

Editorial

Saturday, April 20, 2019

Breaking the barrier

Technological advancements are an all-pervading phenomena, one which is impossible to miss. And so, our small and relatively remote state has been engulfed with such changes that are hard to ignore. Though physically and geographically hard to access, technology has made its mark on the public. The virtual world has shrunk and information is now just a click or a swipe away. The state Government is also doing its bit to promote and propagate the integration of technology in every department and systems, albeit in a rather frustrating and for-the-sake-of-it manner. Despite such advancements and progress; or attempts at progress, the plight of a section of the public with disabilities and difficult physical deformities remains almost impossible when it comes to accessing these public facilities and services.

The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 was an Act to give effect to the Proclamation on the Full Participation and Equality of the People with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific Region. However, almost two decades on, we still have yet to see even the most basic groundwork to implement the recommendations and directions of the laws which is aimed at making all and every public facility accessible to the differently able and physically challenged persons. More surprising is the fact that these recommendations are not something which would put a financial constraint on the Government as it entails very basic changes and alterations or additions to the present infrastructures to make them more accessible. The total absence of such facilities at the public places in the state indicates a total lack of regard and consideration for this section of the society more than anything. Discounting the weak and infirm will only add to the woes of the Government. It should instead focus on making the most of its citizens by empowering them to contribute to the society.

The contributions of outstanding persons like Prof. Stephen Hawkins, a multiple paraplegic in the field of science, or that of Marla Runyard, the first legally blind paraplympian to compete in the Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia, or Ludwig Van Beethoven who composed some of the most famous musical compositions after he became completely deaf cannot be ignored. One would surely admire the achievements of Helen Adams Keller, the deaf and blind American author, political activist and lecturer. All these extraordinary people managed to overcome their physical and mental constraints and outshine everyone in their respective fields because of the support, guidance and understanding provided to them. A government which cannot render even the most basic assistance for its disadvantaged citizens, for all its achievements and advancements, cannot claim itself ideal. Understanding the everyday ordeal of these people can shape the holistic development of a state or a country.

It is for all of us to try and make the world that little bit easier for the physically less fortunate citizens, and the Government has a very urgent and important task of living up to its own claims of a fair and considerate setup.

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Continued from Yesterday Issued

Youth and Contemporary Issues

(Depoliticisation of youths and its impact in the social change)

The trend of narrow careerism among students was further shaped by the changes in the structure of employment in the liberalized economy. Secure public sector jobs became scarce everywhere, and the job market came to be dominated by the private sector. The private sector led neoliberal growth regime also restructured the labour market in fundamental ways. First, there was a slowdown in creation of secure organized sector jobs. Secondly, job opportunities witnessing growth were of the flexible variety with insecure tenure, unstable pay and no social security.

Lastly unemployment and under-employment grew in absolute terms at a time when state support for the unemployed dwindled, raising the cost of unemployment to very high levels. In our country, most of which do not have any form of unemployment allowance, there has been a proliferation of 'self-employment' and informal employment, mainly in the services sector. One of the most notable thing is that wage and salary differentials within countries have increased phenomenally, leading to widening inequalities everywhere. While executive pay in the private corporate sector has skyrocketed, even getting linked to windfall gains in the capital market, real earnings of the bulk of the employed population have either remained stagnant or have declined in many countries over the past three decades.

In that cases, all section of the people including youths and students, very energetic and potential groups are delink with social concern. Then the question is how the intrinsic population of civil societies including youths could be powerful to fight political society for their social security. Their youthful energy enables them to perform great feats in the theatre of battle; enables them to be the most active transmitters of ideas and skills; their zeal spreads into their surroundings like wild-fire. The youth acts as the motive force of all the changes.

Youths/Students In The Movement To Bring Another World Is Possible.

In underdeveloped state like Manipur most of the students are working in various work sides with their studies. They earn their pocketed money because of their parents can't afford the expenditure of higher studies. These are mainly in the cases of rural youngsters. They didn't believe for getting jobs after their graduation and even passing MA. They know the values of job market in Manipur. Without huge amount of money no one can get government jobs. So, one may tread them as workers though casual in nature. Political participation of them in the massive resistance of any issues, rural students are sharing as workers and urban students as students. They form the most consistent and reliable section of the movement 'and when they join the struggle of the working class, they fight for their own cause, and grow and become stronger in the struggle'.

The links they have with the most advanced and radicalist groups, their common class interests and objectives with the working class as a whole, accords the working youth a leading position in the societal transformation youth movement.

We always need to examine the revolutionary potential of the working youth on the basis of a comprehensive and profound study of their socio-economic, legal and political status. Consideration should be given to the fact that their involvement in large-scale capitalist production is a historically proven phenomenon. It brings them face to face with their oppressors and this teaches them excellent lessons in class education.

Historically the section of student youth has been the organised and

dynamic social force. The student youth have and continue to contribute and participate in the revolutionary struggle of our people. It is correct to recognise the necessity for students to organise themselves as students and to define their sector of struggle against the common enemy.

As an integral part of society, the youth section is charged with the specialised task of fulfilling the strategic objectives of the movement with the greater involvement of the youth. It has the responsibility of organising, mobilising and guiding all our youth into participation in the revolutionary struggle of our people.

It does not act as a separate organism but as a reliable reserve and shock force of the movement. Since the growth of the nation lies in the recruitment of new forces, mostly young, the youth section should act as a nursery of the revolutionary upbringing of those who come into the movement.

The youth in our country, like young people everywhere in the world, are searching for genuine ideals and values which they can live by, and for revolutionary ways to win them. Thus the Freedom Charter has become deeply rooted in the hearts of our youth.

Their involvement in mass democratic political actions and quest for revolutionary theory and grasp for the primacy of organisation, are features characteristic of the process of involving our youth in struggle. These are due to the objective conditions under which they mobilise, organise and fight.

The subjective factor is equally significant like the correct ideological and political orientation of the youth, the ability of the movement (and in particular the youth section) to impart to the protests by the youth a conscious and organised nature. Our ability to educate them in a genuine revolutionary spirit is a key factor.

The future of any movement or nation is dependent also on the integration of the youth in the political and other social activities. The grooming of those who have to ensure that the genuine aspirations of the people are fully realised demands a conscious effort on the part of the revolutionary movement.

The inexperience of the young provides the opportunity for a systematic process of political upbringing. This involves bold decisions in giving heavy responsibilities to the youth. We correctly say the future is in their hands.

Youth are back bone to the nation. They can change the future of the society with their well being and courageous behavior. They are here to show us that which we have not been willing to look at within ourselves. Unfortunately today we find the youth those who are more interested in other places which are not useful to them as well as nation. They choose to spend their days doing drugs and playing video games. They spend their nights partying and living it up, so to speak. More and more young men of this age group are sitting at home in front of their televisions playing games all day instead of bettering themselves or going to work. They have no vision and if they do have dreams they do not have the drive to make any attempt at achieving them.

We must get control of this. We must motivate our youth. We must teach responsibility and goal setting. I fear if we did not do so, we would soon be supporting an entire generation of homeless and needlessly on welfare families. Things have to change, with our schools, with the older generation being good role models, with the older generation being mentors, and with the youth

who are right now doing nothing

Those of you are in age of teen, you have a choice. You can allow yourselves to stay your course and do nothing or you can rise above what the cynics around you expect and go get educated or get jobs. Show the older generation they are wrong about you. Let them know you have intelligence and skills. Show yourself what you are made of. You might be surprised at how proud of yourself you become with even the smallest of accomplishments. I can tell you that nothing can happen if you do not try bad or good. You will not become rich overnight either way but at least if you make an effort, then you have begun your journey to your dream. The role of the youth in developing a society is tremendous. Youth should be motivated and encouraged to make contribution to the society in the areas of societal, cultural, economic developmental issue and environmental issues. Youth can play their roles in preventing socially harmful production, form development groups that can undertake practice of savings, take initiative to organize various cultural programs that unite the youth group at large.

Education, the Best Agent of Political Socialization.

Lastly, one may conclude by saying that only through education we could bring them as attentive public and competent political actors in this democratic system, in which one could attain his best self. For this some of the important points needed to keep in our mind in order to put into practice:

Young people possess energy, but it should be channelized in the right direction. Misguided youth may do greater harm to the society than even the worst enemy can do. Moreover, it is on the shoulders of the young that the future of the country rests because they represent new values, new thinking and the new ways of life.

Society should mould itself according to the thinking of the young because it is difficult for the older generation to have new thinking. The young should always look with hope and confidence to the future. They must have the spirit to work among the masses and also give a sense of direction for the others to follow.

Political freedom gives duties as well in responsibilities. These are more important as the case of India because we want to be free from poverty, disease and all types of divisive forces. Our political freedom must create conditions not only for better life but also for peace for the rest of the world. The youth of India should be inspired with these ideas and make them as popular with the people as it is possible.

In fact the older generation becomes hardened in their thinking. So it is difficult for them to adopt a new path. The faith of the young people is never so rigid. They can adopt, modify and change their ideas according to the demands of the circumstances. So youth of India should take this responsibility on their shoulders.

The great ideas enshrined in our culture will help us to set the energies of nation in the proper direction. So if the younger generation does not take up this challenge, they would be almost the enemies of the future.

The Young people of India should try to give a practical shape to the ideals of democracy which have kept before us. An ordinary person is not adventurous enough to take up the challenges to adopt certain ideals which may be good for the nation. Generally the actions of the individuals are guided by the normal way of thinking and also by the normal conventions. It is only the young who can accept unconventional ideas with spirit and

enthusiasm.

Various social movements which seem to be the basis of progress need the help of the younger generations. For example, for the older generation the idea of having planned families might not be proper and at moments they might consider it a political move on the part of the party in power. It is so because their conventional thinking does not agree with the new set up of circumstances. But the younger generation has vision of the future and is guided by that very vision. So "a nation is built in its educational institutions" through younger generations.

India is wedded to the policy of industrial development, but no industry can make progress till men are properly trained and technologists help in the development of the industrial complex of the country. Only the new generation can help. It may also be understood that the world is standing on the threshold of supreme catastrophe and measureless record. It is the young who can give appropriate direction to these forces.

Younger generation in India has always been depending upon the older generation. Our social set up did not allow them to have independent thinking and independent way of life. But now younger generation is to mould the thinking of the older generation. They will have to give proper shape and form to the policies which might have been out-dated and worn out. Only the young in India can seize the opportunities for doing something for the country. So they will give new enthusiasm and energy to carry forward the programme which has been chalked out for the country. We should not give only the changes from heavy school bags to big potato Bora (sack) on their back.

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