

Editorial Note

Dear Friends,

The intellectual community of each and every country tries its best to find solutions to the socio-political problems of that nation in its specific way. The solutions to the problems essentially demand a proper and in-depth understanding of the situation in such a manner that all the aspects of the problem are understood and analyzed completely and almost all the dimensions of the possible solutions are debated thread and bare. That way, apart from the policy makers, planners, bureaucrats, politicians and judges, the academic community has also to bear the responsibility of having multi-pronged discussions on various issues of public life with a view to provide probable ideal solutions to the situations prevalent and give theoretical perspective to the practical parts of real politick. This necessarily means that any academic community cannot distance itself from the social duties of being the mental and educational torch-bearers of the society besides adding and suggesting educational inputs into the multi-dimensional politico-economic system. While the system may require certain reasonably legitimate leaders and opinion makers for the purpose of acquiring and sustaining popular public support, the political functionaries may have to extend their following amongst the erstwhile indifferent sections of the community so as to garner increased mechanism of support structures for the authority to make it fully capable of performing the function of converting the demands into decisions.

The educational and research institutions alongwith the sub-systems of the polity may have to confront with different conflict resolution techniques and the pressures of mass public movements may compel them to evolve specified people-oriented policies aimed at resolving the mundane conflicts in such a way that new issues do not emerge as the ramifications. Thus, public policy discourses have to essentially include the academics in their course of actions. This would result in greater participation of the persona involved in imparting higher education and pursuing systematic and rigorous research in diverse areas of production of knowledge. As a matter of fact, this whole exercise has to be performed in away fully conducive to the socio-economic conditions of the particular society and that may pave the way of better and clearer understanding of the community by the aliens. This has been, in most of the cases, the pathway of the success story of the intellectual giants of the world. These success stories always remind us of the fact that the roadmaps of these excellent and noteworthy achievements were meticulously carved out on the basis of country-specific ground realities and case-specific understanding of these conditional ties. This helps in evolving and formulating models and testing them for the purpose of further generalization. To a considerable extent the evolution and the testing of the models is dependent upon the divergent situations prevalent in that community.

The other part of this preposition may appear to be extremely opposite and amazing but true. No country in the world would in any case be able to march forward in the direction of advancement and development wherein the academic community has relieved itself from the function of proposing solutions to the area specific problems; wherein the models are not evolved and formulated on the basis of indigenous conditions; wherein social and educational responsibilities are not shared between these groups but are made the sole duty of the state; wherein the models are imported and

transplanted from outside, wherein the society has gradually stopped thinking originally and the ideas, concepts, theories and solutions are acquired from the so-called developed and advanced; and wherein the public discourse and popular debate has lessened its role from the public domain.

By these assumptions, I wish to forward the idea of our innate capacity of getting rid of outer clutches of knowledge production and our immense capability of generating excellence and talent in the whole society of academics, technicians, mechanics bureaucrats and other professionals of modern life. Because of our tremendous strength gained out of metaphysical understanding of the world and intellectual advances of our glorious past, we have inherited wonderful legacy of astonishing achievements in various fields of human functioning which we can always be proud of, besides endeavouring to attain valuable insights out of these furtherance of ancient tradition for the betterment of our present day conditions and futuristic goals and targets. But we have to essentially keep in mind the basic presumption that – one, the intellectual community of the nation has to slop immediately the habit of having disbelief in our past and treating it all mythology and fundamentalism; two, considering everything and anything being imported from the West as sacrosanct, truthful and the only knowledge; three, following the footsteps of ‘others’ without any questions and not trying carve out ‘our’ own ways; four, depending solely on the political authority for the redressal of each and every conflict, and escaping from our social and cultural responsibilities. The path is hazardous but the only way of progress for our nation as Kathopnishad proclaims:

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2 Nov. 2006
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(Sanjeev Kumar Sharma)