

Editorial

Still an uncertain generation

Manipur, beset with an unending string of upheavals and social unrest, have truly started to regress in all spheres of development.

The rapidly declining social order does not seem to have a viable solution in sight to put a brake on the unfortunate and undesirable developments. Accentuating these social chaos is an increasing proclivity of the public to put all the blame squarely on the state Government. It would not be incorrect to state that there are a good number of social organizations and groups of individuals who, for reasons best known to themselves, prefer to brew up a storm on the slightest pretext rather than to make efforts to settle the matter in a more mature and productive manner.

This very trait of resorting to violence and destructive behavior even for flimsy reasons everyone in the state is increasingly witnessing is a cause for real concern.

How can anyone justify the destruction and displacement of a whole family for an act of crime committed by a member of that family? Should such a vindictive reaction be justified at all, in the first place? How are we supposed to expect the government to upkeep the law and order when we have started taking the law into our own hands? Will it be right to assume that the parents and family members of criminals are supporting or encouraging their children to perpetrate crimes? On what basis do we assume that the entire family is party to an act of crime committed by an individual? Are our laws (even customary or traditional ones) based on assumptions? Have the public so far kept their part of the deal? Can two wrongs make a right, thereby placing a greater number of wrongly informed individuals in the right by their sheer majority in numbers?

And yet, harsh as it may sound, the present social mindset can be attributed to the declining credibility and increasing distrust felt by the public of those running the Government, only in part. The evidently increasing abuse of power and misuse of resources, blatant negligence of responsibilities and increasing indifference to the needs and demands, however genuine and urgent an issue may be, are some of the factors aggravating the condition. And while the collective consciousness of the public is caught up in these issues, the real issue of progress and sustainable development takes a backseat. The instinctive reactions of the public and stopgap measures of the Government have thrown away any semblance of rationality or functionality.

The answer to all these social mayhem and disruptions is progress and development. But that is easier said than done. A radical approach from both the public and the Government need to be taken up that is based on trust and mutual respect. The machineries of the Government need to function in an efficient and transparent manner to win back the trust and respect of the public. The people of the state, on the other hand, need to place our rationality above our instincts and emotional urges. We cannot, and nor should we expect instant solution for every issue from the Government. We should instead cooperate and support the Government in overcoming the tremendous pressures they are constantly under.

We need to restrain ourselves and applaud their good work which will definitely urge them to perform better. It is time to give trust, respect and cooperation a chance, not only for the present society, but more importantly for the future generation who are already feeling the heat of the uncertainties and insecurities.

Education, State and Conflict: A Critical Analysis of Manipur

By : Sapana Karam Devi

Education and its discourse has been an important subject in contemporary time. Several thinkers and scholars have defined education and its processes in different ways according to the context they have dealt with. Eminent philosophers of education such as John Dewey (2001) defined education as the 'vehicle for individual liberalisation and social transformation' and the only path for development, progress and growth of the respective society. According to Smith (2010: 02) education is an important path to develop the economic and social ability necessary to generate sustainable livelihoods for successive generation. Education becomes the universal rights of every human, the process to enlighten the mind of the people and for the future generations. "Education plays a critical role in creating human capital which can contribute to production and economic growth just as physical capital, land and labour do" (Hudson, 1998). It is the only way for upwards mobility for those who belong to lower strata of the society. However, many scholars viewed quite contrary, they argued that education as an institution itself is the one which exists and maintained the social and economic strata of the society (Lareau, 2001). In post-colonial India, education has been acknowledged as one of the most important aspect in nation-

building process. Recently, in India, the elementary education has considered as fundamental rights with the passing of 93rd Amendment of the Constitution. For this vision, the compulsory of free education up to 14 years has been taken up by the government so that every Indian gets free education. There is a steady increase in participation and enrolment of schools; however, many groups are not in the position to access even an elementary level of education. The Indian caste system, poverty, lack of development and negligence of the government in remote or tribal areas are one of the hindrances in bringing quality education. It could be construed that the government has "failed" in providing basic education to all the citizens of India on fair and equal basis. Many private institutions, missionary schools have emerged in the aim of providing quality education. However, these schools and institutions have motivated only children who belong to well off family, who could afford high fees and excluding the poor marginalized giving no room for them (Salam, 2013). This created the strata among the social group.

Despite the importance of elementary education and secondary level of education, higher education is considered important for developing a 'knowledge society' as the world's economy and market has become

intensive in a globalised world. It has become an important component to develop our own country and for building a nation. Education has also been a complex site. The paradigm of 18th and 19th century liberals has been reshaped by the neo-liberal paradigm. This not only rely on politics and economy but also other sector too to bring in the activities of market and education is also the one (Ward, 2012). In Indian context, there is dilemma. Although there is steady increase of participation in higher education, the inequality in participation in higher education has become one of the issues across the country especially among the disadvantaged section of the society such as Scheduled tribes (STs), Scheduled castes (SCs), other backward class/caste (OBC), and gender.

In the context of North-east in general and Manipur in particular, there are several factors which hampers the educational attainment of various section of people depending on their social, geographical and economic condition. A socio-political issue is another factor which plays an important role in understanding the education sector. Economic blockades, general strikes and public outrage against armed forces, and the ethnic/common tension, is a regular phenomenon in Manipur. There have always been violent conflicts which are rooted in respect to territory, autonomy, separation and identity distinction. These have what may be called "negative" consequences to the educational sector. Many times school institutions are closed down and this lead to fracturing the academic life of the students. On the other hand, the mode of education system seems to be the features of valley region in Manipur. The education sector in hilly areas has not been given much attention by the government. The state educational resources have mainly in the hands of those people in the valley which can access these opportunities. This leads to the exclusion of many people in hilly area, who have the ability to achieved higher education due to not able to access such educational advantage and opportunities. This reflects the competing interest and the struggles among diverse ethnic group and have caused an increase in ethno-sub-nationalist movement among ethnic groups. So, education could be a root of ethnic contestation in Manipur which is an important site to examine. All this affect the education sector in Manipur. This made to push many students outside the state to other cities of India.

Meanwhile, if we look at the scenario of education; the literacy rate in Manipur is 79.2%, which is higher than national average level. This is a paradox and needs an explanation. This research will examine and try to find answer to this question.

The present work will highlight some explicit theories that can be helpful in understanding this study. The theories discussed here will shape the analysis of the present study and eventually the conclusions drawn from it. The state of Manipur is home to diverse multi-ethnic and multi-lingual communities. Besides, Manipur is a conflict ridden state, where the state, non-state and civil society could not bring about a resolution of the conflict. Therefore, there is a need to understand the educational spaces of Manipur which is somehow diverse in term of social, cultural and economic backgrounds. Keeping all the things in mind, I find the Pierre Bourdieu's approach of 'capital' more suitable to this study which defines that the educational institution and the processes of education as a reproduction of social inequality i.e., how education plays a role in maintenance of unequal structures in state. In this regard, this study intends to adopt the Bourdieu's perspective to understand and critically analyse the situation of Manipur.

According to Bourdieu, "Capital is accumulated labour (in its materialized form or its 'incorporated, embodied form) which, when appropriate on a private, i.e. exclusive, basis by agents or groups of agents enables them to appropriate social energy in the form of reified or living labour" (Bourdieu, 1986:241). Bourdieu defined 'Capital' into four types: economic capital, cultural capital, social capital and symbolic capital. He has given more emphasis on cultural capital and social capital in understanding the education. The study will be looking through these forms of 'capital' given by Bourdieu. He argued that the educational system contributes in the reproduction of relations of powers among the social classes. The distribution of education has also reproduces the circumstances for maintaining the unequal structures by the possession of certain power relations, the powerless majority remains suppressed in the existing social system (Bourdieu, 1974). So, based on Bourdieu's definition, the educational institution and the processes of education are considered as reproduction of social inequality which will be in central to understand the education sector in conflict zone, Manipur.

National & International News

Two killed as weakening typhoon Lan passes near Tokyo

Reuters

Tokyo, Oct. 23: A rapidly weakening typhoon Lan made landfall in Japan on Monday, setting off landslides and flooding but leaving the capital, Tokyo, largely unscathed, although at least two people were reported killed and train and plane services disrupted.

It had weakened to a category 2 storm when it made landfall early on Monday, sidestepping Tokyo, after it had powered north for days as an intense category 4 storm, according to the Tropical Storm Risk monitoring site. Lan is the Marshall islands word for "storm".

At least two people were killed, one a man in his 60s who was passing a building site when scaffolding collapsed on top of him and the other a fisherman tending to his boat, *Kyodo news agency* said. Nearly 90 others suffered injuries, most of them minor, media reported. Another man was missing after a landslide engulfed his home, NHK public television said, although his wife was dug out by rescuers. Rivers burst their banks in several

parts of Japan and fishing boats were tossed up on land. A container ship was stranded after being swept onto a harbour wall but all 19 crew members escaped injury.

The centre of the storm was northeast of Tokyo on Monday morning and it was moving northeast at 65 km/h (40 mph), the Japan Meteorological Agency said. It was expected to move out into the Pacific later on Monday and become a tropical depression on Tuesday. Around 350 flights were cancelled and train services disrupted over a wide area, although most commuter trains were running smoothly in Tokyo.

Tens of thousands of people were advised to evacuate, and several thousand ordered to move, on Sunday as the storm approached, lashing a wide swath of Japan with torrential rain and wind. Those numbers had fallen sharply by Monday morning.

Toyota Motor Corp cancelled the first shift at all of its assembly plants and said that it would decide on a later shift around noon on Monday.

Student dies after jumping off school building over alleged harassment

PTI

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 23: A 15-year-old girl who attempted suicide by jumping from her school building allegedly due to harassment by her teachers, succumbed to injuries at a hospital on Monday in Thiruvananthapuram, about 65 km from here, police said.

The class 10 student was admitted to the private hospital with injuries, which she had sustained after

allegedly jumping from the third floor of the private school building on October 20, police said. The family of the student has alleged harassment by the school teachers for the incident.

A case has been registered against two teachers of the school based on a complaint by the victim's father. Meanwhile, different students' outfits staged protests here against the school management over the incident.

Prithviraj Chavan hits out at govt over note ban, GST

PTI

Mumbai, Oct 23: Former Maharashtra Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan has criticised the NDA government's move of demonetisation and the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), calling them as "attacks on the economy".

The government mistakenly assumed that currency in cash is black money. It is sometimes a provision for

emergency situations but the government ignored this aspect and went ahead with note ban. Now, everybody knows the note ban has failed miserably. Chavan told reporters yesterday in Karad, his hometown in Satara district.

The BJP-led Union government also failed to build up a proper system required for the implementation and execution of the GST.

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A New Perspective of Urban ...

It is really exciting to imagine the materialization of such an urban planning and development. For location of urban growth centers on the foothills, a roadway cum Tramway, aka 9Light Rail Transit) LRT link should run along the foothills connecting the whole valley and the existing urban centers. The Tramway, aka LRT is an efficient, aesthetic, durable and modern mass transport resource for medium-sized Indian cities. Multi community planned townships can be developed on the foothills along this link. Mini storage dams can be constructed at various locations on the foothills all along link. There are many natural water storage points on the foothills which can be used for irrigation, water supply, mini hydro power plants and tourism. Various industrial growth centers can also be located along this link.

The various advantages of such a planning can be –
1) Providing the much needed irrigation to the agricultural land and

hence increasing the agricultural and farmland productivity
2) Increase in power production
3) Increase in drinking water supply
4) Growth in tourism,
5) Saving/reclaiming of the agricultural lands and wetlands in the valley which is a necessary condition for progress and development of Manipur,

6) Developing an organic relationship amongst hill and valley people through the development of multi community townships,
7) Developing a drainage plan for the Imphal city to solve the endemic flood problem.
8) Solving the traffic congestion in Imphal city.

There can be disadvantages also as any development has a tradeoff. But advantages can outweigh the disadvantages. But thing is certain this will solve the endemic flood problem of the Imphal valley.

It is hoped that the new perspective of Urban planning will be a part of Vision 2030- Manipur.

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