

SYMPOSIUM HOST COMMITTEE

Mr. K.C. Mehra - Tata Services Ltd.
Mrs. A. Jacob - Abner Memorial School
Dr. K.V. Sridharan - Vishwa Yuwak Kendra
Mrs. V.K. Modi - Modi Rubber Ltd.
Mr. K. Sharma - Sikror Panchayat
Mrs. P.N. Kavoori - Bhartiya Vidya Bhawan

The Institute of Cultural Affairs : India is a research, training and demonstration group, concerned with the human factor in world development. Its endeavour is to devise and demonstrate practical methods for comprehensive community renewal.

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REGION CONSULT :
DELHI

April 3 - 12, 1981

A major concern in this country today is the development of local communities, particularly in rural areas. The key to effective work is the human element. This is requiring methods which develop responsibility for the future at the local level. Many government, private and voluntary organisations are experiencing success in aspects of this task and are expressing the desire to share experiences and insights.

In response to this, a ten-day consult from 3 April to 12 April, 1981 has been designed for all those who are concerned with local development. The challenge is to discern what will make the required difference to community and village life and to design a co-operative strategy for local implementation.

REGION CONSULT : DELHI

<p>GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM</p> <p>New Directions (Delhi)</p> <p>3-5 April</p>	<p>METRO PRACTICUM</p> <p>Field Research</p> <p>6-9 April</p>	<p>REGIONAL ASSEMBLY</p> <p>Team Plan (Sikror)</p> <p>10-12 April</p>
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The SYMPOSIUM is a weekend event which will bring together people from all walks of life who are concerned with rural development at the local level. The Symposium will identify the issues facing development particularly in the Delhi region. Proposals for how to deal with these issues will be created.

The PRACTICUM is a time when teams will visit Delhi and surrounding districts to interview field workers, local residents of villages and towns, and government servants. In these visits, they will discuss the changes which have taken place locally, the challenges these changes present and what is needed for the future. The teams will also identify and visit successful projects and programmes.

The ASSEMBLY participants will review the input from both the Symposium and the Practicum and begin to design a four-year plan for corporate action. It will be hosted by residents of Sikror village (near Ghaziabad) who are themselves carrying out a comprehensive programme of development.

The participants in this event will be men and women in the public and private sectors, and from voluntary agencies and local communities.

"AN END TO POVERTY AND HUNGER" from the
Independent Commission on International
Development Report....

"NORTH-SOUTH" by Willy Brandt

It is a matter of humanity to conquer hunger and disease on our way to the next millennium - to prove wrong those forecasters who say we will have to face the distress of hundreds of millions of people suffering from starvation and preventable diseases at the turn of the twenty-first century.

The United Nations Children'S Fund (UNICEF) estimated that in 1978 alone more than 12 million children under the age of five died from hunger. And although the United Nations declared 1979 the Year of the Child these devastating figures will not have changed for the better.

History has taught us that wars produce hunger, but we are less aware that mass poverty can lead to war or end in chaos. While hunger rules peace cannot prevail. He who wants to ban war must also ban mass poverty. Morally it makes no difference whether a human being is killed in war or is condemned to starve to death because of the indifference of others.

Mankind has never before had such ample technical and financial resources for coping with hunger and poverty. The immense task can be tackled once the necessary collective will is mobilized. What is necessary can be done, and must be done, in order to provide the conditions by which the poor can be saved from starvation as well as destructive confrontation.

Solidarity among men must go beyond national boundaries; we cannot allow it to be reduced to a meaningless phrase. International solidarity must stem both from strong mutual interests in cooperation and from compassion for the hungry.

The quality of life is almost meaningless without health, which depends on proper nutrition and a healthy environment. This also demands more research and operational funds devoted to combating the diseases of people in poor countries. Health care, social development and economic progress must advance interdependently if we are to attain our objectives for the year 2000.

Illiteracy too is a tremendous waste of human potential. Literacy - which goes beyond just being able to read and write - arouses people's consciousness and helps them participate in community life. Thus it is also a prerequisite for fighting hunger and disease.

We emphasize that human needs can only be met by the productive efforts of the society which strives to meet those needs. The only way to make this possible for developing countries, particularly the poorest ones, is to enable them to build up and develop their own productive capability. Therefore, we support additional and immediate measures for these countries. In our report we suggest that such endeavours should, amongst others, include health, reforestation, river-basin projects, energy development, mineral exploration. These priority programmes constitute another important set of tasks to be achieved by the year 2000.

Leaders in the South shoulder the bulk of responsibilities. They should also be aware how important it is that public opinion in the North is convinced that measures of international reform which need support will really affect the living conditions of their people as a whole.

MR. N.A. PALKHIVALA in the G.D. SOMANI
MEMORIAL LECTURE had the following to
say on HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

Is there an alternative? There is undoubtedly an alternative and that is an alternative which can make us go places, which can make up for all our shortcomings and deficiencies of the last thirty years. If we want a bright future, which this country is undoubtedly capable of because of its skills, intelligence and its spirit of enterprise - then we shall have to concentrate upon four major things.

First of all, we shall have to ensure what the World Bank report published in 1980 calls human development or human investment. We have been investing thousands of crores of rupees in plant and machinery, in brick and mortar. But we have invested little in education, in nutrition, in public health. One hundred million mandays are still lost every year as a result of men being required to carry drinking water from one place to another.

In 25 percent of our villages, there is no drinking water. The other three-fourths have contaminated drinking water. But the one-fourth do not even have contaminated drinking water. In this state of affairs you realise how human investment would make all the difference. Are we careful enough about the health of our people, the nutrition they get and about their education?

Education is terribly important. These days people like to quantify everything. The World Bank has quantified the advantages of investing in education and it says that the return on the investment that you make in education is at least 27 percent, if you take the experiences of the different countries. A 27 per cent return on investment (tax free of course) is a fairly sizeable return. They further calculated that farmers who become literate or get even rudimentary education are able to produce 13 per cent more than illiterate farmers. The return on human development is higher than the return on physical investment. Further what emerges from the World Bank report is that the countries which have gone in for human investment/human development have a faster rate of economic growth than the countries which have concentrated on physical investment.

The great task before the nation is to provide basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter to a small minority in urban areas and a large majority in rural areas. Final objective in our national development would not only nearly add to economic prosperity, but also to a quality of life.

It is necessary to develop the skills of the rural artisans at the very outset. Mere pumping of money by State in the rural areas is not likely to help the artisans to attain the level of socio-economic development. What is required is the development of technical skills of the rural poor to enable them to take advantage of the opportunities to get themselves absorbed in the programmes initiated for their betterment in the villages.

The state may no doubt create necessary infrastructure facilities and financial assistance for financing the various rural development programme, but no purpose will be served unless and until the rural artisans stand on their own legs to develop initiative and the necessary skills for bettering their prospects.

Rural development is thus an integral process seeking to combine economic, political, socio-cultural and ethical dimensions.

The fortunes of rural areas are inextricably linked up with urban development because it is the rural areas which provide food for the urban dweller as well as essential raw materials for industries like cotton, textiles, jute, sugar, tea, tobacco and others. Rural areas provide markets for consumer goods produced by urban industries. Also, some of the essential inputs in modern farm technology like fertilizers, pesticides and agricultural implements can only be produced in the large-scale industrial sector. If we want to have rebalancing of the terms of trade in favour of the rural sector, which is a must for the new approach to rural development, we shall have to reconsider some of the basic policies in relation to prices, incomes, profits, wages and salaries and taxation for the nation as a whole.

Excerpts from an article by S.A.N. PEERZADE
entitled KEY TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

It is needless to stress the importance of rural development prior to contemplation of measures for National Development. Since about 80 per cent of the population is concentrated in rural areas, real India lies in villages. With the consciousness of this fact Mahatma Gandhi laid great emphasis on rural development through the upliftment of the depressed class of rural masses. He envisaged a rural oriented development programmes under which the villages are required to process local raw material for the production of goods and services to meet the local needs of rural people.

At present India's population has risen to an alarming proportion of 650 millions. Every year 5 millions are added by fresh births resulting in population explosion. In 1978 Indian economy had a labour force of 273.00 millions of which work force was estimated at 260.9 millions leaving a balance of 12.1 millions. In March 1978 total unemployment in the country was of the order of 20.6 million person years of which 16.5 million person years were in rural areas and 4.1 million persons years in urban areas.

In India agriculture dominates the economic life of the rural people with 69.7 per cent of the local labour force engaged in agricultural activities. Lack of opportunity for rural people in non-agricultural sector is responsible for exerting great pressure on agriculture.

Agricultural productivity in our country is one of the lowest, if not only the lowest when measured by world standard. The productivity amounts to 25 per cent of the levels of productivity of developed countries like Ehypt, Thaiwan and Korea. In real terms the agriculture does not stand much to benefit the rural masses.

It is seen that the priorities in most of the five year plans have weighed more in favour of "core" sectors like heavy industries, transport and communication than that of rural areas and of social and welfare services. The expenditure on social services such as education, health, sanitation, drinking water, housing and other welfare programmes of weaker sections at the outset was considered unproductive.

This was clearly brought out in the initial draft outlays as decided in each successive plans. Later on there was a realisation on the part of the planners about the needs for the adoption of various rural development plans for the improvement of socio-economic conditions of rural people.

The very fact that we have today a highly skewed distribution of income, wealth, property, status and political power in the country shows that, unless more incomes are generated among the poverty stricken people in rural and semi-urban areas, creation of more surpluses are bound to remain a permanent feature of our economy.

REGION CONSULT DELHI

3-12 APRIL, 1981

GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM

Friday, 3 April - Sunday, 5 April

Location: Vishwa Yuwak Kendra, Off Circular Road, Chanyakapuri,
New Delhi.

Objectives:

- * To bring together participants from the public and private sectors, from voluntary agencies and local communities, to articulate the potential for human development and the issues involved.
- * To design strategic directives for human development activities in the Delhi Region (Greater Delhi, Southern Haryana and Western U.P.)

Method:

- * A series of guided workshops designed to elicit the wisdom of all participants, these will be contexted by short presentations.
- * A focussed discussion on effective and creative responses led by a panel of distinguished speakers, including
 - Prof. RamLal Parikh, M.P., Rajya Sabha.
 - Mr. K.C. Mehra, Resident Director,
Tata Services Ltd.
 - Mr. J.B. Singh, Executive Director,
Action for Food Production.
 - Mr. T.S.Kannan, Chairman,
National Small Industries Corp.Ltd.

Times: FRIDAY, 3p.m.-7p.m. SATURDAY, 10a.m.-7p.m. SUNDAY, 10a.m.-2p.m.

METRO PRACTICUM

Monday, 6 April - Thursday, 9 April.

Location: Delhi and surrounding districts.

Objectives:

- * To carry out field research into projects being undertaken by organisations in the Delhi region and to identify effective approaches.
- * To interview a wide range of people concerned with human development to gauge the potential for implementation of the directives named in the Symposium

REGION ASSEMBLY

Friday, 10 April - Sunday, 12 April

Location: Sikror Village, Meerut Road, District Ghaziabad.

Objectives:

- * To pull together the threads of the field research.
- * To design a four-year plan of action to intensify and focus present activities, and to provide a backdrop picture for new initiatives.

COMMUNITY LEADERS INCLUDE:

Mr. Rambhao Jagdhani
Prof. Maurice Sill
plus Sikror village leaders

THE SECTOR LEADERS PANEL:

Prof. R.L. Parikh, M.P.
Mr. J.B. Singh, APPRO
Mr. T.S. Kannan, NSIC
Mrs. Shah

Delhi Region Consult Symposium

4th April, 1981