

Editorial

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Tryst with destiny - Should we accept?

"If engineers are corrupt some people suffered, if a doctor is irresponsible some people may die but when a politician stop thinking about a society then the whole society collapse" Veteran politician Okram Joy once said in a public meeting in connection with election campaign some years back. The veteran politician was referring on how prosperity could be brought to the state if we have committed leader to lead the state. Living aside all other issues, one important issue need to solve is the issue of NSCN-IM.

A final solution to the issues of the NSCN-IM is what almost all people of the North Eastern region particularly the people of Manipur have been expected. The recent sequence of events witness either in term of political circus and the struggle for protection of Manipuri identity is indeed a worrisome for all people. The idea of nation having one identity, one religion, one culture, one language promulgated by some self style son of mother India has created fear psychosis to various ethnic communities in the country.

At a time when chauvinistic idealism of creating a nation of only one community is seen marching ahead, it is natural that each and every ethnic communities of the nation have reason to be feared. Because it is family first then come the society then it is the nation. India was and is a nation of diverse people. The beauty of India is the existences of different ethnic people with diverse cultural people. It is important that if India has to prove the world as the most successful democratic country, the leaders and the so called self style son of the soil should tried to become real son of the soil by accepting that the concept of one religion, one culture and one language should not be followed in the Nation called India. During Kargil war, two soldier from this region, that too from a border village between Myanmar and India in the state of Manipur were martyred while fighting the Pakistani troops. Family of the two did not know the common language that their sons spoke with their fellow soldiers and moreover, the villagers of the two soldiers are fighting tough safeguarding their villages from intruders of the neighbouring villages. Yet they pray for the success of India.

The Indian administrators of the time was not the one which brought victory to the Kargil war, but it was the prayers of those thousand parents, whose sons were fighting for the country, but who never see Delhi, or who never understood the common language (Hindi) that make India success. Indeed, many critics are of the views that India is still in the process of nation building. But the reality is that India is already a nation. A nation of imagine community living under the same roof. The peaceful co existence and communal harmony was put in dead danger with the rise of communal centric feudalism classes. They spew venom of hate feeling among the various communities for their mere selfish gain.

Last few decades showed rise of many such feudalists and the rise of this class raises the feeling of enmity among the various community. Coming back to the state of Manipur, the problem facing right now has similar roots. The force annexation is often pin point as the root of all sort of trouble here, but the reality is that the root of the entire problem facing in the state of Manipur is the chauvinistic attitude of the ruling government in the mainland India. Instead of looking on the problem, the then ruler of the mainland India had sideline the real issue submitted by the then expert officials deputed by their government, they never tried anything to put a halt to the rise of the armed opposition group. But rather the then government incited hate feeling among various communities thinking that the same technique adopted the British ruler can suppressed any movement in the region. Instead of taking into consideration and finding a means to end all sort of violent activism a Scheme called Surrendered Rehabilitation Schemes had been introduced and the result - people now suffered double the problem that had faced before the coming of the scheme.

Well Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, the last President of USSR had understood the important of safeguarding each community and USSR was separated into various independent nations. Problem will be there as long as human kind exists. Because they think and act and those act are sometime negative from one's view point even if he or she thought it right from his viewpoints. The fear factor right now is felt to everyone. Man dies and sacrifices for their children and nation. If the fear factor grows no one can guarantee any untoward incident at which the fear factor was challenge and wipe out completely to restore the once upon a time nation state called Manipur.

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Thailand Education System vs Manipur Education System

By - Chingakham Dina, Arambam Karamjit, Khwairakpam Sunita

Thailand is one of the biggest business centres in southeast Asia. It plays major role to attract spotlight in world tourism and it serves a regional transit hub to other ASEAN nations. All these successes are the product of how the human resources have been nurtured and trained. To understand the underlying background, it is important to know the education system of the country which is the source of success. We summarize a short educational background of Thailand. Literacy rate of Thailand is 96.7%. Education System: Thailand has free education system to all her citizens up to 12 standard. Pre- primary school takes 2-3 years. It is followed by 6 years elementary school, then another 6 years high school including upper secondary school. In Thai education system, students will attend at primary schools up to class 6th standard. High schools start from class 7 to class 12. Schools in Thailand can be divided broadly into four categories. They are 1. Government School 2. Private school 3. International school and 4. Buddhist school

Apart from formal education there is also non-formal education run by community centres with the help of government. There are very fewer private schools in Thailand compared with system in Manipur. Private to government school ratio is about 1:10, which means there is one private school for every ten government schools. Buddhist monastery is learning centre about Buddhist religion and there are 424 recognized Buddhist school run by monastery for formal education (Source: Wikipedia, 28 December, 2015). In higher education, the number of government and private universities are closer. International schools are affiliated to education board of other countries such as Britain, USA, Canada and Australia etc. International schools also belong to private. International schools are for business class people and tuition fees are very expensive. There are many International schools in Thailand. They are truly international in terms of environment and management. Students are from different countries and teachers are also from different nationalities. International schools in India and international schools in Thailand are very different. In India, international schools are just by name, and everything from students, teachers, management, learning atmosphere, and teaching-learning are all in Indian style. But international schools in Thailand or in another countries are truly in international atmosphere. Tuition fees at international schools range from Rs 5 lakhs to 13 lakhs per year. There has been a wave of English medium instruction class since the past 10-15 years ago. Under this influence, well equipped schools run private classes inside the system of government schools. They are called MEP (Mini English Program) and EP (English Program). In MEP program, most of the main subjects such as mathematics and science are taught in English. In EP program, all the subjects are taught in English except Thai Language subject which is similar characteristic to private schools of Manipur. Government schools have free education system however students pay a little amount of money as admission fee. MEP and EP programs are private, so students are paying around Rs 60,000-70,000 per year. There are two semesters in a year. Private schools with medium of instruction in English have tuition fees ranging from Rs 2-3 lakhs per year.

School Atmosphere
Discipline: Thai schools and universities are very strict about their school uniform. Uniform and books are heavily discounted for government schools up to 12 standard. Students will arrive school before 8:00am. On daily basis, 4-5 teachers will be standing at the gate and greet the students every day taking turn one after another.

Hair, nail, ear rings, shocks, and uniform must be checked carefully at the school gate. This is the beginning of school discipline of the day. Students must bow down their head with folding hands. If the head bow is not polite enough and satisfactory, the teacher will correct to make it to acceptable gesture which begins This's respect for each other. School assembly starts at 8:00 am and classes start from 8:30 am. Schools close at 4:30pm. Students are not allowed wearing shoes inside the classroom. They must remove and keep it outside or inside the room but at the back of the room. Discipline and politeness reflects to Thailand's major attraction of tourists which indirectly helps to boost tourism industry.

Classroom: Most of the classrooms install computer and projector, and TV along with whiteboard. They use modern teaching and learning aids in the classroom. All the rooms will be fitted with fans, power outlet, microphone jack, wall speaker, overhead projector, air conditioners in most of the classrooms, smart-board which is connected to main computer and it works as touch screen. Library is equipped with computerized system. Mini theatre room is arranged with audio-visual, screen for seminar or meeting. There is usually auditorium hall for every school for meeting, gathering, and to perform activities. Computer literacy is good at school level and it is accessible to all students. When the students are in class 8th level they have done Microsoft office, creating games using Microsoft office, multimedia-sound and video editing, and basic programming and learning computer languages. Every student has his own place and is accepted if he is good at any field not only in academic field. Hardly any students will fail. Whether good or bad, students are kept in the school and their education will be going on and on, when it comes 9th standard, weaker students will be sorted out and they will be sent to vocational training schools. This is very important point we can learn from them. School will not remove them straight by failing them. When they have grown up, and knew their sense of responsibility, they started thinking and taking up any course suitable with them even though they are not allowed to continue in general course. Otherwise their career might have been ruined by failing them.

Wave of English Learning: English learning and class with English medium have been growing popular in Thailand over the past 10-15 years with program such as MEP (Mini English Program) and EP (English Program). Most of the schools hire teachers from USA, UK, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. Filipinos constitute the largest number of teachers from Asian countries. Many language courses are offered at school. Popular foreign languages are English, Chinese, French, Japanese, Korean, and Germany.

Student Exchange Program: Foreign student exchange program through AFS (American Field Service of youth exchange program) which is intercultural interaction program for one year exchanging students is popular. Many foreign students come to Thailand, and many Thai students go to foreign countries under this program. The students are exposed to outsiders, and this reflects to their personal job, career, and business later in their future. When European and American students return home, they get special credit points from the exchange program that added to their overall high school scores. Most of these foreign students came to get cultural exposure and to have

experience of different culture before joining to university. Students from Thailand will go for exchange program at any level. In our education system of Manipur, when a class 10th or 12th students spend one year and came home after exchange program, his credit or certificate will not be accepted in mainstream education, so the whole point and value of exchange will be useless and time wasting things. For example, a Thai student joins exchange program during class 10, then he comes back the following year, he can join class at 11th standard. They value the experience as an important part of learning. This is not the case in Manipur. In Manipur, we learn for examination only and it doesn't matter much for your participation or experience as long as you show a certificate with good score and that influences for unfair means during exams to get good score.

School-A Mini Community: Thai pay much more attention to extracurricular activities, sports, health education, and art. In India, schools are considered for only text book learning. In Thailand, schools and social activities are closely related. All social activities, religious ceremonies will be organized and celebrated within the school system. Students learn all kinds of skills such as cooking, weaving, farming, recycling materials, etc through projects. In many schools, students will cook and sell food once a week inside the campus. Healthy life and sports are highly encouraged. Annual sports days are celebrated around the same time in many schools all over Thailand. In the same way universities sports days are also celebrated almost at the same time throughout the whole country but in different time from high school. School children run bank inside school and they learn money management from early age. Art, music, handicraft, hydroponic plantation, etc are actively participated by students. School is a place for social gathering and it is the place where children love to come and play but in Manipur, school is such a boring and burdensome place. Students tried to avoid school in Manipur. All school children have their lunch at school, so every school manages school canteen very well.

Entry to University: There is no board exam to complete high school. Every school will conduct their own examinations. However there is a test called O-NET (Ordinary National Educational Test) to see the quality of students. There is no pass or fail score for this test. Students who are studying final year in primary school that is class 6, and high school students of class 9, class 12 students must take this test. Admission to universities or colleges is managed through central admission procedure. So, students who are learning 12 standard must take GAT (General Aptitude Test) for the purpose of university admission. However there is also university's own test that can admit students apart from allotted students by centralized admission procedure.

Scholarship and Student Loan: Scholarship are given to academically excellent students, socio economically backward families, as well as to those students who perform good work for the society. For higher studies, not only government institutions, there are many organizations, business offices who offer scholarship with an agreement that the student will work for the organization or the office after finishing the course. Any organization -government or private, they want to attract highly potential good candidate to work for them. Students loan is easy to find. In India student loan is just for a few lucky students, few students out of thousands. Getting student loan is not easy task in Manipur.

Students and Politics: In a period of more than a decade, we have never seen students campaigning for student election which is commonly seen in Manipur. There is election of course for students' leadership selection but they don't waste time in politics during study. We have gone through too much far in Manipur by taking all sorts of issues in students' hands such as social issues and politics. But in Thailand, politics and students don't mix. Thai students never waste their study time for politics but it is totally contrast compared with the system in Manipur.

Teachers and Their Responsibility: Thai teachers are more sincere and they know their responsibility. They will come to school without any absence. The principal and head of department will strictly check their attendance. Colleagues will raise voice if any teacher is missing from his/her duty. In Manipur, all teachers are their own boss. The head of the school cannot control over a teacher if he does not perform his duty. Because of this people's work ethic, taking responsibility in their hands and level of sincerity, they are more advance and we are still in third world.

Part Time Job and Practice Skills: Students are allowed to work part time at 24/7 opening shops, and malls etc. to practice skills by selling, exposing to business and marketing. They are paid for their time and service. In Manipur, when a nurse wants to practice in a clinic or hospital, the clinic/hospital demands money from the practicing nurse. We have never heard this in other countries that people work for a clinic or hospital and the clinic/hospital gets money from the

persons who work for them. It is just total opposite. But in Thailand, students can practice their skill but they are respected and they get something for their time and energy.

Scope of Education as Foreign Students in Thailand

Bangkok is vibrant cosmopolitan city. It is famous for shopping, sight seeing, and it is a major tourist attraction in the world. It serves a transit hub to neighboring countries such as Malaysia, Cambodia, Laos, and then to Singapore, Vietnam, Indonesia by bus and train. Once you landed in Bangkok you can easily access to the neighboring countries quite easily by land. Being a cosmopolitan city, it is busy centre of business in southeast Asia. Education here also quite reflects to the nature of business, people, and global influence. Our youths move out from northeast to main city of India for education. In a new horizon of outlook, you can explore Bangkok in your map of educational destination.

Here are the potential advantages you will get by going school or university in Thailand.

1. No Student Will Fail In Manipur's education system students will be failed. Teachers are happy to fail students which is a form of punishment for not working hard or for weakness in study. In Thai education system, students will hardly fail if it is not exceptional cases. Exams will be conducted by schools themselves up to 12 class. Unlike our Manipur's system, if any student fails due to absence from examination or due to poor mark, you still have chances to consult with your teacher who teaches the subject till you pass the exam. In our system of Manipur, if you are absent on the day of examination due to accident or illness, or fail due to poor score, we are sorry. No excuses and goodbye, see you again next year. Because of this, every year students and parents of class 10 and 12 suffer from psychological illness.

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