

Editorial

Thursday, June 13, 2019

The battle for the Throne



It reminds me of the political fiction story - "First Among Equals", one among the best novel by British Parliamentarian



Jeffrey Archer. The story was about the competition among the 4 fictional characters (Seymour, Kerlake, Fraser and Gould) - all back benchers in the House of Common but later rise as the most prominent political figures.

The battle for throne in Manipur's Political Theatre is interesting. Almost political analysts are keeping a close watch to the recent development. Not only the political analysts but also all the people across the state are waiting eagerly to see 'What next?'

Even as there are some differences on the rise of leaders among the politicians between the way that was happening among the British Parliamentarian and that of the Indian legislature, something is common. In both the system only those with high ambition always comes to the forefront and lead the government.

These are not fictional Characters - the silent battle which has been talking around between N. Biren Singh, the present Chief Minister and Th. Bishwajit, the works Minister now is coming up in the public spaces. It is not the media that brings the story enemy between the two leaders of the same party, but it was both the high profile leaders of the BJP that made the public understand of what is being happening between the two.

First cabinet sitting after the post 17th Lok Sabha Election held at Ukhrul on June 4 raises the curtain of the battle between two groups - one which wants Chief Minister N. Biren Singh to continues, another which wants to replace him with a new face to replace the post.

As this newspaper always says that 'everything is possible in politics' - a quote from the ex-minister Radhabind Koljam, no want can predict the fallout the battle between the two important figure of the ruling BJP. But as renowned author Jeffrey Archer had mentioned somewhere in his fiction political novel, it is the one who can tackle the situation that will hold the top post. Interestingly, the present political development shows fight between two leaders, at which both are high profile leaders of the same political party.

Media report says that Th. Bishwajit's group comprising of 14 BJP legislature including 3 Ministers are urging the BJP leader at Assam to replace the N. Biren Singh from the post. While Chief Minister N. Biren Singh along with his team is working hard to remain in the post by meeting several leaders.

Just two and the Half years old government, and the battle over the Chief Minister's post came in public domain. What is more interesting is the imposition of ban on all kind of sanction to all banks as the state is in serious financial crisis. Moreover, the ban on the recruitment in all government sectors; all happened when there is a tough political battle going on.

Finance Minister Y. Joykumar's assurance at which he stated that the overdraft will be cleared by this month, also speaks volumes as this is assumed related with the ongoing political crisis. The ban on the recruitment of all government undertaking is also one serious development which may have indirect connection with the ongoing crisis over the rivalry against the Chief Minister. All this happening seems to be well plan game if look from beyond the official guidelines, rules and regulations. Who knows this development may help in the demand by groups of BJP legislatures who are demanding replacement of the Chief Minister?

Now it is the wisdom of the Central BJP leaders to decide on whether to replace the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh or not. N. Biren Singh at the capacity of the Chief Minister has restored peace and normalcy and bridge the gap between Hill and Plain people using his own wisdom. There are many criticism to his policy program or the way he govern particularly from this newspaper (Imphal Times), but it is a matter that we too are confused on deciding the outcome if N. Biren Singh has been replaced.

Even though the present political crisis in the state is more like a game of the Jeffrey Archer's "First among equals", all is now left to the wisdom of the BJP central leadership. Until and unless the central leadership decides - people will have to wait and watch to see whether N. Biren Singh continue or will be replaced.

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Parenting- A challenge in modern time

Some of the most important issues facing our teenagers at this time include teen suicide, teen violence, cyber bullying (online bullying), Internet & online addiction, teens & sex, teens and substance abuse, teens anorexia and eating disorders, violent video games, teens watching porn, TV violence, violence at home, violent culture etc. at the same time most teens experiment with drugs and alcohol. Many experiment with cigarettes also. Common reason behind teen drug use include, curiosity, developmental need for experimentation, peer pressure, stress, emotional issues and a desire to escape. Parents, teachers and communities across the country are concern with teen issues which are caused by a number of social, cultural, technological, communal, economic, families and individual factors. While it may be hard to change the nature of the internet, computers, cell phones and TV, there is always something that each one of us can do to reduce teen violence, the rate of teen suicide, teen cyber bullying, bullying at school and help develop a well-adjusted relationship to our technological and commercialized cultures and a creative and balanced use of the internet, online games etc. However, because of all these factors mentioned above parents are facing a grim problem in parenting.

Parenting is a challenging task in the modern times. Rapidly changing lifestyle, newer demands and requirements of life etc., put forward multiple challenges to parents. In the older times, fathers go out working and mother use to reserve their time in growing up the kids and looking after the household duties. But in the modern society both the parents need to work to accomplish the economic stability of the family and fewer mothers remain dedicated household moms. Balancing between the work and parenting duties make them feel parenting is a stressful and challenging task. Parent need to manage several requirements of life along with the essential duties. There are many other aspects in parenting that erect challenges in parenting. The most important challenge that many parents face is the scarcity of time (Time, a scarce resource). The twenty four hours in a day has to be juggled between home, office, children and self. It is quite difficult to reserve time for each of such requirements in the best possible way. Better planning management of time may help parents to meet the life with grace and accomplish all the demands and requirements of it. Kids are to be considered to be important elements of life and solid share of time should be reserved for parenting. If parents are too busy most of the days, convince kids why parents can't make available for them always and need to teach them

ways of being self-sufficient when parents are away.

Studies have shown that lack of moral principles (Failure in mending the moral life) is the reason why kids gets into unwanted activities and acquiring unaccepted behaviors patterns. Modern life style has opened ways for even kids to get familiar with computers, televisions, and internet and explore both good and bad realities of life and many often they follow to so call bad or unaccepted path of life. They learn to adore movie actor and also waste time watching games or the freely available porn in the internet. Parents do not recognized the changes in children as they get very less chance to interfere in children's life and communicate with him/her. Imbalanced life is another challenge the modern parenting faces. Office, work, kids, personal requirements; nothing can be avoided or neglected in life. Balancing between all of these requirements is a tiresome task, and as a result many parents become highly imbalanced in life. Balancing life by preplanning the ways of performing the required duties is essential key to facing the challenges in life and becoming effective parents. Realize the possible imbalances in life and be prepared to react to them in the best possible positive manner. The lack of emotional bondage (Emotional dissolution) is a challenge many parents face in life. They may lose time and mind to spend with children to create the emotional bondage with them. Knowing the feelings of each other is essential to grow affectionately. When the emotional bond between parents and kids get broken, they go astray from parents and live in their own World.

Parenting is strictly a personal practice based on the mind and wishes of two people, namely the father and mother. It is foolishness to define rules for parenting and forcing parents to follow clear-cut paths of parenting. Parenting is not a single activity but the total of approaches to care and groom children. The parenting styles are based on the entire specific behavioral patterns that influence the mental developments of children. Experts suggest four different styles of parenting generally known as the parenting patterns. They are: Authoritarian parenting, Authoritative parenting, Permissive parenting and uninvolved parenting. Authoritarian parenting is similar to monarchic administration. In this style, parents establish must to follow rules and regulations for children. Minor failure to obey these

guidelines will result in punishment. This is the most unproductive and closed way of parenting as in authoritarian parenting parents never explain the importance of following the rules, or they simply do not bother to understand the emotional or feeling level of kids who may wonder why to follow rules. Authoritarian parents do not tolerate kids questioning their authority on kids. Kids are expected to follow blindly what is ordered by the parents. In authoritarian parenting, parents demand too much from the kids and at the same time they neglect the responsibilities towards kids. No explanation and no advice are given to children but only commands and punishments. Needless to say, this is a destructive parenting style, rather influence and create.

Authoritative parenting is much lenient style compare to authoritarian parenting. It is more like the democratic style of administration and training. In authoritative parenting, parents still hold the authority, but are tolerant enough to the doubts and questions of the kids. They do not just insist the children to obey blindly but make them understand why to obey the rules and regulations. It is a demanding and responsible type of parenting. It is not through punishments but through nurturing and advice parents influence the kids to follow the rules and form disciplinary lifestyle. Authoritarian parenting is restrictive while authoritative parenting is assertive. The mentality of parents change entirely in the pattern and the intention behind executing commands is not to establish authority over children but to groom them to be responsible social beings.

Permissive parenting also known as indulgent parenting is a pattern that follows strong intercommunication and self-control measures. In this pattern parents allow kids to be groomed himself/herself. They do not demand the kids to follow strict orders and punish them heavily for even minor mistakes. This is a give and take system. Parents nurture the kids and concern them properly and in return they expect mature and disciplined behavior from the kids. The responsibility levels are greater than the demands. Permissive parents allow children to be self-regulated. More communication and friendly approach to kids is the exclusive feature of permissive parenting. A disadvantage of permissive parenting is that children may end up in troubles as they do not know the limits. All children may not responsibility react to the freedom given by parents.

Uninvolved parenting is considered to be the worst among parenting. As the name suggest, in uninvolved parenting, the



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involvement of parents in parenting process is zero. They do not communicate effectively with kids or get involved in their grooming. They leave the kids to grow their own. Uninvolved parenting doesn't mean that parents leave the kids to grow as orphans. But the responsibility level would be much lower than all other parenting styles. They care only to fulfill the basic needs of children. There won't be any attachment or affection practices between the kids and parents. It is said that many of the parents at the present time also forced to follow uninvolved Parenting style. The busy schedules at work and hustle and bustle of lifestyle, keep parents away from kids. They seldom find time to spend with children. Expert suggests not to follow uninvolved parenting patterns as it is highly destructive method of growing up kids. Parenting, as people often misconceive is not the same for all the parents and there are multiple parenting styles that can be adapted to grow up the kids. But most of the parents do not ponder over the ways to be followed to grow each of their kids. Parenting is a spontaneous outcome for many. Behavioral psychologist says that parents can mold their kids as they wish by deliberate parenting styles. If any parent has more than one child the style found effective for one may not bring the same result with the second and others. Understanding kid's characters, mental attitudes, physical abilities etc., are essential to determine the style to be followed. Positive parenting is the most appreciated style of parenting, which is found effective to mold the kids as mature and responsible social beings. Positive parenting simply means, developing the kids maintaining supportive and respective relationship with them. Before entering into the positive parenting style, parents have to be sure of the goals, values and strategies to be applied and followed.

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Continued from yesterday Issue

United Nations Human Rights: The Manipur Experience

United Nations Human Rights: The Manipur Experience (This write up is the speech delivered by Babloo Loitongbam at the 14th Arambam Somorendra Memorial Lecture organised by The Arambam Somorendra Trust held at Lamayamba Sanglen Palace Compound, Imphal East) INTRODUCTION Centre for Organization Research and Education (CORE) an NGO from Manipur has engaged with the Committee on Rights of the Child, and has also got some good recommendations from the Committee pertaining to the right of the indigenous children caught up in the situation of armed conflict.

A major limitation, working with the treaty body is that the monitoring mechanism will be triggered off only when the government access to the treaty. If the government does not become party to the treaty then no monitoring of the human right could take place. Moreover the review is only periodic, usually about five years, so in

between these reviews the victims of human rights violations have not recourse.

ECOSOC 1503 PROCEDURE Since the very creation of the UN Human Rights Commission, individuals and groups have been pouring with petitioning for help. But in the name of protecting 'sovereign immunity' and 'domestic jurisdiction' individual petitions are not entertained. But that did not deter the victims from seeking redress. With the constant pressure from victims, in 1970 ECOSOC passed resolution number 1508, which authorized certain petitions to be referred to the Commission of Human Rights particular situation, which appears to reveal a consistent pattern of gross violation of human rights requiring consideration. The following year the UN Sub Commission opened the door still wider by determining that communication would be admissible if there are reasonable ground to

believe that "they reveal a consistent pattern of gross and reliably attested violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including policies of racial discrimination and segregation and of apartheid of any form in any country, including colonial and other dependent countries and people".

In 1998 COHR made a detailed submission under this procedure pertaining to the consistent pattern of gross human rights violation under the prolonged imposition of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958. But since the procedure is confidential the fate of the petition is still unknown to the petitioners and the public. This is the major defect of this mechanism. It is like a dark hole, one can only up in sometime one does not know what is going on inside unless and until the complainant if accept and forward to the Commission or the Sub Commission. A much more open and transparent process of complaint handling evolved in the form of Special Procedures much

later. ENGAGEMENT WITH SPECIAL PROCEDURES

When the activist minded Theo von Bowen from Netherlands becoming the Director of the Division of Human Rights in 1977 they successfully determined to implement their broader authority under resolutions to charges for gross violations on their agenda by creating new means. Over time, these have taken the form of various working groups composed of experts acting in their individual capacity known as special procedures. They are to examine and publicly report on major phenomena of human rights worldwide (Thematic Rapporteurs) or on human rights situation of specific cases of greater public attention (Country Specific Mandates). At the end of 2018, there are 44 thematic mandates holding worldwide mandates on their specific themes, which can be engaged by anyone across the world.

(To be Contd)