Ali took responsibility to continue agitation against the Britishers in disguise. One day in the time of Quit India movement, Jayaprakash Narayan met Biju babu and wanted his co-operation and support for freedom struggle. Biju babu had great interest and respect towards the freedom movement and fighters. After that, Biju babu helped the national struggle in the various ways. He endeared himself to the revolutionary activities. Prominent freedom fighters were secretly carried from one place to other place in his plane. He performed his job in the national freedom struggle by reaching brochures, posters, and other publicity materials to different persons and destinations. The freedom fighters carried on their struggle safely by the help of Biju babu. He did that national duty courageously. Biju babu sheltered the freedom fighters who were on the hide to avoid arrest and imprisonment. Aruna Asaf Ali once had taken shelter at Ananda Bhawan in Cuttack in the house of Biju babu. In that period the British Government declared a reward of 40 thousand rupees to capture Aruna Asaf Ali. Jaya Prakash Narayan travelled in Biju babu's plane in the guise of professor Vatacharya and Professor Banarji. By the trick of Biju babu, the

nationalist leaders freely and safely travelled in his plane. Britishers could not arrest the above leaders because of trick and plans of Biju babu. In course of time, Britishers suspected him and appointed spy to watch his activities. Lastly, British spy came to confirm that Biju babu directly and indirectly engaged in the mass movement. Then he was nabbed and imprisoned on 13th January 1943. He stayed in Lalkilla for some days and then was transferred to Phirozpur. In the meantime his elder brother requested Parala Maharaja Krushna Chandra Gajapati Dev for his release. Maharaja also discussed with Governor General about the release of Biju babu. Governor General did not show any interest to release Biju babu. After two years in jail, he was released on parol in 1945. His name is associated with the war of independence of Indonesia. His Indonesia air voyage and his Srinagar expedition amply display that he was a patriot of first order. Biju babu, by the direction of Pandit Nehru, saved the life of Sariat Khan and Srihatta, the freedom fighters of Indonesia. Biju babu brought them to India in his plane from Indonesia. The colonial Dutch did not get any information about it. It proves his bravery. Biju babu dropped Indian soldiers from his plane in Kashmir in 1947 when Pakistani forces and tribals attacked it. Biju babu was a great hero in the war of Indian Independence movement.

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Pabitra Mohan Bairk is a Lecturer in History, S.H. Mahavidyalaya, Madanpur, Khurda, Orissa.

## Agricultural Labour in India - A Close Look

*Dr. Kulamani Padhi*

It is one of the primary objects of the Five Year Plan to ensure fuller opportunities for work and better living to all the sections of the rural community and, in particular, to assist agricultural labourers and backward classes to come to the level of the rest.

One of the most distinguishing features of the rural economy of India has been the growth in the number of agricultural workers, cultivators and agricultural labourers engaged in crop production. The phenomena of under-employment, under-development and surplus population are simultaneously manifested in the daily lives and living of the agricultural labourers. They usually get low wages, conditions of work put an excessive burden on them, and the employment which they get is extremely irregular.

Agricultural workers constitute the most neglected class in Indian rural structure. Their income is low and employment irregular. Since, they possess no skill or training, they have no alternative employment opportunities either. Socially, a large number of agricultural workers belong to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Therefore, they are a suppressed class. They are not organised and they cannot fight for their rights. Because of all these reasons their economic lot has failed to improve even after four decades of planning.

This can also be seen from the Prime Minister's speech made in Lok Sabha on August 4, 1966. The Prime minister emphasized -

"We must give special consideration to the landless agricultural labour. Although there has been tremendous progress in India since Independence, this is one section, which has really a very hard time and which is deserving very special consideration."<sup>1</sup>

Seasonal unemployment is a characteristic feature of Agricultural Industry and under employment of man power is inherent in the system of family farming. According to first A.L.E.C., adult male agricultural labourers were employed on wages for 189 days in agricultural work and for 29 days in non-agricultural work i.e. 218 day in all. They were self-employed for 75 days. Casual male workers found employment for only 200 days, while attached workers were employed for 326 days in a year. Women workers employed for 134 days in a year.

Unlike industrial labour, agricultural labour is difficult to define. The reason is that unless capitalism develops fully in agriculture, a separate class of workers depending wholly on wages does not come up.

Difficulties in defining agricultural labour are compounded by the fact that many small and

marginal farmers also work partly on the farms of others to supplement their income. To what extent should they (or their family members) be considered agricultural labourers is not easy to answer.

However, it will be useful to refer some of the attempts made by experts in this connection.

1. The First Agricultural Labour Enquiry Committee 1950-55 defined Agricultural Labourer as - "Those people who are engaged in raising crops on payment of wages"

2. The Second Agricultural Labour Enquiry Committee 1956-57 enlarged the distribution to include -

"Those who are engaged in other agricultural occupations like dairy, farming, horticulture, raising of live-stock, bees, poultry etc. "In the context of Indian conditions the definition is not adequate, because it is not possible to completely separate those working on wages from others. There are people who do not work on wages throughout the year but only for a part of it.

Therefore, the first A.L.E.C. used the concept of agricultural labour household. If half or more members of household have wage, employment in agriculture then those households should be termed as agricultural labour household. This concept was based upon the occupation of the worker.

The Second Committee submitted that to know whether a household is an agricultural labour household, we must examine its main source of income. If 50% or more of its income is derived as wages for work rendered in agriculture only, then it could be classed to agricultural labour household.

According to the National Commission on Labour "an agricultural labourer is one who is

basically unskilled and unorganised and has little for its livelihood, other than personal labour."

Thus, persons whose main source of income is wage, employment fall in this category. Mishra and Puri have stated that "All those persons who derive a major part of their income as payment for work performed on the farms of others can be designated as agricultural workers. For a major part of the year they should work on the land of the others on wages."

#### **Classification of Agricultural Labourers :**

Agricultural labourers can be divided into four categories -

1. Landless Labourers, who are attached to the land lords;
2. Landless labourers, who are personally independent, but who work exclusively for others;
3. Petty farmers with tiny bits of land who devote most of their time working for others and
4. Farmers who have economic holdings but who have one or more of their sons and dependants working for other prosperous farmers.

The first group of labourers have been more or less in the position of serfs or slaves, they are also known as bonded labourers.

Agricultural labourers can also be divided in the following manner :

1. Landless agricultural labourers
2. Very small cultivators whose main source of earnings due to their small and sub-marginal holdings is wage employment.

Landless labourers in turn can be classified into two broad categories :

1. Permanent Labourers attached to cultivating households.



## 2. Casual Labourers.

The second group can again be divided into three subgroups :

- (i) Cultivators
- (ii) Share croppers
- (iii) Lease holders.

Permanent or attached labourers generally work on annual or seasonal basis and they work on some sort of contract. Their wages are determined by custom or tradition. On the other hand temporary or casual labourers are engaged only during peak period for work. Their employment is temporary and they are paid at the market rate. They are not attached to any landlords.

Under second group comes small farmers, who possess very little land and therefore, has to devote most of their time working on the lands of others as labourers. Share croppers are those who, while sharing the produce of the land for their work, also work as labourers. Tenants are those who not only work on the leased land but also work as labourers.

### Characteristics of Agricultural Labourers

Before any attempt is made to evolve a rational policy to improve the living conditions of agricultural labours which happens to belong to the lowest rung of social and economic ladder, it is essential to know the distinguishing features that characterize agricultural labourer in India.

The main features, characterizing Indian agricultural labour are as follows :

#### 1. Agricultural Labourers are Scattered

Agricultural labour in India is being widely scattered over 5.6 lakh villages, of which half have population of less than 500 each. And therefore, any question of building an effective organization, like that of industrial workers, poses

insurmountable difficulties. Thus as the vast number of agricultural labour lies scattered all over India, there has been no successful attempt for long, to build their effective organization even at the state level not to speak of the national level.

#### 2. Agricultural Labourers are Unskilled and Lack Training

Agricultural labourers, especially in smaller villages away from towns and cities, are generally unskilled workers carrying on agricultural operation in the centuries old traditional wages. Most of them, especially those in small isolated villages with around 500 population, may not have even heard of modernization of agriculture. Majority of them are generally conservative, tradition bound, totalistic and resigned to the insufferable lot to which according to them fate has condemned them. There is hardly any motivation for change or improvement.

Since, there is direct supervision by the landlord, there is hardly any escape form hard work and since there is no alternative employment. The agricultural labourer has to do all types of work-farm and domestic at the bidding of the landlord.

#### 3. Unorganised Sector

Agricultural labourers are not organized like industrial labourers. They are illiterate and ignorant. They live in scattered villages. Hence they could not organize in unions. In urban areas workers could generally organize themselves in unions and it is convenient for political parties to take interest in trade union activities. This is almost difficult in case of farm labour. Accordingly, it is difficult for them to bargain with the land owners and secure good wages.

#### 4. Low Social Status

Most agricultural workers belong to the depressed classes, which have been neglected for

ages. The low caste and depressed classes have been socially handicapped and they had never the courage to assert themselves. They have been like dump-driven cattle.

In some parts of India, agricultural labourers are migratory, moving in search of jobs at the time of harvesting. Government measures to improve their lot by legislation have proved ineffective so far due to powerful hold of the rural elite classes in the rural economy.

### 5. Demand and Supply of Labour

The number of agricultural labourers being very large and skills they possess being meager, there are generally more than abundant supply of agricultural labourer in relation to demand for them. It is only during the sowing and harvesting seasons that there appears to be nearfull employment in the case of agricultural labourers. But, once the harvesting season is over, majority of agricultural workers will be jobless especially in areas, where there is single cropping pattern.

### 6. Less Bargaining Power

Due to all the above mentioned factors, the bargaining power and position of agricultural labourers in India is very weak. In fact, quite a large number of them are in the grip of village money lenders, landlords and commission agents, often the same person functioning in all the three capacities. No wonder, the agricultural labour is the most exploited class of people of India.

### 7. At the Bidding of the Landlord

There is generally direct and day to day 'contact between agricultural labourers and the landlords' on whose farm they are working. Unlike industrial workers, this direct contact between the employer and employees is a distinct feature of agriculture labourer.

The above mentioned few important characteristics distinguish agricultural labourers in India from industrial workers. Thus partly because of factors beyond their control and partly because of their inherent bargaining weakness, the farm labourers have been getting very low wages and have therefore to live in a miserable sub-human life.

### Agricultural Serfs or Bonded Labourers

At the bottom of the agricultural cadre in India are those labourers whose conditions are not very different from those of serfs. Agricultural serfdom has been most prevalent in those parts of India where the lower and the depressed classes and most in numerous. The ethnic composition of villages which governs the social stratification is responsible for the survival of the slavish conditions. In Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, a large aboriginal population live and the condition of this agricultural labours is very much like that of slaves. These are called in different names in different States.

The following table-3 indicates the number of bonded labourers identified, released and rehabilitated as on 31.12.1995.

Statement showing the number of bonded labourers identified and released as on 31.12.1985 as per the reports received from the State Governments.

Name of State	No.of bonded labourers	Identified, freed & Rehabilitated
Andhra Pradesh	61,336	14,017
Bihar	11,002	9,472
Gujarat	61	38
Haryana	195	21
Karnataka	62,689	40,033
Kerala	829	820
Madhya Pradesh	4,655	2,912

Maharashtra	772	319
Orissa	41,065	27,817
Rajasthan	6,813	5,770
Tamil Nadu	32,581	31,591
Uttar Pradesh	16,199	13,420
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,93,197</b>	<b>1,46,230</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>46,967</b>	

means 22.7% of the total labour force. Similarly as per 1991 census, the total number of agricultural labourers was increased from 92.5 million in 1981 to 110.6 million in 1991. This means the percentage of agricultural labourers over total labour force, increased from 22.7 in 1981 to 26.1 in 1991. This can be seen in the following table.

According to 1981 census, the number of agricultural workers was 55.4 million, which

### Population and Agricultural Workers

Year	Total Population (millions)	Annual Compound growth rate (%)	Rural Population (millions)	Cultivators	Agricultural labourers	Other workers	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1951	361.1	(1.25)	298.6 (82.7)	69.9 (49.9)	27.3 (19.5)	42.8 (30.6)	140.0 (100.0)
1961	439.2	(1.96)	360.3 (82.0)	99.6 (52.8)	31.5 (16.7)	57.6 (30.5)	188.7 (100.0)
1971	548.9	(2.20)	439.1 (80.1)	78.3 (43.4)	47.5 (26.3)	54.7 (30.3)	180.5 (100.0)
1981	685.2	(2.22)	525.5 (76.7)	92.5 (37.8)	55.5 (22.7)	96.6(a) (39.5)	244.6 (100.0)
1991@	844.3	(2.11)	627.1 (74.3)	110.6 (38.8)	74.6 (26.1)	100.2 (35.1)	285.4 (100.0)
2000	987.3	(1.02)					

\* Estimated population, as on 1st March 2000.

@ Figures of total/rural population include the projected population of Assam, whereas in respect of data on workers, Assam has been excluded.

(a) Includes marginal workers.

**Note :** Figures in brackets give percentage to total.

**Source :** Registrar General's Office for the data of years 1951 to 1991

### Causes for the Growth of Agricultural Labourers :

There are a number of factors responsible for the continuous and enormous increase in the number of agricultural labourers in India.

The more important among them are :

1. Increase in population
2. Decline of cottage industries and handicrafts

3. Eviction of small farmers and tenants from land
4. Uneconomic Holdings
5. Increase in indebtedness
6. Spread of the use of money and exchange system
7. Capitalistic Agriculture
8. Displacement of means of subsidiary occupations
9. Disintegration of peasantry
10. Break-up of joint family system.

**Measures taken by the Government to improve the Conditions of Agricultural Labourers :**

The Government has shown awareness of the problems of agricultural workers and all plan documents have suggested ways and means to ameliorate the lot of these people. Measures adopted by the Government for ameliorating the economic conditions of Agricultural labourers are

1. Passing of minimum wage Act.
2. Abolition of Bonded Labourers
3. Providing land to landless labourers
4. Provision of Housing cities to houseless
5. **Special schemes for providing employment**
  - i) Crash Scheme for Rural Employment (CSRE)
  - ii) Pilot Intensive Rural Employment Project (PIREP)
  - iii) Food for works programme (FWP)
  - iv) National Rural Employment Programme (NREP)
  - v) Rural Landless Employment Programme (RLEP)
  - vi) Drought Prone Area Programme (It was known as Rural Works Programme)

6. Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (which come in with the merger of NREP and RLEGP)
7. Desert Development Programme
8. National Scheme of Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSM)
9. Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA)
10. Abolition of Bonded Labourer Act
11. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)

**Suggestions for the Improvement of Agricultural Labours :**

The following suggestions can be made for the improvement of the socio-economic position of the agricultural labourers :

1. Better implementation of legislative measures.
2. Improvement the bargaining position.
3. Resettlement of agricultural workers
4. Creating alternative sources of employment
5. Protection of women and child labourers
6. Public works programmes should be for longer period in year
7. Improving the working conditions
8. Regulation of hours of work
9. Improvements in Agricultural sector
10. Credit at cheaper rates of interest on easy terms of payment for undertaking subsidiary occupation.
11. Proper training for improving the skill of farm labourers
12. Cooperative farming

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Dr. Kulamani Padhi is the Asst. Registrar, Dairy Co-op. Societies, Directorate of A.H. and V.S., Orissa, Cuttack.

# Agricultural Credit : A Core Component of Rural Development

*Prafulla Chandra Mohanty*

To reduce the broader dimension of poverty, we need to focus on rural development, particularly in agriculture, employment, health, education and nutrition. It is known that agriculture growth is important in India with around 70 percent of total workers still depending on this sector. The growth rate of agriculture in the last ten years has been less than 1.5 percent per annum. It is seen from the past that the overall G.D.P. growth was high whenever agriculture growth was high. Unless agricultural growth is improved, one can't achieve G.D.P. growth of 8 percent or more and subsequent reduction of poverty. Industry and services also may not grow on expected lines without agricultural growth. The terms of trade too deteriorated and many farmers have been committing suicides in several parts of our country for crop failure and of low production and increasing indebtedness.

Timely and adequate agricultural credit is important for increase in fixed and working capital for farmers. In order to provide sufficient credit to the farmers, many institutional and non-institutional agencies are working. Under institutional agencies-cooperative, commercial, regional rural banks and different Government organizations are supplying credit to the needy farmers on priority basis. But, it is seen that

cooperative carries the largest network in agricultural credit supply in the country.

There is an urgent need in the era of liberalization and globalisation to fully exploit available natural, material and human resources in the most efficient and effective way. In order to exploit all these resources, it is essential to have a sound financial or banking system. Even after nationalization of banks (1969), the spread of banking imbalance is not yet fully reduced, and inadequate growth in all levels of trade and industries. Infact, in the rural areas, the rural oriented banks such as PACBS, RRBS, Lead Banks etc., are not effectively responding to the problems of rural clients, rural industries and customers.

In the above context, a paper has been prepared to focus on institutional agricultural credit, in rural India. The article also tries to give a comparative study on the credit agencies, their problems and ends with some suggestions for improvement.

The study has been divided in two parts such as the importance of agricultural development in the economy and rural development of India and the second part works on the supply of credit to the agriculture as a factor of rural development. The study is based mostly on the secondary published data. Some of the simple mathematical

and statistical tools like percentages, averages etc. have been used in the study.

### **Importance of agriculture in India's economic development :**

As described earlier, India is a country of villages and farmers. The share of agriculture in the total GDP is very high (24%) in comparison to other developed and developing nations. While studying the planwise annual growth rate in agriculture with the growth rate of overall GDP. It is seen that the GDP growth is directly related with the growth of agriculture sector. Again on locating the decadal growth of agriculture since 1950-51, it is seen that, this sector shows no significant remarks in growth. The annual compound rate of growth remains in between 1.7 percent to 3.9 percent. After globalization, the growth is some how reduced from 3.9% to 2.8%, which is not sufficient to achieve high rate of growth and again it can be concluded in saying that globalization neglects agriculture development.

### **Productivity :**

India is poor and the country is coming under the developing category. This happens only because of our low productivity in agriculture. In the production of wheat, France produces more than 71 Quintals. Similarly in paddy production U.S.A. tops the list with 70.4 quintals where as we produce only 30 quintals per hectare. The condition is also very precarious in seeing the productivity of cotton and groundnut. So, it is required to improve the productivity of different crops of India by improving the factors responsible for high production. But a point to mark is that the production is in increasing trend for the period under globalization. The basic factor for producing more from agriculture sector is supplying credit to the needy cultivators. To

highlight on the investment it is seen that the public investment is reducing year after year i.e from 39%(1980-81) to 26%(2001-02), where as the private sector investment is bridging the gap on investing more and more. This shows a clear government withdrawal from investing in the agriculture sector in the period of reform. During the period of globalization, on implementation of high yielding technology, our country not only becomes self sufficient in food production but also able to export to some of our neighbours.

### **Credit supply :**

But, anyway, to improve our economical condition, we must try to improve the financial condition of our farmers who can bring rural development. So, an easy and sufficient credit facility should bring all round development to the nation.

The farmers of our country except a few are very poor and so they do not adhere to invest the required finance for agricultural production. Again if, they do, also, they are to go for many lenders who will generally exploit them. In order to check this, after independence a lot of steps have been taken by the Government i.e., nationalizing Banking sector, establishment of cooperative Banks, NABARD, and Regional Rural Banks, Priority sector lending, etc.

### **Credit Estimates :**

Government also estimates the total credit requirements for agriculture sector from time to time and accordingly frames the policies for credit supply. In the year 1970-71, Dantawala Committee estimates the credit requirements at Rs.1460 crores which was enhanced to Rs.4000 crores in the year 1973-74 by the Rural Review Committee established for the purpose.

**Expenditure Pattern :**

The credit requirement is highly related with the expenditure pattern of the farmers. They generally spent 32 percent of the borrowings on capital expenditure and 13 percent on current expenditure on the farm. But, other 47 percent mostly consumed by them on family expenditure and the rest 8 percent in other non-farm expenditures. This drowns the poor Indian farmers in indebtedness and so they require more and more credit to go for agriculture production.

**Purpose of Loan :**

The Rural Credit Follow up Survey (1969) has divided the purposes of Loan according to the class of borrowers like i) Rural families, ii) cultivators and iii) non-cultivators. It is estimated that the rural families spent 43.7 percent in productive and the rest 56.3 percent in unproductive purposes. But the cultivators spent 46.6 percent in productive purpose and noncultivators spent only 25.9% of the loan in the productive way. So the rest is unproductive which adds nil or negatively to the borrowers. So, a consciousness about the use of borrowed loan funds should be arisen among the rural borrowers. In the earlier times the credit supply was handled mostly by money lenders and Mahajans. But, after independence, the government stated some institutions in order to provide agriculture lending, later on the year 1969 and 1975, banks were nationalized and were instructed to lend especially to the priority sector. Before 1969 the priority sector lending was less than 15 percent of the total loans. But from the year 1985, it was enhanced to 40 percent, and out of this 40 percent, a minimum of 16 percent must be after the Agriculture lending. Again this target has been enhanced to 18 percent.

The institutional credit was 7.3 percent in the year 1950-51, it is 18.7 percent in 1961-62,

again rose to 40 percent in 1973-74. After the second phase of nationalization of banks the institutional credit percentage was increasing in 1980-81 to 57 percent and to nearly 59.8 percent in the 1990-91 year. Further, this percentage is increased upto 67 percent in the year 2003-04 and so the non-institutional credit dominance gradually goes on decreasing from the track of credit supply.

Among the institutional agencies the important credit supply institutions for agriculture are the Government, the Cooperative banks, Commercial banks, and Regional rural Banks. Government finances to agriculture in the period of distress in the name of taccavi loan at lower rate of interest i.e. 6% p.a. to the distressed farmers only. It is seen that, this taccavi credit by the government was very less i.e. in 1951-52 only 3.3% of the total borrowings, in 1961-62, it was 2.6 percent, in 1980-81 it was 3.2% but in 1990-91 it came down to to 1.2%. Henceforth, Government discourages this loan for budgetary constraints. The oldest agricultural lending institution is cooperative. The cooperative lending occupies a pivot place in credit supply. In the year 1954-55, it was 3.1%, but increased to 15.5% in 1961, 36% in 1980-81, and in 2002-03, it counts 43% of the total borrowings. The newly found RRBS(1975) have a credit supply percentage of 6% to 7% only. But commercial Banks play an important role in rural credit. In 1951-52, it started with 0.9 percent and in 1961-62 it was 0.6 percent. But it increased to 15.4 percent in 1973-74 and again to 19.2% in (1980-81) and to 50 percent in 2002-03.

It is observed that till 1970-71, cooperatives had virtually a monopoly in meeting agricultural credit needs of the farmers in India. From the data plotted for years 1997-98 to 2003-04, it is seen that the total institutional credit for

the 1997-98 was Rs.31,956 crores and this figure for 2003-2004 year was Rs.80,000 crores. This gives an average increase of more than Rs.8000 crore per annum. It is also marked that due to advent of commercial and rural banks into the credit market, the overall percentages of credit supply through cooperatives were decreasing from 44 percent (1997-96) to 37 percent (2003-04). Accordingly, the rate of credit supply by commercial banks are increasing from 50 percent (1997-98) to 55 percent (2003-04). The share of RRBs in credit supply is limited to 6% (1997-98) to 8 percent (2003-04). As per the credit requirement estimates, the short term credit supply is always more in comparison to medium term and long term supply. It is nearly 70:30 percent for cooperatives, 55:45 for commercial Banks and it is 3:1 in RRBs.

#### Conclusion & suggestions :

1. Credit norms and scales of finance should be increased.
2. Security to be reduced from the present margin of 25% for poor and marginal farmers.

3. Crops can be the security but no other security to be demanded.
4. Defaults to be reduced.
5. Need for coordination among credit supply institutions required.
6. Deposit credit ratio should be enhanced.
7. Soft interest rate, etc. concessional and subsidized credit supply should be made to enhance the productivity of low and marginal farmers.

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Prafulla Chandra Mohanty is a Sr. Faculty Member of Commerce, Aska Science College, Aska, Ganjam.

### ORMAS TO ORGANISE SISIR SARAS FEST

In an effort to give a boost to the marketing of rural Orissan products, the Orissa Rural Marketing Society (ORMAS) has planned to organise a national level festival known as *Sisir Saras* from 5th to 15th March 2007 at the exhibition ground in Bhubaneswar. A decision to this effect was taken in a meeting presided by Minister for Panchayati Raj & Parliamentary Affairs Shri Raghunath Mohanty on February 16.

Sponsored by the Ministry of Rural Development, this mega event will help promote the products of Self Help Groups (SHGs), especially, the handloom, handicraft and food products. As many as 250 well designed stalls would be built to showcase the items. About 600 self-employed rural artisans from across the country will participate. During the festival, the state Horticulture Department will organise a flower show. The Culture Department will present a folk dance & music programme.

The event will facilitate the exchange of inter-state culture, indigenous product design and process.



## Pre-historic Archaeology of Undivided Phulbani

*Raghunath Rath*

The old undivided district of Phulbani is one of the centrally located districts of Orissa which lies between 19° 34' N and 20° 54' N latitude, and between 83° 30' E and 84° 48' E longitude. It is bounded by Suvarnapur and Dhenkanal districts in the North, Ganjam and Rayagada districts in the East, Ganjam and Nayagarh districts in the South, Rayagada, Kalahandi and Suvarnapur district in the West and is having a geographical area of 11093 sq. kms., out of which, an area of 7336 sq. kms. is covered by forest. The tribal population constitutes about 25% of the total population. This district is predominated by Kondh tribe, who belongs to Proto-Austroloid race.

Archaeological exploration has not been done adequately in this district. Some archaeological investigations have been made by some scholars in Boudh sub-division (present Boud district), which yield a rich treasure of information to researchers. Moreover, some historical sites with rich archaeological ruins are also noticed, which could not be studied by scholars properly and some of them are still out of the sight of the scholars. This researcher has given some informations to the Secretary, INTACH, Orissa Regional Chapter and came to know that those have been listed by the INTACH.

The aim of this paper is to high-light the pre-historic archaeology of the old Phulbani District, which is divided into two districts, namely Boud and Kandhmal. But, only explorations have been made by scholars in Boudh area who discovered many pre-historic implements ranging

from Palaeolithic to Chalcolithic period. Dr. K.C.Tripathy has studied the lithic culture of Phulbani district by discovering an old stone age site in village Kankala (Dash 1991:89) He has also reported one single site of pebble industry at Manamunda in 1972 (Ota: 82-83: 168)

S.B.Ota also explored the area from river Bagh to Khadang and discovered Palaeolithic open-air sites in 1981-82 at Gurvelipadar, Kankalidunguri, Rangoli hill, Kantamal, Sunadei hill and Barapadar. Except the site of Kantamal which is situated on the bank of river Tel, the rest are foothill sites (Dash :91:84).

The Palaeolithic Period is the formative period of human culture which flourished in south-western Orissa as well, under which comes the old district of Phulbani. Palaeolithic implements like hand axe, cleaver, scraper, point, blade and burins were discovered from these sites (Tripathy: 1982:13)

The Palaeolithic sites explored by S.B.Ota yielded horse-hoot cores, flakes, kamanrs, Kanifacial and unifacial choppers etc. associated with red soil (locally known as Rangamati) at a depth of 2 to 4 meters from the surface. But in later days Ota changed his views about the palaeolithic origin of the implements (Dash 1991:85). Further, he opines that there lived a hunting and food gathering community as most of the sites are situated on the foot hill zones ranging from 3 to 4 kms from the river Tel, which bears plants like Bahada (*Teraminalia Belerica*), Ber (*Zizyplus Jujuta*), Char (*suchanamia latiflora*), Tuki

(*Deospyras Mesanoxylam*), Amala (*Phyllanthus Emblick*), Jhad khajuri (*Phanix Acaulis*), Mohua flowers (*Bassia Letifolia*), Kusum fruits (*schleichera Frijhuga*), Jamun (*Syzygium Caumiari*) etc. on the foot-hill zones. Hence, the area offered a variety of plant and animal foods for exploitation by pre-historic groups (Ota 82:83: 172).

**Mesolithic Period:** Mesolithic culture is more prominent than palaeolithic culture in Phulbani district as evident from the extensive survey of the North Boudh-Kondhmals by Ota from 1981 to 1984. He has excavated at Khomananta on the bank of Adopathar Jore near the village Kalarajhuli and identified open-air sites on the bank of river Bagh and Guduguda and Meherian nallahs and some sites on the foot-hill zones. They are "Kuchuni Ghugura, Dunguri, Gurvelipadar, Kankalidunguri, Rengali Reserve Forest, Kantamal, Sunadei Hill, Barapadar, Mohuli, Digi, Mundipadar, Shantipalli, Raluri, Sadanandpur, Boulasinga, Dhourakud and Golurapalli, Thatipali, Jamatangi, Sabupara, Sobhapaluli, Jamaghati, Chhelibahal, Talupali, Karadapadar, Jampali, Telapadar, Burlikon road, Tuaniamunda, Badajharmunda, Sialimal and Dolabali. Some of the small sites like Asurgarh, Panaka, Benamunda, Jhankarpada, Pudamarghat, Kasurbandh and Kusumpadar are also noticed by Ota (Dash 91:91) This researcher also discovered a chopper from open-air site of village Tileswar.

The microliths discovered from the sites are made up of quartz (both milky and crystal varieties) and to some extent chert and chalcedony, which have been obtained in the form of river pebbles and nodules. Some of the artifacts are made up by granites, granite gneisses, charnockites and Kondalites also.

The artifacts include both geometric and non-geometric types such as triangles, trapezes, lunates, points, backed blades, retouched blades, varieties of scrapers, hammer stones, anvils, ring stones, and retouchers etc. Most of the artifacts are associated with red soil which are found from

soil erosianic nallahs. Almost all the sites have yielded microlithic equipments with heavy stone tools like horsehoo cores, choppers, and pointed tools. (Ota 1986:80-81) The technology is based on the production of blades, varying from about 1.5 cm to 4.00 cm and small flakes (Ota 86:80)

The Mesolithic Man was utilizing the artifacts mainly as wood working implements and were employed for a variety of tasks involving the operations of cutting, splitting, boring, chopping, scraping, butchering of big animals, pounding and grinding etc. (Ota 1986:81)

At first, Ota hold the view that the artifacts belong to Palaeolithic Period. But subsequently he changed his opinion attributing the implements discovered from North Boudh-Kondhamals to Mesolithic Period citing evidences of primitive groups of Australia, Kalahari and New Guinea, who used to employ heavy stone tools for wood working and variety of other works in their day-to-day life. He also thinks that as he found the heavy tools on the river valley with dense forest back ground, which are very much heavy and difficult to be carried to a distant place, they might have been confined to a limited region. As such, they must have depended upon the forest products and hunting. Hence he called the Mesolithic Man of North Boudh-Kondhamals of Phulbani as hunting and food gathering community (Ota: 82-83:175)

**Neolithic Period:-** One Neolithic site has been discovered by Ota in 1984-85 at Malapara Ghat from which he has collected a few mesolithic implements (Dash 1991:93). Tripathy also collected some microliths from Baudh (Dash:1991:6). Nayak reports about availability of celts, hammer stone, chisel and club (gada) of Mesolithic Period from Asurgarh on the confluence of river Tel near Manamunda (Nayak:1983:14). This writer has been informed by Pramil Kumar Mohanty of Ranagarh and Sarat Kumar Majhi of Debagarh about availability of ring stones in their villages and also at village Salakote with other pre-historic implements like pottery etc. The ring stones

are locally known as "Bhamuri Pathar" which are being tied around the neck of domestic animals to cure them from some diseases.

**Chalcolithic Period:-** Chalcolithic Period began when Mesolithic Period was in a culminating stage. In this period, urbanized culture flourished at Asurgarh on the confluence of river Tel near Manamunda which is evidenced from the excavation taken up under the joint auspices of Department of Archaeology, Deccan College, Pune and the P.G. Department of History, Sambalpur University for about three weeks in February 1981 (Behera 1982:18).

In course of trial excavation of two brick structures each measuring 16.80 meters x 12.45 meters, two hollow pillars made of gricel were exposed. The bricks used were 35 cm x 26 cm while some other bricks are 50x26x9 cms in size. Manmunda Culture is assigned to the post-Gupta period. The potteries discovered may be dated to 1st-2nd century A.D.(Behera 1982:2)

Besides Asurgarh on the confluence of river Tel; potteries and other archaeological materials are also noticed from Nimkud, Parasutaghat, Nimaghat, Kurumpadar, Nuapali, Bausuni, Budhikon, Narghanta hill and Kurtipalli. Archaeological materials noticed from the above places include sherds of pottery, stone artifacts, domestic materials, jewellery made up of earth, copper and bronze, stone beads, punch-marked coins etc. (Chhotaray and Khuntia: 1980:453)

Among the potteries discovered from the sites are triangular terracotta cakes, dish on stand, gray ware, black and red wares, some pottery bearing drawings of single centered circle and inner side like Roman pottery type and some pottery having drawings like wave (Chhotaray and Khuntia : 1980:554)

Besides the above earthen wares, earthen jars with high curling face, sputed earthen jar and plates, heads of cow and horse made up of earth having four legs, were also discovered. (Chhotaray and Khuntia 1981:508-9). There is no doubt that the brick structure is a part of the fortified township.

During the survey, six earthen pots were discovered from the bottom of the hollow pillar at a depth of 30 feet and the discovered six pots were arranged one upon other which can be attributed to a ritualistic performance. There was a layer of sand at the bottom and a huge deposit of charcol and jaw bones of a goat. The association of jaw bones with the charcoal at the layer of wooden chips burnt by fire give indication of ritualistic sacrifice, which were obviously conducted there at that time. Inside a hallow pillar, skeleton of a human child was discovered.

The excavation yielded some pieces of potteries like North Black Pottery of inferior variety, black grooved ware and Black Red ware. A circular brick structure having 6.35 inner diameter has been found, which seems to be a place of rituals in the latest phase. Some iron and copper implements have been also discovered from the above sites. Beads and lockets made of earth and stone, and rings made of silver and copper, as well as bangles of bronze were also discovered from the sites.

This researcher also noticed some iron slages and black wares etc. at village Purunagarh and also on the bank of river Salanki in the year 1987 and got information about availability of beads in village Kujuramunda at a depth of 4 to 5 feet.

According to scholars, the triangular terracotta cakes were used during fire and other worships in Harappan Culture. Some earthen figures are also found which bear testimony of local culture (Chhotaray and Khuntia 1981:19). Then the Neolithic people were cremating the dead body by digging trenches. To keep the memory of the departed soul they used some symbols on the cremation ground. For this purpose they built stone heaps, stone circles, menhirs, which are called Megaliths.

Sites associated with Megalithic Culture are also found in different part of present Baud District. Some of these sites are in village Kurumapadar near Manamunda, Khairmal, Sinduriabahal and Jamtangi. A menhir is found at Khairmalghat which

is worshipped by the villagers as "Kalarapat Devi." Some stone circles are noticed at village Jamatangi on the bank of river Bagh. About fifteen stone circles are found near Guduguda Nallah within the boundary of Budhikon village. Five stone circles are also noticed at village Kurumpadar and human bones were recovered at the time of digging one stone circle for construction of Lift Irrigation Point there. (Chhotaray and Khuntia 1982:830:31)

This researcher also probably found a menhir in village Tileswar. The stone pillar is about four feet high from the surface and pointed on the top having a trident mark on it. It is said to be the gate keeper of "Bauti Devi", the village deity. Scholars opine that some megaliths are now worshipped as village deities in Baudh and Sonapur area. (Chhotaray and Khuntia 1982:831) According to scholars megalithic culture belongs to Mundari tribe.

#### Conclusion :

The Palaeolithic Man, as we know, was depending on hunting and was moving from one place to other. He was not maintaining a settled life, but confined to a granted area and mostly depending on food gathering and hunting. The neolithic man gave up nomadic habits and used to maintain settled life and depended upon cultivation, hunting and food gathering also. The chalcolithic Man invented copper and iron implements and Megalithic Culture.

Exploration reveals that human habitations existed in the old undivided Phulbani district, particularly in Baudh area since Palaeolithic Period. But discovery of scanty palaeolithic implements reveal that towards the end of Palaeolithic Age and just before beginning of Neolithic Age human culture flourished in the North Phulbani region and from that period, continuity of human habitation are evidenced down through the ages. The urbanization culture of

Manamunda on the confluence of river Tel and Mahanadi show us the rich cultural heritage which flourished at the beginning of the Christian era., in the Tel and Mahanadi Valley. From the archaeological explorations made in Baliguda and Kandhmal sub-divisions, this researcher thinks that many lithic remains can be discovered in the Rahul and Salunki river valleys, which may throw new light on the lithic culture of the undivided Phulbani District..

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Raghunath Rath lives at Panasapadi Sahi, Baliguda, District- Kandhamal

# Alternative Strategies for Promoting Children's Literature

*Prof. Jagannath Mohanty*

Kurt Waldheim, Secretary General, UNO, once observed, "Humanity owes to the child the best it has to give. I appeal to all to participate in the activities directed towards creating a secure and happy future for all our children".

During the International Year 1979 the slogan adopted by the Government of India was "Happy Child- Nation's Pride". The distinguished author Mr Oscar Wilde also aptly said, "The best way to make children good is to make them happy". It is, therefore, felt that by making our children good and happy, our country will be happy and prosperous, and in this noble endeavour it is felt necessary to develop suitable literature for children. But unfortunately, inspite of our several efforts, the children's literature in different Indian languages has not developed upto our satisfaction. Therefore appropriate strategies are to be developed for promoting children's literature. It is not necessary to discuss the deficiencies and difficulties in the children's literature at present. But it is felt desirable to spell our new opportunities and challenges that we are facing in the field of promoting suitable juvenile literature.

## **Opportunities for Promoting Children's Literature**

Firstly, there has been unprecedented expansion of education at all levels, particularly,

at the school stage. At present there are about three hundred million children in the age group of 0-14 years, who constitute more than one-third of Indian population. We are also making attempts for realizing the target Education For All (EFA), Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE). Hence it is required to produce books both textual and supplementary for these children as a part of their curricular programmes. Under the Scheme "Operation Blackboard" (OB), the Government of India have also been providing ample funds for providing good children's Literature in the primary school.

Secondly, due to availability of modern printing technology, it has been possible to bring out very attractive and well designed children's books and journals with multi colour illustrations. It is a fact that modern printing mechanism needs to print thousands of copies at a comparatively cheaper rate in spite of increasing prices of the material and printings costs. Besides, many state governments have declared printing of books as an industry and young entrepreneur can get loans at a low rate of interest for investment on publications of children's books.

Thirdly, in the past writers were left to themselves in writing their books. But, now-a-days a large number of institutions and

associations have come forward for organizing training and orientation programmes for them. Similar is the case with artist, editors and publishers of children's books and journals. These programmes enable these functionaries to improve their skills and proficiencies in their respective fields.

Fourthly, previously there was no incentive for writers or publishers. They were doing their work for their own interest and self satisfaction. But, at present competitions are being organized at their regional, state, national and even at international levels and excellent books for children are receiving awards. Artists and publishers as well as writers are also given recognition and felicitations at various levels for their publications to the field of children's literature.

Fifthly, since we are in the midst of the fourth Revolution of Communication, namely, all kinds of electronic media like Radio, Television, Audio, Video and Computers, we cannot afford to ignore the importance in the field of children's literature. Besides, their impact on young children is enormous. Hence, we have to develop suitable materials for them not only for printing but for feeding various electronic media. Thus, children's literature has to be made very attractive, more interesting, multi-dimensional and multi-media materials.

#### **Alternative Strategies :**

In view of the immense importance of children's literature for cognitive, ethical and social development of children, it is felt essential for utilizing the above opportunities to the maximum and effectively involving parents, writers, artists, editors, publishers etc who are responsible for promoting children's literature. Hence, various alternative strategies are to be developed both at government and non government levels. At

present various organizations and associations have been set up, and with active guidance and inspiration they could be made effective for implementing these strategies.

(a) ***Desirable Awareness*** : It is found that not only the public but also the lecturers and professors and even literati are not fully aware about the meaning, scope and objectives of children's literature. Children's literature is still neglected and is given lower status than other aspects of literature. Although some men of letters wrote many good books for children for which they were awarded or felicitated, they have left his field only with the fear that they would be given lower status in the society if they would continue to write children's books.

On the other hand, many writers for children have not only written literature for the public, but also have been awarded and felicitated. But their very writing for children is regarded as a stigma and they are not given due respect by the so called writers of poems, stories and other literary works. Hence, it is felt desirable to bring about adequate awareness about the children's literature and remove the misconceptions that are looming large in the minds of our authors teaching in schools, colleges and universities. Eminent Writers like Biswakavi Rabindranath Tagore and Padmabhusan Kalandi Charan Panigrahi have contributed significantly to children's literature. This awareness can be brought about through individual studies, conference and seminars. All should be enlightened about the concepts, parameters and utility of children's literature and be motivated to contribute their mite to the development of children's literature.

(b) ***Research and Evaluation*** : Adequate research studies have not been conducted in the

field of children's literature though it is essential for developing suitable guidelines for writing and production of books and journals. Particularly, studies are to be conducted in vocabulary, reading interest and impact of good reading habits on academic growth of children and also in different aspects of physical features. The manuscript developed for children should be tried out and published for mass circulation in conducting these studies. Writers, Artists, Editors and Publishers should be involved in development of children's literature.

(c) **Publication and distribution** : It is a fact that publication of books and journals for children is expensive and needs utmost care— good writing, printing, illustrations and other factors that cannot be overestimated while developing children's literature. Hence, huge investing is necessary, and for that government and banks should provide loans at cheaper rates of interest. Government and other organisations should purchase a large number of suitable books and journals and provide them to the primary schools and also to libraries. But, unfortunately corrupt practices interfere and the very purpose is defeated although adequate funds are made available by the Central Government.

(d) **Journal Editing** : Journals are the nursery for developing writers and reading interests of the clientele. Children journals are essential for developing their (children's) reading habits but also for better academic performance. Besides, writers are encouraged and guided for developing suitable literature not only for the young readers but also adults in future. But at present most of the journals are edited by young and inexperienced persons having little knowledge and genuine interest in this area. Consequently, a lot of errors have crept in the fields of printing,

subject matter and even in get up. It is, therefore, felt that editors should be oriented and trained through workshops, seminars for developing such journals. They also should develop their knowledge and interest in children's writing before they can take up editing work. Because, the mistakes both in respect of them and language adversely affect children's growth. Such journals harm more than they help. Further, government should provide assistance and loans for production and distribution of standard journals for children.

(e) **Children's Association and organization** : Although associations and organizations are helpful for promotion of children's literature, it is often found that these are started without much planning and sincerity of purpose, and die out sooner or later. Therefore, persons with genuine interest and love for children's literature should be entrusted with the management of such organizations. These organizations, besides, trying for developing through literary interest should also work for developing through expertise and skills.

(f) **Incentive and Recognition** : Although our Shrimad Bhagwat Gita says one should work without expecting its outcome, in the modern society no work is done without any gain whether manual or intellectual or mental satisfaction. It is experienced that writers for children are not given their due recognition and their work is under estimated or not taken at par with other genres of literature. Hence it is felt that such mis-conception and prejudicial views regarding the children's literature should be done away with as early as possible not only in the interest of this literature but also for literature in general. Writers, Editors, Artists, Publishers should be given due recognition, felicitations and incentives for their

over all contributions and efforts for promotion of children's literature.

**Conclusion :**

All-round development of children's literature is essential and the strategies as discussed above, need to be pursued / implemented with right earnest. Promotion of children 's literature is a co-operative and collaborative effort involving parents, guardians, authors, artists, editors and publishers and printers. Hence, suitable programmes need be organized in different aspects of children's literature for various functionaries, Besides, all-out efforts should be made for making children's literature using both multi-media and multi-purpose technologies.

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Prof. Jagannath Mohanty lives at 2935, Gouri Nagar Bhubaneswar - 751002

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## What are they ?

*Dr. R.S.N. Murty*

Two big and white circles  
on a black background  
have been an obsessive quest  
since my very childhood.

Innocence and ignorance in me  
always hinder my progress  
to understand beyond  
mere observation.

Supposedly to be wise enough,  
religious pundits,  
when approached to solve the enigma,  
stay mostly tight lipped.



Their ego,  
Conception and misconceptions,  
Bias and prejudices  
and at times, I think, their ignorance  
make them silent.

To me, the two big, white circles  
on the black background are  
the gateways to salvation,  
Eternity and everything.

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Dr. R.S.N. Murty is a Cardiologist in the Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar.



## Winged Guests of Winter

*Balabhadra Prasad Das*

The nature's mega biodiversity is inassessable as it embraces large number of faunal and floral species of various types and are different from one another, belonging to several genera and families. By natural distribution, they occupy different territories. The animals do frequent to different areas on advent of adverse period due to ecological variation. Being guided by instinct, they either change altitude or move out to other areas— very common in the natural world for food and shelter. Such movements, known as migration of animals and birds, provide ample opportunity to the animal and bird lovers to observe their habit, habitat and behavioural pattern outside their natural habitat during certain part of the year.

At times, we find the winter sky is covered with many flocks of birds move high in the sky in a definite direction and time, being guided by instinct, to reach their destination, after leaving their habitat due to severe winter in Polar and Arctic regions. They migrate to warmer areas having safe shelter, food and breeding sites. Their moving site in flocks, making chirping sound,

attracts the attention of the bird lovers, research scholars and ornithologists who used to be in their toes to gear up their activity, after long wait for seasons after seasons.

The bird watchers in this season move from thickets to thicket, gardens to gardens, and forests to forests early in the morning before the sun rise to observe the birds. Being well equipped, they



move out carrying the haversack containing - bird book, note book, pencil, knife, camera and a pair of looking glasses to protect eyes and binocular hanging from the neck for easy and quick sighting. Besides these, some precautions are taken, like - slow breathing,

soundless stepping to locate the bird without disturbance, to observe and record calmly and shoot in the camera, if wanted. The bird watching is not only a good hobby but also a nice sport. More entertaining is to be in the serene, quiet environment inside a forest, amidst the singing of birds, and call of wild animals gives you celestial happiness. The cool breeze full with pure Oxygen, refreshes you. Hence, one long to spend more time inside the strand. Many might have

experienced the impact of the mother nature which are uncommon in urban life. However, more interesting and thrilling are jungle stories, told by wildlifers and naturalists. This author had one unexpected occasion was to spend about four days in the company of late Dr. Salim Ali, the internationally adorned Ornithologist during his august visit to Orissa in search of the endangered rare "Quail" in Orissa forests. Several books on birds were authored by Dr. Ali and was founder member of Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Bombay (now Mumbai).

For birds, Dr. Ali had immense likeness and affection. Even in an advanced age with broken health, he used to move out early in the morning before sunrise, with proper dress, armed with the requisites to watch the birds. That was observed during his stay at Forest Rest House, Tikarpara of Purunakote Range of Angul Forest Division. The forest on Mahanadi bank was debarred of calmness due to lot of activities over the area. In the lunch table, it was decided to visit the Similipal Hill Forests in Mayurbhanj District. He was aware of this hill that embraces all types of forests ranging from scurb to evergreen savana, comprising of 2250 sqkms with varied flora and fauna and Peninsular and Himalayan regions. This hill range houses many rare and endangered species-plentiful of song birds, hill Mayana and quails of all varieties. After negotiating rough, zig zag, winding forest road, we reached Meghashani, 1158 mts. high above M.S.L. We moved through the tropical broad stretch of forest and other forest types, which made him confident to spot the bird in the hill forest. So, Dr. Ali moved here and there inside the forest in search of the bird. For wider vision, he went to the hill top, there his foot slipped. But, Sri G.M. Dash, IFS, the then wildlife warden, Orissa, immediately caught hold of him, saving him from a fatal fall of 3000 ft. down the precipitating slope. All of us were

shocked. The escape was miraculous due to providence. All of us including Dr. Ali were interested to see the quail. But it could not be spotted. Yet Dr. Ali was hopeful to find it else where. A vivid description of the bird was given to us by him with a request to keep a vigilant eye during field visits.

Our group in the company of Dr. Ali moved for Nalabana Island, one of the Islands inside Chilika declared as sanctuary under the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972. On the way, we went to Nandankanan. Sri G.M. Dash, IFS, the then the Chief Wildlife Warden, Orissa and the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Nandankanan, briefed on the functioning and management of the Biological Park.

While proceeding towards the enclosures of animals and birds, the courtship of a pair of lion attracted our attention. Without disturbing them, we watched the love making. After that was over, there was mating, the lioness rolled three to four times on the ground soon after the mating. That rare sight was accidental. The animals have seasonal sex unlike human beings. After visit to the other enclosures and brief interaction, we left Nandankanan for Nalabana sanctuary to board the motor launch from Balugaon.

The wish of the group was to move faster to reach Chilika as early as possible to have a glimpse of the panoramic view of the blue lagoon with varieties of birds therein. The weather was cool and chilly. We arrived at the coast of Chilika at Balugaon. Several people were waiting to greet Dr. Ali. The mild breeze created wrinkles over blue water of the lake, on it the sea gulls floating, appeared dancing in gay. We boarded the motor boat, it moved for Nalabana sanctuary. Several water fowls were busy in feeding, not being scared by movement of the launch making sound close by. That indicated, they are not unsafe. The millions of birds in flocks those come here every year from polar and Arctic regions on advent of the severe

winter, move gayfully and freely in the sky. The sight of these birds with 'ka' 'ka' and chirping sound attracts attention to stare at the birds in sky. On way to their destination, they rest at places, feed on crops too however, succumbing to the bullet shots of hunters; is a matter of concern.

After proceeding some distance inside the lake the weather suddenly changed. The wrinkles on the water became waves; with strong wind, the waves became rough and high, dashed against our boat, made it unstable as well as unsafe. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Orissa did not dare to take risk and decided not proceed further, and with the consent of Dr. Ali, we had to return back to the shore. Our hope to see and watch the birds of continental and inter-continental origin, migrating from as far as the Caspian Sea, Lake Baikal, Arabian Sea, and other remote parts of Russia, Kirghiz steeps of Mangolia, Central and South-East Asia, Ladakh and the Himalayas got a setback. The availability of various types of food in abundance for adults and younglings having no dearth of nesting and resting sites attract the birds to Chilika lagoon which spreads over 165 sqkms. in monsoon and 906 sqkm during summer and is connected to the sea in the east coast of Orissa by a narrow outer strip of 32 kms. long that, influences the salinity level of lagoon.

Dr. Ali said, "we are at Chilika, the greatest wetland of Indian continent : the largest wintering ground of varieties of water fowls of national and international origin is a Ramsar Site." It caters to the needs of millions of avifauna. In fact, Chilika is a hot spot of Biodiversity, with unique floral and faunal composition namely : Phytoplanton - 43 spp., Algae community-22 spp., Vascular plants -150 spp., the Fungal spp., are : Protozoa 61 spp., Plautheintes-29 spp., Nematodes-37 spp., Polychaetes-31 spp., Brachvura-28 spp., Decapoda-30 spp., Mollusa-136 spp., Fish-225 spp. and reptiles 37 spp., birds 166 spp., Mamals 18 spp. have been recorded by Government

agencies and the Botnica and zoological survey of India. BNHS also undertook survey of species of the lagoon.

Chilika is a highly productive ecosystem with rich fishing resources. This fishing ground sustains the livelihood for more than 1,00,000 (one lakh). Fishing folk, living around the lake in 117 villages, are a threat to the lake ecosystem. Besides fishing, some of them catch, trap or kill the migratory winter birds to sell in the local market to earn money. However, it is now under control for intensified regular patrolling of the mobile squads of the Chilika Wildlife Division of the Forest Department as well as by the local voluntary organisation youth clubs, formed around the lagoon, in different villages, for protection of the winged guests. The offenders nabbed are booked under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Considering the rich Biodiversity and socio economic importance, Chilika lake was designated by the Government of India as a Ramsar Site in 1981, under the convention of the Wet Lands of International importance, as water fowl habitat.

The co-ordinated effort of the Forst Department jointly with the Chilika Development Authority, taking several steps for preservation of the lake ecosystem. For awareness of the general public, eco-camps, meetings at different places, documentary film shows, seminars are being organised on various problems of the lake.

In the present scenario, it is highly imperative, youths and local people need to make all out efforts to help Government to preserve the glamour and beauty of rich ecosystem of Chilika as it was, "*The Marala Malin Nilambu chilika, Utkal Kamal Bilasa Dirghika*", is to be maintained as that, for all time to come.

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Balabhadra Prasad Das lives at Surya Vihar, Link Road, Cuttack - 7531012.

## Vision Orissa : 2036

*Dr. Bharati Mohapatra*

Orissa attained its political identity as a province of India on 1st April 1936. The integration of the 24 erstwhile feudatory states completed the process of unification by 1st January, 1949. A linguistic state of Oriya speaking people had taken shape. It provided a bold all-India identity and place of pride. What would be the projected picture of Orissa in 2036" presents a perspective futuristic run-up to 2036. Every vision statement must take cognizance of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that loom larger on the developmental horizons of Orissa. The most accurately projected calculations may go wrong due to unforeseen and unforeseeable catastrophes, disasters, contingencies, developmental initiatives and techno-scientific innovations.

### **Size of the State:**

The size of the State is not going to change. It would continue to be 4.74 percent of India's land mass.

### **Demography:**

The population of Orissa was 36.7 million in 2001; and the growth rate was around 1.6%. The literacy of women stands at 51%. Almost half the women of Orissa are illiterate. The number of female illiterates in 2001 was 79,35,529; and the female population in the age-group of 0-6 years

was 24,45,505 who await elementary education. The rate of population growth can at best go down up to 1.2% and not more.

### **Projected Population:**

In 1936, the population of Orissa was 1,31,29,000 and by 2036 it would be around 5,77,59,000 at a constant growth rate of 1.2 percent during this entire ensuing period. All the minimum needs including education have to be provided.

**Vision :** The demographic pressure would surely mount. Urbanization would take place in a big way. The population growth may create the compulsive need of reorganizing the present 30 districts, which may go up to 40. Law and order machinery needs to be geared to deal with the increased population. The Panchayati Raj Institutions are likely to play a very active role in every sphere of local administration.

### **Natural Resources:**

#### **Forests:**

Orissa was proud of its forest wealth; but this precious ecological protection is fast diminishing due to rapid population growth. In 2001-02, the forest area stood at 53,135 sq. kms. Or 37.30% of the total area of the State. The forest cover is sure to shrink by 2036 due to

demographic pressure and developmental activities. Forests influence climate and are home to the rich flora and fauna. This is likely to be adversely affected due to mindless deforestation and lack of planned afforestation in adequate measure.

**Vision :** The State must ensure that the forest cover does not diminish below 30% of its total area. Afforestation must be taken up on a war footing to avoid gross ecological imbalances. The varied species of flora and fauna must be protected. The treasure of bio-diversity must be preserved.

#### **Mineral Wealth:**

Orissa occupies an important position in the mineral map of India, and has rich deposits of coal, iron-ore, manganese, bauxite, chromite, etc. Utilization rates are around one percent in case of most of the minerals. This is a sun-shine sector and exploitation of mines shall form an important and formidable economic activity by 2036. The districts of Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sundergarh, Kondhamal, Rayagada, Gajapati, Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi and Bolangir are likely to be centres of buzzing minerals exploitation and related industrial activities. The oil reserves in the Orissa coast await exploration; and if rich hydro-carbon deposits are found they would greatly change the economy of the State. The value of mineral production in Orissa 2000-20001 was 2776.15 crore rupees constituting 5.23% of India. It lags behind such States as Madhya Pradesh (12.68%) Gujarat (8.9%), Andhra Pradesh (6.76%) and Assam (6.30%).

**Vision :** Concerted efforts need to be made to augment the utilization rates of minerals from 1% to at least 10%. We must try to be a frontranking state in this field.

#### **Marine Fishing:**

Orissa has a coastline of 480 kms; and occupies the 8th position in marine fish production among the nine States of India on the sea-board.

**Vision:** Orissa must adopt state-of-the-art fishing techniques and utilize remote sensing techniques to increase marine fish production.

#### **Water Resources:**

The water resources of Orissa are one of the highest with 11% of the country's total surface water resources. In 2000-2001, 61% of the total cultivable area was rainfed and lacked irrigation facilities.

**Vision :** The water resources of the state should be scientifically managed to mitigate the dependence of agriculture on the vagaries of monsoon and to ensure safe drinking water for all.

#### **Agriculture:**

Agriculture is Orissa's culture and its mainstay. It contributes 28.13 percent of the State income (Net State Domestic Product). The percentage of net area sown to total area (1998-99) was 38.8 percent; and of it, only 34.6 percent was irrigated area. In providing irrigation facilities, Orissa is lagging behind Punjab (94.5%), Haryana (78.3%), Uttar Pradesh (72.2%), Tamil Nadu (53.6%), Bihar (49.9%), Andhra Pradesh (41.4%) and west Bengal (35.1%) and the Indian average of 40 percent. The consumption of fertilizers (2000-2001) was 40.5 kg per hectare as against Punjab (116.6), Andhra Pradesh (158.8), Bihar (97.5), West Bengal (113.7), Chatisgarh (43.0) and the Indian average of 86.3 kgs. The yield rate of rice per hectare of Orissa was only 10.41 quintals as against 29.31 quintals of Andhra Pradesh, 25.59 quintals of Haryana, 21.6 quintals of Kerala, 35.06 quintals of Pnjab. The percentage share of food production was

only 2.54. The state of agriculture is in disarray and presents a highly depressing picture.

**Vision:** The net area sown to total area should increase. Irrigated area should increase up to at least 50 percent of the cropped area and drip irrigation should be widely used. The increased use of fertilizers is a must and its consumption must go up to the all-India average of 86.3 kgs per hectare. These steps would automatically increase the yield rate of agricultural produce and increase Orissa's share of food production. It would provide the much needed food security-net by 2036.

#### **Communication:**

This is the age of communication. In this critical sector, Orissa lags behind as evident from the following statistics.

Total Road length (in kms)(1999) -	2,62,513
Total Railway Track (in kms)(1999)-	2,186
Number of Busses (1998) -	11,726
Number of two Wheelers (1998) -	6,18,419
Number of cars (1998) -	34,471
Number of Post Offices (2000) -	8,135
News Papers sold per 1000 persons-	22
Telephones per 100 persons (2001)-	1.71
Internet connections per 100 -	0.012

**Vision :** Connectivity is the lifeline in this age of globalization. Rural connectivity is most dissatisfying, and all the 51,349 villages need to be connected by roads, telephones and inter-net, This will break the isolation of the villages and heighten their awareness and accelerate development.

#### **Economy:**

The per capita income of Orissa is Rs.9273.00. It is the lowest in the entire country.

It stands nowhere near States like Panjab (Rs.25,048), Haryana (Rs.23,742), Maharashtra (Rs.23,726) or any of its neighbouring States.

#### **Poverty:**

The Below Poverty Line (BPL) population of India was 26.1% in 1999-2000; but in Orissa its magnitude was the highest with 47.2% people belonging to BPL. More than 154 million people are under the Below Poverty Line in Orissa.

**Vision :** This dismal economic situation can be corrected if the politicians, administrators and the public make concerted efforts. Corruption, which has become endemic and eats away much of the developmental resources needs to be curbed. Orissa must strive to reach atleast the all-India level of per capita income and no person should remain under the BPL by 2036.

#### **Education:**

##### **Elementary Education:**

The school-age population @20% of the total projected population would be around 1,15,15,8000 by 2036. If a "Comprehensive Straight Through School" is established with classes 1 to VIII and with an intake of 40 students in each class, an Elementary School can accommodate 320 school-age children. This require 9 teaches each. So the requirement of teachers would be 4,33,2000.

The establishment of 48,200 schools would ensure universalization of Elementary Education i.e. classes I to VIII of children in the age-group 6 to 14. In addition to these, another 5,2000 small rural schools need to be established to cater to the needs all villages and make universalization of primary education a reality.

##### **Secondary Education:**

Twenty percent of the elementary school pass-outs are expected to go for Secondary

Education. So, the estimated Secondary School population would be 23,10,360. if the intake of a secondary schools would be around 7,700. All the present High Schools need to be upgraded to Higher Secondary level to meet the educational aspirations of the people.

### **Changing the Negative Mind-set towards Education:**

The present day politicians, administrators and the opinion leaders of the community have developed a highly negative mind-set regarding education. They are making educational institutions the scapegoates for all socio-economic evils. Further, there is evident reluctance to bear the heavy financial burden. Educational system of Orissa is fast loosing social support and funding.

**Vision :** Educational Institutions of all stages should increase. To arrest qualitative deterioration, the urban and rural Local Self-governing bodies, private entrepreneurs, and benevolent people should be encouraged to take over the management of education.

### **Conclusion:**

Orissa'a population is in manageable limits. But, the growth rate needs to be checked by providing universal elementary educatuion and a well-spread network of hospitals, dispensaries and other public health facilities before 2036.

Illiteracy among women and Tribals is very high which has to be eradicated by 2036.

The inter-district imbalances are glaring. The developmental distances generate frustration, distress and social tensions. The present day movements in parts of Orissa for sepatrate

Autonomous Councils for west, North and South Orissa regions; and even total separation; are due to accumulated neglact. Balanced development must take place to cheek regional dissatisfaction. The urban-ruraldivide needs to bridged.

There are three decades ahead to continue concerted deveopment of Orissa. Either we wake up to solve the harsh realistic problems and usher Orissa to a new Century of Hope by 2036; or neglect and commit socio-cultural suicide. The Centenary Year 2036 beckons us to awake, arise and commit ourselves to the concerted and multipronged development of Orissa.

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Dr. Bharati Mohapatra is the Principal of N.D.W. College of Teacher Education, Bhubaneswar - 751001.

## Cuttack City : Promotion of Education in Orissa in the Pre-Independence Era

*Dinabandhu Dehury*

Kataka, being the capital city of ancient Utkala, has been the nerve-centre of Orissan history, politics and culture since 989 A.D. witnessing the rule of the Somavamsis, the Gangas, the Gajapatis, the Afghans, the Mughals, the Marathas, the British and finally the elected democratic Government of Independent Orissa. During the long span of one thousand years, the city imbibed the quintessence of cultural waves from eastern, northern, central and southern India and thus mingled in her cultural waves from eastern, northern, central and Southern India and thus adapted in her cultural matrix all the heterogenous elements. Under the successive rule of the medieval dynasties, the boundaries of Orissa extended from the river Ganga in the north to the river Godavari in the South. There after the State saw the sudden decline for internecine struggle during the rule of an unworthy dynasty named the Bhoi, and next, the inevitable downfall due to external invasions, followed by the rulers of the Afghans, the Marathas and finally the British, who reduced the one time far-flung Orissa to three coastal districts of Balasore, Cuttack and Puri. Situated at the apex of deltaic land formed by the bifurcation of the Mahanadi and its main branch, the Kathajori, Cuttack has witnessed the vicissitude of its rules. It long acted as Military stronghold as well as the Capital of Orissa.

According to *Madala-Panji*, Raja Nrupa Keshari, a martial and ambitious prince, who was always fighting with his neighbours, is said to have first planted the city on site of the modern Cuttack about 989 A.D.

The city was in the past connected with the important centres of the country by Rajapathas and by the water ways leading to the Bay of Bengal and in the modern period by the railway lines and motor communication.

Like other important capital towns of medieval India, its Court was embellished with the illustrious poets, musicians, kinsmen, courtiers, commanders, sports men and other dignitaries. Cuttack was then well protected having been circumscribed by rivers in three sides which provided natural defence.

Orissa came under the British rule in 1803. After the advent of British rulers, Zamindars, Paikas and some tribal people started their movements against the foreigners. Most of the people could not welcome the Britishers. British people very bravely and cleverly won the resistance. They had to develop it in different directions. Obviously the progress of education in the Cuttack city received maximum attention. The Primary Schools in the Cuttack city met the needs of the pupils. The Secondary Schools in



the Cuttack city served the educational requirements of the Cuttack City and the rest of the Cuttack district as well. The Colleges, training Schools and technical institutions in Cuttack City were intended to cater to the needs of the whole of Orissa.

Upto 1866 there was almost total absence of attempt on the part of the Government to provide the people with the means of modern education. In 1841 Government opened a higher English School at Cuttack. Through a good deal of hardship it survived as the Principal seat of education in the province. In the terrible famine of 1866 it was well-known, how the want of educated persons aggravated the sufferings of the people of Orissa. By the year 1905, the National Movement for Freedom and Utkal Union Movement for the unification of the Oriya - speaking areas were launched. Under the impact of these two movements, the progress of education in Orissa received a great impetus.

During the Governor Generalship of Lord William Bentinck (1828-1835), English education in India received a great impulse. The long controversy between the orientalist and Anglicists was settled at last in 1835. William Bentinck decided in favour of English as a medium of instruction. It was the aim of the Britishers that people getting the education through English would get the service in the British administration. English being the international language and the link language of Indian States was introduced as the medium of instructions.<sup>1</sup>

The British Government felt the necessity of establishing English Schools. An English School and a Sanskrit School were opened at Puri on experimental basis to attract people. People showed their interest in such education. An English School at Puri was not adequate to serve the purpose. Therefore, the Government

decided to open more English Schools in some other district headquarters including at Cuttack, the headquarters of the State.

### Primary Education

Primary Education constitutes the foundation on which the entire super structure of education is built. Education at this stage possesses two-fold problem in this state, on the satisfactory solution of which depends to a very large extent the development of the community. The aspect of the problem is to evolve a suitable system of education which may help to awaken the dormant faculties of the child and the other to provide this education to every child of the school-going age. Primary education is provided in Primary Schools and Junior Basic Schools.<sup>2</sup>

The lack of well-trained teachers was keenly felt in the endeavour to develop Primary education. A training School at Cuttack was opened in 1863. In 1864 there were 23 students under training on the completion of the study they were appointed elementary village Schools.

In 1867 the Cuttack Training School was thoroughly reorganized in accordance with the scheme of Bhudeb Mukherjee. Henceforth, this was called First Grade Training School. The School was placed under a Superintendent. The School had mainly two department, one for training Pandits, and the other for training gurus. In the Pandit training department, teachers were undergoing training for one year only, while in the guru training department, there was a three years' course. It proved to be a very useful institution.<sup>3</sup>

In order to meet the want of certificated gurus, a Central training class for training of the Gurus of upper Primary Schools was added to First Grade Training Schools at Cuttack in 1891. Two classes were opened in it for the

training of English teachers for Secondary Schools in 1896. Henceforth, First Grade Training School at Cuttack was also known as Secondary Training School, Cuttack.<sup>4</sup>

In order to popularize primary education, efforts were made in the direction of introducing a simpler curriculum. In order to improve the quality of teaching, the salary of primary teachers was enhanced from time to time.

It was realized by 1921 that a large number of pupils in the Primary classes never got beyond the lowest class and were withdrawn before they had learnt even to read and write. This resulted in a wastage of money and effort, and led to stagnation in the development of Primary education. Several steps taken to overcome it were too inadequate to serve any useful purpose.

The Muhammedan pupils not only attended ordinary Primary Schools but also Special Schools known as Maktabas or Primary Urdu Schools intended for them. The number of Urdu Primary Schools or Maktabas in the Cuttack City was 40 in 1947. These were all aided by the Government. The Primary Schools having Urdu Section numbered 7 in 1947. There was one elementary training School for Muhammadans maintained by the Government at Cuttack.<sup>5</sup>

### **Secondary Education**

Secondary education was imparted by the Middle Schools and High Schools. For the promotion of Secondary education, the Government relied mainly on Private enterprise assisted by Grant-in-aid and subject to certain control.

Middle Vernacular Schools taught vernacular course. Middle English Schools taught the same vernacular course and in addition,

English during four years study from Class IV to Class VII. There was growing demand from parents and pupils themselves for increased facilities for English education. So, the middle English Schools were popular and demands were frequently made for the conversion of middle vernacular Schools into middle English Schools. The number of Middle English School in Cuttack city was 6 in 1900 and 10 in 1947. In order to improve the efficiency of middle English Schools and also incidentally of High Schools, it was decided to extend to middle English Schools, with effect from the year 1927-28, the scheme for a Public Middle Examination for a School Certificate.

It had always been the policy of Government to aid private enterprise in providing high Schools. But it provided and maintained one high School in each of the district headquarters to serve as models to other Schools. By 1900 there was one Government High School in the Cuttack town known as Cuttack Zilla School, one aided high School at Cuttack known as Mission School, run by the Missionary and a Private School known as Cuttack Academy.<sup>6</sup> By 1947 the number of aided high Schools in the Cuttack town rose to six. But Cuttack Zilla School, subsequently known as Cuttack Collegiate School continued to be the only Government High School till the end of the British rule.

From 1896, the First Grade Training School at Cuttack was the only institution in Orissa which provided facilities for the training of the teachers of the Post-Primary Schools i.e. Middle English Schools. For the training of the Masters for purely high Schools of education there was not any special provision at all for a long time.<sup>7</sup> In 1923 the Cuttack Training College was started. It provided a course of training

for graduates intending to work as teachers in the High Schools and Sub Inspectors of Schools. It prepared students for the Diploma in Education Examination.<sup>8</sup> The course of study extended over one academic year and comprised both theory and practice in teaching. The Ravenshaw Collegiate School and the Pyary Mohan Academy were used as practicing High Schools. The number of students on the roll was 26 in 1947.<sup>9</sup>

The Curriculum of the high Schools was largely examination - oriented and studies were accordingly literary. The department encouraged vocational and practical education in the Schools. During the period 1942-1947, Agriculture, Botany introduced in the Mission High School and carpentry was introduced in Cuttack practicing School.<sup>10</sup>

The Senior and Junior Madrasa were practically Secondary school on Islamic basis combining religious and secular education. The Madrasa Sultania at Cuttack was the only Senior Madrasa in the province. It received grant-in-aid from Government. In 1943 there was a reduction of fees in the higher class as an experimental basis to encourage a large number of Muhammedan boys to take oriental education. Pupils of the lower classes were not charged any fees.<sup>11</sup>

### **Collegiate Education :**

One of the most significant achievements of the period from 1858 to 1905 was the promotion of Collegiate education. This resulted in the establishment of a College in Cuttack. A proposal was made for raising the Government Zilla School at Cuttack to the standard of a collegiate School in 1868.<sup>12</sup> At the initiative of T.E. Ravenshaw, the Commissioner of Orissa, the College department of the High School was converted into a College in which students

would be able to complete the entire course necessary for attaining the B.A. degree in 1876.<sup>13</sup> The magnificent gift of Rs.20,000/- given by the late Maharaja enabled the Government to make the institution permanent. The name of the College was changed into Ravenshaw College, in commemoration of Ravenshaw's commendable services as Commissioner of Orissa. The history of Ravenshaw College is virtually the history of modern Orissa and it is said that anybody who is somebody in Orissa is a Ravenshavian.

Science was taught in this College upto Intermediate Standard. But in course of time there arose a strong demand for provision of B.Sc. course. So the B.Sc. (Pass) course was opened in 1912. Gradually the public opinion in Orissa began to demand opening of B.A. (Hons.), B.Sc. (Hons.) and M.A. classes. By 1947 the College had secured affiliation in most subjects at B.A. and B.Sc. (Honours) level and English, Economics, Mathematics and Oriya for the M.A. and Chemistry for the M.Sc.<sup>14</sup>

In July 1921, Ravenshaw College was moved to a new infrastructure at Chauliaganj. The number of students at the Ravenshaw College continued to rise. It was 158 in 1905, 375 in 1917 and 1171 in 1947. The number of Women students was 39 in 1947. The number of boarders in the hostel under the control of the College was 183 in 1947. Law Classes were attached to the Ravenshaw College at Cuttack which had 48 students in the roll in 1940. The College had a number of vigorous societies and clubs which attracted to their meetings some of the prominent persons of the town. The research workers in different departments continued their activities. The provincial museum continued to be housed in the College. The College had a Governing Body with a non-Official as Presidents.

Apart from Ravenshaw College, the premier College of the province maintained by the Government, there were two private Colleges in the Cuttack City namely Christian College, Cuttack and the Stewart Science College, Cuttack respectively.

The Utkal Christian College was started by the Christian Education Board, Cuttack in 1944 as an Intermediate in Arts and was raised to the status of a first grade College in 1946. It was managed by a Governing Body and received aid from Government. This was the first Private College started in North Orissa. With the rich Co-operation of the Public, it had made Phenomenal progress within three years.

It hoped to have its extensive building projects completed so as to move to its own infrastructure before the commencement of the Session in 1949-50. Its roll strengths was 309 in 1947. The College had a Students' Union and some important Societies.

The Stewart Science College, Cuttack was an Intermediate College maintained by the Baptist Missionary Society and was managed by a Governing Body. The College had a number of Societies and provided Special facilities for games which were compulsory. There were 110 students on the rolls of the College on 31st March 1947.<sup>15</sup>

From the beginning, the Calcutta University was the affiliating and examining body of the Ravenshaw College. From 1917 the Patna University took the place of Calcutta University. The Utkal University came into being in 1943. It was located in Cuttack. Dr. P. Parija was the first Vice- Chancellor of this University. Henceforth, Utkal University became the affiliating and examining body of the Colleges of Orissa.

### Female Education :

By 1905 state of female education in Cuttack city was far from satisfactory. Most of the girls attending the Schools were in elementary stage. Apart from some Girl's Primary Schools, there were two aided Middle English Schools for girls under the management of American Baptist Mission in the Cuttack city in 1905. The factors such as the want of adequate state aid, intense conservatism of the people, system of child marriage and scarcity of educated female teachers continued to hinder the smooth development of Women education.

In order to meet the deficiency of female teachers, a training School for mistresses was opened in Cuttack in 1906. It was properly managed by the Baptist Missionary Society and received substantial aid from Government. In accordance with the recommendations of the Female Education Committee of 1914,, a training School for Hindu Women was opened at Cuttack in 1919. It proved successful.<sup>16</sup>

The Girl's High School at Cuttack was opened in 1906 by Mr. Reba Roy. Subsequently the institutions became a fullfledged High School. The control of the Ravenshaw Girls' School was assumed by the Government with effect from 1 March 1913. In 1917 it was moved to a building acquired for the purpose by the Government.<sup>17</sup> In 1919, hostel and Principall's quarters were built for the Ravenshaw Girls' High School. Music and domestic Science were taught in the School as subjects for the Matriculation examination from 1933-34.

During the year 1915-16, a commencement was made in Orissa with the collegiate education of Women when I.A. classes were opened in connection with the

Ravenshaw Girl's School at Cuttack. The School was placed on a permanent footing in 1925. The number of students in the Intermediate Classes at the Ravenshaw Girls' School was 8 in 1934 and 10 in 1936. The limited number of Women students in the I.A. Classes, which had never exceeded a dozen by 1936, indicated that all students who passed the matriculation did not come up for Collegiate education. A very small number of women who wished to take a degree course, were having co-education in Colleges for men where they had greater choice of subjects, efficient and an academic atmosphere.

The Intermediate in Arts Section attached to the Ravenshaw Girls' High School was raised to the degree status in 1944. It was maintained by Government and was the only Women's College in the province. It was affiliated to the Utkal University. The strength of the College was 23 in 1941-42 and 64 in 1946-47. This shows that Women have began to take special interest in higher education.

#### **Technical Education :**

Two most important technical institutions of Orissa were located in Cuttack city. These were, Cuttack Survey School and Cuttack Medical School which developed into Orissa School of Engineering and Orissa Medical College in course of time. The Cuttack Survey School was opened in 1876. Period under training was fixed for two years. Almost all the successful candidates found employment as amins. It was converted into a School of Engineering in 1923.

The Orissa School of Engineering was the only an esteemed technical institutions in the province which trained candidates for the Subordinate Engineering Service. It usually provided education for 40 Civil engineering

subordinates. The number of students was increased to 57 in July 1946. There were in addition 20 students for the Industrial Diploma course. The majority of the students who completed their training found employment.<sup>18</sup>

Since the introduction of the scheme for training of war techniques, the Industrial Diploma course was held in abeyance. Accordingly, there were no students in the Industrial Diploma classes from 1943. Further to recruit men for the public works department in connection with Post War works, a scheme for the Emergency Training of Sub Oversears having short-term course was sanctioned. It worked in 1946-47.

The total number of students on the rolls in 1946-47 was 142. Of the 35 candidates presented for the Civil Engineering Subordinate Examinations in 1946-47, 23 came out successful. Twenty one candidates passed out of 27 who appeared at the emergency sub oversear examination.

An innovative expert committee was appointed in 1946-47 to suggest a course of training for the Civil, Mechanical and Public Health Engineering and financial implications of the scheme. Pending finalization of details by the expert Committee, the School was provided with furniture and other equipments worth Rs.36,855.00 in 1947.

The Orissa Medical School, Cuttack was established in 1876. It was the only institution in the province for imparting Medical education on the Western Lines. It was effectively maintained by Government and was under the control of the Medical Department. The course extended over four years. Those students who passed final examination from the institution were awarded degrees of licensed to medical practitioners.

Matriculation Examination of the Patna University or any equivalent of any other University had hitherto been the minimum standard fixed for students seeking admission into Orissa Medical School. But with a view to increasing efficiency of the esteemed institution, the standard had been raised to the passing of the I.A. or I.Sc. examination failing this, to the first division in the Matriculation or S.L.C. examination in 1937. The arrangement for teaching had also been reorganized and brought up to a higher level as recommended by the Medical Education Conference held in Delhi in 1938.

The number of students on the rolls on 31st March 1941 was 124. No fresh students was admitted into the School during the year 1946-47 owing to the gradual abolition of the School. At the end of 1946-47, there were only 16 students on the roll.

The Cuttack Weaving School was established in 1911. The following free hand drawing, design, fabric structure, dyeing preparation of yarn and yarn calculation. The control of the Schools was transferred from the Director of Public Instruction to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies in September, 1915. It may be mentioned here that fancy weaving of several descriptions was used to taught in these Schools. But it was found by experience that there was no sufficient demand for the materials turned out, and it was not profitable for the Weavers to turnout silk fancy cloth in large quantities. The Registrar, therefore, directed towards teaching the students to weave such clothes as could command a ready sale.

It was becoming more and more evident that the stationery Schools by themselves would not achieve their object in popularizing the use of fly-shuttle looms. To compass this end in view,

the system of a peripatetic agency in place of this Stationery School was considered more suitable. Hence, the Weaving Schools at Cuttack were closed on 31st January 1920.

The Industrial Section of the Mission Girl's School at Cuttack was opened in 1920. It was called shelter. It trained girls in basket making, weaving, spinning, sewing and embroidery work. In 1930, it was reported to have made satisfactory progress. But the number of students in the Shelter Industrial School began to diminish gradually.

Rai Bahadur B. C. Patnaik was the pioneer of the Orissa poor industry Cottage at Cuttack. It chiefly aimed at training students in different handicrafts using raw materials available locally. The number of students in this institute was 25 in 1936. It had got the following Sections :

1. Weaving Section, 2. Baskets, Cane and Mat Sections, 3. Toy Section, 4. Eri Section
5. Tailoring Sections, 6. Women Section

In 1936-37 fourteen students appeared in the final examination in different branches and all came out successful. In 1935 the institution made an excellence research into the process of burning bricks and the experiments made in this connection proved fruitful. In 1936-37, a new industrial institution called "The Madhusudan Village Industrial Institute" was started at Cuttack by a private association, with the financial aid of Rs.23,620.00 from Government which undertood to maintain it for first five years. There were altogether eight sections in the institute, detailed as follows.<sup>19</sup>

1. Cotton and Eri Spinning,
2. Cotton, Wool or Silk Weaving,
3. Toy making,

4. Cane and Wood work,
5. Paper making,
6. Oil Pressing,
7. Soap making,
8. Dying and printing.

The courses of study of each section covered a period of one year. The Session began in January and ended in December every year. As the number of students in the Madhusudan Village Industries began to diminish gradually, it abolished the training classes and worked as a commercial concern from 1946-47.<sup>20</sup>

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Sri Dinabandhu Dehury is a Senior Ph.D. Scholar in the P.G. Dept. of History, Utkal University, Vani Vihar, Bhubaneswar.

## Nineteenth Century Ports of Balasore

*Manas Kumar Sahoo*

Orissa, famous as ancient Kalinga, has a long maritime history and tradition, which had developed owing to its close association with Sea, stretching to a length of more than 500 kms on its Eastern front beginning from the river Ganga in the North to Godavari in the south. The glorious tradition is intimately linked with some of its religious practices and festivals. Although Orissa lost its maritime trade activities during the British period, the oriya today remember their ancient tradition by observing "*Boita Vandana Utsav*" as National Festival which reminds the glorious past. Balasore, a sea coast town of Orissa, played a significant role in maritime activities of Orissa during British period.

The wealth and opulence of the province allured the Englishmen to set up factories at Hariharpur in Jagatsingpur district.<sup>1</sup> The English were eager to trade in Bengal Subah. As W.W. Hunter remarked, "True to our natural character we settled in Orissa as merchant long before we made our appearance as rulers." One of the earliest British factories in India established at Hariharpur in Orissa was in 1633 A.D. Subsequently, other factories were established at Balasore on the river Burabalang, and Pipili on

the river Subarnarekha. "These two parts formed the basis of our future greatness in Bengal."<sup>2</sup> The British factory at Balasore developed into a thriving center of maritime trade. In 1670, among several factories in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, Balasore was the seat of their business council. The pre-eminence of Balasore as a commercial centre continued for a long time.

In the first quarter of the 19th century, Balasore and Dhamara were used by sloops and vessels for carrying rice and sale. The record of 1810, refers to port of Balasore. Vessels coming from Laccadive, Maldive Islands brought coirs, coconuts, and cowries, and took back rice and earthen pots.

As a result of which a custom house for the collection of duties in Orissa under regulation of 1810 were established in Balasore.

In 1858, a comprehensive plan was prepared by the Government of India for the regulation of Orissa ports. Balasore has a coast line of 58 miles. The New Act of 1858 declared all the ports such as Balasore, Churaman, Chhanua, Saratha, Subarnarekha and Dhamra as



a single port, that was Balasore port. The port dues were to be collected at the rate of 6 annas for every 100 pounds of cargo of any description. Amount of port dues, received as per new rate, was required to be credited to a common fund, called Balasore port fund.

### **Geographical location of ports**

**Chandbali :** The Chandbali port was established in 1872. The credit of the foundation of Chandbali port goes to captain Mat Nail, who first discovered its adaptibility for the passenger traffic. The Baitarani was within the limit of the Dhamra port, although situated at considerable distance from the sea coast. The channel of Dharma and Baitarani, as far as Chandbali, was completely marked out with buoys and beacons, with moving buoys in the midchannel at chandbali. The port was situated on a high but narrow sand bridge which stretches from the north to the south in a direction parallel to the sea coast for a distance many miles and terminated on the northern bank of the river.

**Dhamra :** The river Dhamra discharge united water of Baitarani, Brahmani and Kharasuan rivers. The Dhamra port included the navigable channel of all the rivers as far as they were affected by the tidal waters. The survey reports of 1870, placed first among navigable rivers of Orissa. The entrance to the port was marked by the Kanika buoy in twenty one feet. Tripad becon in the extreme north-east dry portion of the palmyras reefs.

**Subarnarekha :** The port of Subarnarekah consisted of a demarcated portion of Subarnarekha. It was situated 12 miles from the sea by the water route. In early times it was by far most important port in the Orissan coast. A

colony was established here by the Portugese in the beginning of the 16th century A.D.

**Saratha and Chhanua :** Saratha & Chhanua port situated fifteen miles from south-east of Subarnarekha rivers. The Saratha & Chhanua river were frequented by native river sloops, the former was navigable, one mile from the sea measuring a direct line. There was much difficulty in landing of sloops due to soft muddy banks.

**Balasore :** The most important part in Balasore district was Balasore port, it is consisted of portion of Burabalanga river fronting the town of Balaosre. The port was about three quarters of a mile in length. It was situated seven miles from the coast of direct line.

Ships from the Madras coast from the ceylone, Laccadive and maldive Iselands annually resorted to Balasore port in large number for rice trade. The Laccadive and maldive islands depended principally upon the Balasore district for their annual supply of grain. Ships of a large size anchor at the Buoy, and were loaded from cargo boats.

**Laichanpur and Churaman :** The port of Laichanpur was situated twenty three miles from the south of laichanpur. These two ports are branches of Kansbans, which bifurcated at Birupa, seven miles from the last. The northern Branch, on which the port of Laichhpur was situated, keeps the name of Kansbans, the southern on which Churnman situated called Gammai. The Balasore Collector of customs in 1820, wrote that "Churaman is considered a safe and convenient port on the coast of Orissa and carries on a sea going trade exceeding that of Balasore".

The opening of Railway in 1896 was a potent factor for the decline of maritime trade in Orissa. Because, maritime trade was shifted to railways. It went on reducing with the spend and success of Railway Network in the country. The railways competed ruthlessly with the natural and cheap facility of water of transport. The British Government was interested in the financial success of railways, which could have been done at the cost of other means of transport. So, after development of railways in Orissa, maritime trade came to an end.

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Manas Kumar Sahoo is a PG Student of AIHCA, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar

**FIRST ORIYA MAJOR GENERAL**

Brigadier Partha Mohapatra, Chief of Signals, Eastern Command, Kolkata has been promoted to the rank of Major General and posted as Addl. Director General, Integrated Headquarters in the Ministry of Defence, New Delhi. He is an alumni of Bhubaneswar Sainik School and is the first Oriya in the corps of signals in Indian Army to occupy such a coveted position.

After passing out from the National Defence Academy, Major General Mohapatra joined as a Commissioner in the Indian Army in 1971 and earned many distinguished positions. He worked as a Colonel at the Army Headquarters. His dedication and patriotism are echoed in the fact that both his sons and the daughter-in-law have joined Indian Army.

Major General Mohapatra is the son of late Mahesh Chandra Mohapatra, an eminent Oriya literateur.

# Attainment of Excellence Through Higher Education

*Dr. Jyotsnarani Kuanr*

The system of Indian higher education is the second largest in the world. It caters the educational needs of millions of students belonging to different socio – economic strata of the society and provides leadership in different walks of life. In order to achieve the basic aim of higher education, there exists a strong need to bring out the best from the individual's personality. This great purpose requires selection of appropriate courses which should always be in consonance with the interest and hidden potentialities of the students.<sup>1</sup>

It is quite obvious that students are the prime stakeholders in any system of higher education. Quality is the end product of responsiveness to their educational and professional needs and also to the need of personal development which has been the primary concern of the traditional systems of education in the country. Student aspirations and goals change in a fast changing world. That system of higher education, which is ready to honour them and shape its curricular and administrative performance accordingly is alone relevant. It can make student stakeholders partners in planning and governance rather than keeping them as docile recipient of that which is imposed on them without sensitivity to their changing needs and aspirations.<sup>2</sup>

## **Present Scenareo of Higher Education in India**

India has a massive system of higher education. At the time of independence, there were only twenty universities and 500 colleges in the country. But at present the Indian Higher Education system could be said as the second largest in the world with 8 million students, more than 3 lac teachers, 300 universities and more than 12,000 colleges affiliated to them and many Deemed Universities and Institutions of national importance. In spite of having a massive system of higher education, only 7 percent youth of the relevant age group of 17 to 24 years is receiving higher education as compared to France (50%), U.S.A (81%) and Canada (99.8%). At the same time the system has been failed to cater to the heterogeneity of the society.

Every where, higher education is faced with great challenges and difficulties related to financing, equity of conditions at access into and during the course of studies, improved staff development, skilled based training, enhancement and presentation of quality in teaching, research and service, relevance of programmes, employability of graduates, establishment of efficient co-operation agreements and equitable access to the benefits of international co-operation. At the same time higher education is being challenged by new opportunities relating to technologies that are

improving the ways in which knowledge can be produced, managed, disseminated, accessed and controlled. Equitable access to these technologies should be ensured at all levels of education systems.

Research study on the development of higher education reveals that India's position is 76 out of the 94 developing countries of the world<sup>3</sup>.

Few in India are thinking creatively about higher education. There is no field of higher education research. Those in government as well as academic leaders seem content to do the same old thing. Academic institutions and systems have become large and complex. They need good data, careful analysis and creative ideas. India has survived with an increasingly mediocre higher education system for decades. Now as India strives to compete in a globalised economy in areas that require highly trained professionals, the quality of higher education becomes increasingly important. So far, India's large educated population base and its reservoir of at least moderately well trained university graduates have permitted the country to move ahead<sup>4</sup>.

Today, there is a strong feeling that the skills of graduates don't match the needs and the expectations of the employment sector. In the developing countries, unemployable graduates pose a greater problem than unemployment itself. What are these skills, which are expected by the employers of the graduate work force? What are the skills, which describe quality education and which such an education is capable of fostering in its process?<sup>5</sup> If we do not take care of this, we will be restricting out our own youth from blossoming into great actors in the modern knowledge economy<sup>6</sup>.

Taking stock of the higher education scene in the developing countries the taskforce reported that despite vigorous steps, very few are enrolled

in educational programmes of a high quality. The rest are taught by poorly qualified, poorly motivated, poorly compensated faculty with inadequate facilities and outmoded curricular. Yet, it is this large majority which is called upon to grapple with the huge task of nation building. They are called upon to provide good governance, develop future business, build health and educational infrastructure needed for raising the standard of living and improving the quality of life and excellence. How can the ill equipped beget quality? It is therefore imperative for the developing nations to focus on the quality of education they impart<sup>7</sup>.

### **Emerging Need**

Nations are struggling to cope with the demands of quality education and a phenomenal increase in the number of students wanting to go in for higher education. Both the quality and quantity of education require better academic and physical infrastructure and greater financial resources.

Though significant progress has been made in recent years in India in information technology sector, engineering, computer science, commerce, still there is a long way to go. The world will be looking for trained persons in all basic fields with a sound knowledge base in their core discipline and with the ability to adapt to new demands.

Not only Science, Technology, Commerce and Economics, even Languages are being demanded in newer context – for business, tourism, multicultural interactions etc. The world demography is changing. To take advantage of this change, we need to produce trained persons on par with global standards<sup>8</sup>.

The quantitative improvement, however, has not resulted in simultaneous improvement in

quality. There is apparently a need now to make it more relevant and effective for achieving the national goals<sup>9</sup>.

### **Restructuring Higher Education to Attain Excellence**

The Chinese Philosopher Confucius stated that the goal of education was to produce men of quality who combined competence with virtue. Thus quality is multidimensional and through higher education it strives to develop human resources of global standards. Perceived thus, quality defines the goals and purpose of education. Quality impacts the content of higher education. Its processes, its output or product as it seeks to develop human resources with required skills, excellent in performance and capable of delivering the goods as a unit of the work force.

In a developing country like ours, the diametrically opposite demands of quality education and the increasing numbers of students demanding higher education are in conflict. This growing demand for higher education has brought to the fore the problems of access, equity and quality.

As the developing countries address themselves to the problems of access and equity, the problem of quality gets acute. An independent task force set up by UNESCO in 1998 has in its report entitled "Higher Education in developing countries, Peril and Promise", said that today higher education has become basic education demanded by the masses and can no longer be confined to a tiny elite. This is more so, in the developing world due to three factors at work here. *Firstly*, the incredible growing thirst for knowledge, *secondly* the growing importance of knowledge in society and *thirdly*, the inexorable and often cruel logic of globalisation<sup>10</sup>.

### **Suggestive Measures for Attaining Excellence**

#### **A. Teaching, Learning and Evaluation**

(i) Clarity and transparency in the process of admission and recruitment of faculty should be maintained. The most crucial factor in ensuring excellence of teaching, learning and evaluation is the quality of the faculty. If merit is the only criterion for recruitment, and no other influences are entertained, it will automatically ensure outstanding academic performance.

(ii) Faculty development programmes, such as conditions of service, participation in seminar, symposia, conferences, orientation programmes, refresher courses, publications are important in continuous updating of quality teachers. Monitoring and periodic performance appraisal including access to feedback mechanism will improve the quality of attaining excellence, objectivity and accountability of the teaching faculty.

(iii) Visible welfare measures will motivate the teachers in achieving greatest academic pursuits. So, measures should be taken into account to reduce stress and strain of the faculty members.

#### **B. Curricular Aspects**

India is a country of diverse geographical features, multi religious communities and multilingual population and a different socio-economic and cultural background. Unity in diversity is the basis of Indian society. In the current decades with much emphasis on economic development accompanied by tremendous explosion of knowledge in all spheres have led to economic differences. Always, there are regional imbalances in the country. Realizing such irregularities, the curriculum should be framed. The courses available through higher education must be consistent with goals and

objectives of the country and aspirations of the students. The changing social, educational and economic environment are important determinants of curricular options so as to meet the challenges of the present day society.

### **C. Research, Consultancy and Extension.**

Today, education and research are highly interdisciplinary. Research is diligent inquiry and careful search for new knowledge or facts through a systematic scientific and analytical approach in any branch of knowledge. It is an undisputed fact that research and economic development of any country always go hand in hand as both are interdependent on each other. In addition to teaching the prescribed curricula, under-taking research projects on various socio-economic researchable problems by teachers, has been given considerable recognition<sup>11</sup>.

Research work should be done in a large scale by providing financial support and the additional infrastructure facilities. Forward and backward linkages should be established for augmenting research and mobilizing fund. Community extension programme should be arranged in the university to develop social infrastructure and learning resources.

### **D. Infrastructure and Learning Resources**

One of the most important areas for quality improvement is the development of infrastructure and learning resources. Infrastructure should include a wide range of supporting services such as gymnasium, playgrounds, canteen, computer centre, multimedia conference hall, library and hostel etc. while conceptualizing the institution of higher education, it is important to plan not only for today but also for tomorrow. Infrastructure should be both adequate and appropriate as per the norms of the UGC/AICTE etc. Students, staff and faculty members should have access to the use of new technology including internet<sup>12</sup>.

### **E. Student Participation and Progression**

There are several hopeful trends in the course, which support the student involvement in quality enhancement. Firstly, the employers prefer institutions that have demonstrable academic quality along with value adding activities involving the students. Secondly, those students who have participated in the institutional quality processes are able to make rational career choices and thirdly the performance of such students in facing upto the job interviews and placement exhibits a higher degree of self-confidence and maturity. Therefore, it is imperative that every institution makes a conscious effort to associate students in their quality enhancement programmes<sup>13</sup>.

### **F. Organisation and Management**

An Institution / University should offer facilities for over all development of the students. Higher Education is not only in the concurrent list but also in the joint sector. The central and state government play an important role in laying down the policy and offering financial support for smooth management of the institution.

Faculty development programmes including promotion etc. are to be implemented by the government / management based on merit and without any discrimination. It is mandatory for the managing authority to strictly adhere to the University Act. Statutes, Ordinances, Regulations and Rules for healthy and efficient functioning of the colleges<sup>14</sup>.

Enhancing quality is a holistic process. The synergistic relationship among the students teachers, management, parents, public, government and the production system is essential to achieve an enduring multiplier effect on quality enhancement<sup>15</sup>.

## Conclusion

Education is a big service industry because it cultivates human mind and makes them important and useful players in the economy of a nation. On the threshold of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, global public spending on education tops on trillion US dollars. This figure represents the cost of over 50 million teachers, ten billion pupils and hundreds of thousands of educational institutions through out the world. But in recent times things are changing increasingly. Large number of nations, as a consequence of the impact of liberalization of trade, are in favour of curtailment of the role of the government. This is true in case of higher education<sup>16</sup>.

In this changed scenario, it is necessary that our planners and educational administrators must expedite the process of reforms and encourage innovation. We must replace the feudal, traditional British system of higher learning and adopt a new more dynamic educational approach that is a must for survival growth<sup>17</sup>.

The world of higher education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century can truly be a borderless world of knowledge and ideas, which will yield reciprocal benefits for all nations. There is no single simple path for reaching this new global future, but instead, multiple pathways that lead towards a world in one nest<sup>18</sup>.

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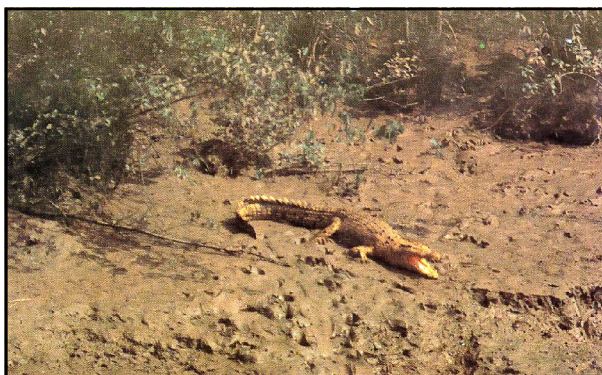
Dr. Jyotsna Rani Kuanr is working as a Senior Lecturer, Deptt. of Education, S.V.M. (Auto) College Jagatsinghpur-754103, Orissa.

## Bhitarkanika : A Unique Destination for Nature Lovers

*Prabhukalyan Mohapatra*

Bhitarkanika, a store house of nature's bounty, harbours a rich and unique bio-diversity. This unique ecosystem of Orissa is surrounded by rivers Baitarani, Brahmani, Dhamara, and is criss-crossed by several creeks-creeklets. The delta, river mouth, the sea, estuarine forest, mangroves, avifauna, reptiles, amphibians, varieties of fauna and flora are various aspects which contribute to the richness of its biological diversity.

This wonderland supports dense mangroves (63 species), largest population of estuarine crocodiles (1130 as per 2001 census) and is the home to the largest 22-23 feet long crocodiles, rare white crocodiles (locally known as Sankhua), poisonous snakes such as King cobra, Banded krait, Cobra, etc, non-poisonous snakes like Python, Rat snake etc, varieties of resident and migratory birds (217 species) and a lot of mammalian species i.e. Spotted deer, Sambar, Wild boar, Fishing cat, Jungle cat, etc. Besides, various other species of endangered mammals, birds, reptiles and other groups of animals also



inhabit the area. Bhitarkanika thus harbors an interesting assemblage of flora-fauna of both common and endangered variety which requires a conservation strategy.

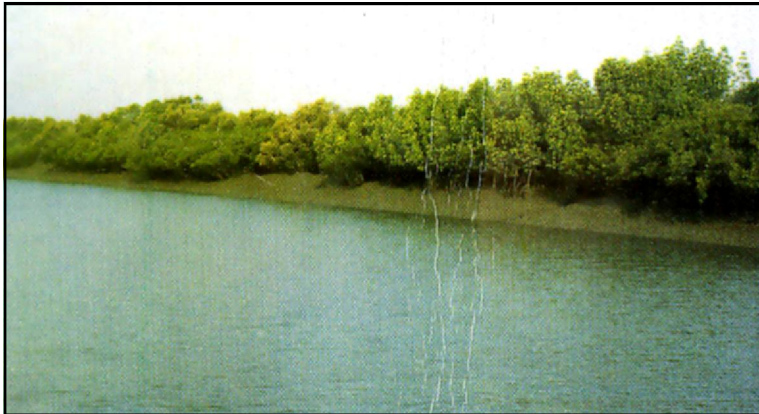
Geographically situated in Kendrapada district, Bhitarkanika forms the deltaic region of the river Brahmani and Baitarani. The sandy loam soil coast of Bhitarkanika is washed by Bay of Bengal and is subjected to tides twice a day. A veritable paradox of nature for its unique flora and fauna, Bhitarkanika is located between 20 35' and 20 47'N latitudes and 80 45' and 87 05'E longitudes to the South and East of Dhamara river.

Bhitarkanika wildlife sanctuary spreads over an area of 650 sq km of which forest cover alone is about 380sq km. The core area of Bhitarkanika stretches over 141.44sq km of which 115.5 sq km comes under mangrove forest. Encircled by the rivers Brahmani, Baitarani and 35 km seashore, this area is gifted with innumerable creeks, channels, islets which provide ecological niche for the growth and development



of mangroves. The extensive sea beach, sand bars, and sand dunes sustain rich sandy vegetation near Gahirmatha. The core area of the sanctuary extends over an area spreading from Dangamal (a village in the sanctuary) to Thakurdian river mouth.

The unique environmental and ecological parameters of this micro region in a deltaic setting forms an ideal habitat for saltwater crocodiles, migratory birds, particularly the water fowls and the visit of Olive Ridley turtles for mass nesting. In recent years Bhitarkanika has drawn worldwide attention because of the discovery of its 11 km stretch coast serving as the nesting site of sea turtle which forms the largest rookery of the turtles in the world. The area in association with a diverse variety of mangrove has brought it the status of a National Park which also shelters a saltwater crocodile sanctuary of national significance.



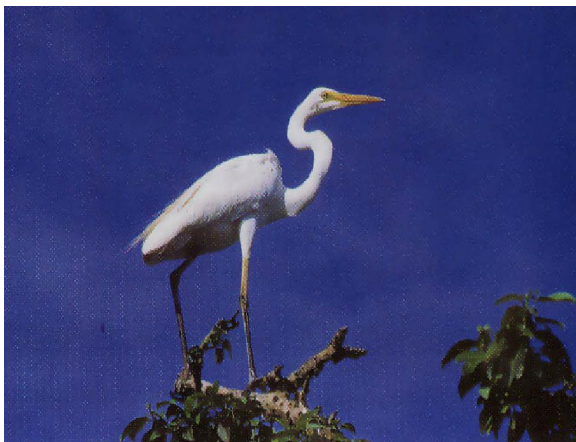
At the Dhamara mouth, the sea bed is very shallow due to extensive deposition of silt and clay from the combined discharge of Brahmani and Baitarani river. A lot of clay and silt characterise the sediment load which is very conducive to massive tidal incursions into the sea. The typical monsoonic climate with excessive humidity prevails in this area. All these factors are very helpful for the development of luxurious mangrove forests around Bhitarkanika.

In view of its rich ecosystem, Bhitarkanika has been declared as a National Park. The sea

water in the creeks and swamps form a good habitat for a wide variety of estuarine life including estuarine crocodile, for which a breeding centre has been developed at Dangamal. Bhitarkanika mangrove ecosystem is unique of its kind and is the best reptile refuge in the entire country. The mangrove of Bhitarkanika is a classic beauty with multiple types of mangrove species. But the swampy mangrove forests of Bhitarkanika and their endemic flora-fauna fights one of the continuous battles for survival against wanton vandalism of the so called civilized man.

The very location of this micro-region adjacent to a densely populated agriculturally developed deltaic tract of Mahanadi system is paradoxical. The mounting pressure of adjacent population for plundering the mangroves and reclamation of tidal mudflats for agricultural as

well as other economic uses has been a threat to its environment and ecosystem. A major portion of this beautiful mangrove forest is leased out to people migrated from Bangladesh and has been reclaimed into fertile rice fields. As gradual reclamation of land is a regular phenomenon, mangrove forest of Bhitarkanika is decreasing slowly and steadily. To save the ecosystem, the government is making sustained efforts through various projects. The most important project is restocking of the estuarine crocodile through a captive breeding programme. Another endangered species is the Olive Ridley turtle which is attracted to the beach of Bhitarkanika for



nesting in large numbers. Environmentalists are concerned for its protection too. In view of present state of environmental degradation and ecological disturbances growing concern is expressed everywhere.

The Gahirmatha sea beach bordering the sanctuary attracts thousands of Olive Ridley sea turtles for mass nesting during winter (January-April). So, numerous tourists visit Bhitarkanika during this time to have a glimpse at this rare sight and enjoy the scenic beauty of nature.

The entire Bhitarkanika region comes under the tropical monsoon climate with well marked seasons of winter, summer and rain. The maximum temperature rises to 36<sup>o</sup>c in the month of April-

May while the minimum temperature of the winter is about 15<sup>o</sup>c. The relative humidity remains between 70 to 85% throughout the year. The rainfall is around 170cm and most of it is received between June-October. Under such eco-climatic situation the weather conditions start to become pleasant after the rains (October-March) and this is the ideal time for a visit to the area.

A grand repository of wildlife, Bhitarkanika is another attraction for the ornithologists and nature lovers during winter. Migratory birds like Open billed storks, White ibis, Grey pelicans, Barheaded goose etc visit this area along with various types of resident birds such as night heron, Grey heron, cattle egrets, Cormorants, King fishers, Water fowls and Collard doves during this period.

There are some environmental regions on the Earth which needs special attention for geographic exposure considering their unique natural setting in the ecosystem. Bhitarkanika certainly enjoys a distinctive place amongst them.

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Prabhukalyan Mohapatra is a Bhubaneswar based freelance journalist, who lives at Qrs VR 3/2, Unit-3.Behind R.B.I., Bhubaneswar



*Shri Digambar Mohanty, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Inf. &P.R. felicitating Dr. Ramachandra Behera on the occasion of 49th Foundation Day of Kendrapara Autonomous College on 12.2.2007.*

## Progressive Action Against Child Labour In India

*Subrata Sarkar*

Child Labour conjures up a particular image : Children, chained to looms in dark mills and sweat shops, in a long and nightmarish running from Lanchashire of the 1830s right to the South Asia of the 1990s. In reality, children do a variety of works in widely divergent conditions, which take place along a continuum. At one end of the continuum, work is beneficial, promoting or enhancing a child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and various other ways of development without interfering with schooling, recreation and rest and at the other end it is palpably destructive or exploitative. Increasing industrialization and mechanization of agriculture lead to the destruction of the family based economy and the displacement of a large number of labourers in India during the mid- 18th and 19th century. Extreme poverty led to the entry of children into the labour market and their exploitation became common. In India, children were employed in cotton and jute mills and coal mines. Gradually, legal measures were introduced to tackle the problem and the new state wedded to the notion of social welfare assumed the responsibility of protecting the children.

### **Action Taken Before Independence**

The Indian Government adopted constitutional, statutory and developmental measures to deal with the problem of Child labour. The origin of statutory protection of the Child Worker in India can be traced back to the Indian Factories Act, 1881, which prohibited the employment of children under seven years of age and also in two separate factories on the same

day. It limited the working hours of children to nine hours a day and stipulated at least four holidays to be given in a month. However this act concerned only factories employing hundred persons or more. This act was revised in the form of Indian Factories Act, 1891, which increased the minimum age limit to nine years and hours of work were reduced to seven hours for children between 7 and 14 years and prohibited work at night between 8 p.m. 5 a.m. In 1901 the Mines Act was passed which prohibited the employment of children under 12 years of age and employment dangerous to children's health and safety. In 1911 a new factories act was passed which further reduced the working hours.

In the period between 1920 and 1930 some more progress were made in protecting children. The formation of international Labour Organization in 1919 and the establishment of All India Trade Union Congress 1920 gave an impetus to reform laws relating to the condition of labour in general and Child Labour in particular. In the Factories Act 1922 the scope of factory was extended to cover any premise where 20 or more persons were employed and mechanized power was used and local governments which empowered to extend provisions to any premise where 10 or more persons were employed. It defined the child as a person who had not completed 15 years of age, reduced the working hours for children to six and necessitated the granting of half an hour interval for more than five and half hours of work. Children

were required by this act to have medical certificate along with a certificate of re-examination for continuing work. The Indian Mines Act 1923 raised the minimum age for employment from 12 to 13 years in mines. The Indian ports (Amendment) Act 1931 prescribed the age for employment of children in handling the goods as 12 years.

In the period between 1931 and 1949 more concrete efforts were made to deal with Child Labour. The stage was set with the publication of the report of the Royal Commission for labour, which recommended extensive reforms. The Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act 1932 was passed to check the migration of labour to the tea cultivation districts. In 1933, the Children (pledging of Labour) Act was passed which prohibited the pledging of a child for the purpose of getting certain work done. The Factories Act of 1934 evolved elaborate provisions regularizing employment in respect of various age groups working in factories.

The ILO in 1937 adopted a convention fixing the minimum age where children were to be employed in certain occupations. The employment of Children Act 1938 was passed to implement this convention. It prohibited the employment of children under 15 in hazardous occupations like railways and ports. It also dealt with employment in industrial establishments not covered by the Factories Act. Though, the 1938 Act banned Child Labour in hazardous industries, it made an exception in favour of family labour.

The main purpose of the elimination of the evil of Child Labour could not be achieved in the preindependence era, one of the main reasons being as pointed out by a labour investigating committee being the inadequacy of the inspecting staff to enforce the provisions of law.

### **Post Independence Phase**

The factories Act 1948 prohibited the employment of children by setting the limit of the

completion of fourteen year as the minimum age for working in any factory. The minimum Wages Act passed in 1948 defined child as a person who has not completed his 15th Year. However, this definition did not have any particular significance since the Act did not contain any important regulatory or prohibitory provision applicable only to Child Labour except that it provides for fixing or revising minimum rates of wages for adults, adolescents, children and apprentices. The Plantation Labour Act, 1951 prohibited children below 12 years from working in any plantation. The Shipping Act 1951 prohibited a person under 15 years of age from working in any capacity in any ship. The Mines Act 1952 prohibited the employment of children under 15 in mines. In 1954, the Factories Act was again amended to prohibit the employment of adolescents under the age of 17 years at night. In 1961, the Motor Transport Workers Act was passed to prohibit the employment of adolescents under the age of 15 in motor transport. In 1966, the Beedi and Cigar workers (Conditions of Employment) Act was passed which prohibited the employment of children under 14 in any industrial premise manufacturing beedies or cigars.

In 1978, the Employment of Children act 1938 was further amended so as to extend the prohibition of employment of a child below 15 years in railway premises such as cinder-picking or clearing of an ash-pit or building operation in catering establishments at a railway station or in occupations relating to construction of a railway station or any other work done in close proximity to or between the railway lines. These occupations were not covered before 1978.

### **Committees, Commissions and Boards**

In 1968, a National Commission on Labour Welfare was instituted which observed that Child Labour was an economic problem and its practice amounted to a denial or opportunity to children for their proper physical development and education and recommended combination of

work with education and flexible employment hours which would not inhibit education.

A National Children's Board was established in 1975, with the Prime Minister as its President to create greater public awareness towards the need of children and to plan and review periodically the progress made in protecting and promoting the welfare of children, including working children. In 1976, the Government set up a one man commission headed by Harbans Singh which was of the view that banning Child Labour would not necessarily result in the stoppage of work by children altogether. The report suggests that working hours should be reduced, wages increased coupled with incentive for production.

### **Ministry of Labour**

The Ministry of Labour appointed a 16 - member Committee under the chairmanship of M.S. Gurupadaswamy in 1979 to investigate the causes leading to Child Labour and examine the problems arising out of the employment of children. The committee noted that existing situation in respect of Child Labour in India can still be summarized as one of continuing drift. The regulation by law of employment, children covers only fringe of these occupations and ironically even where regulation has been sought, the enforcement is extremely half-hearted and tardy. In pursuance of one of the recommendations of the committee on Child Labour, the Central Advisory Board on Child Labour was set up in March 1981 to review the progress of welfare measures for working children, recommended industries and areas where there must be progressive elimination of Child Labour. It was reconstituted in 1987 under the chairmanship of the ministry of labour to render advice on the problems of Child Labour.

### **Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986**

The Child Labour (Prohibition and regulation) Bill was introduced and passed in both

houses of Parliament in August 1986 with a view to prohibiting the employment of children in certain areas.

The act seeks to achieve the following objects:

- Ban the employment of children, i.e. those who have not completed their fourteenth year in specified occupations and processes.
- Lay down a procedure to decide modifications to the schedule of banned occupations and processes.
- Regulate the conditions of work of children engaged in forms of employment in which they are permitted to work.
- Prescribed enhanced penalties for employment of children in violation of the provisions of the acts that forbid the employment of children.
- Establish uniformity in the definition of child in laws concerning them.

### **National Programme of Action and Policy Against Child Labour**

The national policy on Child Labour was approved by the cabinet on 14th August 1997, during the seventh plan period. The action plan of this policy has been set out under the following headings.

1. Legislative Action Plan
2. Focussing on general development programs for benefiting child labour wherever possible.
3. Project-based plan of action in areas of high concentration of child labour engaged in wage and quasi wage employment

### **Accordingly, projects were started in areas of high concentration of Child Labour.**

- Match, fireworks and explosives industry in Sivakasi in Virudhanagar district in Tamil Nadu

- Precious stone polishing industry in Jaipur in Rajasthan
- Glass and bangles industry in Ferozabad, U.P.
- Brassware industry in Mirzapur, Varanasi Bhadoi U.P.
- Lock making industry in Aligarh in U.P.
- Tile industry in Jagampet in Andhra Pradesh.
- Slate industry in Markkapur in Andhra Pradesh.
- Slate industry in Mandswar in Andhra Pradesh.

**The National Child Labour projects had the following components -**

- Imparting non-formal education to enable the children released from work to receive functional literacy and acquire a level of equivalence with corresponding grade and level in the formal system.
- Supplementary nutrition through midday meals.
- Income and employment generation through impartation of skills
- Stepping up enforcement of Child Labour laws.

**Task Force on Child-Labour**

A task force on child labour was instituted on the recommendation of the Central Advisory Board on Child Labour under the Chairmanship of Dr.L.M. Singhvi to recommend the institutions and mechanisms necessary for implementing the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 and legal action plan contained in the NCLP. The task force made 11 general recommendations. Chief among them are

- Highest priority must be accorded to the child. To accomplish this there should be a joint committee of the houses of the parliament and similar committees in state legislatures to represent the un-represented constituency of the child.

- There should be a single ministry or department for child welfare at the centre and states in order to reduce the existing multiplicity of authorities.

- There should be a statutory system of Child Labour Ombudsman or Child Labour Commission entrusted with the task of investigation, resolution of grievances and disputes and giving authoritative directions to employers and others.

- A child code including within its scope a child labour code, must be formulated.

The task force also made the following recommendations with respect to the act of 1986

- A timetable with mandatory outer limits for act to come into force should be provided in the act.

- A uniform definition of child with reference to age is useful.

- An enabling provision should be enacted to to Section 3 of the 1986 Act to check malpractices employed in the exploitation of Child Labour under the guise of an occupier carrying a process with the aid of his family or children producing goods in schools receiving assistance or recognition from overnment.

- Maximun permissible punishment should be increased to simple imprisonment up to 3 months and the maximum permissible fine, which may be imposed, should be increased to Rs. One lakh.

With respect to the national policy and action plan the task force recommended that a white paper should be published explaining the historical background, analyzing the present situation giving reliable statistical and other data and projecting its own perceptions and policies in terms of targets, allocations and types of programmes and other activities it has envisaged.

On 15th August 1994, the former Prime Minister Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao made a call to



eliminate Child Labour in hazardous employments by the year 2000 A.D. Following the call made by the Prime Minister the national authority for elimination of Child Labour headed by the Union Labour Minister was constituted on 26th September 1994 and Rs.850 crore have been earmarked for schemes to eliminate Child Labour in hazardous employments. The programme is some what unrealistic as it hopes to cover 2 million children in 5 years. The programme has made little headway because of a resource crunch and an ongoing tussle between the ministries of labour and human resource development over the issue of setting up special schools.

### **Supreme Court Order on Child Labour**

To check the exploitation of Child Labour in hazardous industries, the Supreme Court on December 10, 1996 directed that all offending employers must pay a compensation of Rs.20,000/- for every such child, under the provisions of Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986. The court order indentified nine major industries as hazardous. Acknowledging that poverty was the main cause of Child Labour, the court said that unless an alternative source of income was assured to the family, the question of abolition of Child Labour will really remain a "will - of - the wisp". The court directed the states to conduct a survey on Child Labour which was to be completed within six months. The secretary to the ministry of labour, Government of India was required to apprise the court within one year about the compliance of directions. The court has held labour inspectors responsible for ensuring that children withdrawn from hazardous industries are provided proper education.

### **Conclusion and Police Implications**

The magnitude of the problem of Child Labour in India with regard to all industries, occupations and processes is very large. Special attention is being devoted to industries,

occupations and process where employment of children is hazardous to their very safety. We have been able to cover about 1.05 lakh children under the umbrella of seventy six projects and 1800 special schools and need approximately 300 projects to cover 2 million children who need to be urgently released from hazardous occupations/processes and rehabilitated through a multi pronged and composite approach encompassing education for functional literacy, midday meal for supplementary nutrition, arrangements for regular health check-ups and vocational skill training for economic empowerment. These projects in their entirety were to be implemented over six years and would have entailed a financial commitment of Rs.2197.05 crore i.e. at Rs.376 per child per annum. Since resources of this magnitude were unavailable the expenditure finance committee in its meeting held on 25th June 1998 has only approved the continuance of the Seventy-six projects and 1800 schools during the 9th Plan Period which means we will not even be able to touch the fringe of this massive problem.

The share of the Child Population has increased from a stable level of about 38% during 1911-1951 to almost 42% in 1971. It declined in 1981 and has further gone down to about 36% in 1991. The decline when examined in the State has a distinct bimodal pattern. The absolute size of the child population peaked in Kerala in 1981 and in Tamil Nadu in 1991. One expects that Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Gujarat could experience a peak in the absolute size of Child Polulation between 1996-2001 A.D. In contrast Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and UttarPradesh still have a long way to go.

Expansion of primary and middle school education in India between 1961 and 1991 has been impressive. Growth has been somewhat faster than the growth of Child Population in the primary section. The gender gap in literacy and in

primary schooling has declined on an all India basis. The major states have a clear bimodal distribution in the declining gender gap as well. States like Kerala has virtually eliminated the gap. Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Panjab have been reducing the gender gap successfully and still have some distance to go in reaching Kerala levels. The worst performers in gender gap reduction are Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.

A much larger socio-economically deprived subset of Child Population in India consists of children who are neither in the work - force nor in the education system (nowhere children). The number of nowhere children in India continued to grow from 89.5 million in 1981 to 97.7 million in 1991.

The educational needs of the growing Child Population (5-14 years) have been addressed by the expansion of primary and middle school enrolments. The gap between the Child Population and the children enrolled in schools increased between 1951 and 1961, and remained stable between 1961 to 1971 and also 1971 to 1981. Estimates for 1991 show a decline. However the number of children who are neither in school nor in the labour force (nowhere children) is still very large- 74 million in 1991.

There has been an obvious shift from children working on their own farms to children working as hired labour. The impression that the problem is solved in the agricultural sector and is now concentrated in manufacturing and trade and commerce is erroneous. There has been an increase in the employment of male and female child agricultural labour as well as child workers in manufacturing and trade and commerce. The major part of NGO efforts and international concerns about the employment of children concentrates on non-agricultural sectors. However, the contrast with agricultural labour

groups in terms of sheer numbers should be kept in mind. In absolute size in 1991 the number of full time child agricultural labourers was 3.1 million and those in manufacturing activity (rural and urban) was approximately 0.5 million. The number in trade and commerce has more than doubled over the 30 year period and stands at approximately 0.3 million in 1991.

The increasing number of female child workers since 1971 rose in absolute terms from 2.8 million to 3.5 million - is a cause of concern. Over 80% of these girls are still caught in the agricultural sectors mostly as full time agricultural labourers. Ignoring their plight is socially inappropriate and an economic disaster because of its implications for the pace of demographic transition.

The employment of child workers in urban India is growing much faster than in rural India. The proportion of urban child workers increased from 5.5% of the total child labour population in 1961 to 10% in 1991. Four sectors which need to be targeted in the elimination of child labour are manufacturing, transport, storage and communication but wage based agriculture in rural and urban India must not be ignored.

The proportion of population below poverty line is positively associated with the incidence of child labour with the correlation (0.41) for male child workers and some what weaker correlation (0.23) for female child workers. The most important negative correlation between the incidence of male child labour is with the middle school enrolment ratio suggesting that the higher the enrollment in middle schools the lower the incidence of male child labour.

The most important negative correlation of the incidence of child labour was the proportion of females in the nonagricultural labour force which was - 0.40 for male child workers in 1991. This suggests that the greater the participation of women in the non-agricultural labour force the lower will be the incidence of child labour.



The diversity in the pace and pattern of child labour use, its growth and subsequent decline which has been observed in Europe historically and now in East and South-east Asia can be seen in the different states and regions of India as well. The main determinants of the growth of child labour both from the demand and supply sides are in the nature of "Vicious Spiral" while factors affecting its decline are in the nature of a "Virtuous Spiral". Three main mutually reinforcing "drivers leading to these outcomes are, we believe, demographic factors, technology and public policy.

The difference in quality of primary and middle school education observed across states originating from different state public policies is strongly related to the existence of labour. Overall, for India as a whole, expansion of schooling facilities has just been able to cater to the growth of the child population without a major reduction in the use of child labour.

If child labour is to be successfully eliminated, getting "nowhere children" in to schools and attempting to retain a much larger proportion of children from primary to middle school stage should be important planks of the strategy. This also implies the need to conform to the constitutional guarantee provided in 1950 for education for all children up to the age of fourteen.

Hence, the need for a rational social choice in devising child focused strategies is self evident. In a federal polity with education as a state as well as central subject, an uneven pace and pattern of demographic and economic transition and without a concerted national effort, migration and child labour will continue.

International and national pressures to deal with industrial child labour in isolation, apart from questions of ethics have little chance of success as long as large pool of potential child labour persists. Short cuts and quick fixes would be wasteful in resources and time. Economic and demographic transition, as shown by Kerala,

Punjab, Himchal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and the countries of East Asia, can be compressed within a couple of decades if appropriate public policies are pursued consistently.

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Subrata Sarkar is a Research Fellow, Department of Political Science, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar and lives at Palitpara, Cuttack - 753002.

# Newspaper Libraries in Orissa

*R.K.Mahapatra*

Libraries stand as vital sources of information and as invaluable adjunct to the print media, i.e. Press. The effectiveness of the press largely depends upon the efficient and well organized library services. Just as, the effectiveness of a corporate body's business mostly depends upon the right information at a right point of time from a system for its decision making; similarly, the successful functioning of the press largely relies upon information and how well it is organised and efficiently disseminated in its library. Deficiency in right information to the right media person at the right time may, therefore, lead to severe loss to the quality of news generation.

Library is considered as the memory of the newspaper and consequently, the memory of the community it serves. The services it provides to the journalists directly is the services it renders to the whole newspaper user community. From this, the magnitude of the library's place in the press can be easily presumed. The well organised news library of a daily newspaper undoubtedly plays a crucial role in the production of news. Ward, Hansen and Mclead (1988, p.146), therefore, have rightly said that, the library is the path that reporters and editors routinely take as they conceptualize, develop, write, and edit the day's news. It is thus an acknowledged fact that good library is the source of a good newspaper, and the journalists keenly using the library can enrich

themselves and can effectively serve the media for a better society. The paper discusses the role of libraries in newspaper organisations in the state of Orissa

## **Need for Libraries in Newspaper Organisations**

With the rapid growth of newspaper industry in Orissa, the information requirements of the journalists as well as the concerned newspaper organisations have witnessed a spectacular change. Because, the production of news primarily depends upon the first hand events moulded by circumstantial information.

A news item is made more colourful and relevant with the background information provided by libraries. Lou Thomas has, therefore, identifies three vital advantages of establishing libraries within the newspaper organisations: (1) centralisation of resources; (2) access to both traditional and the new information skills of libraries and (3) provision of background information for news stories, accuracy in reporting and editing, saving time for reporters and editors, and recycling of information the newspaper has paid to acquire (ibid). Hence it is argued that the news library attached to the newspaper is increasingly significant not only in the production of news but also building appropriate information infrastructure for the journalism and mass communication.

The establishment of libraries within the newspaper establishments can be attributed to the following factors:

- i) Information dependent newspapers;
- ii) Journalists without having professional qualification and formal training depend more on reference sources;
- iii) Competition among the local newspapers to match forward; and
- iv) Libraries as necessary ingredients rather than a mere formality.

When a publisher decides to set up a newspaper organisation. He initially projects the existence of a library. Although, library does not immediately grow with the purchase of machinery or printing of newspapers within the organisation, its necessity came as spontaneous one when the quality and contents of news are required. The owner as well as editor of the newspaper usually decides to start a library. After the smooth start of the newspaper, the information requirement of the newspaper began to grow and arrangement for a library starts activated. However, the place of the library in all newspaper organisation's is increasingly felt and the necessity is turned into a reality that ultimately helps to shape into a library, be it small or large.

Libraries attached to newspaper organisations in Orissa range from small to mediocre in respect to their size, staff and services. Most of the newspapers are small whose circulation does not exceed more than one lakh (except four newspapers). The smallness size of the newspaper and the proprietorship being privately managed, there is a tendency not to build a large library. Even if, there are news paper establishments who do not have library of their own, libraries are managed by single person in which most of the librarians are not professionals. In certain cases, journalists themselves manage

the library within a small compact room. However, the availability of library and its services help the journalists to use the information they need.

### **Collection Development**

News libraries perform the functions more of reference library than that of any other usual libraries. The collection of those libraries are mostly confined to reference sources that primarily suffice the information needs of the journalists. However, a good collection of reference materials in journalism and mass communication begins with a foundation based on the acquisition of the standard reference sources usually found in any good general reference section in an undergraduate or graduate library. Only those specialized reference sources that are available are added to the collection. (Block; 1984; p.53). These may include directories, bibliographies, directories, encyclopedias, guide literature, etc.

Another vital factor that contributes to a good collection development is journalists' aptitude towards wider area of knowledge for which information concerning to these subject areas are collected. To develop an understanding and appreciation of other traditional subjects as well as some new emerging subjects, the libraries used to acquire information sources in economics, history, politics, anthropology, sociology, forestry, environmental science, computer, etc.

Although secondary documents appear to be of paramount importance to journalists to keep abreast with the latest development in their respective subject interest, these do not have their places in the news libraries in Orissa. Indexes, abstracts, and databases are not normally found in these libraries. Even the basic and useful professional journals in journalism and mass communication are not subscribed in these libraries except few popular magazines which are subscribed to make them aware of the current events. The largest collection of the news libraries

is the newspapers of all kinds which are essential to the journalists as well as the organisation. However, some text books on communication, journalism, mass media, advertisement, publication, radio and the television broadcasting, photography and the photo journalism and information science are found in these libraries for the reference of journalists.

### **Users**

Users from news libraries range from the Chief Editor to the rural correspondents. Editorial staff used to consult the information sources to check the facts, refer press clippings of particular events or issues and verify the essential documents to ensure the correctness of the editorial comment. The middle level journalists use most of the library resources. A lion share of information sources are actually being handled and exploited by them. One of the vital factors which has impressed us enormously is the dexterity with which the editors and journalists sort through the incoming materials, swiftly disseminating between the disposable and the worthwhile (Harris, Nicholas, Erbach; 1987, p.77)

Newspapers are generally considered as authoritative sources and any wrong or unchecked fact (s) or misleading information reflected on the newspaper may damage the reputation of the concerned newspaper organisation. To cope up with the task of citing correct and the latest information, it is the editorial staff to quickly verify the entire facts for complete and accurate news item or an article.

### **Library Services**

Libraries belonging to the newspaper organisation serve a limited clientele and are usually confined to the in-house editorial staff. The services to which the said libraries provide are primarily confined to reference or referral. From organisation point of view, data processing is done manually. The application of information

technology is yet to spread its influence on these libraries. Normally, processing of library collection remains confined within the framework of classification and cataloguing only. Even in most of the libraries, these processing work have not been done.

These libraries generally provide information more on 'fact checking' type of information spelling, dates, bibliographical information and background information as a part of their reference services. However, the news librarians used to provide potential information sources, identifying information from other source libraries in the locality. Journalists frequently visit other libraries near vicinity to refer various newspapers subscribed by them so as to keep themselves abreast of the day-to-day events.

Newspaper cutting collection popularly known as press clippings appears to be the heart of these news libraries' total collection and press clippings service assumes greater importance than any other services in the newspaper libraries. The cutting system offers two distinct advantages Harris, Nicholas, Erbach; 1986; p.391).

- i) Its subject, scope and retrieval facilities can effectively be tuned to the specific needs of users.
- ii) It offers very direct, and usually speedy access to the document replica.

Librarians of newspapers libraries maintain individual cutting files on subjects of interest which are frequently used by the journalists.

### **Role of the Librarian**

Role of the newspaper librarian is not only amazingly important, but also much crucial for the concerned newspaper organisation. But it is surprising to note that newspaper librarianship in Orissa is yet to gain proper recognition. The existing newspaper library scenario in Orissa is in a state of doldrums. In most of the libraries, either

one journalist is asked to look after the library or a non professional is entrusted the job of the library. In this critical situation, the library and its services are ignored considerably.

A librarian usually acts as an intermediary between the journalists and the formal sources of information. Because, a newspaper is often considered as an information system. Out of the vast information generated in the newspaper, it is the librarian who goes through the different news items, scrutinize them, classify them, and prioritize the process of the specific items for retrieval. The newspaper librarian, therefore, gets involved not only in the mere dissemination of the information but also in providing a logical explanation and the contents of information retrieved. Stimulating search to answer the various information privations of the working journalists is probably carries out to a far greater degree than is generally recognised by librarians who tend to formalize requests and expect inquiries to be refined to a manageable level of specificity op.cit.p.78)

It is the proprietor and the editor of the concerned newspaper to realise the importance of the library and essence of recruiting a professional librarian in a newspaper organization. Unless and otherwise a good library is developed, the information flow to the journalists cannot be properly achieved and the quality of the news items will remain disinteresting.

### Conclusion

Libraries are essentially good inputs for the news generation. While preparing a news item the journalists need background information to make their news interesting and readable. It is only the libraries attached to those newspaper organisations can provide such type of information. Besides, newspaper libraries render a lot of information support to make the news production qualitative. Users group of newspaper

libraries range from the Editor to the rural reporter who can make proper use of the library in process of their news preparation. Collection development of those libraries should be mainly in reference in nature so that it helps to build the good collection for reference purposes. The newspaper library being a specialised library the foremost service is the newspaper clipping service. All other library services are to be practised by the professional librarian. The role of the professional librarian is significant since one is to organise a good library and provide appropriate information services needed by the working journalists. But the situation in Orissa is different as the newspaper proprietors do not consider this aspect of selecting a professional librarian for the library. Unless the library is improved, the newspaper may fail to produce quality news. Hence, a library is an essential part of the newspaper establishment, such that will

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R.K. Mahapatra is a Librarian, N.K.C. Centre for Development Studies, (ICSSR Institute), Bhubaneswar.

# Field Diagnosis and Management of Banana Bunchy Top Disease

*Nirakar Ranasingh*

Among the most destructive diseases of banana, Banana Bunchy Top Disease (BBTD) is one of them. Once the disease is established, it is very difficult to control or manage. There are no accurate estimates of international economic impact of the disease but the disease is widespread in Asia and the south pacific regions. Two disease outbreaks have been taken place, one in Australia in 1920 and second in Pakistan during 1990-92, which has caused severe losses. Banana bunchy top disease is caused by banana bunchy top virus (BBTV) that belongs to nano virus group. BBTV is a small virus of size 20-22 nm in diameter, consisting of SSDNA with the relative molecular mass of  $2.0 \times 10^6$  and a coat protein sub-unit with relative molecular mass of 2,000 dalton. The disease is distributed in South-east Asia, Philippines. Transporting planting material obtained from infected plants spreads the virus from place to place and aphid spreads from plant to plant. There is no cure of the disease. They are reservoirs of the virus, they must be destroyed. BBTD is a threat to banana industry and to the productivity of banana plantings.

## **Field Diagnosis of BBTV Based on Symptoms**

Initially there is development of dark green streaks in the veins of lower portion of the leaf

midrib, petiole base and on pseudostem. The symptom is some time referred to as 'Morse code streaking' because the streaks are irregular and resemble a series of 'dots' and 'dashes'. Rubbing away the waxy white coating that covers the petiole base of midrib makes it easier to see the streaking, the dark green, hook like extensions of the leaf lamina veins can also be seen in the narrow, light - green zone between the midrib and the lamina. These are known as 'Green J-hooks'. The short hooks point down along the midrib toward the petiole and can be seen by back lighting the leaf against the sky or sun.

On mature plants infected with BBTV, new leaves emerge with difficulty, look narrower than normal with wavy margin and some times have yellow leaf margins. Finally they appear to be 'bunched' at the top of the plant, the peculiar symptom for which this disease is named. Severely infected banana plants usually do not bear fruits, but if fruit is produced, the banana hands and fingers are distorted, stunted, twisted or otherwise deformed and of little use.

The suckers that develop after a 'mother' plant has been infected with BBTV are usually severely stunted, with leaves that do not expand normally and remain bunched at the top of the pseudostem. These leaves are stiff and erect,

shorter and narrower than normal leaves, and havoc chlorotic edges. Suckers with these symptoms do not produce fruits. Therefore the disease can result in a 100% yield loss.

### **Development and Spread of Disease**

Banana bunchy top virus spreads by the banana aphid, *Pentolonia nigronervosa* that acquires the virus after at least 4 - 18 hr of feeding on an infected plant. The aphid can retain the virus through its adult life, for a period of 15 - 20 days. During this time, the aphid can transmit the virus to a healthy banana plant by feeding on it, possibly for as little as 15 minutes, but more typically for about two hr. No other aphid is known to transmit the virus. BBTV does not replicate in aphid vector and probably retained when the vector moults, but not transmitted congenitally to the progeny of vector. This transmission of virus by aphid is responsible of short movement of disease.

Environmental conditions and aphid reproduction capacity are very important factors in disease development. Aphid requires hot and humid climate of better transmission. Reproduction is more during the said climate. Adverse conditions affect the aphid activities. Predominantly a vegetatively propagated crop, makes spread of disease by the use of infected planting material including micro-propagated plants is a constant risk. The virus perpetuate through the infected suckers and thus responsible for long distance movement of disease.

### **Management Practices**

The following conventional and non-conventional strategies can be adopted to manage the BBTD.

### **Quarantine Measures:**

With the availability of a range of sensitive and specific methods for BBTV diagnosis and detection and the advantage of in-vitro

propagated bananas, now it is possible to provide large quantities of virus tested banana germplasm and planting material. With the adoption of the said material, the risk of introducing BBTV into new areas should greatly be reduced. The international Network for the improvement of Bananas and Plantains (INIBAP) has established a 'transit center' at Leuven in Belgium that maintains an extensive in-vitro collection of Musa germplasm from 7 which virus tested banana and plantain cultivars can be obtained.

### **Cultural Practices:**

For BBTD management, it carries both the responsibilities of virus and aphid management. Cultural practices like regular inspection, rouging and digging play an adequate role in minimizing the disease. Early and efficient detection and eradication are the elements of this strategy and require knowledge and ability to diagnose BBTD from early symptoms. Destruction of weeds and alternate hosts, creation of banana free buffer zone around banana farm and adoption of diversified agriculture are other important BBTV reducing factors. Spread of disease could not occur if infected plants could be located and destroyed in the symptom less stage of within a short time of symptoms being displayed. An isolation distance of 100-200 m between any new bananas planting is very beneficial to control BBTD. Removal of diseased banana plants and replant with virus free banana plants leads to effective management strategy. Cultural practices also play a very important role in aphid management. Destruction of wild or unattended patches of bananas is must to control aphids. A large population of banana aphids can grow on them and the wild patches when infected can serve as a serious and constant source of diseases for farms and residential neighborhoods. Maintenance of good weed control in the banana patches can help in aphid

control. Some weeds may host the banana aphid or other banana pests. Aphids prefer to feed on young banana suckers so the banana mats should be pruned of all unwanted suckers.

#### **Eradication:**

Eradication is being done by digging and burning of diseased plants and suckers in the field. The herbicide picloram (Keipin formulation) effectively eradicate diseased banana with no detrimental effects to adjacent plants. This technique, coupled with a routine monitoring programme, promises to be an effectively method for reduction of BBTD. The formulation allows for precise placement of the herbicide with no noticeable effects on adjacent vegetation. It permits selective eradication within a plantation, which can be rapidly followed by plant treatment.

#### **Biological Control:**

Biological control may be used to suppress aphid population in some situation. Ladybird beetle (*Coccinella septempunctata*) has predatory potentialities on banana aphid, *Pentalonia nigronervosa*. Introduction of aphid parasitoids as bioagents leads to a good aphid control. Introduction of the polyphagous parasitoid (*Aphidius colemani*) can be used to control

banana aphids. Frequent use of insecticide spray can have a negative, detrimental effect upon aphid predators and parasites. Ants should be controlled as they aggressively protect the aphids from their natural enemies and they feed upon the sweet honeydew that aphids produce. Boric acid baits can be used for ant control.

#### **Resistant Cultivars:**

Resistance cultivars to BBTV would be most effective means of disease management. Unfortunately, there are no known commercial cultivars of banana that are immune to BBTV. Transgenic virus resistance, based on virus-derived transgenic, is a good strategy for controlling viruses.

#### **Chemical Control:**

Treating the suckers at the time of planting with malathion @ 0.2% and mancozeb @ 0.3% may reduce the pest attack and Spray the crop with power kerosene or malathion in the affected pseudostem and apex of the plant around the central leaf at 60 and 90 days after planting.

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Nirakar Ranasingh is a Specialist in Plant Protection, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Rayagada, Gunupur, Orissa



*Smt. Anita Agnihotri, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Textile & Handloom Department briefing the press on National Handloom Expo-2007 on 9.1.2007*



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## Prelude.....



*The concept of Panchayati Raj system dates back to early part of human civilisation. People forming a group were mitigating all problems through mutual consultation and agreement. During Rig-Vedic period 'Grama' was formed by a number of families. The popular bodies of this grama were called as 'Sabha' and 'Samities'. The presiding officer of this body was known as 'Sabhapati' and its members as 'Sabhasad'. Common problems were addressed properly through these sabha and samities. The autonomy of village community has vividly been described in the 'Arthasastra' of Kautilya. In the post-independence era the idea of a rural local self-government was revived in India. Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the Nation was an exponent of the revival of village panchayats. In Orissa, the democratic decentralization through devolution of power was vigourously pursued by the former Chief Minister, Biju Patnaik. In restructuring the districts of Orissa, empowering women under three-tier Panchayati Raj system and transferring the basic delivery mechanism into the hands of the people, Biju Patnaik played a pioneering role in the whole country. On the auspicious occasion of Panchayati Raj Day, Orissa Review pays humble tribute to this legendary leader.*

*The process of Panchayati Raj election has recently been completed in Orissa. Institutions at the grass roots now have people's representatives. This signals the strengthening of the Panchayati Raj system in our state. Initiatives of rural development will certainly be more targeted keeping the local needs and aspirations in view. People living in rural areas will participate in the process of development in a pro-active manner. Many changes on account of uniform development process are in the offing. Orissa Review in its present issue has tried to present the concept of Panchayati Raj and its implementation in Orissa by the peoples representatives in a succinct form. We hope esteemed readers of Orissa Review may find it interesting and useful.*

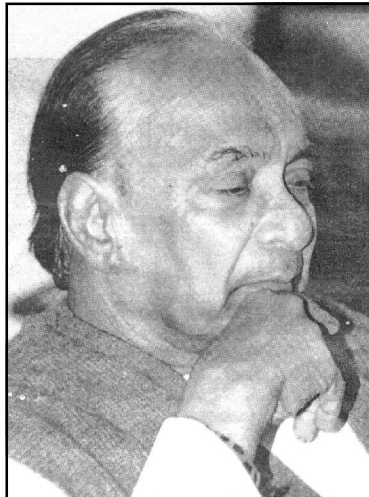
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DM' followed by a flourish.

(Digambar Mohanty)  
Commissioner-Cum-Secretary

## Biju Patnaik : His Vision of Panchayati Raj

*Dr. Shridhar Charan Sahoo*

Biju Patnaik, our late and beloved Chief Minister, was not a political scientist or an armchair theorist on the Panchayati Raj System. He has not left behind any systematic theory of democratic decentralization of power and responsibility to build up democracy at the grassroots level. However, he had a vision of his own on the Panchayati Raj System and rural development. As it were, he had deep faith in the power of the people and great confidence in their ability to participate in the process of governance and in the process of development at the grassroots level. In many respects, he was far-sighted in his thinking so far as Panchayati Raj System or rural development was concerned. His conceptualization of Panchayat industries in 1960s during his first spell of Chief Ministership is a brilliant epitome of his dynamism and vision. In respect of his decision to reserve 1/3rd of seats for women in Panchayat Raj institutions during his second spell of Chief Ministership in 1990s, he emerged as a pioneer in India. His message in this regard was implemented in the 73rd Constitution Amendment Act of 1992. Here, an attempt has been made to give some shape to his ideas and vision and systematize them. To understand and appreciate



Biju's vision of Panchayati Raj, a bird's eye-view of relevant dimensions of Panchayati Raj System in India and Orissa appears necessary.

The institution of Panchayati Raj has been designed as a systematic scheme for the devolution of power to the lower rungs of administration. Such democratic decentralization of power and responsibility was to build up democracy from the grassroots. The Balwantray Mehta Committee Report (1957) provided the genesis for the three-tier system of Panchayati Raj (Gram Panchayat in Village level, Panchayat Samiti in Block level and Zilla Parishad in district level). For the first time, it provided for an integrated approach to rural development.<sup>1</sup>

However, the institution of Panchayati Raj is nothing new so far as our country is concerned. There were Panchayati Raj laws in many parts of India. But unfortunately, the functioning of those institutions remained far from satisfactory. Often they stood superceded. Mahatma Gandhi, a great votary of the Panchayati Raj institutions treated villages as units of his visualized polity. Art. 40 of the Constitution vibrated this Gandhian spirit when it said, "the State shall take steps to organize village

panchayats and endow them with necessary authority to function as units of self-government."

Hardly any attention was paid to actualize the spirit behind Article 40 until Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi took some serious interest and initiative to bring forward a constitutional amendment. Even though the proposed amendment of Rajiv Gandhi could not be made during his regime it became a reality during Narsimha Rao's regime. In this connection, the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act 1992 and the Constitution (74th Amendment) Act, 1992 are remarkable milestones in the evolution of local self-government institutions in India. Whereas the 73rd Amendment Act gave constitutional recognition and protection to the Panchayats, the 74th Amendment Act accorded this recognition to the Municipalities.

As per the 73rd Amendment Act, a three-tier system of Panchayati Raj is envisaged in every state. Panchayats have to be elected directly by the people as is done in case of popular houses in the Union and State level. These Panchayats cannot remain superceded for long and fresh elections would have to be held within six months of the dissolution of the Panchayat. Over and above, seats would be reserved for women. There shall be a fixed five-year term for all Panchayats. They shall have their own budget, power of taxation and list of items in their jurisdiction. In their respective areas, the Panchayats shall be able to formulate their own development plans and implement them. Every state shall have a State Election Commission for the conduct of Panchayat Elections. Every five years, a State Finance Commission shall also be constituted to study the economic condition of the Panchayats.<sup>2</sup>

It was hoped that it would begin 'a new era of real representative and participatory democracy' with nearly three and half million elected representatives - one-third of them women - being involved in governance all over India

would bring power to the people where it belonged.<sup>3</sup>

### **Biju Babu and the Panchayati Raj System**

In Orissa, the three-tier system of Panchayat Raj was introduced in 1959 with the passing of the Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad Acts. But prior to this, Panchayats were functioning at the village level in our State according to Orissa Panchayat Act of 1948. With the introduction of Panchayati Raj in Orissa, the Panchayats in the village level were now organically linked up with the Panchayat Samities and Zilla Parishads.<sup>4</sup> As per the new Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad Acts of 1959, elected Panchayat Samities and elected Zilla Parishads were formed in January 1961 and March 1961 respectively. In the Block level, the B.D.O. remained under the non-official elected Chairman of the Panchayat Samiti. The Zilla Parishads also started working under the elected Chairman.<sup>5</sup> Thus these three-tier systems of Panchayat Raj Institutions were introduced in Orissa in the year 1961.<sup>6</sup>

This was the year when Biju Patnaik became the Chief Minister of Orissa. He functioned as Chief Minister from 23.06.1961 to 02.10.1963 apart from his second spell as Chief Minister from 5.3.1990 to 15.3.95. This first spell of Biju's Chief Ministership in 1960s brings out his mind set and vision on this great experiment of democratic decentralization of power and responsibility at the grassroots level. His vision of rural development through the Panchayat Industries Scheme which is an important dimension of the work of Panchayati Raj institutions also comes out in bolder relief epitomizing his far-sighted and development-oriented mindset.

Biju's speech delivered in Orissa Legislative Assembly on November 20, 1961 is a valuable piece of literature, which shows his democratic

mind and vision on this great experiment of Panchayati Raj.

In his view, Panchayati Raj constitutes the 'People's Parallel Executive Apparatus'. He had deep faith that this parallel executive apparatus made up of the representatives of the common people could perform better than our present administrative apparatus' in carrying out development work.

Biju was a unique mass leader who lived and moved, and had his being in the context of the hopes and aspirations of his people. He called upon the members of the Orissa Legislative Assembly to share his trust and confidence in the people and in their elected representatives under the Panchayati Raj system. As he said on the Panchayat movement : 'we are on the threshold of a very great experiment, perhaps the last experiment whether we can trust our people or not, whether our people with proper guidance and assistance can prove to be more efficient collectively than our present administrative apparatus.....'.

Biju Babu was a committed exponent of 'democratic decentralization or Panchayati Raj as is popularly known in our country' which aims at making democracy real by 'bringing millions into the functioning of their representative government at the lowest level'. He realized that this movement can only succeed if 'we give that authority to people right down from the bottom of our social ladder who can exercise effective leadership'. It is 'a people's movement' he said. Leadership building or 'building up leaders of men from the lowest rung of our society' was what he conceptualized in his vision of Panchayati Raj.

Biju was dead-against any direct interference in the normal administration of the Gram Panchayat Movement either by the MLAs or MPs. What he said in his own words would unravel the man and his vision of Grama Panchayat Movement in the most befitting manner. As he

articulated his vision : "..... I do not see any reason why the members of this House or Parliament should have any direct interference in the normal administration of the Gram Panchayat Movement. We, from this house by our own judgment, are creating a child, a new democratic child with the hope that with the growth of this child it would be able to develop the leadership which our people need; the leadership of execution.... In the process of development, I submit that we would hamper if we do not allow that development movement to grow in its own way without attempting directly to interfere or directly interest ourselves in the affairs of that movement... whereas I heartily welcome the association of the members of this House in the deliberations of the committees of Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad, I would not like that members of this house would participate in the elections or the voting of the office bearers of the Panchayat Samities and Zilla Parishad or even vote for a decision of some creative activities or the locations of such activities. It would not be proper that this house which has given rise to a movement with one hand and would take the powers and its own apparatus of development by another hand. It would be wrong in principle; it would be wrong in concept'.

Biju Babu apprised the broad democratic ethics and ethos of the Panchayati Raj Movement to members who felt apprehensive of their status and position sans voting right or power of direct deliberation in the PRIs. He also addressed to their aggrieved concern that Sarpanchs and Panchayat Samities could execute their development agenda 'without any reference' to them or any consultation with them. He said to them : "I would like to tell those Hon'ble members who think on those lines that we are taking a terrible restricted view of a movement to which we ourselves give birth. I would like the Hon'ble members to think with me and feel with me that we are unleashing or attempting to unleash the greatest latent powers of the people by giving an

authority to Panchayati Raj conceived by the Father of the Nation long long ago, we have already originated this idea and this thought. We are merely trying to give it some shape. Let us not pollute that idea by trying to put our fingers in the heart of that movement by trying to directly intervene.<sup>7</sup>

As indicated earlier, the three tiers of Panchayati Raj Institutions were introduced in Orissa in the year 1961. 'By the end of 1961, as many as 13 Zilla Parishads and 314 Panchayat Samities started functioning and through these representative institutions development plans and programmes were implemented. It is to note that Sarpanchs were called as Chief Ministers of their Gram Panchayat.'<sup>8</sup>

Biju Babu as a progressive and dynamic Chief Minister of 1960s, seriously pondered over the problem of poverty in the rural areas and its eradication. For this, he conceptualized an innovative scheme of agriculture based small industries to be implemented in Mofusil or rural areas under different Panchayats. Out of this conceptualization was born the scheme of Panchayat Industries. It was the brain-child of Biju epitomizing his dynamism and vision in the realm of rural development.

Under this innovative scheme of Panchayat Industries, seven sugar mills, twenty tile making units, ten carpentry units, ten small foundries, a paper mill and factories based on agricultural products were established in a single year.<sup>9</sup>

In adopting this idea of Panchayat Industries, he had an idea to industrialize each Block in due course, to utilize the available resources and to generate employment for the rural people.

To encourage and promote this scheme for industrialization at the Block level, a number of prizes were declared for every district and the Panchayats were called upon to compete in implementation of development programmes in

their areas. Those Panchayats and Panchayat Samities which showed excellence were given prize money, that ranged between Rs.25000 to Rs.1 lakh. It was no small amount at the time for small-scale industries. Over and above, those Panchayats and Panchayat Samities which won prize money could avail of loans from Cooperative Banks and other capital investing financial institutions to establish small scale industries. That apart, the three revenue divisions of Orissa declared prize money of one crore each for the best Panchayat Samity for its achievement in development and industrialization.

It was an innovative scheme of rural development and a practical village based poverty eradication programme. By conceptualizing this scheme in 1960s he became the torchbearer of the 'Garibi Hatao' programme subsequently nurtured by Mrs Indira Gandhi. This Panchayat Industries Scheme was greatly admired by the Planning Commission of India and was recommended as a model to be followed by other States. Many lecturers in the faculty of economics took it up as a research project for the award of Ph. D Degree. Even, journalists of repute made special study of this scheme and published articles. It was said : "It will complement in a good measure the back to the village call of Gandhiji".<sup>10</sup>

This scheme of Panchayat Industries of Biju in the arena of rural development in the grassroots level was greatly admired by no less a person than Chester Bowles, the then ambassador of U.S.A. in India. He highlighted, in his reputed book 'Making of a Great Society and significantly said that had this scheme been properly pursued and implemented, Orissa would have achieved the same excellence with Japan in the field of industrialization.<sup>11</sup>

Apart from Chester Bowles, Jaya Prakash Narayan was also attracted by this innovative scheme of Panchayat Industries. He came down to Orissa as Biju's honoured Guest and stayed at Tulasipur to study this scheme.<sup>12</sup>

This Panchayat Industries scheme of Biju acquired an importance of its own in the national level. It was said that "if Balwant Rai Mehta was the father of Panchayat Raj, then Biju Patnaik is the father of Panchayat Industries in India.

This scheme of Panchayat Industries has been rightly considered as 'a unique scheme meant to eradicate rural unemployment'. Bengalis say 'what Bengal thinks to-day, India thinks tomorrow'. In the same vein we can say what Biju thinks today, India thinks decades after'. As it were, Biju thought of eradicating unemployment through small scale and cottage industries in 1960s. On the other hand, Govt. of India started work in the second part of 1970s and established District Industries Centres for development of small-scale village industries. Biju took up a programme of constructing tile-roof houses and provision of tap water in villages during 1960s when he was Chief Minister. Even though it was criticized by the Opposition Parties and the so called economists and intellectuals, it was a revolutionary social security and social justice - conferring measure in rural areas epitomizing the Biju vision of 1960s. The Indira Awas Programme and the Govt. of India Plan of providing safe drinking water in villages, being stressed upon now was thought of, by Biju in 1960s.<sup>14</sup> That simply speaks of the man and his far-sighted vision.

Thus, Biju was the first leader to take very bold steps in regard to grassroots level democracy. In early 1960s as Orissa's Chief Minister, he restructured the rural and urban local bodies with suitable amendments in the existing Acts of 1948, 1959 and 1960.<sup>15</sup>

Biju Babu became Chief Minister of Orissa on 5.3.1990 and functioned in this august office upto 15.3.1995. During this second phase as Chief Minister of Orissa in 1990s, Biju Babu wanted to broad-base and enrich Indian democracy by ensuring political participation of

women in the three-tier Panchayat Raj Institutions. He wanted to see that women become partners in the decision-making process concerning development. For this, he made Orissa the laboratory of his new experiment. Instead of sermons and slogans he saw to it that women were given thirty-three percent reservation in the three-tier Panchayat Raj institutions in Orissa. True to his vision, the Orissa Assembly passed the three Panchayat Raj Bills, the Orissa Zilla Parishad Bill 1991, the Orissa Panchayat Samiti (amendment bill 1991) and the Orissa Gram Panchayat Bill 1991 in March 1991<sup>16</sup> providing thirty-three percent of reservation for women including SC and ST women.

In this respect he was the pioneer - the beacon-blaze as no other State or even Government of India took any such step of women empowerment in PRI institutions till then.

What is significant is that 73rd and 74th Constitution Amendment Acts of 1992 provided for similar provisions in rural and local bodies. Biju led and India followed.

Thus, Orissa became 'the first State to streamline the Panchayati Raj and Local-self government institutions to make democracy participatory and not the aristocracy of a few nitpicking intellectuals.'<sup>17</sup>

In this connection, it may be said that 'since 1990, Biju's government took steps to revive the 3-tier Panchayat Raj system in order to strengthen grassroots democratic institutions. Under Biju's leadership, the Orissa Gram Panchayat Act 1964 and the Orissa Panchayat Samities Act 1959 were amended in 1991, 1992 and 1993. The Orissa Zilla Parishad Act 1991 was also enacted in 1991 to constitute Zilla-Parishads at the district level. This act has been extensively amended - to bring it in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution Amendment Act 1992.<sup>18</sup> It also adds to the credit of Biju's government that 'after a lapse



of eight years', it conducted elections to Gram Panchayats in the year 1992 for 5264 Gram Panchayats in the State.<sup>19</sup>

Some salient features of Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samities and Zilla Parishad deserve mention as these were the outcome of the amendments made during Biju's Chief Ministership to which we have referred.

In case of Gram Panchayat three mentionable points are

- (a) 'The post of Naib Sarpanch is reserved for the women members, if the Sarpanch is a male';
- (b) 'One third of the total wards are reserved for women candidates including S.C. and S.T. women candidates';
- (c) Gram Panchayats have been vested with the power of supervision of women and child welfare programme, social forestry, rural housing, small scale industries and public distribution system in addition to other normal functions.<sup>20</sup>

As regards Panchayat Samities the following features deserve mention :

- (a) One third of the total seats are reserved for women members including women members of S.C. and S.T. Category.
- (b) Provision has been made to the office of the Vice Chairman for a woman in case the Chairman is a male.

The Zilla Parishad ceased to exist in the state with effect from 1968. The State Government enacted the Orissa Zilla Parishad Act, 1991, in order to transfer the power of planning, control and supervision of developmental activities to Zilla Parishads at the district level'. Obviously, credit is due to Biju Patnaik for reviving Zilla Parishads and endowing them with power in the district level. After the enforcement of the Constitution Amendment Act,

1992, it became necessary to amend the Orissa Zilla Parishad Act, 1991.

The following features after necessary changes need mention:

- (a) Reservation of seats for S.C. and S.T. members has to be done on the basis of their ratio to the total population of the districts.
- (b) One third of the seats are to be reserved for women members including S.T. and S.C. women.
- (c) The post of Vice-President should be reserved for women if the President is not a woman.<sup>21</sup>

The State law has provided that no person having more than two children will be eligible to contest in the election to Zilla Parishad. Similarly persons having more than one spouse have been disqualified from contesting the election.<sup>22</sup>

It is also said that the government of Biju Patnaik set up quite a few commissions of finance for the Panchayat Raj Institutions in order to offer methods and mechanisms for resource funding thus unleashing some purpose to the decentralization of power.<sup>23</sup>

Thus Orissa under Biju Patnaik became the first State to streamline the Panchayat Raj and Local-self government institutions. That his government held election after a lapse of eight years in Gram Panchayats showed Biju's commitment to restore status and dignity to this valuable unit of self-government at the grass-root level. In a way, the amendments to Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad Acts in Orissa in his second spell as Chief Minister bear the mark of his farsighted personality - as a path indicator in respect of empowerment of women in the Panchayati Raj system. The area of participation was not only expanded and made meaningful through association and empowerment of women under Biju's inspiration; he also

rejuvenated the Panchayati Raj and local self-government institutions to function as meaningful units of self-government by endowing them with power and authority in the process of development. It may be recalled that he had also rejuvenated the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the 1960s and described each Sarpanch as Chief Minister of his Panchayat.<sup>24</sup>

### Conclusion :

We have before us the vision of Biju Babu on the Panchayati Raj system or the scheme of decentralization of power to make rural self-govt. a real experience. He prioritized the imperative necessity of actualizing people's power in governance and development at the grass-root level. The 73rd constitution amendment act of 1992 also seeks to take this great experiment of Panchayati Raj to greater heights of democratic excellence. To what extent, the Biju vision or 73rd Amendment guidelines have been implemented in both letter and spirit and at all levels is the million dollar question. Let Orissa - my beloved Orissa be the best model in this great democratic experiment which Biju wanted it to be.

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Dr. Shridhar Charan Sahoo is a Reader in Political Science, Ravenshaw Junior College, Cuttack

## Effectiveness of Panchayati Raj Systems, Problems and National Declaration

*Harihar Sethy*

Particularly, in the developing countries, to operate a highly democratic form of government, local self government institutions can play very vital role in the process of political legitimisation and develop a sense of public participation for the best implementation of the political as well as the social and economic integrity of the local environments. The effectiveness of democracy greatly depends on the association of the people at diverse administrative fields. The Panchayati Raj has been introduced in India with a view to associating people with administration at the grassroot level and people have been assigned an active role in the formulation and implementation of their plans.

The Panchayati Raj has been introduced in India in pursuance of article 40 of the constitution which directs the government to take necessary steps to organize village panchayats and endow them with such power and authority which may be necessary to enable them to work as units of self government. Accordingly, the government appointed a committee, under Balwantrai Mehta which recommended a three-tier system of rural local self government institutions. On the basis of these recommendations, Panchayati Raj institutions were introduced in a number of states.

### **Meheta's Three Tier System**

The Panchayat is an executive body of the village ward members headed by the Sarapanch.

It mainly consists of the representatives elected by the people of the villages. There is also a provision of two women and one schedule caste and schedule tribe if they do not get adequate representation in the normal course. The panchayat is a body accountable to the general body of the villages known as Gramasabha. As regards the main function performed by the village panchayat, they include maintenance of roads, wells, schools, burning and burial grounds, sanitation, public health, street lighting, libraries, reading rooms, community centres.

The panchayat also keeps records of birth and deaths. It takes necessary measures for promotion of agriculture and animal husbandry, Cottage industries, Co-operative societies etc. Some times minor disputes among the denizens of villages are also settled by the village panchayat.

### **Panchayat Samitis or Block Level Bodies**

The block is the intermediary in the three tier system and is the centre of developmental work. The panchayat samiti consist of by taking

- (a) about 20 members elected by all the panchayats in the block;
- (b) two women members and one member from SC and one from ST, if they do not possess adequate representation otherwise by the process.

Panchayat Samiti is headed by a chairman elected by the members of the samiti.

The main work of the panchayat samiti is to co-ordinate and to supervise various activities of the panchayats. It also looks after the developmental aspects within its jurisdiction.

### **Zilla Parishad**

Zilla parishad is at the apex of three tier systems and treated as the higher developmental agency in the State. The organization of zilla parishad differs from state to state. Still, it consists of the elected members of the panchayat samitis, members of the state legislature and parliament, medical officers of the district, district collector, officers of agriculture, veterinary, education engineering, public works, public health etc. Being a developmental body, its main function is supervisory within its areas. It approves budgets of the panchayat samitis in certain states and also gives necessary advice to the government regarding the implementation of programme and developmental works. Besides this, it deals in maintenance of education, dispensaries, hospital minor education etc.

### **Significance of Panchayati Raj**

The democratic decentralization took its shape with a view to better administration and developmental perspectives for quick rural development and co-operations of local people. State government does not possess adequate wisdom of local affairs and problems. In this sense, it constitutes a significant contribution to the theory and practice of nation building activities in the developing areas.

### **Problems**

Diverse and huge problems in the functions and working patterns of the Panchayati Raj system which we are facing in the day to day activities can be broadly described as mentioned below.

Initially, the domination of the bureaucracy over PRIs. The agent of implementation of all major programmes (CDP or IRDP) has always been the State administration, various parallel bodies that have grossly undermined the importance of the PRIs.

Secondly, inadequate financial resources to carry out the administration is a serious problem. The grant-in-aid is the major component of the PRI revenue. The government should realize this difficulty and try to solve it permanently.

Besides, other major problems are also affecting the structure. These are

- (a) incompatible relations among the three tiers;
- (b) undemocratic composition of various P.R. institutions;
- (c) political bias; and
- (d) un-cordial relation between officials and people.

### **National Declaration for Local Self Governance**

In the year April 2002 there was a conference regarding Panchayati Raj held in New Delhi. It was significant for two reasons.

- (a) It diagnosed the problems of panchayats.
- (b) Recommended the prescriptions which, if implemented, can ensure proper devolution of power from the State Governments to the grass root levels.

Inaugurated by the Prime Minister, the conference was attended by 1600 elected heads of 3,40,000 panchayats from across the country. The conference called for amending the constitution if necessary. So that the panchayats could become autonomous both financially and functionally.

The vital theme of the conference was the adoption of a 15 point recommendation or the national declaration for local self governance. The major highlights include :

1. The District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) and other parallel bodies should be brought under the control of respective Zilla Parishad with the chair person of the parishad as head.
2. The State Government should implement the recommendations of the state financial commissions and enable the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to raise requisite resources.
3. The centre should provide non budgetary resources as loans to PRIs.

4. The panchayat should have a panchayat planning committee to advise the panchayats in formulating the developmental plans

5. The district planning committee should be made functional by December 31, 2002.

6. The centre and state will make provisions for training panchayat representatives

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Harihar Sethy is a Research Scholar in A & A Economics, Utkal University, Vani Vihar, Bhubaneswar.

### **ORIIYA FILM & CULTURAL FESTIVAL AT BANGALORE**

At the initiative of the Minister, Information & Public Relations Shri Debasis Nayak, an Oriya Film and Cultural Festival is being hosted at Bangalore from March 7 to 9 as a part of inter-state cultural exchange programme. Slated to be organised at the Chowdiah Memorial Hall, G.D.Park Extension under Bangalore Sangeet Nataka Akademy, the programme could be a gratifying experience for the thousands of non-resident Oriyas in Bangalore who hunt for a taste of the language, art and culture of their own.

Earlier, this programme has been organised at Thiruvantapuram, Goa & Mumbai with huge success. This has helped to strengthen the cultural ties of other states with Orissa. The Orissa Information & Public Relations Department orchestrates such celebrations to facilitate a pan-Indian presence for Orissan art, music, culture and heritage.

# Panchayati Raj : Grassroots Democracy

*Siddhartha Dash*

India's democratic structure has three levels of governance - national or federal, state or regional, and the grassroots level called the Panchayati Raj and Nagar Palika systems. The Panchayati Raj system covers the village, the tehsil and the district, and the Nagar Palika system serves towns and cities. If democracy means people's participation in running their affairs, then it is nowhere more direct, clear and significant than at the local level, where the contact between the people and their representatives, between the rulers and the ruled is more constant, vigilant and manageable. Lord Bryce said : "The best school of democracy and the best guarantee for its success is the practice of local self-government". Decentralisation is a prime mechanism through which democracy becomes truly representative and responsive. The democratic ideals of decentralization, development, and increased, continuous and active popular participation in the process of nation-building can be secured only through the working of an efficient system of local government. Without a well organized system of local government, no democratic political system can be expected to become stable and really developed.

## **Panchayati Raj : An Evolutionary Perspective**

Panchayats as institutional vehicles for development have been part of the Indian system for ages. In ancient times, Panchayati Raj system prevailed during the Chola period. In fact, Rippon's Resolution of 1881 and 1882 can be taken to be the origin of modern local government in India. It was seen as Gram Swaraj by Mahatma Gandhi. Interestingly, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was not in favour of the Panchayati Raj institutions; yet, he agreed to give it a place in the Constitution of India in Part IV through Directive Principles of State Policy.

In the year following the independence (1947), Prime Minister Nehru inaugurated the Community Development Programme (CDP) on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi (October 2) in 1952.

The CDP was followed by the National Extension Service in 1953. NES blocks were earmarked as the lowest unit of development of administration. But both the programmes had a flaw : neither of the two was free from the control of bureaucracy. This shortcoming prompted the government to appoint a committee headed by Balwant Ray Mehta in 1957. The committee recommended a three-tier system of Panchayati

Raj from village to the district level - Gram Panchayat at the village level, Panchayat Samiti at the block level and Zilla Parishad at the district level.

As per the Balwant Ray Mehta Committee Scheme, Panchayati Raj was launched on 2nd October 1957 in Nagaur district of Rajasthan. Andhra Pradesh and many state governments followed Rajasthan. Yet, by the mid-sixties the hype to strengthen the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) gave way to a growing tendency of centralization and the PRIs descended to ground zero.

In 1977, the Janata Government tried to revive the PRIs. Accordingly a committee headed by Ashok Mehta was appointed to review the working of the PRIs.

The committee suggested a minor change in the Balwant Ray Mehta Scheme. The three-tier system of PRIs was to be replaced by a two-tier i.e. Zilla Parishad at the district level and Mandal Panchayat (consisting of a number of villages) below it. In addition, the committee also recommended the creation of Nyaya Panchayat.

However, owing to the disintegration of the Janata Government in 1980, the recommendations of the Asoka Mehta Committee could not be implemented. (Though Karnataka Govt. established mandal Panchayats). For the next five years or so, no progress was made.

One committee under the chairmanship of G.V.K. Rao reported in 1985, suggesting appropriate improvement in the representative character and strengthening of the capability of the people's representatives and administrative personnel in the PRIs. In 1986, the L.M. Singhvi Committee of the Department of Rural Development, Government of India, recommended constitutional status for Panchayati

Raj. In July-August 1989 the then Congress government introduced the 64th Constitutional Amendment Bill with a view to streamline the Panchayati Raj. However, the bill was defeated in the Rajya Sabha. V.P. Singh government also tried to push a bill in 1990 on Panchayati Raj, it lapsed with the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.

### **Panchayati Raj under the 73rd Constitutional Amendment**

At last P. V. Narasimha Rao's government enacted the 73rd Constitutional Amendment, which was passed by Parliament on 23rd December 1992 and became effective on 24th April 1993. This Act has added Part - IX to the Constitution of India. It is entitled as 'The Panchayats' and consists of provisions from articles 243 to 243-0. The Act has given a practical shape to Article 40 of the Constitution and gives a constitutional status to Panchayati Raj Institutions. The Constitutional Amendment ensures, a three tier structure at the zilla, block and village levels, an election commission to hold election periodically, a state level finance commission to find out ways and means to increase resources for local bodies, reservation of 1/3 of seats in all the position of the three tier for women, reservation of seats for SC/ST in proportion to their population in all the positions of the three tiers, establishment of Gram Sabha for enhancing people's participation for their own development, and establishment of planning committee for local bodies; and an earmarked list of 29 items under 11th schedule.

Now, the world's most populous democracy has the constitutionally mandated 2,32,332 village panchayats, 6,000 intermediate panchayats and 534 zilla panchayats. The three tiers of these elected bodies consist of as many as 27, 75, 858 village Panchayat members, 1,44,491 members of intermediate panchayats

and 15,067 members of zilla panchayats. This is the broadest representative base which exists in any country of the world. (India Panchayati Raj Report, 2001, NIRD). Besides breadth, depth of these figures can be gauged from the fact that more than fifty percent of these grassroot representatives are from the downtrodden and marginalized sections of the society, namely women (one third of the total), the SCs, STs and OBCs (as per their proportion of the population).

This kind of constitutional provision has created a scope for accomplishing development with social justice, which is mandate of the new Panchayat Raj system. The new system brings all those who are interested to have voice in decision making through their participation in Panchayat Raj Institutions. The Panchayati Raj system is basis for the "Social Justice" and "Empowerment" of weaker section on which the development initiative have to be built upon for achieving overall, human welfare of the society.

### **Problems and Prospects of Panchayati Raj Institutions**

To reach a viable Panchayat three hurdles have to be overcome. These have remained what they always have been.

First, is the domination of the bureaucracy over the PRIs. The agent for implementation of all major programmes (CDP or IRDP, to name a few) has been the bureaucracy. Various parallel bodies such as the DRDA have grossly undermined the importance of the PRIs. Either they have to be disbanded or made accountable to the PRIs.

Second, is the lack of adequate financial resources to carry out the administration. Grant-

in-aids is the major component of the PRIs revenue. This need to be supplemented with the adequate collection of taxes by the PRIs and a compulsory transfer of some of the state government's revenue on the recommendation of the state finance commission duly established for the purpose.

The last hurdle is related to the lack of training programmes for the participants of the PRIs. Without proper training, they lack the direction and know-how of the administration.

To conclude, admitting that the PRIs in India are weak and assuming that it will not be smooth sailing for them even after the 73rd Amendment, they do have an important role to play in India's development. Already, the PRIs have several achievements to their credit. These institutions have enhanced the political consciousness of the people and initiated a process of democratic seed drilling in the Indian soil. What the government should attempt now is gradually to delimit the role of bureaucracy, to promote local leadership, to remove structural deficiencies, encourage PRIs to strengthen their financial resources, bring in effective coordination among these institutions and between PRIs and the state governments and give them effective powers in relation to planning and its implementation. For this, the will to decentralise and delegate, on the part of the state governments, is a prerequisite. Action on these lines is the least that is expected of the rulers proclaiming their faith in and loyalty to Gandhian principles.

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Siddhartha Dash lives at N4-205, IRC Village, Bhubaneswar-15



## Laxman Naik - The Immortal Martyr of Quit India Movement

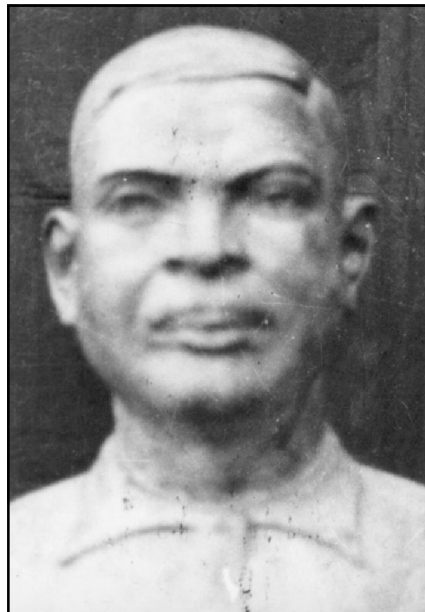
*Braja Paikaray*

Laxman Naik, the well known martyr of Quit India movement, though a tribal by birth and was far away from modern education and urban society, had joined the historic movement in response to Gandhiji's call "Do or Die". He fought for truth, non-violence, justice, and gave his life heroically on the gallows set up by the imperialist British Administration.

Laxman was born in the year 1893 to Sri Madhab Naik of village Tentuligumma near the banks of River Kolab and under Mathili Police Station in the Koraput district of Orissa, which abounds in flora and fauna. In his earlier child-hood, he learnt the witch craft, hunting and the art of herbal medicinal treatment. By the application of herbal medicine, Laxman could cure the diseases of the people and thereby gained their confidence and love. Laxman could notice the sorrowful plight of the people under the British Raj and made up his mind to fight back against the oppression and tyranny of the foreign rulers. He believed that Swarajya could be attained only through non-violent methods and

therefore joined the training centre of Nuaput village. He learned the spinning and listened to the speeches of the Congress Leaders with rapt attention and followed the strict Gandhian principles in his daily life.

On 1st August 1942 the All India Congress committee passed the famous "Quit India" resolution and gave a call for mass struggle under Gandhiji's leadership. On the same night Gandhiji declared :-



"I am not going to be satisfied with any thing short of complete freedom. Here is a mantra, a short one that I give you. The Mantra is "Do or Die". We shall either free India or die in the attempt. We shall not live to see the perpetuation of our slavery."

On 9th August Gandhi and other Congress Leaders were arrested. In Orissa, all the Congress Offices were declared unlawful and the movement soon spread to rural areas. People started Satyagraha in all corners of the State and attacked Post Offices, Police Stations and Tehsil Offices to paralyse the

Government and force the British to quit India. The British authorities never apprehended mass upsurge of this magnitude and under the slightest provocation, resorted to lathi charge and firing.

On 21st August, 1942 Laxman responded to Gandhiji's quit India call and alongwith his people started a peaceful agitation in front of Mathili Police Station defying the prohibitory laws. The agitators tried to unfurl the national flag on Mathili Police Station and four Satyagrahis were killed as a result of people firing. Laxman, the leader of the Satyagrahis, though not killed, was severely wounded by the police bayonet and due to profuse bleeding became unconscious. Considering him dead, the police left him on the wayside alongwith other dead persons. After a long time, Laxman regained his consciousness and walked 32 miles to Jaypore. He met Balabhadra Pujari, a Congress worker, and stayed in his home for some days. By Pujari's advice, Laxman went to Ramgiri hills to hide himself from the eyes of the police. But, when he learnt about the police atrocities on the people, he returned to his village.

Police got the news of Laxman's return and surrounded his house and arrested him with handcuffs.

A false case was registered against Laxman accusing him for the murder of one forest guard namely Ramaya. The Court verdict went against him, although, he pleaded himself not guilty.

On 29th March 1943 Laxman was hanged in Berhampur Jail. His last words uttered before the execution was "When Swaraj comes, all injustice will end."

Laxman Naik, the great patriot is no more with us. But his brave personality and heroic struggle will be inspiration to the youth of this land for many years to come.

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Braja Paikaray lives at 342/B, Jagamara (Barabari), Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar-751030.

### **ORISSA TABLEAU TOPS IN THE REPUBLIC DAY PARADE AT NEW DELHI**

The tableau that represented Orissa at the Republic Day Parade - 2007 at New Delhi has been awarded the first prize for best presentation. This is for the first time that a tableau from Orissa was conferred the top honour.

It is noteworthy to mention that the design of the tableau was conceptualised by Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik himself. The State Information & Public Relations Department crafted the tableau design with direct supervision of State Information & Public Relations Minister Shri Debasis Nayak, Commissioner-cum-Secretary Shri Digambar Mohanty and Director Shri Baishnab Prasad Mohanty.

While showcasing the traditional folkart, toy and mask crafts of Orissa, the tableau also displayed some spectacular dances like tiger dance, horse dance, bull dance and colourful hand-made artistic images like Nabagunjar and ten headed Ravana. Besides, the musical songs of Orissa was also adjudged another best award.

## Biju - A Living Legend

Jayakrishna Tripathy

*"All the world's a stage  
And all the men and women are merely players,  
They have their exits and their entrances  
And one man in his time plays many parts"*

-William Shakespear-

And, there are men on this earth who make history by their consistent endeavour and selfless service to mankind. Twice the Chief Minister of Orissa, Biju Pattanaik, an epitome of courage and adventure from childhood, was born on 5th March 1916 in the millennium city of Cuttack at Ananda Niwas, Tulasipur. He was the son of an illustrious father Laxmi Narayan Patnaik and mother Ashalata Roy. Biju was a brave and unchallengeable boy, who was educated from the famous Cuttack Collegiate school that boasts of Subhash Ch. Bose as one of its illustrious alumni and then moved to Ravenshaw college for doing his B.Sc and then joined the Royal Air Force as a pilot. From school days, Biju was prominent for his love towards game, sports and adventure. He was also a good football and hockey player. He was thrice Ravenshaw



College athletic champion. His Ravenshavian days are notable and nostalgic for the intervening Cuttack-Peshwar cycling. He persuaded and pampered friends, and made them agree to this adventure freak and set out on the odyssey of covering 4000 kilometres. The marathon cycling that speaks of their dream, aspiration and ambition is historic and sets an adventurous path breaking record. Ravenshaw College, infact, matured and perpetuated the young Biju that had an aspiring future.

Once, it so happened that he was on the same boat with Utkalmani Pandit Gopabandhu for distribution of foodgrains and clothes for the marooned villages of Ali-Kanika area. Due to strong wind, Das's umbrella fell down on the swelling river and everybody was helpless. Biju jumped into the dreaded river and recovered the umbrella from the swelling water. Everybody exclaimed that only for the shake of one umbrella an youngman's life was in danger. Biju remarked, "it was not a simple umbrella, it was *Das Apane's* umbrella and it carries the fragrance of Orissa's culture in it". Pandit remarked that this small boy would be a future statesman of India one day.

During Biju's days, a bicycle riding was a handsome piece of luxury and symbol of aristocracy. But, when a helicopter touched Cuttack ground with one British military officer on ride, Biju, with his friends, was inspired to atleast touch the "*Puspakjan*" as it was told on those days. Biju, the young tall boy, brimming with enthusiasm and ecstasy, surveyed ahead to be as near as the helicopter as possible. He wondered to see the magnificent white bird and was determined to, one day, fly such an aircraft and the days were his. He became the most successful pilot even to lift president Sukarno from Jogdjakarta.

After his taking over charge as Chief Minister of Orissa in 1961, there was flood in Mahanadi delta i.e. nearly eight kms. upstream west of Sambalpur. The catchment area of Mahanadi was experiencing incessant rains and the Hirakud reservoir was rising alarmingly. The dam officials were nervous and frigid with fear that further rains might ingress more water into dam and opening of sluice gates in dam would add to the agony of the vast delta dwellers downstream. Pressure surmounted on the Chief Minister Biju Pattanaik to order for opening of more sluice gates to release more flood waters. Officers and officials flocked to him and flooded with disastrous messages and with the communications received from the dam site.

But Biju, the dare devil, was firm in his decision. He nearly encountered un-surmountable dilemma. He could estimate the suffering and misery, the agony and outcry of millions of people and livestock in coastal belt of Orissa. He could conceive that the danger to Hirakud dam would be so much that it could wash away and would fail to retain the influx of water to this dam. All the bureaucrats and political people watched him in silence. But, determined in this decision, Biju



Biju Pattnaik at Indonesia

exclaimed "let us wait and see." In fact, there was no rain in the catchment areas and no opening of sluice gates and no havoc of the people. He was Biju, the decisive head.

Biju, as a freedom fighter, was famous for India's Independence and was imprisoned on January 13, 1943 and after two years of jail he was released on parole. He could feel that once Kalinga was the most prosperous and powerful kingdom in ancient India. In military might and maritime activities, in trading merchandise and producing silk and spices, in mastering Pali and Sanskrit languages, in the preaching and propagating religions like Budhisim and Jainisim, Kalinga was in its excellence. Why not today. He formed Kalinga Airlines, Kalinga tubes, the most coveted Kalinga prize and built the infrastructure of Kalingan development by completing the Paradeep project. The Prime Minister of India Pandit Nehru found the excellence in him and appointed him as the crisis manager in Indonesian freedom movement to help the Sukarno regime. He had a formidable industrial empire of 179 crore rupees with OTM, Kalinga Tubes, Kalinga Pipes, Kalinga Iron works at Badbil, Kalinga Airlines and Kalinga Refractories. As a pilot he was straight and lovely. He loved to fly for the men around him and for the public. As a pilot, he

intimately followed the foot steps of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who always influenced and encouraged the tall pilot from Orissa.

June 23, 1961 witnessed the swearing-in-ceremony of the Kalinga Ratna Biju Patniak as Chief Minister by the then Governor of Orissa Sri A.N. Khosla. Biju's dream of being elevated to the august office of Chief Minister of Orissa was a precursor to be the king of Kalinga. The monarch of a vast and prosperous Kalinga empire. Mahamegha Bahana Aira Kharavela, Kapilendra Deva, Lalatendu Keshari and Jajati Keshari, Gajapati Ananga Bhim Dev were the ancient emperors who annexed territories, expanded tread and commerce, established colonies overseas in Java and Sumatra.

As Chief Minister, he dreamt of uplifting the rural mass of Orissa including the rural women who lived in sheer emaciated circumstances. To eradicate the frightening and fatiguing provety of Orissa, massive industrialisation and modernization was his dream and panacea. Apart from his efforts for modernisation and industrialization, what emboldened him was his personal proximity to Pandit Nehru, the Prime Minister of India. With his hold and accomplished operation in Indonesia, he was endeared to Nehru which was also the cause of envy to many front ranking leaders of India. The Chinese aggression on India on 20th October 1962 unfolded another opportunity to Biju. He planned military strategies in tandem with Generals; and Marshal. B.K. Kaul, the then Army Chief was quite unequivocal in praise to the legendary hero. Nehru wisely banked upon Biju to chalk out operational aspect of Chinese war. At his instructions, Biju flew to USA to persuade JFK, the then president of USA, to

supply weapons and other needed equipment to fight against the Red Army. He persuaded the union government to set up the MIG factory at Sunabeda, REC, Rourkela and REC, Bhubaneswar with magnificent grant from the Central Government. He founded the Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology. He earmarked a vast chunk of land for the REC, Rourkela with the ambitious design of making it a sprawling and prestigious institute of Engineering and Technology at par in excellence as the Masechusettes Institute of Technology in USA.

Biju was dear to every body including Bidhan Ch. Roy, Pratap Singh Kairon, Morarji Bhai Desai. G.B. Panth, S.S.Sukla and also dearer still to the oppressed millions of Orissa and the village women under Purdda system sans education and social status.

He was rightly adjudged and awarded the Bhumiputra Samman by the Indonesian Government. One thousand millions of Indians know Biju Patnaik as the savour of Orissa and the builder of destiny of modern Orissa. He was the most prominent political figure in India and abroad. Man are born free and are made great by dint of their act of sacrifice to the mankind. Biju Patnaik will be remembered as the Kalinga Kharvela for all the time to come.

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Jayakrushna Tripathy lives at MIG-51, Rajiv Nagar, Aiginia, Bhubaneswar - 751019.

## The Biju Phenomenon

*Prof. Surya Narayan Misra*

Recently, former Indonesian President Meghawati Sukarnoputri was on a special visit to Bhubaneswar. The visit was indicative of emotional attachment of the family members of the late legendary Indonesian leader and President Mr. Sukarno with the family of another legendary figure of Orissa, late lamented Biju Patnaik. The relationship dates back to late 1940s, when the Indonesians were carrying on their freedom struggle against the colonialist Dutch. It was on the advice of the Indian Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru, Biju Patnaik took up the challenging task, and safely escorted and flew the Indonesian leaders out of Indonesia under a skilled and intelligent flying operation. It speaks of volume about the capacity of Patnaik and also the confidence reposed in him by the Prime Minister of India.

Late Biju Patnaik belonged to a rare breed of politicians. He was a politician among statesmen and a statesman among politicians. He was and is a household name in Orissa and shall

continue to remain as same as long as the present herd of politicians remain in currency. Thus, he had emerged as a legendary hero during his life time and will continue as a phenomenon.

Biju loved adventure. The evidence of his adventurism was writ large in his dare devil cycle journey from Cuttack to Peshawar during his college days. When top brass among the Congress



Biju Patnaik's adventurous cycle expedition from Cuttack to Peshwar.

agitationists were confined in the Ahmednagar jail, Biju could intercept the system and contacted them. Further, he could land with the first group of security personnel when Pakistan launched a deceptive limited war to annex Kashmir immediately after independence.

He was a multi-national freedom fighter. Not only did he play a significant role in the Indonesian freedom struggle, but also exhibited the similar enthusiasm when situation in Nepal demanded action.

The institution of UNESCO-Kalinga Award bore testimony to his love for science and

technology. His association with JBS Haldane was not between a politician and scientist, rather it was between a visionary statesman who was ahead of age and class in terms of scientific temper and a research scientist.

The Balimela Dam, Paradeep Port and Express Highway give us a taste of Biju Patnaik and the material which made such a great soul. When he led Congress to a decisive victory in the first midterm poll held in 1961, not only many eyebrows were raised in the opposition circle, but the erstwhile coalition leaders Mahtab and Singh Deo started choosing a new course in their political career - founding of Jana Congress, and merging of princely party ganatantra parishad with All India Swatantra party respectively.

Where as Jana Congress could not make a major dent in the non-Congress opposition circle in the country, the Utkal Congress formed by Biju could become a centre of future non-Congress formation through Pragati Party; then Bharatiya Lok Dal to Janata Party and the Janata Dal.

Biju was a crisis manager. He was a frontline legislator. The remarks and observations made by late Patnaik on the floor of assembly

and union parliament were of quality participation. Once during Desai government, the opposition grilled the party in power and the then Steel Minister Biju Patnaik's strong defence of the government on the floor of the House speaks about his capacity to respond during crisis situation. V.P. Singh could become Prime Minister because of Mr. Patnaik and the centre of the activity was Orissa Bhawan during early December 1989.



Discussion regarding Bhubaneswar International Airport with Union Aviation Minister

Mr. Patnaik's second term as Chief Minister was of stupendous legislative support. He personally could cause 123 out of 147 seats fall in his bag. The same Patnaik was rejected twice in 1980 and 1985 by Orissan voters. Even Biju lost all the elections he fought

in 1971. But within less than a year he bounced back with a record margin in the by-election held for the Rajnagar seat. Since then he never lost any election he fought. On couple of occasion he was the match winner. The Biju Phenomenon continues unabated when a regional outfit was constituted under the banner - Biju Janata Dal.

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Surya Narayan Misra is a Professor in the Department of Political Science, Utkal University.



## Eminent Freedom Fighter - Biju Patnaik

*Pabitra Mohan Barik*

Bijaya Nanda Patnaik, very well known as Biju Patnaik, is a great son of mother India. He was a man of sagacity, political wisdom, courage and his contribution towards the freedom struggle is remarkable. He raised voice against British imperialism. People called him "Biju Babu" with respect. He made significant contribution to the social, cultural and political life of Orissa and whole country as well. Biju babu was a mass leader. He was a born leader. Due to his heroic personality people were attracted towards him. He was a great patriot and nationalist.

Biju Babu was born on March 5, 1916 at Ananda Nivas, Tulasipur, Cuttack. Laxmi Narayan Patnaik and Ashalata Ray were his father and mother. Biju babu was the second son of Laxmi Narayan's three sons. He was very brave from his childhood. He studied in Ravenshaw Collegiate school. In his school days, he was famous for his love for games, sports and adventure. He was a good football player. Ravenshaw collegiate school

football team won the inter-school championship for three years when Biju babu was a key player of the team. Then, he studied his I.Sc. and B.Sc. in Ravenshaw College, Cuttack. But, he did not appear the final exam of Bachelor Degree. He joined as a trainee pilot in the Royal Air Force of British Empire. In his college days, a remarkable achievement of Biju babu was a journey from Cuttack to Peshawar by cycling. Peshawar is situated in the north-western tip of Bharat. The city tells us about the legends of Purus and Alexander. That city was also the capital of Kaniska, the Bouddha emperor.



After completion of training, Biju babu joined the Royal Air Force as a pilot in 1937. That event changed entire life of Biju babu. He was inspired by the mass movement from the very beginning. His mother Ashalata

Devi told him about heroic achievement of freedom fighters. In 1940 he came in contact with the eminent freedom fighters. In 1942 "Quit India Movement" started by Gandhiji. That was the last



weapon of Gandhiji based on truth and non-violence against British power. The Quit India Resolution was passed on 8th August in the working committee of National Congress party. After that, to suppress the mass movement, the Britishers arrested the fire brand leaders of the national movement like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Ballav Bhai Patel etc. In this critical period, the socialist leaders came forward to fight for the motherland. Socialist leaders like Jaya Prakash Narayan, Achyut Patwardhan, Narendra Dev, Ram Manohar Lohia and Aruna Asaf Ali took responsibility to continue agitation against the Britishers in disguise. One day in the time of Quit India movement, Jayaprakash Narayan met Biju babu and wanted his co-operation and support for freedom struggle. Biju babu had great interest and respect towards the freedom movement and fighters. After that, Biju babu helped the national struggle in the various ways. He endeared himself to the revolutionary activities. Prominent freedom fighters were secretly carried from one place to other place in his plane. He performed his job in the national freedom struggle by reaching brochures, posters, and other publicity materials to different persons and destinations. The freedom fighters carried on their struggle safely by the help of Biju babu. He did that national duty courageously. Biju babu sheltered the freedom fighters who were on the hide to avoid arrest and imprisonment. Aruna Asaf Ali once had taken shelter at Ananda Bhawan in Cuttack in the house of Biju babu. In that period the British Government declared a reward of 40 thousand rupees to capture Aruna Asaf Ali. Jaya Prakash Narayan travelled in Biju babu's plane in the guise of professor Vatacharya and Professor Banarji. By the trick of Biju babu, the

nationalist leaders freely and safely travelled in his plane. Britishers could not arrest the above leaders because of trick and plans of Biju babu. In course of time, Britishers suspected him and appointed spy to watch his activities. Lastly, British spy came to confirm that Biju babu directly and indirectly engaged in the mass movement. Then he was nabbed and imprisoned on 13th January 1943. He stayed in Lalkilla for some days and then was transferred to Phirozpur. In the meantime his elder brother requested Parala Maharaja Krushna Chandra Gajapati Dev for his release. Maharaja also discussed with Governor General about the release of Biju babu. Governor General did not show any interest to release Biju babu. After two years in jail, he was released on parol in 1945. His name is associated with the war of independence of Indonesia. His Indonesia air voyage and his Srinagar expedition amply display that he was a patriot of first order. Biju babu, by the direction of Pandit Nehru, saved the life of Sariat Khan and Srihatta, the freedom fighters of Indonesia. Biju babu brought them to India in his plane from Indonesia. The colonial Dutch did not get any information about it. It proves his bravery. Biju babu dropped Indian soldiers from his plane in Kashmir in 1947 when Pakistani forces and tribals attacked it. Biju babu was a great hero in the war of Indian Independence movement.

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Pabitra Mohan Bairk is a Lecturer in History, S.H. Mahavidyalaya, Madanpur, Khurda, Orissa.

## Agricultural Labour in India - A Close Look

*Dr. Kulamani Padhi*

It is one of the primary objects of the Five Year Plan to ensure fuller opportunities for work and better living to all the sections of the rural community and, in particular, to assist agricultural labourers and backward classes to come to the level of the rest.

One of the most distinguishing features of the rural economy of India has been the growth in the number of agricultural workers, cultivators and agricultural labourers engaged in crop production. The phenomena of under-employment, under-development and surplus population are simultaneously manifested in the daily lives and living of the agricultural labourers. They usually get low wages, conditions of work put an excessive burden on them, and the employment which they get is extremely irregular.

Agricultural workers constitute the most neglected class in Indian rural structure. Their income is low and employment irregular. Since, they possess no skill or training, they have no alternative employment opportunities either. Socially, a large number of agricultural workers belong to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Therefore, they are a suppressed class. They are not organised and they cannot fight for their rights. Because of all these reasons their economic lot has failed to improve even after four decades of planning.

This can also be seen from the Prime Minister's speech made in Lok Sabha on August 4, 1966. The Prime minister emphasized -

"We must give special consideration to the landless agricultural labour. Although there has been tremendous progress in India since Independence, this is one section, which has really a very hard time and which is deserving very special consideration."<sup>1</sup>

Seasonal unemployment is a characteristic feature of Agricultural Industry and under employment of man power is inherent in the system of family farming. According to first A.L.E.C., adult male agricultural labourers were employed on wages for 189 days in agricultural work and for 29 days in non-agricultural work i.e. 218 day in all. They were self-employed for 75 days. Casual male workers found employment for only 200 days, while attached workers were employed for 326 days in a year. Women workers employed for 134 days in a year.

Unlike industrial labour, agricultural labour is difficult to define. The reason is that unless capitalism develops fully in agriculture, a separate class of workers depending wholly on wages does not come up.

Difficulties in defining agricultural labour are compounded by the fact that many small and

marginal farmers also work partly on the farms of others to supplement their income. To what extent should they (or their family members) be considered agricultural labourers is not easy to answer.

However, it will be useful to refer some of the attempts made by experts in this connection.

1. The First Agricultural Labour Enquiry Committee 1950-55 defined Agricultural Labourer as - "Those people who are engaged in raising crops on payment of wages"

2. The Second Agricultural Labour Enquiry Committee 1956-57 enlarged the distribution to include -

"Those who are engaged in other agricultural occupations like dairy, farming, horticulture, raising of live-stock, bees, poultry etc. "In the context of Indian conditions the definition is not adequate, because it is not possible to completely separate those working on wages from others. There are people who do not work on wages throughout the year but only for a part of it.

Therefore, the first A.L.E.C. used the concept of agricultural labour household. If half or more members of household have wage, employment in agriculture then those households should be termed as agricultural labour household. This concept was based upon the occupation of the worker.

The Second Committee submitted that to know whether a household is an agricultural labour household, we must examine its main source of income. If 50% or more of its income is derived as wages for work rendered in agriculture only, then it could be classed to agricultural labour household.

According to the National Commission on Labour "an agricultural labourer is one who is

basically unskilled and unorganised and has little for its livelihood, other than personal labour."

Thus, persons whose main source of income is wage, employment fall in this category. Mishra and Puri have stated that "All those persons who derive a major part of their income as payment for work performed on the farms of others can be designated as agricultural workers. For a major part of the year they should work on the land of the others on wages."

#### **Classification of Agricultural Labourers :**

Agricultural labourers can be divided into four categories -

1. Landless Labourers, who are attached to the land lords;
2. Landless labourers, who are personally independent, but who work exclusively for others;
3. Petty farmers with tiny bits of land who devote most of their time working for others and
4. Farmers who have economic holdings but who have one or more of their sons and dependants working for other prosperous farmers.

The first group of labourers have been more or less in the position of serfs or slaves, they are also known as bonded labourers.

Agricultural labourers can also be divided in the following manner :

1. Landless agricultural labourers
2. Very small cultivators whose main source of earnings due to their small and sub-marginal holdings is wage employment.

Landless labourers in turn can be classified into two broad categories :

1. Permanent Labourers attached to cultivating households.

## 2. Casual Labourers.

The second group can again be divided into three subgroups :

- (i) Cultivators
- (ii) Share croppers
- (iii) Lease holders.

Permanent or attached labourers generally work on annual or seasonal basis and they work on some sort of contract. Their wages are determined by custom or tradition. On the other hand temporary or casual labourers are engaged only during peak period for work. Their employment is temporary and they are paid at the market rate. They are not attached to any landlords.

Under second group comes small farmers, who possess very little land and therefore, has to devote most of their time working on the lands of others as labourers. Share croppers are those who, while sharing the produce of the land for their work, also work as labourers. Tenants are those who not only work on the leased land but also work as labourers.

### Characteristics of Agricultural Labourers

Before any attempt is made to evolve a rational policy to improve the living conditions of agricultural labours which happens to belong to the lowest rung of social and economic ladder, it is essential to know the distinguishing features that characterize agricultural labourer in India.

The main features, characterizing Indian agricultural labour are as follows :

#### 1. Agricultural Labourers are Scattered

Agricultural labour in India is being widely scattered over 5.6 lakh villages, of which half have population of less than 500 each. And therefore, any question of building an effective organization, like that of industrial workers, poses

insurmountable difficulties. Thus as the vast number of agricultural labour lies scattered all over India, there has been no successful attempt for long, to build their effective organization even at the state level not to speak of the national level.

#### 2. Agricultural Labourers are Unskilled and Lack Training

Agricultural labourers, especially in smaller villages away from towns and cities, are generally unskilled workers carrying on agricultural operation in the centuries old traditional wages. Most of them, especially those in small isolated villages with around 500 population, may not have even heard of modernization of agriculture. Majority of them are generally conservative, tradition bound, totalistic and resigned to the insufferable lot to which according to them fate has condemned them. There is hardly any motivation for change or improvement.

Since, there is direct supervision by the landlord, there is hardly any escape form hard work and since there is no alternative employment. The agricultural labourer has to do all types of work-farm and domestic at the bidding of the landlord.

#### 3. Unorganised Sector

Agricultural labourers are not organized like industrial labourers. They are illiterate and ignorant. They live in scattered villages. Hence they could not organize in unions. In urban areas workers could generally organize themselves in unions and it is convenient for political parties to take interest in trade union activities. This is almost difficult in case of farm labour. Accordingly, it is difficult for them to bargain with the land owners and secure good wages.

#### 4. Low Social Status

Most agricultural workers belong to the depressed classes, which have been neglected for

ages. The low caste and depressed classes have been socially handicapped and they had never the courage to assert themselves. They have been like dump-driven cattle.

In some parts of India, agricultural labourers are migratory, moving in search of jobs at the time of harvesting. Government measures to improve their lot by legislation have proved ineffective so far due to powerful hold of the rural elite classes in the rural economy.

### 5. Demand and Supply of Labour

The number of agricultural labourers being very large and skills they possess being meager, there are generally more than abundant supply of agricultural labourer in relation to demand for them. It is only during the sowing and harvesting seasons that there appears to be nearfull employment in the case of agricultural labourers. But, once the harvesting season is over, majority of agricultural workers will be jobless especially in areas, where there is single cropping pattern.

### 6. Less Bargaining Power

Due to all the above mentioned factors, the bargaining power and position of agricultural labourers in India is very weak. In fact, quite a large number of them are in the grip of village money lenders, landlords and commission agents, often the same person functioning in all the three capacities. No wonder, the agricultural labour is the most exploited class of people of India.

### 7. At the Bidding of the Landlord

There is generally direct and day to day 'contact between agricultural labourers and the landlords' on whose farm they are working. Unlike industrial workers, this direct contact between the employer and employees is a distinct feature of agriculture labourer.

The above mentioned few important characteristics distinguish agricultural labourers in India from industrial workers. Thus partly because of factors beyond their control and partly because of their inherent bargaining weakness, the farm labourers have been getting very low wages and have therefore to live in a miserable sub-human life.

### Agricultural Serfs or Bonded Labourers

At the bottom of the agricultural cadre in India are those labourers whose conditions are not very different from those of serfs. Agricultural serfdom has been most prevalent in those parts of India where the lower and the depressed classes and most in numerous. The ethnic composition of villages which governs the social stratification is responsible for the survival of the slavish conditions. In Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, a large aboriginal population live and the condition of this agricultural labours is very much like that of slaves. These are called in different names in different States.

The following table-3 indicates the number of bonded labourers identified, released and rehabilitated as on 31.12.1995.

Statement showing the number of bonded labourers identified and released as on 31.12.1985 as per the reports received from the State Governments.

Name of State	No.of bonded labourers	Identified, freed & Rehabilitated
Andhra Pradesh	61,336	14,017
Bihar	11,002	9,472
Gujarat	61	38
Haryana	195	21
Karnataka	62,689	40,033
Kerala	829	820
Madhya Pradesh	4,655	2,912

Maharashtra	772	319
Orissa	41,065	27,817
Rajasthan	6,813	5,770
Tamil Nadu	32,581	31,591
Uttar Pradesh	16,199	13,420
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,93,197</b>	<b>1,46,230</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>46,967</b>	

means 22.7% of the total labour force. Similarly as per 1991 census, the total number of agricultural labourers was increased from 92.5 million in 1981 to 110.6 million in 1991. This means the percentage of agricultural labourers over total labour force, increased from 22.7 in 1981 to 26.1 in 1991. This can be seen in the following table.

According to 1981 census, the number of agricultural workers was 55.4 million, which

### Population and Agricultural Workers

Year	Total Population (millions)	Annual Compound growth rate (%)	Rural Population (millions)	Cultivators	Agricultural labourers	Other workers	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1951	361.1	(1.25)	298.6 (82.7)	69.9 (49.9)	27.3 (19.5)	42.8 (30.6)	140.0 (100.0)
1961	439.2	(1.96)	360.3 (82.0)	99.6 (52.8)	31.5 (16.7)	57.6 (30.5)	188.7 (100.0)
1971	548.9	(2.20)	439.1 (80.1)	78.3 (43.4)	47.5 (26.3)	54.7 (30.3)	180.5 (100.0)
1981	685.2	(2.22)	525.5 (76.7)	92.5 (37.8)	55.5 (22.7)	96.6(a) (39.5)	244.6 (100.0)
1991@	844.3	(2.11)	627.1 (74.3)	110.6 (38.8)	74.6 (26.1)	100.2 (35.1)	285.4 (100.0)
2000	987.3	(1.02)					

\* Estimated population, as on 1st March 2000.

@ Figures of total/rural population include the projected population of Assam, whereas in respect of data on workers, Assam has been excluded.

(a) Includes marginal workers.

**Note :** Figures in brackets give percentage to total.

**Source :** Registrar General's Office for the data of years 1951 to 1991

### Causes for the Growth of Agricultural Labourers :

There are a number of factors responsible for the continuous and enormous increase in the number of agricultural labourers in India.

The more important among them are :

1. Increase in population
2. Decline of cottage industries and handicrafts

3. Eviction of small farmers and tenants from land
4. Uneconomic Holdings
5. Increase in indebtedness
6. Spread of the use of money and exchange system
7. Capitalistic Agriculture
8. Displacement of means of subsidiary occupations
9. Disintegration of peasantry
10. Break-up of joint family system.

**Measures taken by the Government to improve the Conditions of Agricultural Labourers :**

The Government has shown awareness of the problems of agricultural workers and all plan documents have suggested ways and means to ameliorate the lot of these people. Measures adopted by the Government for ameliorating the economic conditions of Agricultural labourers are

1. Passing of minimum wage Act.
2. Abolition of Bonded Labourers
3. Providing land to landless labourers
4. Provision of Housing cities to houseless
5. **Special schemes for providing employment**
  - i) Crash Scheme for Rural Employment (CSRE)
  - ii) Pilot Intensive Rural Employment Project (PIREP)
  - iii) Food for works programme (FWP)
  - iv) National Rural Employment Programme (NREP)
  - v) Rural Landless Employment Programme (RLEP)
  - vi) Drought Prone Area Programme (It was known as Rural Works Programme)

6. Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (which come in with the merger of NREP and RLEGP)
7. Desert Development Programme
8. National Scheme of Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSM)
9. Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA)
10. Abolition of Bonded Labourer Act
11. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)

**Suggestions for the Improvement of Agricultural Labours :**

The following suggestions can be made for the improvement of the socio-economic position of the agricultural labourers :

1. Better implementation of legislative measures.
2. Improvement the bargaining position.
3. Resettlement of agricultural workers
4. Creating alternative sources of employment
5. Protection of women and child labourers
6. Public works programmes should be for longer period in year
7. Improving the working conditions
8. Regulation of hours of work
9. Improvements in Agricultural sector
10. Credit at cheaper rates of interest on easy terms of payment for undertaking subsidiary occupation.
11. Proper training for improving the skill of farm labourers
12. Cooperative farming

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Dr. Kulamani Padhi is the Asst. Registrar, Dairy Co-op. Societies, Directorate of A.H. and V.S., Orissa, Cuttack.

# Agricultural Credit : A Core Component of Rural Development

*Prafulla Chandra Mohanty*

To reduce the broader dimension of poverty, we need to focus on rural development, particularly in agriculture, employment, health, education and nutrition. It is known that agriculture growth is important in India with around 70 percent of total workers still depending on this sector. The growth rate of agriculture in the last ten years has been less than 1.5 percent per annum. It is seen from the past that the overall G.D.P. growth was high whenever agriculture growth was high. Unless agricultural growth is improved, one can't achieve G.D.P. growth of 8 percent or more and subsequent reduction of poverty. Industry and services also may not grow on expected lines without agricultural growth. The terms of trade too deteriorated and many farmers have been committing suicides in several parts of our country for crop failure and of low production and increasing indebtedness.

Timely and adequate agricultural credit is important for increase in fixed and working capital for farmers. In order to provide sufficient credit to the farmers, many institutional and non-institutional agencies are working. Under institutional agencies-cooperative, commercial, regional rural banks and different Government organizations are supplying credit to the needy farmers on priority basis. But, it is seen that

cooperative carries the largest network in agricultural credit supply in the country.

There is an urgent need in the era of liberalization and globalisation to fully exploit available natural, material and human resources in the most efficient and effective way. In order to exploit all these resources, it is essential to have a sound financial or banking system. Even after nationalization of banks (1969), the spread of banking imbalance is not yet fully reduced, and inadequate growth in all levels of trade and industries. Infact, in the rural areas, the rural oriented banks such as PACBS, RRBS, Lead Banks etc., are not effectively responding to the problems of rural clients, rural industries and customers.

In the above context, a paper has been prepared to focus on institutional agricultural credit, in rural India. The article also tries to give a comparative study on the credit agencies, their problems and ends with some suggestions for improvement.

The study has been divided in two parts such as the importance of agricultural development in the economy and rural development of India and the second part works on the supply of credit to the agriculture as a factor of rural development. The study is based mostly on the secondary published data. Some of the simple mathematical



and statistical tools like percentages, averages etc. have been used in the study.

### **Importance of agriculture in India's economic development :**

As described earlier, India is a country of villages and farmers. The share of agriculture in the total GDP is very high (24%) in comparison to other developed and developing nations. While studying the planwise annual growth rate in agriculture with the growth rate of overall GDP. It is seen that the GDP growth is directly related with the growth of agriculture sector. Again on locating the decadal growth of agriculture since 1950-51, it is seen that, this sector shows no significant remarks in growth. The annual compound rate of growth remains in between 1.7 percent to 3.9 percent. After globalization, the growth is some how reduced from 3.9% to 2.8%, which is not sufficient to achieve high rate of growth and again it can be concluded in saying that globalization neglects agriculture development.

### **Productivity :**

India is poor and the country is coming under the developing category. This happens only because of our low productivity in agriculture. In the production of wheat, France produces more than 71 Quintals. Similarly in paddy production U.S.A. tops the list with 70.4 quintals where as we produce only 30 quintals per hectare. The condition is also very precarious in seeing the productivity of cotton and groundnut. So, it is required to improve the productivity of different crops of India by improving the factors responsible for high production. But a point to mark is that the production is in increasing trend for the period under globalization. The basic factor for producing more from agriculture sector is supplying credit to the needy cultivators. To

highlight on the investment it is seen that the public investment is reducing year after year i.e from 39%(1980-81) to 26%(2001-02), where as the private sector investment is bridging the gap on investing more and more. This shows a clear government withdrawal from investing in the agriculture sector in the period of reform. During the period of globalization, on implementation of high yielding technology, our country not only becomes self sufficient in food production but also able to export to some of our neighbours.

### **Credit supply :**

But, anyway, to improve our economical condition, we must try to improve the financial condition of our farmers who can bring rural development. So, an easy and sufficient credit facility should bring all round development to the nation.

The farmers of our country except a few are very poor and so they do not adhere to invest the required finance for agricultural production. Again if, they do, also, they are to go for many lenders who will generally exploit them. In order to check this, after independence a lot of steps have been taken by the Government i.e., nationalizing Banking sector, establishment of cooperative Banks, NABARD, and Regional Rural Banks, Priority sector lending, etc.

### **Credit Estimates :**

Government also estimates the total credit requirements for agriculture sector from time to time and accordingly frames the policies for credit supply. In the year 1970-71, Dantawala Committee estimates the credit requirements at Rs.1460 crores which was enhanced to Rs.4000 crores in the year 1973-74 by the Rural Review Committee established for the purpose.

**Expenditure Pattern :**

The credit requirement is highly related with the expenditure pattern of the farmers. They generally spent 32 percent of the borrowings on capital expenditure and 13 percent on current expenditure on the farm. But, other 47 percent mostly consumed by them on family expenditure and the rest 8 percent in other non-farm expenditures. This drowns the poor Indian farmers in indebtedness and so they require more and more credit to go for agriculture production.

**Purpose of Loan :**

The Rural Credit Follow up Survey (1969) has divided the purposes of Loan according to the class of borrowers like i) Rural families, ii) cultivators and iii) non-cultivators. It is estimated that the rural families spent 43.7 percent in productive and the rest 56.3 percent in unproductive purposes. But the cultivators spent 46.6 percent in productive purpose and noncultivators spent only 25.9% of the loan in the productive way. So the rest is unproductive which adds nil or negatively to the borrowers. So, a consciousness about the use of borrowed loan funds should be arisen among the rural borrowers. In the earlier times the credit supply was handled mostly by money lenders and Mahajans. But, after independence, the government stated some institutions in order to provide agriculture lending, later on the year 1969 and 1975, banks were nationalized and were instructed to lend especially to the priority sector. Before 1969 the priority sector lending was less than 15 percent of the total loans. But from the year 1985, it was enhanced to 40 percent, and out of this 40 percent, a minimum of 16 percent must be after the Agriculture lending. Again this target has been enhanced to 18 percent.

The institutional credit was 7.3 percent in the year 1950-51, it is 18.7 percent in 1961-62,

again rose to 40 percent in 1973-74. After the second phase of nationalization of banks the institutional credit percentage was increasing in 1980-81 to 57 percent and to nearly 59.8 percent in the 1990-91 year. Further, this percentage is increased upto 67 percent in the year 2003-04 and so the non-institutional credit dominance gradually goes on decreasing from the track of credit supply.

Among the institutional agencies the important credit supply institutions for agriculture are the Government, the Cooperative banks, Commercial banks, and Regional rural Banks. Government finances to agriculture in the period of distress in the name of taccavi loan at lower rate of interest i.e. 6% p.a. to the distressed farmers only. It is seen that, this taccavi credit by the government was very less i.e. in 1951-52 only 3.3% of the total borrowings, in 1961-62, it was 2.6 percent, in 1980-81 it was 3.2% but in 1990-91 it came down to to 1.2%. Henceforth, Government discourages this loan for budgetary constraints. The oldest agricultural lending institution is cooperative. The cooperative lending occupies a pivot place in credit supply. In the year 1954-55, it was 3.1%, but increased to 15.5% in 1961, 36% in 1980-81, and in 2002-03, it counts 43% of the total borrowings. The newly found RRBS(1975) have a credit supply percentage of 6% to 7% only. But commercial Banks play an important role in rural credit. In 1951-52, it started with 0.9 percent and in 1961-62 it was 0.6 percent. But it increased to 15.4 percent in 1973-74 and again to 19.2% in (1980-81) and to 50 percent in 2002-03.

It is observed that till 1970-71, cooperatives had virtually a monopoly in meeting agricultural credit needs of the farmers in India. From the data plotted for years 1997-98 to 2003-04, it is seen that the total institutional credit for

the 1997-98 was Rs.31,956 crores and this figure for 2003-2004 year was Rs.80,000 crores. This gives an average increase of more than Rs.8000 crore per annum. It is also marked that due to advent of commercial and rural banks into the credit market, the overall percentages of credit supply through cooperatives were decreasing from 44 percent (1997-96) to 37 percent (2003-04). Accordingly, the rate of credit supply by commercial banks are increasing from 50 percent (1997-98) to 55 percent (2003-04). The share of RRBs in credit supply is limited to 6% (1997-98) to 8 percent (2003-04). As per the credit requirement estimates, the short term credit supply is always more in comparison to medium term and long term supply. It is nearly 70:30 percent for cooperatives, 55:45 for commercial Banks and it is 3:1 in RRBs.

#### **Conclusion & suggestions :**

1. Credit norms and scales of finance should be increased.
2. Security to be reduced from the present margin of 25% for poor and marginal farmers.

3. Crops can be the security but no other security to be demanded.
4. Defaults to be reduced.
5. Need for coordination among credit supply institutions required.
6. Deposit credit ratio should be enhanced.
7. Soft interest rate, etc. concessional and subsidized credit supply should be made to enhance the productivity of low and marginal farmers.

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Prafulla Chandra Mohanty is a Sr. Faculty Member of Commerce, Aska Science College, Aska, Ganjam.

### **ORMAS TO ORGANISE SISIR SARAS FEST**

In an effort to give a boost to the marketing of rural Orissan products, the Orissa Rural Marketing Society (ORMAS) has planned to organise a national level festival known as *Sisir Saras* from 5th to 15th March 2007 at the exhibition ground in Bhubaneswar. A decision to this effect was taken in a meeting presided by Minister for Panchayati Raj & Parliamentary Affairs Shri Raghunath Mohanty on February 16.

Sponsored by the Ministry of Rural Development, this mega event will help promote the products of Self Help Groups (SHGs), especially, the handloom, handicraft and food products. As many as 250 well designed stalls would be built to showcase the items. About 600 self-employed rural artisans from across the country will participate. During the festival, the state Horticulture Department will organise a flower show. The Culture Department will present a folk dance & music programme.

The event will facilitate the exchange of inter-state culture, indigenous product design and process.

## Pre-historic Archaeology of Undivided Phulbani

*Raghunath Rath*

The old undivided district of Phulbani is one of the centrally located districts of Orissa which lies between 19° 34' N and 20° 54' N latitude, and between 83° 30' E and 84° 48' E longitude. It is bounded by Suvarnapur and Dhenkanal districts in the North, Ganjam and Rayagada districts in the East, Ganjam and Nayagarh districts in the South, Rayagada, Kalahandi and Suvarnapur district in the West and is having a geographical area of 11093 sq. kms., out of which, an area of 7336 sq. kms. is covered by forest. The tribal population constitutes about 25% of the total population. This district is predominated by Kondh tribe, who belongs to Proto-Austroloid race.

Archaeological exploration has not been done adequately in this district. Some archaeological investigations have been made by some scholars in Boudh sub-division (present Boud district), which yield a rich treasure of information to researchers. Moreover, some historical sites with rich archaeological ruins are also noticed, which could not be studied by scholars properly and some of them are still out of the sight of the scholars. This researcher has given some informations to the Secretary, INTACH, Orissa Regional Chapter and came to know that those have been listed by the INTACH.

The aim of this paper is to high-light the pre-historic archaeology of the old Phulbani District, which is divided into two districts, namely Boud and Kandhmal. But, only explorations have been made by scholars in Boudh area who discovered many pre-historic implements ranging

from Palaeolithic to Chalcolithic period. Dr. K.C.Tripathy has studied the lithic culture of Phulbani district by discovering an old stone age site in village Kankala (Dash 1991:89) He has also reported one single site of pebble industry at Manamunda in 1972 (Ota: 82-83: 168)

S.B.Ota also explored the area from river Bagh to Khadang and discovered Palaeolithic open-air sites in 1981-82 at Gurvelipadar, Kankalidunguri, Rangoli hill, Kantamal, Sunadei hill and Barapadar. Except the site of Kantamal which is situated on the bank of river Tel, the rest are foothill sites (Dash :91:84).

The Palaeolithic Period is the formative period of human culture which flourished in south-western Orissa as well, under which comes the old district of Phulbani. Palaeolithic implements like hand axe, cleaver, scraper, point, blade and burins were discovered from these sites (Tripathy: 1982:13)

The Palaeolithic sites explored by S.B.Ota yielded horse-hoot cores, flakes, kamanrs, Kanifacial and unifacial choppers etc. associated with red soil (locally known as Rangamati) at a depth of 2 to 4 meters from the surface. But in later days Ota changed his views about the palaeolithic origin of the implements (Dash 1991:85). Further, he opines that there lived a hunting and food gathering community as most of the sites are situated on the foot hill zones ranging from 3 to 4 kms from the river Tel, which bears plants like Bahada (*Teraminalia Belerica*), Ber (*Zizyplus Jujuta*), Char (*suchanamia latiflora*), Tuki

(*Deospyras Mesanoxylam*), Amala (*Phyllanthus Emblick*), Jhad khajuri (*Phanix Acaulis*), Mohua flowers (*Bassia Letifolia*), Kusum fruits (*schleichera Frijhuga*), Jamun (*Syzygium Caumiari*) etc. on the foot-hill zones. Hence, the area offered a variety of plant and animal foods for exploitation by pre-historic groups (Ota 82:83: 172).

**Mesolithic Period:** Mesolithic culture is more prominent than palaeolithic culture in Phulbani district as evident from the extensive survey of the North Boudh-Kondhmals by Ota from 1981 to 1984. He has excavated at Khomananta on the bank of Adopathar Jore near the village Kalarajhuli and identified open-air sites on the bank of river Bagh and Guduguda and Meherian nallahs and some sites on the foot-hill zones. They are "Kuchuni Ghugura, Dunguri, Gurvelipadar, Kankalidunguri, Rengali Reserve Forest, Kantamal, Sunadei Hill, Barapadar, Mohuli, Digi, Mundipadar, Shantipalli, Raluri, Sadanandpur, Boulasinga, Dhourakud and Golurapalli, Thatipali, Jamatangi, Sabupara, Sobhapaluli, Jamaghati, Chhelibahal, Talupali, Karadapadar, Jampali, Telapadar, Burlikon road, Tuaniamunda, Badajharmunda, Sialimal and Dolabali. Some of the small sites like Asurgarh, Panaka, Benamunda, Jhankarpada, Pudamarghat, Kasurbandh and Kusumpadar are also noticed by Ota (Dash 91:91) This researcher also discovered a chopper from open-air site of village Tileswar.

The microliths discovered from the sites are made up of quartz (both milky and crystal varieties) and to some extent chert and chalcedony, which have been obtained in the form of river pebbles and nodules. Some of the artifacts are made up by granites, granite gneisses, charnockites and Kondalites also.

The artifacts include both geometric and non-geometric types such as triangles, trapezes, lunates, points, backed blades, retouched blades, varieties of scrapers, hammer stones, anvils, ring stones, and retouchers etc. Most of the artifacts are associated with red soil which are found from

soil erosianic nallahs. Almost all the sites have yielded microlithic equipments with heavy stone tools like horsehoo cores, choppers, and pointed tools. (Ota 1986:80-81) The technology is based on the production of blades, varying from about 1.5 cm to 4.00 cm and small flakes (Ota 86:80)

The Mesolithic Man was utilizing the artifacts mainly as wood working implements and were employed for a variety of tasks involving the operations of cutting, splitting, boring, chopping, scraping, butchering of big animals, pounding and grinding etc. (Ota 1986:81)

At first, Ota hold the view that the artifacts belong to Palaeolithic Period. But subsequently he changed his opinion attributing the implements discovered from North Boudh-Kondhamals to Mesolithic Period citing evidences of primitive groups of Australia, Kalahari and New Guinea, who used to employ heavy stone tools for wood working and variety of other works in their day-to-day life. He also thinks that as he found the heavy tools on the river valley with dense forest back ground, which are very much heavy and difficult to be carried to a distant place, they might have been confined to a limited region. As such, they must have depended upon the forest products and hunting. Hence he called the Mesolithic Man of North Boudh-Kondhamals of Phulbani as hunting and food gathering community (Ota: 82-83:175)

**Neolithic Period:-** One Neolithic site has been discovered by Ota in 1984-85 at Malapara Ghat from which he has collected a few mesolithic implements (Dash 1991:93). Tripathy also collected some microliths from Boudh (Dash:1991:6). Nayak reports about availability of celts, hammer stone, chisel and club (gada) of Mesolithic Period from Asurgarh on the confluence of river Tel near Manamunda (Nayak:1983:14). This writer has been informed by Pramil Kumar Mohanty of Ranagarh and Sarat Kumar Majhi of Debagarh about availability of ring stones in their villages and also at village Salakote with other pre-historic implements like pottery etc. The ring stones

are locally known as "Bhamuri Pathar" which are being tied around the neck of domestic animals to cure them from some diseases.

**Chalcolithic Period:-** Chalcolithic Period began when Mesolithic Period was in a culminating stage. In this period, urbanized culture flourished at Asurgarh on the confluence of river Tel near Manamunda which is evidenced from the excavation taken up under the joint auspices of Department of Archaeology, Deccan College, Pune and the P.G. Department of History, Sambalpur University for about three weeks in February 1981 (Behera 1982:18).

In course of trial excavation of two brick structures each measuring 16.80 meters x 12.45 meters, two hollow pillars made of gricel were exposed. The bricks used were 35 cm x 26 cm while some other bricks are 50x26x9 cms in size. Manmunda Culture is assigned to the post-Gupta period. The potteries discovered may be dated to 1st-2nd century A.D.(Behera 1982:2)

Besides Asurgarh on the confluence of river Tel; potteries and other archaeological materials are also noticed from Nimkud, Parasutaghat, Nimaghat, Kurumpadar, Nuapali, Bausuni, Budhikon, Narghanta hill and Kurtipalli. Archaeological materials noticed from the above places include sherds of pottery, stone artifacts, domestic materials, jewellery made up of earth, copper and bronze, stone beads, punch-marked coins etc. (Chhotaray and Khuntia: 1980:453)

Among the potteries discovered from the sites are triangular terracotta cakes, dish on stand, gray ware, black and red wares, some pottery bearing drawings of single centered circle and inner side like Roman pottery type and some pottery having drawings like wave (Chhotaray and Khuntia : 1980:554)

Besides the above earthen wares, earthen jars with high curling face, sputed earthen jar and plates, heads of cow and horse made up of earth having four legs, were also discovered. (Chhotaray and Khuntia 1981:508-9). There is no doubt that the brick structure is a part of the fortified township.

During the survey, six earthen pots were discovered from the bottom of the hollow pillar at a depth of 30 feet and the discovered six pots were arranged one upon other which can be attributed to a ritualistic performance. There was a layer of sand at the bottom and a huge deposit of charcol and jaw bones of a goat. The association of jaw bones with the charcoal at the layer of wooden chips burnt by fire give indication of ritualistic sacrifice, which were obviously conducted there at that time. Inside a hallow pillar, skeleton of a human child was discovered.

The excavation yielded some pieces of potteries like North Black Pottery of inferior variety, black grooved ware and Black Red ware. A circular brick structure having 6.35 inner diameter has been found, which seems to be a place of rituals in the latest phase. Some iron and copper implements have been also discovered from the above sites. Beads and lockets made of earth and stone, and rings made of silver and copper, as well as bangles of bronze were also discovered from the sites.

This researcher also noticed some iron slages and black wares etc. at village Purunagarh and also on the bank of river Salanki in the year 1987 and got information about availability of beads in village Kujuramunda at a depth of 4 to 5 feet.

According to scholars, the triangular terracotta cakes were used during fire and other worships in Harappan Culture. Some earthen figures are also found which bear testimony of local culture (Chhotaray and Khuntia 1981:19). Then the Neolithic people were cremating the dead body by digging trenches. To keep the memory of the departed soul they used some symbols on the cremation ground. For this purpose they built stone heaps, stone circles, menhirs, which are called Megaliths.

Sites associated with Megalithic Culture are also found in different part of present Baud District. Some of these sites are in village Kurumapadar near Manamunda, Khairmal, Sinduriabahal and Jamtangi. A menhir is found at Khairmalghat which

is worshipped by the villagers as "Kalarapat Devi." Some stone circles are noticed at village Jamatangi on the bank of river Bagh. About fifteen stone circles are found near Guduguda Nallah within the boundary of Budhikon village. Five stone circles are also noticed at village Kurumpadar and human bones were recovered at the time of digging one stone circle for construction of Lift Irrigation Point there. (Chhotaray and Khuntia 1982:830:31)

This researcher also probably found a menhir in village Tileswar. The stone pillar is about four feet high from the surface and pointed on the top having a trident mark on it. It is said to be the gate keeper of "Bauti Devi", the village deity. Scholars opine that some megaliths are now worshipped as village deities in Baudh and Sonapur area. (Chhotaray and Khuntia 1982:831) According to scholars megalithic culture belongs to Mundari tribe.

#### Conclusion :

The Palaeolithic Man, as we know, was depending on hunting and was moving from one place to other. He was not maintaining a settled life, but confined to a granted area and mostly depending on food gathering and hunting. The neolithic man gave up nomadic habits and used to maintain settled life and depended upon cultivation, hunting and food gathering also. The chalcolithic Man invented copper and iron implements and Megalithic Culture.

Exploration reveals that human habitations existed in the old undivided Phulbani district, particularly in Baudh area since Palaeolithic Period. But discovery of scanty palaeolithic implements reveal that towards the end of Palaeolithic Age and just before beginning of Neolithic Age human culture flourished in the North Phulbani region and from that period, continuity of human habitation are evidenced down through the ages. The urbanization culture of

Manamunda on the confluence of river Tel and Mahanadi show us the rich cultural heritage which flourished at the beginning of the Christian era., in the Tel and Mahanadi Valley. From the archaeological explorations made in Baliguda and Kandhmal sub-divisions, this researcher thinks that many lithic remains can be discovered in the Rahul and Salunki river valleys, which may throw new light on the lithic culture of the undivided Phulbani District..

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Raghunath Rath lives at Panasapadi Sahi, Baliguda, District- Kandhamal

# Alternative Strategies for Promoting Children's Literature

*Prof. Jagannath Mohanty*

Kurt Waldheim, Secretary General, UNO, once observed, "Humanity owes to the child the best it has to give. I appeal to all to participate in the activities directed towards creating a secure and happy future for all our children".

During the International Year 1979 the slogan adopted by the Government of India was "Happy Child- Nation's Pride". The distinguished author Mr Oscar Wilde also aptly said, "The best way to make children good is to make them happy". It is, therefore, felt that by making our children good and happy, our country will be happy and prosperous, and in this noble endeavour it is felt necessary to develop suitable literature for children. But unfortunately, inspite of our several efforts, the children's literature in different Indian languages has not developed upto our satisfaction. Therefore appropriate strategies are to be developed for promoting children's literature. It is not necessary to discuss the deficiencies and difficulties in the children's literature at present. But it is felt desirable to spell our new opportunities and challenges that we are facing in the field of promoting suitable juvenile literature.

## **Opportunities for Promoting Children's Literature**

Firstly, there has been unprecedented expansion of education at all levels, particularly,

at the school stage. At present there are about three hundred million children in the age group of 0-14 years, who constitute more than one-third of Indian population. We are also making attempts for realizing the target Education For All (EFA), Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE). Hence it is required to produce books both textual and supplementary for these children as a part of their curricular programmes. Under the Scheme "Operation Blackboard" (OB), the Government of India have also been providing ample funds for providing good children's Literature in the primary school.

Secondly, due to availability of modern printing technology, it has been possible to bring out very attractive and well designed children's books and journals with multi colour illustrations. It is a fact that modern printing mechanism needs to print thousands of copies at a comparatively cheaper rate in spite of increasing prices of the material and printings costs. Besides, many state governments have declared printing of books as an industry and young entrepreneur can get loans at a low rate of interest for investment on publications of children's books.

Thirdly, in the past writers were left to themselves in writing their books. But, now-a-days a large number of institutions and



associations have come forward for organizing training and orientation programmes for them. Similar is the case with artist, editors and publishers of children's books and journals. These programmes enable these functionaries to improve their skills and proficiencies in their respective fields.

Fourthly, previously there was no incentive for writers or publishers. They were doing their work for their own interest and self satisfaction. But, at present competitions are being organized at their regional, state, national and even at international levels and excellent books for children are receiving awards. Artists and publishers as well as writers are also given recognition and felicitations at various levels for their publications to the field of children's literature.

Fifthly, since we are in the midst of the fourth Revolution of Communication, namely, all kinds of electronic media like Radio, Television, Audio, Video and Computers, we cannot afford to ignore the importance in the field of children's literature. Besides, their impact on young children is enormous. Hence, we have to develop suitable materials for them not only for printing but for feeding various electronic media. Thus, children's literature has to be made very attractive, more interesting, multi-dimensional and multi-media materials.

#### **Alternative Strategies :**

In view of the immense importance of children's literature for cognitive, ethical and social development of children, it is felt essential for utilizing the above opportunities to the maximum and effectively involving parents, writers, artists, editors, publishers etc who are responsible for promoting children's literature. Hence, various alternative strategies are to be developed both at government and non government levels. At

present various organizations and associations have been set up, and with active guidance and inspiration they could be made effective for implementing these strategies.

(a) ***Desirable Awareness*** : It is found that not only the public but also the lecturers and professors and even literati are not fully aware about the meaning, scope and objectives of children's literature. Children's literature is still neglected and is given lower status than other aspects of literature. Although some men of letters wrote many good books for children for which they were awarded or felicitated, they have left his field only with the fear that they would be given lower status in the society if they would continue to write children's books.

On the other hand, many writers for children have not only written literature for the public, but also have been awarded and felicitated. But their very writing for children is regarded as a stigma and they are not given due respect by the so called writers of poems, stories and other literary works. Hence, it is felt desirable to bring about adequate awareness about the children's literature and remove the misconceptions that are looming large in the minds of our authors teaching in schools, colleges and universities. Eminent Writers like Biswakavi Rabindranath Tagore and Padmabhusan Kalandi Charan Panigrahi have contributed significantly to children's literature. This awareness can be brought about through individual studies, conference and seminars. All should be enlightened about the concepts, parameters and utility of children's literature and be motivated to contribute their mite to the development of children's literature.

(b) ***Research and Evaluation*** : Adequate research studies have not been conducted in the

field of children's literature though it is essential for developing suitable guidelines for writing and production of books and journals. Particularly, studies are to be conducted in vocabulary, reading interest and impact of good reading habits on academic growth of children and also in different aspects of physical features. The manuscript developed for children should be tried out and published for mass circulation in conducting these studies. Writers, Artists, Editors and Publishers should be involved in development of children's literature.

(c) **Publication and distribution** : It is a fact that publication of books and journals for children is expensive and needs utmost care— good writing, printing, illustrations and other factors that cannot be overestimated while developing children's literature. Hence, huge investing is necessary, and for that government and banks should provide loans at cheaper rates of interest. Government and other organisations should purchase a large number of suitable books and journals and provide them to the primary schools and also to libraries. But, unfortunately corrupt practices interfere and the very purpose is defeated although adequate funds are made available by the Central Government.

(d) **Journal Editing** : Journals are the nursery for developing writers and reading interests of the clientele. Children journals are essential for developing their (children's) reading habits but also for better academic performance. Besides, writers are encouraged and guided for developing suitable literature not only for the young readers but also adults in future. But at present most of the journals are edited by young and inexperienced persons having little knowledge and genuine interest in this area. Consequently, a lot of errors have crept in the fields of printing,

subject matter and even in get up. It is, therefore, felt that editors should be oriented and trained through workshops, seminars for developing such journals. They also should develop their knowledge and interest in children's writing before they can take up editing work. Because, the mistakes both in respect of them and language adversely affect children's growth. Such journals harm more than they help. Further, government should provide assistance and loans for production and distribution of standard journals for children.

(e) **Children's Association and organization** : Although associations and organizations are helpful for promotion of children's literature, it is often found that these are started without much planning and sincerity of purpose, and die out sooner or later. Therefore, persons with genuine interest and love for children's literature should be entrusted with the management of such organizations. These organizations, besides, trying for developing through literary interest should also work for developing through expertise and skills.

(f) **Incentive and Recognition** : Although our Shrimad Bhagwat Gita says one should work without expecting its outcome, in the modern society no work is done without any gain whether manual or intellectual or mental satisfaction. It is experienced that writers for children are not given their due recognition and their work is under estimated or not taken at par with other genres of literature. Hence it is felt that such mis-conception and prejudicial views regarding the children's literature should be done away with as early as possible not only in the interest of this literature but also for literature in general. Writers, Editors, Artists, Publishers should be given due recognition, felicitations and incentives for their

over all contributions and efforts for promotion of children's literature.

**Conclusion :**

All-round development of children's literature is essential and the strategies as discussed above, need to be pursued / implemented with right earnest. Promotion of children 's literature is a co-operative and collaborative effort involving parents, guardians, authors, artists, editors and publishers and printers. Hence, suitable programmes need be organized in different aspects of children's literature for various functionaries, Besides, all-out efforts should be made for making children's literature using both multi-media and multi-purpose technologies.

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Prof. Jagannath Mohanty lives at 2935, Gouri Nagar Bhubaneswar - 751002

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## What are they ?

*Dr. R.S.N. Murty*

Two big and white circles  
on a black background  
have been an obsessive quest  
since my very childhood.

Innocence and ignorance in me  
always hinder my progress  
to understand beyond  
mere observation.

Supposedly to be wise enough,  
religious pundits,  
when approached to solve the enigma,  
stay mostly tight lipped.



Their ego,  
Conception and misconceptions,  
Bias and prejudices  
and at times, I think, their ignorance  
make them silent.

To me, the two big, white circles  
on the black background are  
the gateways to salvation,  
Eternity and everything.

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Dr. R.S.N. Murty is a Cardiologist in the Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar.

## Winged Guests of Winter

*Balabhadra Prasad Das*

The nature's mega biodiversity is inassessable as it embraces large number of faunal and floral species of various types and are different from one another, belonging to several genera and families. By natural distribution, they occupy different territories. The animals do frequent to different areas on advent of adverse period due to ecological variation. Being guided by instinct, they either change altitude or move out to other areas— very common in the natural world for food and shelter. Such movements, known as migration of animals and birds, provide ample opportunity to the animal and bird lovers to observe their habit, habitat and behavioural pattern outside their natural habitat during certain part of the year.

At times, we find the winter sky is covered with many flocks of birds move high in the sky in a definite direction and time, being guided by instinct, to reach their destination, after leaving their habitat due to severe winter in Polar and Arctic regions. They migrate to warmer areas having safe shelter, food and breeding sites. Their moving site in flocks, making chirping sound,

attracts the attention of the bird lovers, research scholars and ornithologists who used to be in their toes to gear up their activity, after long wait for seasons after seasons.

The bird watchers in this season move from thickets to thicket, gardens to gardens, and forests to forests early in the morning before the sun rise to observe the birds. Being well equipped, they



move out carrying the haversack containing - bird book, note book, pencil, knife, camera and a pair of looking glasses to protect eyes and binocular hanging from the neck for easy and quick sighting. Besides these, some precautions are taken, like - slow breathing,

soundless stepping to locate the bird without disturbance, to observe and record calmly and shoot in the camera, if wanted. The bird watching is not only a good hobby but also a nice sport. More entertaining is to be in the serene, quiet environment inside a forest, amidst the singing of birds, and call of wild animals gives you celestial happiness. The cool breeze full with pure Oxygen, refreshes you. Hence, one long to spend more time inside the strand. Many might have

experienced the impact of the mother nature which are uncommon in urban life. However, more interesting and thrilling are jungle stories, told by wildlifers and naturalists. This author had one unexpected occasion was to spend about four days in the company of late Dr. Salim Ali, the internationally adorned Ornithologist during his august visit to Orissa in search of the endangered rare "Quail" in Orissa forests. Several books on birds were authored by Dr. Ali and was founder member of Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Bombay (now Mumbai).

For birds, Dr. Ali had immense likeness and affection. Even in an advanced age with broken health, he used to move out early in the morning before sunrise, with proper dress, armed with the requisites to watch the birds. That was observed during his stay at Forest Rest House, Tikarpara of Purunakote Range of Angul Forest Division. The forest on Mahanadi bank was debarred of calmness due to lot of activities over the area. In the lunch table, it was decided to visit the Similipal Hill Forests in Mayurbhanj District. He was aware of this hill that embraces all types of forests ranging from scurb to evergreen savana, comprising of 2250 sqkms with varied flora and fauna and Peninsular and Himalayan regions. This hill range houses many rare and endangered species-plentiful of song birds, hill Mayana and quails of all varieties. After negotiating rough, zig zag, winding forest road, we reached Meghashani, 1158 mts. high above M.S.L. We moved through the tropical broad stretch of forest and other forest types, which made him confident to spot the bird in the hill forest. So, Dr. Ali moved here and there inside the forest in search of the bird. For wider vision, he went to the hill top, there his foot slipped. But, Sri G.M. Dash, IFS, the then wildlife warden, Orissa, immediately caught hold of him, saving him from a fatal fall of 3000 ft. down the precipitating slope. All of us were

shocked. The escape was miraculous due to providence. All of us including Dr. Ali were interested to see the quail. But it could not be spotted. Yet Dr. Ali was hopeful to find it else where. A vivid description of the bird was given to us by him with a request to keep a vigilant eye during field visits.

Our group in the company of Dr. Ali moved for Nalabana Island, one of the Islands inside Chilika declared as sanctuary under the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972. On the way, we went to Nandankanan. Sri G.M. Dash, IFS, the then the Chief Wildlife Warden, Orissa and the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Nandankanan, briefed on the functioning and management of the Biological Park.

While proceeding towards the enclosures of animals and birds, the courtship of a pair of lion attracted our attention. Without disturbing them, we watched the love making. After that was over, there was mating, the lioness rolled three to four times on the ground soon after the mating. That rare sight was accidental. The animals have seasonal sex unlike human beings. After visit to the other enclosures and brief interaction, we left Nandankanan for Nalabana sanctuary to board the motor launch from Balugaon.

The wish of the group was to move faster to reach Chilika as early as possible to have a glimpse of the panoramic view of the blue lagoon with varieties of birds therein. The weather was cool and chilly. We arrived at the coast of Chilika at Balugaon. Several people were waiting to greet Dr. Ali. The mild breeze created wrinkles over blue water of the lake, on it the sea gulls floating, appeared dancing in gay. We boarded the motor boat, it moved for Nalabana sanctuary. Several water fowls were busy in feeding, not being scared by movement of the launch making sound close by. That indicated, they are not unsafe. The millions of birds in flocks those come here every year from polar and Arctic regions on advent of the severe

winter, move gayfully and freely in the sky. The sight of these birds with 'ka' 'ka' and chirping sound attracts attention to stare at the birds in sky. On way to their destination, they rest at places, feed on crops too however, succumbing to the bullet shots of hunters; is a matter of concern.

After proceeding some distance inside the lake the weather suddenly changed. The wrinkles on the water became waves; with strong wind, the waves became rough and high, dashed against our boat, made it unstable as well as unsafe. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Orissa did not dare to take risk and decided not proceed further, and with the consent of Dr. Ali, we had to return back to the shore. Our hope to see and watch the birds of continental and inter-continental origin, migrating from as far as the Caspian Sea, Lake Baikal, Arabian Sea, and other remote parts of Russia, Kirghiz steeps of Mangolia, Central and South-East Asia, Ladakh and the Himalayas got a setback. The availability of various types of food in abundance for adults and younglings having no dearth of nesting and resting sites attract the birds to Chilika lagoon which spreads over 165 sqkms. in monsoon and 906 sqkm during summer and is connected to the sea in the east coast of Orissa by a narrow outer strip of 32 kms. long that, influences the salinity level of lagoon.

Dr. Ali said, "we are at Chilika, the greatest wetland of Indian continent : the largest wintering ground of varieties of water fowls of national and international origin is a Ramsar Site." It caters to the needs of millions of avifauna. In fact, Chilika is a hot spot of Biodiversity, with unique floral and faunal composition namely : Phytoplanton - 43 spp., Algae community-22 spp., Vascular plants -150 spp., the Fungal spp., are : Protozoa 61 spp., Plautheinthos-29 spp., Nematodes-37 spp., Polychaetes-31 spp., Brachvura-28 spp., Decapoda-30 spp., Mollusa-136 spp., Fish-225 spp. and reptiles 37 spp., birds 166 spp., Mamals 18 spp. have been recorded by Government

agencies and the Botnica and zoological survey of India. BNHS also undertook survey of species of the lagoon.

Chilika is a highly productive ecosystem with rich fishing resources. This fishing ground sustains the livelihood for more than 1,00,000 (one lakh). Fishing folk, living around the lake in 117 villages, are a threat to the lake ecosystem. Besides fishing, some of them catch, trap or kill the migratory winter birds to sell in the local market to earn money. However, it is now under control for intensified regular patrolling of the mobile squads of the Chilika Wildlife Division of the Forest Department as well as by the local voluntary organisation youth clubs, formed around the lagoon, in different villages, for protection of the winged guests. The offenders nabbed are booked under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Considering the rich Biodiversity and socio economic importance, Chilika lake was designated by the Government of India as a Ramsar Site in 1981, under the convention of the Wet Lands of International importance, as water fowl habitat.

The co-ordinated effort of the Forst Department jointly with the Chilika Development Authority, taking several steps for preservation of the lake ecosystem. For awareness of the general public, eco-camps, meetings at different places, documentary film shows, seminars are being organised on various problems of the lake.

In the present scenario, it is highly imperative, youths and local people need to make all out efforts to help Government to preserve the glamour and beauty of rich ecosystem of Chilika as it was, "*The Marala Malin Nilambu chilika, Utkal Kamal Bilasa Dirghika*", is to be maintained as that, for all time to come.

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Balabhadra Prasad Das lives at Surya Vihar, Link Road, Cuttack - 7531012.

## Vision Orissa : 2036

*Dr. Bharati Mohapatra*

Orissa attained its political identity as a province of India on 1st April 1936. The integration of the 24 erstwhile feudatory states completed the process of unification by 1st January, 1949. A linguistic state of Oriya speaking people had taken shape. It provided a bold all-India identity and place of pride. What would be the projected picture of Orissa in 2036" presents a perspective futuristic run-up to 2036. Every vision statement must take cognizance of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that loom larger on the developmental horizons of Orissa. The most accurately projected calculations may go wrong due to unforeseen and unforeseeable catastrophes, disasters, contingencies, developmental initiatives and techno-scientific innovations.

### **Size of the State:**

The size of the State is not going to change. It would continue to be 4.74 percent of India's land mass.

### **Demography:**

The population of Orissa was 36.7 million in 2001; and the growth rate was around 1.6%. The literacy of women stands at 51%. Almost half the women of Orissa are illiterate. The number of female illiterates in 2001 was 79,35,529; and the female population in the age-group of 0-6 years

was 24,45,505 who await elementary education. The rate of population growth can at best go down up to 1.2% and not more.

### **Projected Population:**

In 1936, the population of Orissa was 1,31,29,000 and by 2036 it would be around 5,77,59,000 at a constant growth rate of 1.2 percent during this entire ensuing period. All the minimum needs including education have to be provided.

**Vision :** The demographic pressure would surely mount. Urbanization would take place in a big way. The population growth may create the compulsive need of reorganizing the present 30 districts, which may go up to 40. Law and order machinery needs to be geared to deal with the increased population. The Panchayati Raj Institutions are likely to play a very active role in every sphere of local administration.

### **Natural Resources:**

#### **Forests:**

Orissa was proud of its forest wealth; but this precious ecological protection is fast diminishing due to rapid population growth. In 2001-02, the forest area stood at 53,135 sq. kms. Or 37.30% of the total area of the State. The forest cover is sure to shrink by 2036 due to

demographic pressure and developmental activities. Forests influence climate and are home to the rich flora and fauna. This is likely to be adversely affected due to mindless deforestation and lack of planned afforestation in adequate measure.

**Vision :** The State must ensure that the forest cover does not diminish below 30% of its total area. Afforestation must be taken up on a war footing to avoid gross ecological imbalances. The varied species of flora and fauna must be protected. The treasure of bio-diversity must be preserved.

#### **Mineral Wealth:**

Orissa occupies an important position in the mineral map of India, and has rich deposits of coal, iron-ore, manganese, bauxite, chromite, etc. Utilization rates are around one percent in case of most of the minerals. This is a sun-shine sector and exploitation of mines shall form an important and formidable economic activity by 2036. The districts of Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sundergarh, Kondhamal, Rayagada, Gajapati, Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi and Bolangir are likely to be centres of buzzing minerals exploitation and related industrial activities. The oil reserves in the Orissa coast await exploration; and if rich hydro-carbon deposits are found they would greatly change the economy of the State. The value of mineral production in Orissa 2000-20001 was 2776.15 crore rupees constituting 5.23% of India. It lags behind such States as Madhya Pradesh (12.68%) Gujarat (8.9%), Andhra Pradesh (6.76%) and Assam (6.30%).

**Vision :** Concerted efforts need to be made to augment the utilization rates of minerals from 1% to at least 10%. We must try to be a frontranking state in this field.

#### **Marine Fishing:**

Orissa has a coastline of 480 kms; and occupies the 8th position in marine fish production among the nine States of India on the sea-board.

**Vision:** Orissa must adopt state-of-the-art fishing techniques and utilize remote sensing techniques to increase marine fish production.

#### **Water Resources:**

The water resources of Orissa are one of the highest with 11% of the country's total surface water resources. In 2000-2001, 61% of the total cultivable area was rainfed and lacked irrigation facilities.

**Vision :** The water resources of the state should be scientifically managed to mitigate the dependence of agriculture on the vagaries of monsoon and to ensure safe drinking water for all.

#### **Agriculture:**

Agriculture is Orissa's culture and its mainstay. It contributes 28.13 percent of the State income (Net State Domestic Product). The percentage of net area sown to total area (1998-99) was 38.8 percent; and of it, only 34.6 percent was irrigated area. In providing irrigation facilities, Orissa is lagging behind Punjab (94.5%), Haryana (78.3%), Uttar Pradesh (72.2%), Tamil Nadu (53.6%), Bihar (49.9%), Andhra Pradesh (41.4%) and west Bengal (35.1%) and the Indian average of 40 percent. The consumption of fertilizers (2000-2001) was 40.5 kg per hectare as against Punjab (116.6), Andhra Pradesh (158.8), Bihar (97.5), West Bengal (113.7), Chatisgarh (43.0) and the Indian average of 86.3 kgs. The yield rate of rice per hectare of Orissa was only 10.41 quintals as against 29.31 quintals of Andhra Pradesh, 25.59 quintals of Haryana, 21.6 quintals of Kerala, 35.06 quintals of Pnjab. The percentage share of food production was



only 2.54. The state of agriculture is in disarray and presents a highly depressing picture.

**Vision:** The net area sown to total area should increase. Irrigated area should increase up to at least 50 percent of the cropped area and drip irrigation should be widely used. The increased use of fertilizers is a must and its consumption must go up to the all-India average of 86.3 kgs per hectare. These steps would automatically increase the yield rate of agricultural produce and increase Orissa's share of food production. It would provide the much needed food security-net by 2036.

#### **Communication:**

This is the age of communication. In this critical sector, Orissa lags behind as evident from the following statistics.

Total Road length (in kms)(1999) -	2,62,513
Total Railway Track (in kms)(1999)-	2,186
Number of Busses (1998) -	11,726
Number of two Wheelers (1998) -	6,18,419
Number of cars (1998) -	34,471
Number of Post Offices (2000) -	8,135
News Papers sold per 1000 persons-	22
Telephones per 100 persons (2001)-	1.71
Internet connections per 100 -	0.012

**Vision :** Connectivity is the lifeline in this age of globalization. Rural connectivity is most dissatisfying, and all the 51,349 villages need to be connected by roads, telephones and inter-net, This will break the isolation of the villages and heighten their awareness and accelerate development.

#### **Economy:**

The per capita income of Orissa is Rs.9273.00. It is the lowest in the entire country.

It stands nowhere near States like Panjab (Rs.25,048), Haryana (Rs.23,742), Maharashtra (Rs.23,726) or any of its neighbouring States.

#### **Poverty:**

The Below Poverty Line (BPL) population of India was 26.1% in 1999-2000; but in Orissa its magnitude was the highest with 47.2% people belonging to BPL. More than 154 million people are under the Below Poverty Line in Orissa.

**Vision :** This dismal economic situation can be corrected if the politicians, administrators and the public make concerted efforts. Corruption, which has become endemic and eats away much of the developmental resources needs to be curbed. Orissa must strive to reach atleast the all-India level of per capita income and no person should remain under the BPL by 2036.

#### **Education:**

##### **Elementary Education:**

The school-age population @20% of the total projected population would be around 1,15,15,8000 by 2036. If a "Comprehensive Straight Through School" is established with classes 1 to VIII and with an intake of 40 students in each class, an Elementary School can accommodate 320 school-age children. This require 9 teaches each. So the requirement of teachers would be 4,33,2000.

The establishment of 48,200 schools would ensure universalization of Elementary Education i.e. classes I to VIII of children in the age-group 6 to 14. In addition to these, another 5,2000 small rural schools need to be established to cater to the needs all villages and make universalization of primary education a reality.

##### **Secondary Education:**

Twenty percent of the elementary school pass-outs are expected to go for Secondary

Education. So, the estimated Secondary School population would be 23,10,360. if the intake of a secondary schools would be around 7,700. All the present High Schools need to be upgraded to Higher Secondary level to meet the educational aspirations of the people.

### **Changing the Negative Mind-set towards Education:**

The present day politicians, administrators and the opinion leaders of the community have developed a highly negative mind-set regarding education. They are making educational institutions the scapegoates for all socio-economic evils. Further, there is evident reluctance to bear the heavy financial burden. Educational system of Orissa is fast loosing social support and funding.

**Vision :** Educational Institutions of all stages should increase. To arrest qualitative deterioration, the urban and rural Local Self-governing bodies, private entrepreneurs, and benevolent people should be encouraged to take over the management of education.

### **Conclusion:**

Orissa'a population is in manageable limits. But, the growth rate needs to be checked by providing universal elementary educatuion and a well-spread network of hospitals, dispensaries and other public health facilities before 2036.

Illiteracy among women and Tribals is very high which has to be eradicated by 2036.

The inter-district imbalances are glaring. The developmental distances generate frustration, distress and social tensions. The present day movements in parts of Orissa for sepatrate

Autonomous Councils for west, North and South Orissa regions; and even total separation; are due to accumulated neglact. Balanced development must take place to cheek regional dissatisfaction. The urban-ruraldivide needs to bridged.

There are three decades ahead to continue concerted deveopment of Orissa. Either we wake up to solve the harsh realistic problems and usher Orissa to a new Century of Hope by 2036; or neglect and commit socio-cultural suicide. The Centenary Year 2036 beckons us to awake, arise and commit ourselves to the concerted and multipronged development of Orissa.

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Dr. Bharati Mohapatra is the Principal of N.D.W. College of Teacher Education, Bhubaneswar - 751001.

## Cuttack City : Promotion of Education in Orissa in the Pre-Independence Era

*Dinabandhu Dehury*

Kataka, being the capital city of ancient Utkala, has been the nerve-centre of Orissan history, politics and culture since 989 A.D. witnessing the rule of the Somavamsis, the Gangas, the Gajapatis, the Afghans, the Mughals, the Marathas, the British and finally the elected democratic Government of Independent Orissa. During the long span of one thousand years, the city imbibed the quintessence of cultural waves from eastern, northern, central and southern India and thus mingled in her cultural waves from eastern, northern, central and Southern India and thus adapted in her cultural matrix all the heterogenous elements. Under the successive rule of the medieval dynasties, the boundaries of Orissa extended from the river Ganga in the north to the river Godavari in the South. There after the State saw the sudden decline for internecine struggle during the rule of an unworthy dynasty named the Bhoi, and next, the inevitable downfall due to external invasions, followed by the rulers of the Afghans, the Marathas and finally the British, who reduced the one time far-flung Orissa to three coastal districts of Balasore, Cuttack and Puri. Situated at the apex of deltaic land formed by the bifurcation of the Mahanadi and its main branch, the Kathajori, Cuttack has witnessed the vicissitude of its rules. It long acted as Military stronghold as well as the Capital of Orissa.

According to *Madala-Panji*, Raja Nrupa Keshari, a martial and ambitious prince, who was always fighting with his neighbours, is said to have first planted the city on site of the modern Cuttack about 989 A.D.

The city was in the past connected with the important centres of the country by Rajapathas and by the water ways leading to the Bay of Bengal and in the modern period by the railway lines and motor communication.

Like other important capital towns of medieval India, its Court was embellished with the illustrious poets, musicians, kinsmen, courtiers, commanders, sports men and other dignitaries. Cuttack was then well protected having been circumscribed by rivers in three sides which provided natural defence.

Orissa came under the British rule in 1803. After the advent of British rulers, Zamindars, Paikas and some tribal people started their movements against the foreigners. Most of the people could not welcome the Britishers. British people very bravely and cleverly won the resistance. They had to develop it in different directions. Obviously the progress of education in the Cuttack city received maximum attention. The Primary Schools in the Cuttack city met the needs of the pupils. The Secondary Schools in

the Cuttack city served the educational requirements of the Cuttack City and the rest of the Cuttack district as well. The Colleges, training Schools and technical institutions in Cuttack City were intended to cater to the needs of the whole of Orissa.

Upto 1866 there was almost total absence of attempt on the part of the Government to provide the people with the means of modern education. In 1841 Government opened a higher English School at Cuttack. Through a good deal of hardship it survived as the Principal seat of education in the province. In the terrible famine of 1866 it was well-known, how the want of educated persons aggravated the sufferings of the people of Orissa. By the year 1905, the National Movement for Freedom and Utkal Union Movement for the unification of the Oriya - speaking areas were launched. Under the impact of these two movements, the progress of education in Orissa received a great impetus.

During the Governor Generalship of Lord William Bentinck (1828-1835), English education in India received a great impulse. The long controversy between the orientalist and Anglicists was settled at last in 1835. William Bentinck decided in favour of English as a medium of instruction. It was the aim of the Britishers that people getting the education through English would get the service in the British administration. English being the international language and the link language of Indian States was introduced as the medium of instructions.<sup>1</sup>

The British Government felt the necessity of establishing English Schools. An English School and a Sanskrit School were opened at Puri on experimental basis to attract people. People showed their interest in such education. An English School at Puri was not adequate to serve the purpose. Therefore, the Government

decided to open more English Schools in some other district headquarters including at Cuttack, the headquarters of the State.

### Primary Education

Primary Education constitutes the foundation on which the entire super structure of education is built. Education at this stage possesses two-fold problem in this state, on the satisfactory solution of which depends to a very large extent the development of the community. The aspect of the problem is to evolve a suitable system of education which may help to awaken the dormant faculties of the child and the other to provide this education to every child of the school-going age. Primary education is provided in Primary Schools and Junior Basic Schools.<sup>2</sup>

The lack of well-trained teachers was keenly felt in the endeavour to develop Primary education. A training School at Cuttack was opened in 1863. In 1864 there were 23 students under training on the completion of the study they were appointed elementary village Schools.

In 1867 the Cuttack Training School was thoroughly reorganized in accordance with the scheme of Bhudeb Mukherjee. Henceforth, this was called First Grade Training School. The School was placed under a Superintendent. The School had mainly two department, one for training Pandits, and the other for training gurus. In the Pandit training department, teachers were undergoing training for one year only, while in the guru training department, there was a three years' course. It proved to be a very useful institution.<sup>3</sup>

In order to meet the want of certificated gurus, a Central training class for training of the Gurus of upper Primary Schools was added to First Grade Training Schools at Cuttack in 1891. Two classes were opened in it for the

training of English teachers for Secondary Schools in 1896. Henceforth, First Grade Training School at Cuttack was also known as Secondary Training School, Cuttack.<sup>4</sup>

In order to popularize primary education, efforts were made in the direction of introducing a simpler curriculum. In order to improve the quality of teaching, the salary of primary teachers was enhanced from time to time.

It was realized by 1921 that a large number of pupils in the Primary classes never got beyond the lowest class and were withdrawn before they had learnt even to read and write. This resulted in a wastage of money and effort, and led to stagnation in the development of Primary education. Several steps taken to overcome it were too inadequate to serve any useful purpose.

The Muhammedan pupils not only attended ordinary Primary Schools but also Special Schools known as Maktabas or Primary Urdu Schools intended for them. The number of Urdu Primary Schools or Maktabas in the Cuttack City was 40 in 1947. These were all aided by the Government. The Primary Schools having Urdu Section numbered 7 in 1947. There was one elementary training School for Muhammadans maintained by the Government at Cuttack.<sup>5</sup>

### **Secondary Education**

Secondary education was imparted by the Middle Schools and High Schools. For the promotion of Secondary education, the Government relied mainly on Private enterprise assisted by Grant-in-aid and subject to certain control.

Middle Vernacular Schools taught vernacular course. Middle English Schools taught the same vernacular course and in addition,

English during four years study from Class IV to Class VII. There was growing demand from parents and pupils themselves for increased facilities for English education. So, the middle English Schools were popular and demands were frequently made for the conversion of middle vernacular Schools into middle English Schools. The number of Middle English School in Cuttack city was 6 in 1900 and 10 in 1947. In order to improve the efficiency of middle English Schools and also incidentally of High Schools, it was decided to extend to middle English Schools, with effect from the year 1927-28, the scheme for a Public Middle Examination for a School Certificate.

It had always been the policy of Government to aid private enterprise in providing high Schools. But it provided and maintained one high School in each of the district headquarters to serve as models to other Schools. By 1900 there was one Government High School in the Cuttack town known as Cuttack Zilla School, one aided high School at Cuttack known as Mission School, run by the Missionary and a Private School known as Cuttack Academy.<sup>6</sup> By 1947 the number of aided high Schools in the Cuttack town rose to six. But Cuttack Zilla School, subsequently known as Cuttack Collegiate School continued to be the only Government High School till the end of the British rule.

From 1896, the First Grade Training School at Cuttack was the only institution in Orissa which provided facilities for the training of the teachers of the Post-Primary Schools i.e. Middle English Schools. For the training of the Masters for purely high Schools of education there was not any special provision at all for a long time.<sup>7</sup> In 1923 the Cuttack Training College was started. It provided a course of training

for graduates intending to work as teachers in the High Schools and Sub Inspectors of Schools. It prepared students for the Diploma in Education Examination.<sup>8</sup> The course of study extended over one academic year and comprised both theory and practice in teaching. The Ravenshaw Collegiate School and the Pyary Mohan Academy were used as practicing High Schools. The number of students on the roll was 26 in 1947.<sup>9</sup>

The Curriculum of the high Schools was largely examination - oriented and studies were accordingly literary. The department encouraged vocational and practical education in the Schools. During the period 1942-1947, Agriculture, Botany introduced in the Mission High School and carpentry was introduced in Cuttack practicing School.<sup>10</sup>

The Senior and Junior Madrasa were practically Secondary school on Islamic basis combining religious and secular education. The Madrasa Sultania at Cuttack was the only Senior Madrasa in the province. It received grant-in-aid from Government. In 1943 there was a reduction of fees in the higher class as an experimental basis to encourage a large number of Muhammedan boys to take oriental education. Pupils of the lower classes were not charged any fees.<sup>11</sup>

### **Collegiate Education :**

One of the most significant achievements of the period from 1858 to 1905 was the promotion of Collegiate education. This resulted in the establishment of a College in Cuttack. A proposal was made for raising the Government Zilla School at Cuttack to the standard of a collegiate School in 1868.<sup>12</sup> At the initiative of T.E. Ravenshaw, the Commissioner of Orissa, the College department of the High School was converted into a College in which students

would be able to complete the entire course necessary for attaining the B.A. degree in 1876.<sup>13</sup> The magnificent gift of Rs.20,000/- given by the late Maharaja enabled the Government to make the institution permanent. The name of the College was changed into Ravenshaw College, in commemoration of Ravenshaw's commendable services as Commissioner of Orissa. The history of Ravenshaw College is virtually the history of modern Orissa and it is said that anybody who is somebody in Orissa is a Ravenshavian.

Science was taught in this College upto Intermediate Standard. But in course of time there arose a strong demand for provision of B.Sc. course. So the B.Sc. (Pass) course was opened in 1912. Gradually the public opinion in Orissa began to demand opening of B.A. (Hons.), B.Sc. (Hons.) and M.A. classes. By 1947 the College had secured affiliation in most subjects at B.A. and B.Sc. (Honours) level and English, Economics, Mathematics and Oriya for the M.A. and Chemistry for the M.Sc.<sup>14</sup>

In July 1921, Ravenshaw College was moved to a new infrastructure at Chauliaganj. The number of students at the Ravenshaw College continued to rise. It was 158 in 1905, 375 in 1917 and 1171 in 1947. The number of Women students was 39 in 1947. The number of boarders in the hostel under the control of the College was 183 in 1947. Law Classes were attached to the Ravenshaw College at Cuttack which had 48 students in the roll in 1940. The College had a number of vigorous societies and clubs which attracted to their meetings some of the prominent persons of the town. The research workers in different departments continued their activities. The provincial museum continued to be housed in the College. The College had a Governing Body with a non-Official as Presidents.

Apart from Ravenshaw College, the premier College of the province maintained by the Government, there were two private Colleges in the Cuttack City namely Christian College, Cuttack and the Stewart Science College, Cuttack respectively.

The Utkal Christian College was started by the Christian Education Board, Cuttack in 1944 as an Intermediate in Arts and was raised to the status of a first grade College in 1946. It was managed by a Governing Body and received aid from Government. This was the first Private College started in North Orissa. With the rich Co-operation of the Public, it had made Phenomenal progress within three years.

It hoped to have its extensive building projects completed so as to move to its own infrastructure before the commencement of the Session in 1949-50. Its roll strengths was 309 in 1947. The College had a Students' Union and some important Societies.

The Stewart Science College, Cuttack was an Intermediate College maintained by the Baptist Missionary Society and was managed by a Governing Body. The College had a number of Societies and provided Special facilities for games which were compulsory. There were 110 students on the rolls of the College on 31st March 1947.<sup>15</sup>

From the beginning, the Calcutta University was the affiliating and examining body of the Ravenshaw College. From 1917 the Patna University took the place of Calcutta University. The Utkal University came into being in 1943. It was located in Cuttack. Dr. P. Parija was the first Vice-Chancellor of this University. Henceforth, Utkal University became the affiliating and examining body of the Colleges of Orissa.

### Female Education :

By 1905 state of female education in Cuttack city was far from satisfactory. Most of the girls attending the Schools were in elementary stage. Apart from some Girl's Primary Schools, there were two aided Middle English Schools for girls under the management of American Baptist Mission in the Cuttack city in 1905. The factors such as the want of adequate state aid, intense conservatism of the people, system of child marriage and scarcity of educated female teachers continued to hinder the smooth development of Women education.

In order to meet the deficiency of female teachers, a training School for mistresses was opened in Cuttack in 1906. It was properly managed by the Baptist Missionary Society and received substantial aid from Government. In accordance with the recommendations of the Female Education Committee of 1914,, a training School for Hindu Women was opened at Cuttack in 1919. It proved successful.<sup>16</sup>

The Girl's High School at Cuttack was opened in 1906 by Mr. Reba Roy. Subsequently the institutions became a fullfledged High School. The control of the Ravenshaw Girls' School was assumed by the Government with effect from 1 March 1913. In 1917 it was moved to a building acquired for the purpose by the Government.<sup>17</sup> In 1919, hostel and Principall's quarters were built for the Ravenshaw Girls' High School. Music and domestic Science were taught in the School as subjects for the Matriculation examination from 1933-34.

During the year 1915-16, a commencement was made in Orissa with the collegiate education of Women when I.A. classes were opened in connection with the

Ravenshaw Girl's School at Cuttack. The School was placed on a permanent footing in 1925. The number of students in the Intermediate Classes at the Ravenshaw Girls' School was 8 in 1934 and 10 in 1936. The limited number of Women students in the I.A. Classes, which had never exceeded a dozen by 1936, indicated that all students who passed the matriculation did not come up for Collegiate education. A very small number of women who wished to take a degree course, were having co-education in Colleges for men where they had greater choice of subjects, efficient and an academic atmosphere.

The Intermediate in Arts Section attached to the Ravenshaw Girls' High School was raised to the degree status in 1944. It was maintained by Government and was the only Women's College in the province. It was affiliated to the Utkal University. The strength of the College was 23 in 1941-42 and 64 in 1946-47. This shows that Women have began to take special interest in higher education.

#### **Technical Education :**

Two most important technical institutions of Orissa were located in Cuttack city. These were, Cuttack Survey School and Cuttack Medical School which developed into Orissa School of Engineering and Orissa Medical College in course of time. The Cuttack Survey School was opened in 1876. Period under training was fixed for two years. Almost all the successful candidates found employment as amins. It was converted into a School of Engineering in 1923.

The Orissa School of Engineering was the only an esteemed technical institutions in the province which trained candidates for the Subordinate Engineering Service. It usually provided education for 40 Civil engineering

subordinates. The number of students was increased to 57 in July 1946. There were in addition 20 students for the Industrial Diploma course. The majority of the students who completed their training found employment.<sup>18</sup>

Since the introduction of the scheme for training of war techniques, the Industrial Diploma course was held in abeyance. Accordingly, there were no students in the Industrial Diploma classes from 1943. Further to recruit men for the public works department in connection with Post War works, a scheme for the Emergency Training of Sub Oversears having short-term course was sanctioned. It worked in 1946-47.

The total number of students on the rolls in 1946-47 was 142. Of the 35 candidates presented for the Civil Engineering Subordinate Examinations in 1946-47, 23 came out successful. Twenty one candidates passed out of 27 who appeared at the emergency sub oversear examination.

An innovative expert committee was appointed in 1946-47 to suggest a course of training for the Civil, Mechanical and Public Health Engineering and financial implications of the scheme. Pending finalization of details by the expert Committee, the School was provided with furniture and other equipments worth Rs.36,855.00 in 1947.

The Orissa Medical School, Cuttack was established in 1876. It was the only institution in the province for imparting Medical education on the Western Lines. It was effectively maintained by Government and was under the control of the Medical Department. The course extended over four years. Those students who passed final examination from the institution were awarded degrees of licensed to medical practitioners.



Matriculation Examination of the Patna University or any equivalent of any other University had hitherto been the minimum standard fixed for students seeking admission into Orissa Medical School. But with a view to increasing efficiency of the esteemed institution, the standard had been raised to the passing of the I.A. or I.Sc. examination failing this, to the first division in the Matriculation or S.L.C. examination in 1937. The arrangement for teaching had also been reorganized and brought up to a higher level as recommended by the Medical Education Conference held in Delhi in 1938.

The number of students on the rolls on 31st March 1941 was 124. No fresh students was admitted into the School during the year 1946-47 owing to the gradual abolition of the School. At the end of 1946-47, there were only 16 students on the roll.

The Cuttack Weaving School was established in 1911. The following free hand drawing, design, fabric structure, dyeing preparation of yarn and yarn calculation. The control of the Schools was transferred from the Director of Public Instruction to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies in September, 1915. It may be mentioned here that fancy weaving of several descriptions was used to taught in these Schools. But it was found by experience that there was no sufficient demand for the materials turned out, and it was not profitable for the Weavers to turnout silk fancy cloth in large quantities. The Registrar, therefore, directed towards teaching the students to weave such clothes as could command a ready sale.

It was becoming more and more evident that the stationery Schools by themselves would not achieve their object in popularizing the use of fly-shuttle looms. To compass this end in view,

the system of a peripatetic agency in place of this Stationery School was considered more suitable. Hence, the Weaving Schools at Cuttack were closed on 31st January 1920.

The Industrial Section of the Mission Girl's School at Cuttack was opened in 1920. It was called shelter. It trained girls in basket making, weaving, spinning, sewing and embroidery work. In 1930, it was reported to have made satisfactory progress. But the number of students in the Shelter Industrial School began to diminish gradually.

Rai Bahadur B. C. Patnaik was the pioneer of the Orissa poor industry Cottage at Cuttack. It chiefly aimed at training students in different handicrafts using raw materials available locally. The number of students in this institute was 25 in 1936. It had got the following Sections :

1. Weaving Section, 2. Baskets, Cane and Mat Sections, 3. Toy Section, 4. Eri Section
5. Tailoring Sections, 6. Women Section

In 1936-37 fourteen students appeared in the final examination in different branches and all came out successful. In 1935 the institution made an excellence research into the process of burning bricks and the experiments made in this connection proved fruitful. In 1936-37, a new industrial institution called "The Madhusudan Village Industrial Institute" was started at Cuttack by a private association, with the financial aid of Rs.23,620.00 from Government which undertood to maintain it for first five years. There were altogether eight sections in the institute, detailed as follows.<sup>19</sup>

1. Cotton and Eri Spinning,
2. Cotton, Wool or Silk Weaving,
3. Toy making,

4. Cane and Wood work,
5. Paper making,
6. Oil Pressing,
7. Soap making,
8. Dying and printing.

The courses of study of each section covered a period of one year. The Session began in January and ended in December every year. As the number of students in the Madhusudan Village Industries began to diminish gradually, it abolished the training classes and worked as a commercial concern from 1946-47.<sup>20</sup>

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Sri Dinabandhu Dehury is a Senior Ph.D. Scholar in the P.G. Dept. of History, Utkal University, Vani Vihar, Bhubaneswar.

## Nineteenth Century Ports of Balasore

*Manas Kumar Sahoo*

Orissa, famous as ancient Kalinga, has a long maritime history and tradition, which had developed owing to its close association with Sea, stretching to a length of more than 500 kms on its Eastern front beginning from the river Ganga in the North to Godavari in the south. The glorious tradition is intimately linked with some of its religious practices and festivals. Although Orissa lost its maritime trade activities during the British period, the oriya today remember their ancient tradition by observing "*Boita Vandana Utsav*" as National Festival which reminds the glorious past. Balasore, a sea coast town of Orissa, played a significant role in maritime activities of Orissa during British period.

The wealth and opulence of the province allured the Englishmen to set up factories at Hariharpur in Jagatsingpur district.<sup>1</sup> The English were eager to trade in Bengal Subah. As W.W. Hunter remarked, "True to our natural character we settled in Orissa as merchant long before we made our appearance as rulers." One of the earliest British factories in India established at Hariharpur in Orissa was in 1633 A.D. Subsequently, other factories were established at Balasore on the river Burabalang, and Pipili on

the river Subarnarekha. "These two parts formed the basis of our future greatness in Bengal."<sup>2</sup> The British factory at Balasore developed into a thriving center of maritime trade. In 1670, among several factories in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, Balasore was the seat of their business council. The pre-eminence of Balasore as a commercial centre continued for a long time.

In the first quarter of the 19th century, Balasore and Dhamara were used by sloops and vessels for carrying rice and sale. The record of 1810, refers to port of Balasore. Vessels coming from Laccadive, Maldive Islands brought coirs, coconuts, and cowries, and took back rice and earthen pots.

As a result of which a custom house for the collection of duties in Orissa under regulation of 1810 were established in Balasore.

In 1858, a comprehensive plan was prepared by the Government of India for the regulation of Orissa ports. Balasore has a coast line of 58 miles. The New Act of 1858 declared all the ports such as Balasore, Churaman, Chhanua, Saratha, Subarnarekha and Dhamra as

a single port, that was Balasore port. The port dues were to be collected at the rate of 6 annas for every 100 pounds of cargo of any description. Amount of port dues, received as per new rate, was required to be credited to a common fund, called Balasore port fund.

### **Geographical location of ports**

**Chandbali :** The Chandbali port was established in 1872. The credit of the foundation of Chandbali port goes to captain Mat Nail, who first discovered its adaptibility for the passenger traffic. The Baitarani was within the limit of the Dhamra port, although situated at considerable distance from the sea coast. The channel of Dharma and Baitarani, as far as Chandbali, was completely marked out with buoys and beacons, with moving buoys in the midchannel at chandbali. The port was situated on a high but narrow sand bridge which stretches from the north to the south in a direction parallel to the sea coast for a distance many miles and terminated on the northern bank of the river.

**Dhamra :** The river Dhamra discharge united water of Baitarani, Brahmani and Kharasuan rivers. The Dhamra port included the navigable channel of all the rivers as far as they were affected by the tidal waters. The survey reports of 1870, placed first among navigable rivers of Orissa. The entrance to the port was marked by the Kanika buoy in twenty one feet. Tripad becon in the extreme north-east dry portion of the palmyras reefs.

**Subarnarekha :** The port of Subarnarekah consisted of a demarcated portion of Subarnarekha. It was situated 12 miles from the sea by the water route. In early times it was by far most important port in the Orissan coast. A

colony was established here by the Portugese in the beginning of the 16th century A.D.

**Saratha and Chhanua :** Saratha & Chhanua port situated fifteen miles from south-east of Subarnarekha rivers. The Saratha & Chhanua river were frequented by native river sloops, the former was navigable, one mile from the sea measuring a direct line. There was much difficulty in landing of sloops due to soft muddy banks.

**Balasore :** The most important part in Balasore district was Balasore port, it is consisted of portion of Burabalanga river fronting the town of Balaosre. The port was about three quarters of a mile in length. It was situated seven miles from the coast of direct line.

Ships from the Madras coast from the ceylone, Laccadive and maldive Iselands annually resorted to Balasore port in large number for rice trade. The Laccadive and maldive islands depended principally upon the Balasore district for their annual supply of grain. Ships of a large size anchor at the Buoy, and were loaded from cargo boats.

**Laichanpur and Churaman :** The port of Laichanpur was situated twenty three miles from the south of laichanpur. These two ports are branches of Kansbans, which bifurcated at Birupa, seven miles from the last. The northern Branch, on which the port of Laichhpur was situated, keeps the name of Kansbans, the southern on which Churnman situated called Gammai. The Balasore Collector of customs in 1820, wrote that "Churaman is considered a safe and convenient port on the coast of Orissa and carries on a sea going trade exceeding that of Balasore".

The opening of Railway in 1896 was a potent factor for the decline of maritime trade in Orissa. Because, maritime trade was shifted to railways. It went on reducing with the spend and success of Railway Network in the country. The railways competed ruthlessly with the natural and cheap facility of water of transport. The British Government was interested in the financial success of railways, which could have been done at the cost of other means of transport. So, after development of railways in Orissa, maritime trade came to an end.

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Manas Kumar Sahoo is a PG Student of AIHCA, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar

**FIRST ORIYA MAJOR GENERAL**

Brigadier Partha Mohapatra, Chief of Signals, Eastern Command, Kolkata has been promoted to the rank of Major General and posted as Addl. Director General, Integrated Headquarters in the Ministry of Defence, New Delhi. He is an alumni of Bhubaneswar Sainik School and is the first Oriya in the corps of signals in Indian Army to occupy such a coveted position.

After passing out from the National Defence Academy, Major General Mohapatra joined as a Commissioner in the Indian Army in 1971 and earned many distinguished positions. He worked as a Colonel at the Army Headquarters. His dedication and patriotism are echoed in the fact that both his sons and the daughter-in-law have joined Indian Army.

Major General Mohapatra is the son of late Mahesh Chandra Mohapatra, an eminent Oriya literateur.

# Attainment of Excellence Through Higher Education

*Dr. Jyotsnarani Kuanr*

The system of Indian higher education is the second largest in the world. It caters the educational needs of millions of students belonging to different socio – economic strata of the society and provides leadership in different walks of life. In order to achieve the basic aim of higher education, there exists a strong need to bring out the best from the individual's personality. This great purpose requires selection of appropriate courses which should always be in consonance with the interest and hidden potentialities of the students.<sup>1</sup>

It is quite obvious that students are the prime stakeholders in any system of higher education. Quality is the end product of responsiveness to their educational and professional needs and also to the need of personal development which has been the primary concern of the traditional systems of education in the country. Student aspirations and goals change in a fast changing world. That system of higher education, which is ready to honour them and shape its curricular and administrative performance accordingly is alone relevant. It can make student stakeholders partners in planning and governance rather than keeping them as docile recipient of that which is imposed on them without sensitivity to their changing needs and aspirations.<sup>2</sup>

## **Present Scenareo of Higher Education in India**

India has a massive system of higher education. At the time of independence, there were only twenty universities and 500 colleges in the country. But at present the Indian Higher Education system could be said as the second largest in the world with 8 million students, more than 3 lac teachers, 300 universities and more than 12,000 colleges affiliated to them and many Deemed Universities and Institutions of national importance. In spite of having a massive system of higher education, only 7 percent youth of the relevant age group of 17 to 24 years is receiving higher education as compared to France (50%), U.S.A (81%) and Canada (99.8%). At the same time the system has been failed to cater to the heterogeneity of the society.

Every where, higher education is faced with great challenges and difficulties related to financing, equity of conditions at access into and during the course of studies, improved staff development, skilled based training, enhancement and presentation of quality in teaching, research and service, relevance of programmes, employability of graduates, establishment of efficient co-operation agreements and equitable access to the benefits of international co-operation. At the same time higher education is being challenged by new opportunities relating to technologies that are

improving the ways in which knowledge can be produced, managed, disseminated, accessed and controlled. Equitable access to these technologies should be ensured at all levels of education systems.

Research study on the development of higher education reveals that India's position is 76 out of the 94 developing countries of the world<sup>3</sup>.

Few in India are thinking creatively about higher education. There is no field of higher education research. Those in government as well as academic leaders seem content to do the same old thing. Academic institutions and systems have become large and complex. They need good data, careful analysis and creative ideas. India has survived with an increasingly mediocre higher education system for decades. Now as India strives to compete in a globalised economy in areas that require highly trained professionals, the quality of higher education becomes increasingly important. So far, India's large educated population base and its reservoir of at least moderately well trained university graduates have permitted the country to move ahead<sup>4</sup>.

Today, there is a strong feeling that the skills of graduates don't match the needs and the expectations of the employment sector. In the developing countries, unemployable graduates pose a greater problem than unemployment itself. What are these skills, which are expected by the employers of the graduate work force? What are the skills, which describe quality education and which such an education is capable of fostering in its process?<sup>5</sup> If we do not take care of this, we will be restricting out our own youth from blossoming into great actors in the modern knowledge economy<sup>6</sup>.

Taking stock of the higher education scene in the developing countries the taskforce reported that despite vigorous steps, very few are enrolled

in educational programmes of a high quality. The rest are taught by poorly qualified, poorly motivated, poorly compensated faculty with inadequate facilities and outmoded curricular. Yet, it is this large majority which is called upon to grapple with the huge task of nation building. They are called upon to provide good governance, develop future business, build health and educational infrastructure needed for raising the standard of living and improving the quality of life and excellence. How can the ill equipped beget quality? It is therefore imperative for the developing nations to focus on the quality of education they impart<sup>7</sup>.

### **Emerging Need**

Nations are struggling to cope with the demands of quality education and a phenomenal increase in the number of students wanting to go in for higher education. Both the quality and quantity of education require better academic and physical infrastructure and greater financial resources.

Though significant progress has been made in recent years in India in information technology sector, engineering, computer science, commerce, still there is a long way to go. The world will be looking for trained persons in all basic fields with a sound knowledge base in their core discipline and with the ability to adapt to new demands.

Not only Science, Technology, Commerce and Economics, even Languages are being demanded in newer context – for business, tourism, multicultural interactions etc. The world demography is changing. To take advantage of this change, we need to produce trained persons on par with global standards<sup>8</sup>.

The quantitative improvement, however, has not resulted in simultaneous improvement in

quality. There is apparently a need now to make it more relevant and effective for achieving the national goals<sup>9</sup>.

### **Restructuring Higher Education to Attain Excellence**

The Chinese Philosopher Confucius stated that the goal of education was to produce men of quality who combined competence with virtue. Thus quality is multidimensional and through higher education it strives to develop human resources of global standards. Perceived thus, quality defines the goals and purpose of education. Quality impacts the content of higher education. Its processes, its output or product as it seeks to develop human resources with required skills, excellent in performance and capable of delivering the goods as a unit of the work force.

In a developing country like ours, the diametrically opposite demands of quality education and the increasing numbers of students demanding higher education are in conflict. This growing demand for higher education has brought to the fore the problems of access, equity and quality.

As the developing countries address themselves to the problems of access and equity, the problem of quality gets acute. An independent task force set up by UNESCO in 1998 has in its report entitled "Higher Education in developing countries, Peril and Promise", said that today higher education has become basic education demanded by the masses and can no longer be confined to a tiny elite. This is more so, in the developing world due to three factors at work here. *Firstly*, the incredible growing thirst for knowledge, *secondly* the growing importance of knowledge in society and *thirdly*, the inexorable and often cruel logic of globalisation<sup>10</sup>.

### **Suggestive Measures for Attaining Excellence**

#### **A. Teaching, Learning and Evaluation**

(i) Clarity and transparency in the process of admission and recruitment of faculty should be maintained. The most crucial factor in ensuring excellence of teaching, learning and evaluation is the quality of the faculty. If merit is the only criterion for recruitment, and no other influences are entertained, it will automatically ensure outstanding academic performance.

(ii) Faculty development programmes, such as conditions of service, participation in seminar, symposia, conferences, orientation programmes, refresher courses, publications are important in continuous updating of quality teachers. Monitoring and periodic performance appraisal including access to feedback mechanism will improve the quality of attaining excellence, objectivity and accountability of the teaching faculty.

(iii) Visible welfare measures will motivate the teachers in achieving greatest academic pursuits. So, measures should be taken into account to reduce stress and strain of the faculty members.

#### **B. Curricular Aspects**

India is a country of diverse geographical features, multi religious communities and multilingual population and a different socio-economic and cultural background. Unity in diversity is the basis of Indian society. In the current decades with much emphasis on economic development accompanied by tremendous explosion of knowledge in all spheres have led to economic differences. Always, there are regional imbalances in the country. Realizing such irregularities, the curriculum should be framed. The courses available through higher education must be consistent with goals and



objectives of the country and aspirations of the students. The changing social, educational and economic environment are important determinants of curricular options so as to meet the challenges of the present day society.

### **C. Research, Consultancy and Extension.**

Today, education and research are highly interdisciplinary. Research is diligent inquiry and careful search for new knowledge or facts through a systematic scientific and analytical approach in any branch of knowledge. It is an undisputed fact that research and economic development of any country always go hand in hand as both are interdependent on each other. In addition to teaching the prescribed curricula, under-taking research projects on various socio-economic researchable problems by teachers, has been given considerable recognition<sup>11</sup>.

Research work should be done in a large scale by providing financial support and the additional infrastructure facilities. Forward and backward linkages should be established for augmenting research and mobilizing fund. Community extension programme should be arranged in the university to develop social infrastructure and learning resources.

### **D. Infrastructure and Learning Resources**

One of the most important areas for quality improvement is the development of infrastructure and learning resources. Infrastructure should include a wide range of supporting services such as gymnasium, playgrounds, canteen, computer centre, multimedia conference hall, library and hostel etc. while conceptualizing the institution of higher education, it is important to plan not only for today but also for tomorrow. Infrastructure should be both adequate and appropriate as per the norms of the UGC/AICTE etc. Students, staff and faculty members should have access to the use of new technology including internet<sup>12</sup>.

### **E. Student Participation and Progression**

There are several hopeful trends in the course, which support the student involvement in quality enhancement. Firstly, the employers prefer institutions that have demonstrable academic quality along with value adding activities involving the students. Secondly, those students who have participated in the institutional quality processes are able to make rational career choices and thirdly the performance of such students in facing upto the job interviews and placement exhibits a higher degree of self-confidence and maturity. Therefore, it is imperative that every institution makes a conscious effort to associate students in their quality enhancement programmes<sup>13</sup>.

### **F. Organisation and Management**

An Institution / University should offer facilities for over all development of the students. Higher Education is not only in the concurrent list but also in the joint sector. The central and state government play an important role in laying down the policy and offering financial support for smooth management of the institution.

Faculty development programmes including promotion etc. are to be implemented by the government / management based on merit and without any discrimination. It is mandatory for the managing authority to strictly adhere to the University Act. Statutes, Ordinances, Regulations and Rules for healthy and efficient functioning of the colleges<sup>14</sup>.

Enhancing quality is a holistic process. The synergistic relationship among the students teachers, management, parents, public, government and the production system is essential to achieve an enduring multiplier effect on quality enhancement<sup>15</sup>.

## Conclusion

Education is a big service industry because it cultivates human mind and makes them important and useful players in the economy of a nation. On the threshold of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, global public spending on education tops on trillion US dollars. This figure represents the cost of over 50 million teachers, ten billion pupils and hundreds of thousands of educational institutions through out the world. But in recent times things are changing increasingly. Large number of nations, as a consequence of the impact of liberalization of trade, are in favour of curtailment of the role of the government. This is true in case of higher education<sup>16</sup>.

In this changed scenario, it is necessary that our planners and educational administrators must expedite the process of reforms and encourage innovation. We must replace the feudal, traditional British system of higher learning and adopt a new more dynamic educational approach that is a must for survival growth<sup>17</sup>.

The world of higher education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century can truly be a borderless world of knowledge and ideas, which will yield reciprocal benefits for all nations. There is no single simple path for reaching this new global future, but instead, multiple pathways that lead towards a world in one nest<sup>18</sup>.

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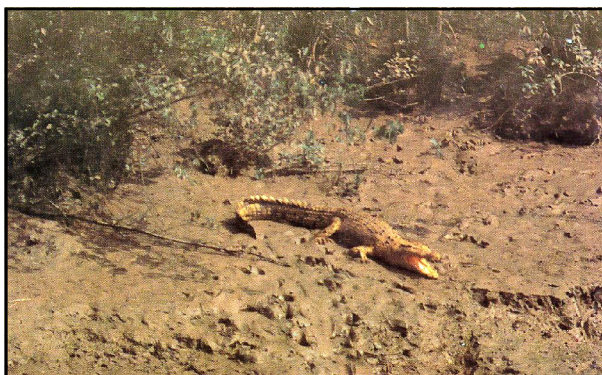
Dr. Jyotsna Rani Kuanr is working as a Senior Lecturer, Deptt. of Education, S.V.M. (Auto) College Jagatsinghpur-754103, Orissa.

## Bhitarkanika : A Unique Destination for Nature Lovers

*Prabhukalyan Mohapatra*

Bhitarkanika, a store house of nature's bounty, harbours a rich and unique bio-diversity. This unique ecosystem of Orissa is surrounded by rivers Baitarani, Brahmani, Dhamara, and is criss-crossed by several creeks-creeklets. The delta, river mouth, the sea, estuarine forest, mangroves, avifauna, reptiles, amphibians, varieties of fauna and flora are various aspects which contribute to the richness of its biological diversity.

This wonderland supports dense mangroves (63 species), largest population of estuarine crocodiles (1130 as per 2001 census) and is the home to the largest 22-23 feet long crocodiles, rare white crocodiles (locally known as Sankhua), poisonous snakes such as King cobra, Banded krait, Cobra, etc, non-poisonous snakes like Python, Rat snake etc, varieties of resident and migratory birds (217 species) and a lot of mammalian species i.e. Spotted deer, Sambar, Wild boar, Fishing cat, Jungle cat, etc. Besides, various other species of endangered mammals, birds, reptiles and other groups of animals also



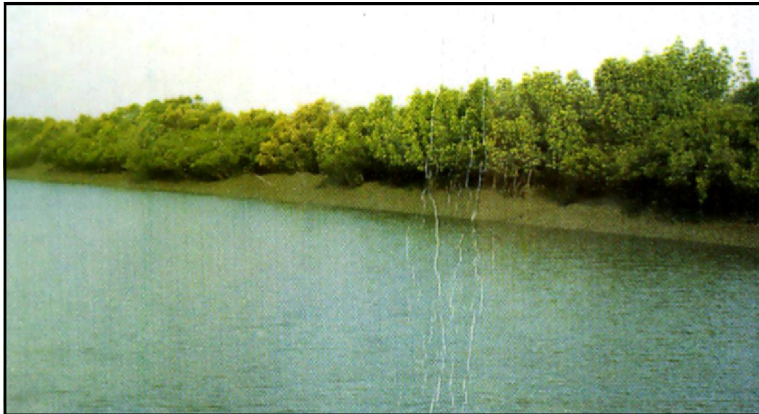
inhabit the area. Bhitarkanika thus harbors an interesting assemblage of flora-fauna of both common and endangered variety which requires a conservation strategy.

Geographically situated in Kendrapada district, Bhitarkanika forms the deltaic region of the river Brahmani and Baitarani. The sandy loam soil coast of Bhitarkanika is washed by Bay of Bengal and is subjected to tides twice a day. A veritable paradox of nature for its unique flora and fauna, Bhitarkanika is located between 20 35' and 20 47'N latitudes and 80 45' and 87 05'E longitudes to the South and East of Dhamara river.

Bhitarkanika wildlife sanctuary spreads over an area of 650 sq km of which forest cover alone is about 380sq km. The core area of Bhitarkanika stretches over 141.44sq km of which 115.5 sq km comes under mangrove forest. Encircled by the rivers Brahmani, Baitarani and 35 km seashore, this area is gifted with innumerable creeks, channels, islets which provide ecological niche for the growth and development

of mangroves. The extensive sea beach, sand bars, and sand dunes sustain rich sandy vegetation near Gahirmatha. The core area of the sanctuary extends over an area spreading from Dangamal (a village in the sanctuary) to Thakurdian river mouth.

The unique environmental and ecological parameters of this micro region in a deltaic setting forms an ideal habitat for saltwater crocodiles, migratory birds, particularly the water fowls and the visit of Olive Ridley turtles for mass nesting. In recent years Bhitarkanika has drawn worldwide attention because of the discovery of its 11 km stretch coast serving as the nesting site of sea turtle which forms the largest rookery of the turtles in the world. The area in association with a diverse variety of mangrove has brought it the status of a National Park which also shelters a saltwater crocodile sanctuary of national significance.



At the Dhamara mouth, the sea bed is very shallow due to extensive deposition of silt and clay from the combined discharge of Brahmani and Baitarani river. A lot of clay and silt characterise the sediment load which is very conducive to massive tidal incursions into the sea. The typical monsoonic climate with excessive humidity prevails in this area. All these factors are very helpful for the development of luxurious mangrove forests around Bhitarkanika.

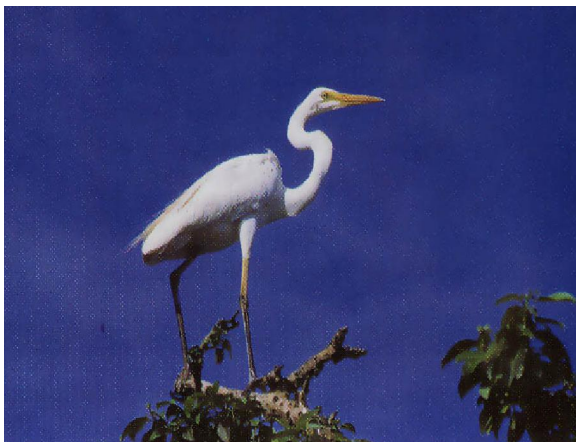
In view of its rich ecosystem, Bhitarkanika has been declared as a National Park. The sea

water in the creeks and swamps form a good habitat for a wide variety of estuarine life including estuarine crocodile, for which a breeding centre has been developed at Dangamal. Bhitarkanika mangrove ecosystem is unique of its kind and is the best reptile refuge in the entire country. The mangrove of Bhitarkanika is a classic beauty with multiple types of mangrove species. But the swampy mangrove forests of Bhitarkanika and their endemic flora-fauna fights one of the continuous battles for survival against wanton vandalism of the so called civilized man.

The very location of this micro-region adjacent to a densely populated agriculturally developed deltaic tract of Mahanadi system is paradoxical. The mounting pressure of adjacent population for plundering the mangroves and reclamation of tidal mudflats for agricultural as

well as other economic uses has been a threat to its environment and ecosystem. A major portion of this beautiful mangrove forest is leased out to people migrated from Bangladesh and has been reclaimed into fertile rice fields. As gradual reclamation of land is a regular phenomenon, mangrove forest of Bhitarkanika is decreasing slowly and steadily. To save the ecosystem, the government is making sustained efforts through various projects. The most important project is restocking of the estuarine crocodile through a captive breeding programme. Another endangered species is the Olive Ridley turtle which is attracted to the beach of Bhitarkanika for





nesting in large numbers. Environmentalists are concerned for its protection too. In view of present state of environmental degradation and ecological disturbances growing concern is expressed everywhere.

The Gahirmatha sea beach bordering the sanctuary attracts thousands of Olive Ridley sea turtles for mass nesting during winter (January-April). So, numerous tourists visit Bhitarkanika during this time to have a glimpse at this rare sight and enjoy the scenic beauty of nature.

The entire Bhitarkanika region comes under the tropical monsoon climate with well marked seasons of winter, summer and rain. The maximum temperature rises to 36<sup>o</sup>c in the month of April-

May while the minimum temperature of the winter is about 15<sup>o</sup>c. The relative humidity remains between 70 to 85% throughout the year. The rainfall is around 170cm and most of it is received between June-October. Under such eco-climatic situation the weather conditions start to become pleasant after the rains (October-March) and this is the ideal time for a visit to the area.

A grand repository of wildlife, Bhitarkanika is another attraction for the ornithologists and nature lovers during winter. Migratory birds like Open billed storks, White ibis, Grey pelicans, Barheaded goose etc visit this area along with various types of resident birds such as night heron, Grey heron, cattle egrets, Cormorants, King fishers, Water fowls and Collard doves during this period.

There are some environmental regions on the Earth which needs special attention for geographic exposure considering their unique natural setting in the ecosystem. Bhitarkanika certainly enjoys a distinctive place amongst them.

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Prabhukalyan Mohapatra is a Bhubaneswar based freelance journalist, who lives at Qrs VR 3/2, Unit-3.Behind R.B.I., Bhubaneswar



*Shri Digambar Mohanty, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Inf. &P.R. felicitating Dr. Ramachandra Behera on the occasion of 49th Foundation Day of Kendrapara Autonomous College on 12.2.2007.*

## Progressive Action Against Child Labour In India

*Subrata Sarkar*

Child Labour conjures up a particular image : Children, chained to looms in dark mills and sweat shops, in a long and nightmarish running from Lanchashire of the 1830s right to the South Asia of the 1990s. In reality, children do a variety of works in widely divergent conditions, which take place along a continuum. At one end of the continuum, work is beneficial, promoting or enhancing a child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and various other ways of development without interfering with schooling, recreation and rest and at the other end it is palpably destructive or exploitative. Increasing industrialization and mechanization of agriculture lead to the destruction of the family based economy and the displacement of a large number of labourers in India during the mid- 18th and 19th century. Extreme poverty led to the entry of children into the labour market and their exploitation became common. In India, children were employed in cotton and jute mills and coal mines. Gradually, legal measures were introduced to tackle the problem and the new state wedded to the notion of social welfare assumed the responsibility of protecting the children.

### **Action Taken Before Independence**

The Indian Government adopted constitutional, statutory and developmental measures to deal with the problem of Child labour. The origin of statutory protection of the Child Worker in India can be traced back to the Indian Factories Act, 1881, which prohibited the employment of children under seven years of age and also in two separate factories on the same

day. It limited the working hours of children to nine hours a day and stipulated at least four holidays to be given in a month. However this act concerned only factories employing hundred persons or more. This act was revised in the form of Indian Factories Act, 1891, which increased the minimum age limit to nine years and hours of work were reduced to seven hours for children between 7 and 14 years and prohibited work at night between 8 p.m. 5 a.m. In 1901 the Mines Act was passed which prohibited the employment of children under 12 years of age and employment dangerous to children's health and safety. In 1911 a new factories act was passed which further reduced the working hours.

In the period between 1920 and 1930 some more progress were made in protecting children. The formation of international Labour Organization in 1919 and the establishment of All India Trade Union Congress 1920 gave an impetus to reform laws relating to the condition of labour in general and Child Labour in particular. In the Factories Act 1922 the scope of factory was extended to cover any premise where 20 or more persons were employed and mechanized power was used and local governments which empowered to extend provisions to any premise where 10 or more persons were employed. It defined the child as a person who had not completed 15 years of age, reduced the working hours for children to six and necessitated the granting of half an hour interval for more than five and half hours of work. Children

were required by this act to have medical certificate along with a certificate of re-examination for continuing work. The Indian Mines Act 1923 raised the minimum age for employment from 12 to 13 years in mines. The Indian ports (Amendment) Act 1931 prescribed the age for employment of children in handling the goods as 12 years.

In the period between 1931 and 1949 more concrete efforts were made to deal with Child Labour. The stage was set with the publication of the report of the Royal Commission for labour, which recommended extensive reforms. The Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act 1932 was passed to check the migration of labour to the tea cultivation districts. In 1933, the Children (pledging of Labour) Act was passed which prohibited the pledging of a child for the purpose of getting certain work done. The Factories Act of 1934 evolved elaborate provisions regularizing employment in respect of various age groups working in factories.

The ILO in 1937 adopted a convention fixing the minimum age where children were to be employed in certain occupations. The employment of Children Act 1938 was passed to implement this convention. It prohibited the employment of children under 15 in hazardous occupations like railways and ports. It also dealt with employment in industrial establishments not covered by the Factories Act. Though, the 1938 Act banned Child Labour in hazardous industries, it made an exception in favour of family labour.

The main purpose of the elimination of the evil of Child Labour could not be achieved in the preindependence era, one of the main reasons being as pointed out by a labour investigating committee being the inadequacy of the inspecting staff to enforce the provisions of law.

### **Post Independence Phase**

The factories Act 1948 prohibited the employment of children by setting the limit of the

completion of fourteen year as the minimum age for working in any factory. The minimum Wages Act passed in 1948 defined child as a person who has not completed his 15th Year. However, this definition did not have any particular significance since the Act did not contain any important regulatory or prohibitory provision applicable only to Child Labour except that it provides for fixing or revising minimum rates of wages for adults, adolescents, children and apprentices. The Plantation Labour Act, 1951 prohibited children below 12 years from working in any plantation. The Shipping Act 1951 prohibited a person under 15 years of age from working in any capacity in any ship. The Mines Act 1952 prohibited the employment of children under 15 in mines. In 1954, the Factories Act was again amended to prohibit the employment of adolescents under the age of 17 years at night. In 1961, the Motor Transport Workers Act was passed to prohibit the employment of adolescents under the age of 15 in motor transport. In 1966, the Beedi and Cigar workers (Conditions of Employment) Act was passed which prohibited the employment of children under 14 in any industrial premise manufacturing beedies or cigars.

In 1978, the Employment of Children act 1938 was further amended so as to extend the prohibition of employment of a child below 15 years in railway premises such as cinder-picking or clearing of an ash-pit or building operation in catering establishments at a railway station or in occupations relating to construction of a railway station or any other work done in close proximity to or between the railway lines. These occupations were not covered before 1978.

### **Committees, Commissions and Boards**

In 1968, a National Commission on Labour Welfare was instituted which observed that Child Labour was an economic problem and its practice amounted to a denial or opportunity to children for their proper physical development and education and recommended combination of

work with education and flexible employment hours which would not inhibit education.

A National Children's Board was established in 1975, with the Prime Minister as its President to create greater public awareness towards the need of children and to plan and review periodically the progress made in protecting and promoting the welfare of children, including working children. In 1976, the Government set up a one man commission headed by Harbans Singh which was of the view that banning Child Labour would not necessarily result in the stoppage of work by children altogether. The report suggests that working hours should be reduced, wages increased coupled with incentive for production.

### **Ministry of Labour**

The Ministry of Labour appointed a 16 - member Committee under the chairmanship of M.S. Gurupadaswamy in 1979 to investigate the causes leading to Child Labour and examine the problems arising out of the employment of children. The committee noted that existing situation in respect of Child Labour in India can still be summarized as one of continuing drift. The regulation by law of employment, children covers only fringe of these occupations and ironically even where regulation has been sought, the enforcement is extremely half-hearted and tardy. In pursuance of one of the recommendations of the committee on Child Labour, the Central Advisory Board on Child Labour was set up in March 1981 to review the progress of welfare measures for working children, recommended industries and areas where there must be progressive elimination of Child Labour. It was reconstituted in 1987 under the chairmanship of the ministry of labour to render advice on the problems of Child Labour.

### **Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986**

The Child Labour (Prohibition and regulation) Bill was introduced and passed in both

houses of Parliament in August 1986 with a view to prohibiting the employment of children in certain areas.

The act seeks to achieve the following objects:

- Ban the employment of children, i.e. those who have not completed their fourteenth year in specified occupations and processes.
- Lay down a procedure to decide modifications to the schedule of banned occupations and processes.
- Regulate the conditions of work of children engaged in forms of employment in which they are permitted to work.
- Prescribed enhanced penalties for employment of children in violation of the provisions of the acts that forbid the employment of children.
- Establish uniformity in the definition of child in laws concerning them.

### **National Programme of Action and Policy Against Child Labour**

The national policy on Child Labour was approved by the cabinet on 14th August 1997, during the seventh plan period. The action plan of this policy has been set out under the following headings.

1. Legislative Action Plan
2. Focussing on general development programs for benefiting child labour wherever possible.
3. Project-based plan of action in areas of high concentration of child labour engaged in wage and quasi wage employment

### **Accordingly, projects were started in areas of high concentration of Child Labour.**

- Match, fireworks and explosives industry in Sivakasi in Virudhanagar district in Tamil Nadu



- Precious stone polishing industry in Jaipur in Rajasthan
- Glass and bangles industry in Ferozabad, U.P.
- Brassware industry in Mirzapur, Varanasi Bhadoi U.P.
- Lock making industry in Aligarh in U.P.
- Tile industry in Jagampet in Andhra Pradesh.
- Slate industry in Markkapur in Andhra Pradesh.
- Slate industry in Mandswar in Andhra Pradesh.

**The National Child Labour projects had the following components -**

- Imparting non-formal education to enable the children released from work to receive functional literacy and acquire a level of equivalence with corresponding grade and level in the formal system.
- Supplementary nutrition through midday meals.
- Income and employment generation through impartation of skills
- Stepping up enforcement of Child Labour laws.

**Task Force on Child-Labour**

A task force on child labour was instituted on the recommendation of the Central Advisory Board on Child Labour under the Chairmanship of Dr.L.M. Singhvi to recommend the institutions and mechanisms necessary for implementing the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 and legal action plan contained in the NCLP. The task force made 11 general recommendations. Chief among them are

- Highest priority must be accorded to the child. To accomplish this there should be a joint committee of the houses of the parliament and similar committees in state legislatures to represent the un-represented constituency of the child.

- There should be a single ministry or department for child welfare at the centre and states in order to reduce the existing multiplicity of authorities.

- There should be a statutory system of Child Labour Ombudsman or Child Labour Commission entrusted with the task of investigation, resolution of grievances and disputes and giving authoritative directions to employers and others.

- A child code including within its scope a child labour code, must be formulated.

The task force also made the following recommendations with respect to the act of 1986

- A timetable with mandatory outer limits for act to come into force should be provided in the act.

- A uniform definition of child with reference to age is useful.

- An enabling provision should be enacted to to Section 3 of the 1986 Act to check malpractices employed in the exploitation of Child Labour under the guise of an occupier carrying a process with the aid of his family or children producing goods in schools receiving assistance or recognition from overnment.

- Maximun permissible punishment should be increased to simple imprisonment up to 3 months and the maximum permissible fine, which may be imposed, should be increased to Rs. One lakh.

With respect to the national policy and action plan the task force recommended that a white paper should be published explaining the historical background, analyzing the present situation giving reliable statistical and other data and projecting its own perceptions and policies in terms of targets, allocations and types of programmes and other activities it has envisaged.

On 15th August 1994, the former Prime Minister Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao made a call to

eliminate Child Labour in hazardous employments by the year 2000 A.D. Following the call made by the Prime Minister the national authority for elimination of Child Labour headed by the Union Labour Minister was constituted on 26th September 1994 and Rs.850 crore have been earmarked for schemes to eliminate Child Labour in hazardous employments. The programme is some what unrealistic as it hopes to cover 2 million children in 5 years. The programme has made little headway because of a resource crunch and an ongoing tussle between the ministries of labour and human resource development over the issue of setting up special schools.

### **Supreme Court Order on Child Labour**

To check the exploitation of Child Labour in hazardous industries, the Supreme Court on December 10, 1996 directed that all offending employers must pay a compensation of Rs.20,000/- for every such child, under the provisions of Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986. The court order indentified nine major industries as hazardous. Acknowledging that poverty was the main cause of Child Labour, the court said that unless an alternative source of income was assured to the family, the question of abolition of Child Labour will really remain a "will - of - the wisp". The court directed the states to conduct a survey on Child Labour which was to be completed within six months. The secretary to the ministry of labour, Government of India was required to apprise the court within one year about the compliance of directions. The court has held labour inspectors responsible for ensuring that children withdrawn from hazardous industries are provided proper education.

### **Conclusion and Police Implications**

The magnitude of the problem of Child Labour in India with regard to all industries, occupations and processes is very large. Special attention is being devoted to industries,

occupations and process where employment of children is hazardous to their very safety. We have been able to cover about 1.05 lakh children under the umbrella of seventy six projects and 1800 special schools and need approximately 300 projects to cover 2 million children who need to be urgently released from hazardous occupations/processes and rehabilitated through a multi pronged and composite approach encompassing education for functional literacy, midday meal for supplementary nutrition, arrangements for regular health check-ups and vocational skill training for economic empowerment. These projects in their entirety were to be implemented over six years and would have entailed a financial commitment of Rs.2197.05 crore i.e. at Rs.376 per child per annum. Since resources of this magnitude were unavailable the expenditure finance committee in its meeting held on 25th June 1998 has only approved the continuance of the Seventy-six projects and 1800 schools during the 9th Plan Period which means we will not even be able to touch the fringe of this massive problem.

The share of the Child Population has increased from a stable level of about 38% during 1911-1951 to almost 42% in 1971. It declined in 1981 and has further gone down to about 36% in 1991. The decline when examined in the State has a distinct bimodal pattern. The absolute size of the child population peaked in Kerala in 1981 and in Tamil Nadu in 1991. One expects that Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Gujarat could experience a peak in the absolute size of Child Polulation between 1996-2001 A.D. In contrast Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh still have a long way to go.

Expansion of primary and middle school education in India between 1961 and 1991 has been impressive. Growth has been somewhat faster than the growth of Child Population in the primary section. The gender gap in literacy and in

primary schooling has declined on an all India basis. The major states have a clear bimodal distribution in the declining gender gap as well. States like Kerala has virtually eliminated the gap. Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Panjab have been reducing the gender gap successfully and still have some distance to go in reaching Kerala levels. The worst performers in gender gap reduction are Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.

A much larger socio-economically deprived subset of Child Population in India consists of children who are neither in the work - force nor in the education system (nowhere children). The number of nowhere children in India continued to grow from 89.5 million in 1981 to 97.7 million in 1991.

The educational needs of the growing Child Population (5-14 years) have been addressed by the expansion of primary and middle school enrolments. The gap between the Child Population and the children enrolled in schools increased between 1951 and 1961, and remained stable between 1961 to 1971 and also 1971 to 1981. Estimates for 1991 show a decline. However the number of children who are neither in school nor in the labour force (nowhere children) is still very large- 74 million in 1991.

There has been an obvious shift from children working on their own farms to children working as hired labour. The impression that the problem is solved in the agricultural sector and is now concentrated in manufacturing and trade and commerce is erroneous. There has been an increase in the employment of male and female child agricultural labour as well as child workers in manufacturing and trade and commerce. The major part of NGO efforts and international concerns about the employment of children concentrates on non-agricultural sectors. However, the contrast with agricultural labour

groups in terms of sheer numbers should be kept in mind. In absolute size in 1991 the number of full time child agricultural labourers was 3.1 million and those in manufacturing activity (rural and urban) was approximately 0.5 million. The number in trade and commerce has more than doubled over the 30 year period and stands at approximately 0.3 million in 1991.

The increasing number of female child workers since 1971 rose in absolute terms from 2.8 million to 3.5 million - is a cause of concern. Over 80% of these girls are still caught in the agricultural sectors mostly as full time agricultural labourers. Ignoring their plight is socially inappropriate and an economic disaster because of its implications for the pace of demographic transition.

The employment of child workers in urban India is growing much faster than in rural India. The proportion of urban child workers increased from 5.5% of the total child labour population in 1961 to 10% in 1991. Four sectors which need to be targeted in the elimination of child labour are manufacturing, transport, storage and communication but wage based agriculture in rural and urban India must not be ignored.

The proportion of population below poverty line is positively associated with the incidence of child labour with the correlation (0.41) for male child workers and some what weaker correlation (0.23) for female child workers. The most important negative correlation between the incidence of male child labour is with the middle school enrolment ratio suggesting that the higher the enrollment in middle schools the lower the incidence of male child labour.

The most important negative correlation of the incidence of child labour was the proportion of females in the nonagricultural labour force which was - 0.40 for male child workers in 1991. This suggests that the greater the participation of women in the non-agricultural labour force the lower will be the incidence of child labour.

The diversity in the pace and pattern of child labour use, its growth and subsequent decline which has been observed in Europe historically and now in East and South-east Asia can be seen in the different states and regions of India as well. The main determinants of the growth of child labour both from the demand and supply sides are in the nature of "Vicious Spiral" while factors affecting its decline are in the nature of a "Virtuous Spiral". Three main mutually reinforcing "drivers leading to these outcomes are, we believe, demographic factors, technology and public policy.

The difference in quality of primary and middle school education observed across states originating from different state public policies is strongly related to the existence of labour. Overall, for India as a whole, expansion of schooling facilities has just been able to cater to the growth of the child population without a major reduction in the use of child labour.

If child labour is to be successfully eliminated, getting "nowhere children" in to schools and attempting to retain a much larger proportion of children from primary to middle school stage should be important planks of the strategy. This also implies the need to conform to the constitutional guarantee provided in 1950 for education for all children up to the age of fourteen.

Hence, the need for a rational social choice in devising child focused strategies is self evident. In a federal polity with education as a state as well as central subject, an uneven pace and pattern of demographic and economic transition and without a concerted national effort, migration and child labour will continue.

International and national pressures to deal with industrial child labour in isolation, apart from questions of ethics have little chance of success as long as large pool of potential child labour persists. Short cuts and quick fixes would be wasteful in resources and time. Economic and demographic transition, as shown by Kerala,

Punjab, Himchal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and the countries of East Asia, can be compressed within a couple of decades if appropriate public policies are pursued consistently.

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Subrata Sarkar is a Research Fellow, Department of Political Science, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar and lives at Palitpara, Cuttack - 753002.

# Newspaper Libraries in Orissa

*R.K.Mahapatra*

Libraries stand as vital sources of information and as invaluable adjunct to the print media, i.e. Press. The effectiveness of the press largely depends upon the efficient and well organized library services. Just as, the effectiveness of a corporate body's business mostly depends upon the right information at a right point of time from a system for its decision making; similarly, the successful functioning of the press largely relies upon information and how well it is organised and efficiently disseminated in its library. Deficiency in right information to the right media person at the right time may, therefore, lead to severe loss to the quality of news generation.

Library is considered as the memory of the newspaper and consequently, the memory of the community it serves. The services it provides to the journalists directly is the services it renders to the whole newspaper user community. From this, the magnitude of the library's place in the press can be easily presumed. The well organised news library of a daily newspaper undoubtedly plays a crucial role in the production of news. Ward, Hansen and Mclead (1988, p.146), therefore, have rightly said that, the library is the path that reporters and editors routinely take as they conceptualize, develop, write, and edit the day's news. It is thus an acknowledged fact that good library is the source of a good newspaper, and the journalists keenly using the library can enrich

themselves and can effectively serve the media for a better society. The paper discusses the role of libraries in newspaper organisations in the state of Orissa

## **Need for Libraries in Newspaper Organisations**

With the rapid growth of newspaper industry in Orissa, the information requirements of the journalists as well as the concerned newspaper organisations have witnessed a spectacular change. Because, the production of news primarily depends upon the first hand events moulded by circumstantial information.

A news item is made more colourful and relevant with the background information provided by libraries. Lou Thomas has, therefore, identifies three vital advantages of establishing libraries within the newspaper organisations: (1) centralisation of resources; (2) access to both traditional and the new information skills of libraries and (3) provision of background information for news stories, accuracy in reporting and editing, saving time for reporters and editors, and recycling of information the newspaper has paid to acquire (ibid). Hence it is argued that the news library attached to the newspaper is increasingly significant not only in the production of news but also building appropriate information infrastructure for the journalism and mass communication.

The establishment of libraries within the newspaper establishments can be attributed to the following factors:

- i) Information dependent newspapers;
- ii) Journalists without having professional qualification and formal training depend more on reference sources;
- iii) Competition among the local newspapers to match forward; and
- iv) Libraries as necessary ingredients rather than a mere formality.

When a publisher decides to set up a newspaper organisation. He initially projects the existence of a library. Although, library does not immediately grow with the purchase of machinery or printing of newspapers within the organisation, its necessity came as spontaneous one when the quality and contents of news are required. The owner as well as editor of the newspaper usually decides to start a library. After the smooth start of the newspaper, the information requirement of the newspaper began to grow and arrangement for a library starts activated. However, the place of the library in all newspaper organisation's is increasingly felt and the necessity is turned into a reality that ultimately helps to shape into a library, be it small or large.

Libraries attached to newspaper organisations in Orissa range from small to mediocre in respect to their size, staff and services. Most of the newspapers are small whose circulation does not exceed more than one lakh (except four newspapers). The smallness size of the newspaper and the proprietorship being privately managed, there is a tendency not to build a large library. Even if, there are news paper establishments who do not have library of their own, libraries are managed by single person in which most of the librarians are not professionals. In certain cases, journalists themselves manage

the library within a small compact room. However, the availability of library and its services help the journalists to use the information they need.

### **Collection Development**

News libraries perform the functions more of reference library than that of any other usual libraries. The collection of those libraries are mostly confined to reference sources that primarily suffice the information needs of the journalists. However, a good collection of reference materials in journalism and mass communication begins with a foundation based on the acquisition of the standard reference sources usually found in any good general reference section in an undergraduate or graduate library. Only those specialized reference sources that are available are added to the collection. (Block; 1984; p.53). These may include directories, bibliographies, directories, encyclopedias, guide literature, etc.

Another vital factor that contributes to a good collection development is journalists' aptitude towards wider area of knowledge for which information concerning to these subject areas are collected. To develop an understanding and appreciation of other traditional subjects as well as some new emerging subjects, the libraries used to acquire information sources in economics, history, politics, anthropology, sociology, forestry, environmental science, computer, etc.

Although secondary documents appear to be of paramount importance to journalists to keep abreast with the latest development in their respective subject interest, these do not have their places in the news libraries in Orissa. Indexes, abstracts, and databases are not normally found in these libraries. Even the basic and useful professional journals in journalism and mass communication are not subscribed in these libraries except few popular magazines which are subscribed to make them aware of the current events. The largest collection of the news libraries

is the newspapers of all kinds which are essential to the journalists as well as the organisation. However, some text books on communication, journalism, mass media, advertisement, publication, radio and the television broadcasting, photography and the photo journalism and information science are found in these libraries for the reference of journalists.

### **Users**

Users from news libraries range from the Chief Editor to the rural correspondents. Editorial staff used to consult the information sources to check the facts, refer press clippings of particular events or issues and verify the essential documents to ensure the correctness of the editorial comment. The middle level journalists use most of the library resources. A lion share of information sources are actually being handled and exploited by them. One of the vital factors which has impressed us enormously is the dexterity with which the editors and journalists sort through the incoming materials, swiftly disseminating between the disposable and the worthwhile (Harris, Nicholas, Erbach; 1987, p.77)

Newspapers are generally considered as authoritative sources and any wrong or unchecked fact (s) or misleading information reflected on the newspaper may damage the reputation of the concerned newspaper organisation. To cope up with the task of citing correct and the latest information, it is the editorial staff to quickly verify the entire facts for complete and accurate news item or an article.

### **Library Services**

Libraries belonging to the newspaper organisation serve a limited clientele and are usually confined to the in-house editorial staff. The services to which the said libraries provide are primarily confined to reference or referral. From organisation point of view, data processing is done manually. The application of information

technology is yet to spread its influence on these libraries. Normally, processing of library collection remains confined within the framework of classification and cataloguing only. Even in most of the libraries, these processing work have not been done.

These libraries generally provide information more on 'fact checking' type of information spelling, dates, bibliographical information and background information as a part of their reference services. However, the news librarians used to provide potential information sources, identifying information from other source libraries in the locality. Journalists frequently visit other libraries near vicinity to refer various newspapers subscribed by them so as to keep themselves abreast of the day-to-day events.

Newspaper cutting collection popularly known as press clippings appears to be the heart of these news libraries' total collection and press clippings service assumes greater importance than any other services in the newspaper libraries. The cutting system offers two distinct advantages Harris, Nicholas, Erbach; 1986; p.391).

- i) Its subject, scope and retrieval facilities can effectively be tuned to the specific needs of users.
- ii) It offers very direct, and usually speedy access to the document replica.

Librarians of newspapers libraries maintain individual cutting files on subjects of interest which are frequently used by the journalists.

### **Role of the Librarian**

Role of the newspaper librarian is not only amazingly important, but also much crucial for the concerned newspaper organisation. But it is surprising to note that newspaper librarianship in Orissa is yet to gain proper recognition. The existing newspaper library scenario in Orissa is in a state of doldrums. In most of the libraries, either

one journalist is asked to look after the library or a non professional is entrusted the job of the library. In this critical situation, the library and its services are ignored considerably.

A librarian usually acts as an intermediary between the journalists and the formal sources of information. Because, a newspaper is often considered as an information system. Out of the vast information generated in the newspaper, it is the librarian who goes through the different news items, scrutinize them, classify them, and prioritize the process of the specific items for retrieval. The newspaper librarian, therefore, gets involved not only in the mere dissemination of the information but also in providing a logical explanation and the contents of information retrieved. Stimulating search to answer the various information privations of the working journalists is probably carries out to a far greater degree than is generally recognised by librarians who tend to formalize requests and expect inquiries to be refined to a manageable level of specificity op.cit.p.78)

It is the proprietor and the editor of the concerned newspaper to realise the importance of the library and essence of recruiting a professional librarian in a newspaper organization. Unless and otherwise a good library is developed, the information flow to the journalists cannot be properly achieved and the quality of the news items will remain disinteresting.

### Conclusion

Libraries are essentially good inputs for the news generation. While preparing a news item the journalists need background information to make their news interesting and readable. It is only the libraries attached to those newspaper organisations can provide such type of information. Besides, newspaper libraries render a lot of information support to make the news production qualitative. Users group of newspaper

libraries range from the Editor to the rural reporter who can make proper use of the library in process of their news preparation. Collection development of those libraries should be mainly in reference in nature so that it helps to build the good collection for reference purposes. The newspaper library being a specialised library the foremost service is the newspaper clipping service. All other library services are to be practised by the professional librarian. The role of the professional librarian is significant since one is to organise a good library and provide appropriate information services needed by the working journalists. But the situation in Orissa is different as the newspaper proprietors do not consider this aspect of selecting a professional librarian for the library. Unless the library is improved, the newspaper may fail to produce quality news. Hence, a library is an essential part of the newspaper establishment, such that will

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R.K. Mahapatra is a Librarian, N.K.C. Centre for Development Studies, (ICSSR Institute), Bhubaneswar.



# Field Diagnosis and Management of Banana Bunchy Top Disease

*Nirakar Ranasingh*

Among the most destructive diseases of banana, Banana Bunchy Top Disease (BBTD) is one of them. Once the disease is established, it is very difficult to control or manage. There are no accurate estimates of international economic impact of the disease but the disease is widespread in Asia and the south pacific regions. Two disease outbreaks have been taken place, one in Australia in 1920 and second in Pakistan during 1990-92, which has caused severe losses. Banana bunchy top disease is caused by banana bunchy top virus (BBTV) that belongs to nano virus group. BBTV is a small virus of size 20-22 nm in diameter, consisting of SSDNA with the relative molecular mass of  $2.0 \times 10^6$  and a coat protein sub-unit with relative molecular mass of 2,000 dalton. The disease is distributed in South-east Asia, Philippines. Transporting planting material obtained from infected plants spreads the virus from place to place and aphid spreads from plant to plant. There is no cure of the disease. They are reservoirs of the virus, they must be destroyed. BBTD is a threat to banana industry and to the productivity of banana plantings.

## **Field Diagnosis of BBTV Based on Symptoms**

Initially there is development of dark green streaks in the veins of lower portion of the leaf

midrib, petiole base and on pseudostem. The symptom is some time referred to as 'Morse code streaking' because the streaks are irregular and resemble a series of 'dots' and 'dashes'. Rubbing away the waxy white coating that covers the petiole base of midrib makes it easier to see the streaking, the dark green, hook like extensions of the leaf lamina veins can also be seen in the narrow, light - green zone between the midrib and the lamina. These are known as 'Green J-hooks'. The short hooks point down along the midrib toward the petiole and can be seen by back lighting the leaf against the sky or sun.

On mature plants infected with BBTV, new leaves emerge with difficulty, look narrower than normal with wavy margin and some times have yellow leaf margins. Finally they appear to be 'bunched' at the top of the plant, the peculiar symptom for which this disease is named. Severely infected banana plants usually do not bear fruits, but if fruit is produced, the banana hands and fingers are distorted, stunted, twisted or otherwise deformed and of little use.

The suckers that develop after a 'mother' plant has been infected with BBTV are usually severely stunted, with leaves that do not expand normally and remain bunched at the top of the pseudostem. These leaves are stiff and erect,

shorter and narrower than normal leaves, and havoc chlorotic edges. Suckers with these symptoms do not produce fruits. Therefore the disease can result in a 100% yield loss.

### **Development and Spread of Disease**

Banana bunchy top virus spreads by the banana aphid, *Pentolonia nigronervosa* that acquires the virus after at least 4 - 18 hr of feeding on an infected plant. The aphid can retain the virus through its adult life, for a period of 15 - 20 days. During this time, the aphid can transmit the virus to a healthy banana plant by feeding on it, possibly for as little as 15 minutes, but more typically for about two hr. No other aphid is known to transmit the virus. BBTV does not replicate in aphid vector and probably retained when the vector moults, but not transmitted congenitally to the progeny of vector. This transmission of virus by aphid is responsible of short movement of disease.

Environmental conditions and aphid reproduction capacity are very important factors in disease development. Aphid requires hot and humid climate of better transmission. Reproduction is more during the said climate. Adverse conditions affect the aphid activities. Predominantly a vegetatively propagated crop, makes spread of disease by the use of infected planting material including micro-propagated plants is a constant risk. The virus perpetuate through the infected suckers and thus responsible for long distance movement of disease.

### **Management Practices**

The following conventional and non-conventional strategies can be adopted to manage the BBTD.

#### **Quarantine Measures:**

With the availability of a range of sensitive and specific methods for BBTV diagnosis and detection and the advantage of in-vitro

propagated bananas, now it is possible to provide large quantities of virus tested banana germplasm and planting material. With the adoption of the said material, the risk of introducing BBTV into new areas should greatly be reduced. The international Network for the improvement of Bananas and Plantains (INIBAP) has established a 'transit center' at Leuven in Belgium that maintains an extensive in-vitro collection of Musa germplasm from 7 which virus tested banana and plantain cultivars can be obtained.

#### **Cultural Practices:**

For BBTD management, it carries both the responsibilities of virus and aphid management. Cultural practices like regular inspection, rouging and digging play an adequate role in minimizing the disease. Early and efficient detection and eradication are the elements of this strategy and require knowledge and ability to diagnose BBTD from early symptoms. Destruction of weeds and alternate hosts, creation of banana free buffer zone around banana farm and adoption of diversified agriculture are other important BBTV reducing factors. Spread of disease could not occur if infected plants could be located and destroyed in the symptom less stage of within a short time of symptoms being displayed. An isolation distance of 100-200 m between any new bananas planting is very beneficial to control BBTD. Removal of diseased banana plants and replant with virus free banana plants leads to effective management strategy. Cultural practices also play a very important role in aphid management. Destruction of wild or unattended patches of bananas is must to control aphids. A large population of banana aphids can grow on them and the wild patches when infected can serve as a serious and constant source of diseases for farms and residential neighborhoods. Maintenance of good weed control in the banana patches can help in aphid

control. Some weeds may host the banana aphid or other banana pests. Aphids prefer to feed on young banana suckers so the banana mats should be pruned of all unwanted suckers.

#### **Eradication:**

Eradication is being done by digging and burning of diseased plants and suckers in the field. The herbicide picloram (Keipin formulation) effectively eradicate diseased banana with no detrimental effects to adjacent plants. This technique, coupled with a routine monitoring programme, promises to be an effectively method for reduction of BBTD. The formulation allows for precise placement of the herbicide with no noticeable effects on adjacent vegetation. It permits selective eradication within a plantation, which can be rapidly followed by plant treatment.

#### **Biological Control:**

Biological control may be used to suppress aphid population in some situation. Ladybird beetle (*Coccinella septempunctata*) has predatory potentialities on banana aphid, *Pentalonia nigronervosa*. Introduction of aphid parasitoids as bioagents leads to a good aphid control. Introduction of the polyphagous parasitoid (*Aphidius colemani*) can be used to control

banana aphids. Frequent use of insecticide spray can have a negative, detrimental effect upon aphid predators and parasites. Ants should be controlled as they aggressively protect the aphids from their natural enemies and they feed upon the sweet honeydew that aphids produce. Boric acid baits can be used for ant control.

#### **Resistant Cultivars:**

Resistance cultivars to BBTV would be most effective means of disease management. Unfortunately, there are no known commercial cultivars of banana that are immune to BBTV. Transgenic virus resistance, based on virus-derived transgenic, is a good strategy for controlling viruses.

#### **Chemical Control:**

Treating the suckers at the time of planting with malathion @ 0.2% and mancozeb @ 0.3% may reduce the pest attack and Spray the crop with power kerosene or malathion in the affected pseudostem and apex of the plant around the central leaf at 60 and 90 days after planting.

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Nirakar Ranasingh is a Specialist in Plant Protection, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Rayagada, Gunupur, Orissa



*Smt. Anita Agnihotri, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Textile & Handloom Department briefing the press on National Handloom Expo-2007 on 9.1.2007*

# ORISSA REVIEW

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**DIGAMBARMOHANTY, I.A.S.**  
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*Photo*

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E-mail : [iprsec@rediffmail.com](mailto:iprsec@rediffmail.com)  
Visit : <http://orissagov.nic.in>  
Contact : Ph. 0674-2394839

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## Prelude.....



*The concept of Panchayati Raj system dates back to early part of human civilisation. People forming a group were mitigating all problems through mutual consultation and agreement. During Rig-Vedic period 'Grama' was formed by a number of families. The popular bodies of this grama were called as 'Sabha' and 'Samities'. The presiding officer of this body was known as 'Sabhapati' and its members as 'Sabhasad'. Common problems were addressed properly through these sabha and samities. The autonomy of village community has vividly been described in the 'Arthasastra' of Kautilya. In the post-independence era the idea of a rural local self-government was revived in India. Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the Nation was an exponent of the revival of village panchayats. In Orissa, the democratic decentralization through devolution of power was vigourously pursued by the former Chief Minister, Biju Patnaik. In restructuring the districts of Orissa, empowering women under three-tier Panchayati Raj system and transferring the basic delivery mechanism into the hands of the people, Biju Patnaik played a pioneering role in the whole country. On the auspicious occasion of Panchayati Raj Day, Orissa Review pays humble tribute to this legendary leader.*

*The process of Panchayati Raj election has recently been completed in Orissa. Institutions at the grass roots now have people's representatives. This signals the strengthening of the Panchayati Raj system in our state. Initiatives of rural development will certainly be more targeted keeping the local needs and aspirations in view. People living in rural areas will participate in the process of development in a pro-active manner. Many changes on account of uniform development process are in the offing. Orissa Review in its present issue has tried to present the concept of Panchayati Raj and its implementation in Orissa by the peoples representatives in a succinct form. We hope esteemed readers of Orissa Review may find it interesting and useful.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DM' followed by a stylized flourish.

(Digambar Mohanty)  
Commissioner-Cum-Secretary