



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL
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PREFACE

Dear Readers,

The current issue of Regional Cooperation Newsletter – South Asia is a merged issue of July to September and October to December. This issue presents articles and commentaries primarily dedicated to the issue of environmental and community sustainability which is the overarching theme of the next joint Conference in Dublin.

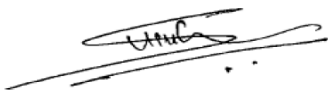
The special article by the Guest Editor, Mr. Uttam K Sahoo highlights the alarming environmental changes occurring in urban societies. The article elaborates on how changes in land use and rapid urbanization are increasingly triggering loss of wetlands in urban spaces. Further, the surviving water resources such as lakes are shrinking due to growing environmental pollution. Drawing from the events of continuing froth and fire in Bengaluru lakes, the articles deliberates that contemporary environmental crisis obliges the need for ecosocial transition of societies towards sustainability.

The commentary by Mr. Ritesh Shahi presents an analytical understanding about social enterprises in Indian context. He further elaborates on conceptual understanding of social enterprise, its historical antecedents and its interface with wide range of challenges. The article suggests the necessary steps needs to be incorporated to broaden the scope of social enterprises which could contribute in addressing multiple social-economic challenges.

The commentry Mr. Somnath Bera presents about the human-induced disaster and discusses about the grounded causes of landslide disasters in Indian Himalayan region. The article examines the ridicules humanly activates in different places of the Himalayan region and suggests some practices of landslide risk reduction toward the trace of sustainable development.

I am sure the analysis of environmental challenges and particularly, ecological degradation in urban water bodies, challenges and scope of social enterprise and landslide disaster risk reduction practice as discussed in this issue offers new thoughts for practice. International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) has its commitment to work towards addressing these emerging societal challenges through policy practice and direct engagement.

Look forward for a better future without conflict and with sustainable development initiatives at the societal level.



P.K. Shajahan PhD
Regional President (South Asia) and Editor

SPECIAL ARTICLE

FROTH, FIRE IN BENGALURU LAKES AND THE NEED FOR ECOSOCIAL TRANSITION

By Uttam K Sahoo

Abstract

Changes in land use and rapid urbanisation are increasingly triggering loss of wetlands in urban spaces. Further, the surviving water resources such as lakes are shrinking due to growing environmental pollution. Drawing from the continuing froth and fire in Bengaluru lakes, this paper highlights that contemporary environmental crisis obliges the need for ecosocial transition of societies towards sustainability.

Keywords: Water Resources, Lake, Environment, Ecosocial, Sustainability, Bengaluru.

Introduction

Rising environmental crisis in India's urban spaces – such as froth and fire in Bengaluru lakes, are making national and global headlines. It is not the first occasion where a water body caught fire because of pollution. Primarily, water bodies such as lakes catch fire when sewage and other toxic pollutants are dumped into it. In the year 1969, floating oil pollutants caused a fire in two rivers leading into Erie Lake in the United States of America (Chari, 2015). In contemporary India, most of the water resources are polluted due to the addition of noxious waste materials into it. Particularly, the wretched environmental

planning in the urban spaces has resulted in disposal of sewage and industrial effluents into lakes. Why lakes are essential to be protected is because of its complex and fragile ecosystem. Most importantly, lakes do not have the self-cleaning capacity and hence easily hoard pollutants. Large scale industrialization and urbanization are fundamental reasons of adversarial land use changes and loss of water bodies. And the few surviving lakes are increasingly shrinking. Contextualizing this, the paper argues that mounting environmental crisis including the pollution of water resources cannot be meticulously resolved with technological advancement alone. Rather,

an integration of technological knowledge and ecosocial transition of society will be instrumental in instituting a healthier understanding of the interconnection and interdependence between ecology, economy and social dimensions of sustainable development.

Froth and Fire in Bengaluru Lakes

Historically, Bengaluru was endowed with interconnected lakes – a reliable pool of water resources. However, with the advancement of urban infrastructures, the lakes along with other wetlands were encroached by industrial, commercial and residential institutions. According to the last 2011 Census, Bengaluru's population has increased from 6.5 million in 2001 to 9.6 million in 2011. On the other hand, Bengaluru witnessed a 78 per cent decline in trees and 79 per cent decline in water bodies (see Ramachandran et al. 2016). With changing land use pattern, the old landscapes have changed – without drawing a clear depiction about the number of sustaining lakes. Water from these few sustaining lakes is used for multiple purposes such as farming, drinking, industrial production process etc. However, as per the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) report, out of the

67 lakes studies in Bengaluru not a single lake's water is fit for drinking purpose (Hindustan Times, 2017). Similarly, a recent study of the Indian Institute of Science at Bengaluru highlighted that 90 per cent of the Bengaluru lakes are polluted due to the continuous dumping of untreated sewage and industrial effluents (see Ramachandran et al. 2016).

On 17th of August 2017, Bengaluru witnessed the heaviest rain in the last century. Consequently, Bengaluru's two biggest lakes – Bellandur and Varthur Lake, started spilling toxic froth and foam in the streets. This is not the first occasion of froth spilling from Bengaluru lakes. Rather, these lakes have been frothing for years because of uninterrupted dumping of sewage, chemicals and human wastes. Froth, a foul-smelling mixture of untreated sewage, industrial waste and bio-surfactants, spilled over a 10 feet tall fence which was raised to prevent the foam from spilling in the streets and residential locations. Additionally, in certain areas, the strong water current damaged the fence and the mud wall of the lakes. In recent years froth and foam are consistently spilling from the lakes in Bengaluru, particularly during the rainy season. These

carcinogenic froth is resulting hazardous health effects such as difficulty in breathing, skin problems and other epidemic diseases (see Lokeshwari & Chandrappa, 2006). On another occasion earlier this year, on 17th of February 2017, Bellandur Lake – the largest lake in the city spread across 892 acres, burst into flames. The lake caught fire due to the concentration of weeds and industrial chemicals in it. Previously, in May 2015, Bellandur Lake caught fire twice in aspan of three days, first on 16th of May and second on 28th of May. Similarly, two other lakes in Bengaluru i.e. Yamalur and Amani lake also caught fire in recent years.

Sources and Effects of Pollution

There are multiple sources from which pollutants are dispensed into the lakes of Bengaluru. First, manufacturing industries. One of the major sources of pollutants are the manufacturing industries constructed around these lakes. From the year of their establishment, these industries are uninterruptedly dumping chemical waste, untreated sewage and another toxic effluent into the lakes. Second, domestic waste. These wastes constitute a major share of the total solid waste dumped into the lakes. For example, waste from the residential

areas near the airport is directly channelled into the lake through a large drain. Similarly, the growing use of plastic products and washing machines and detergent by the urban households is also adding chemical pollutants in the lakes. A study in eastern Bengaluru found that around 40 per cent of the households uses a minimum of five kilograms of detergent per month (see areport of Hindustan Times, 2017). Third, waste generated from organic matter of animal and plant origin, dumping of animal dead bodies and land surface washing are also contributing to the swelling pollutants in these lakes. Finally, thick weed has covered a large portion of the lake's surface areas. By blocking sunlight, these weeds are disturbing the natural photosynthesis process in these lakes. The concentration of weeds in the lake's surface is also a reason for several fires in recent time.

Like multiple sources of pollution, these polluted lakes are causing several adverse effects on ecology, economy and social processes. First, the ecological cost. Apart from causing froth and fire, increasing pollution in other Bengaluru lakes (for example, Sankey Lake) is also instigating large scale fish mortality (see Benjamin et al., 1996). These

developments are demonstrating a larger threat to the lake's complex and fragile ecosystem. Second, the social cost. Dumping of untreated sewage and industrial effluents have caused heavy concentration of metal in the lakes. As sewage-contaminated lake water is irrigated for farming purpose, the heavy metal is spreading into the yields and vegetation's from the soil via roots. A study of soil samples used for growing vegetables, crops and fruits found the considerable presence of heavy metals in it. Furthermore, the study reveals that as the cows were fed with fodder collected from the lakeside, there is the presence of a metal substance (Cd) in the milk too (see Lokeshwari & Chandrappa, 2006). Third, the mounting economic cost for rejuvenating these lakes. Taking cognizance of the lake pollution, the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF), Government of India (GoI) is extending financial support to the Lake Development Authority (LDA) of Karnataka state for rejuvenation of Bengaluru lakes. For the use of bio-medical techniques in these lakes the LDA received a grant of 5.19 crore (cr.) for Nagawar, 2.55 cr. for Vengaiahnakere, 5.5 cr. for Bellandur, 5.64 cr. for Kottegere,

1.66 cr. for Lalbagh and 2.5 cr. for Bhishma lake respectively. Addition to this the LDA sent an estimated cost of Rs. 252 cr. for rejuvenation of lakes in the state and lakes around Bengaluru in particular, under the 10th five-year plan (see <http://parisara.kar.nic.in/lda.htm>). In the aftermath of a fire in the lakes, in May 2015, the Government of Karnataka had invited representatives from the Blue Water Bio, UK and Tahal Group, Israel for providing an action plan for solving the multiple environmental problems of Bengaluru's two largest lakes. Both the companies have proposed a project model for the revival of these lakes with an estimated cost of Rs.4000 crore. Without a deep commitment towards addressing the fundamental problem i.e. discontinuation of the sustaining flow of pollutants into the lakes, the ecological, economic and social cost will only intensify in the future.

Mounting Problems and Fissured Initiatives

Even at today, there is a sustained flow of industrial effluent, chemicals, untreated sewage and human waste into the lakes. This is escalating the concentration of nitrogen, phosphorous and heavy metal in the lakes. Along with this, a hazardous gas such as methane is building up in the

surface (Ramachandran et al., 2016). The hurried infrastructure construction and encroachment around the lakes are also adding to the escalation of such problem.

However, the action taken by multiple institutions to address these mounting problems can be categorised as fissured initiatives. For example, the first initiative was taken to fence the lake boundary. It aimed to prevent any further spilling of froth and foam in the streets and residential areas. This initiative is a complete failure, as froth and foam are spilling over the 10 feet fence and entered the streets and residential areas. Similarly, the second initiative was the installation of CCTV camera around the lake. This action was taken with an objective to identify individuals polluting the lake. However, it is increasingly becoming evident that the pollution in the lakes is increasing. But, there is a marginal or zero instance of anyone getting caught and punished while polluting the lakes. Therefore, both these initiatives have only added to the economic cost of lake rejuvenation action plan. Multiple studies have already highlighted the source of pollution. But it is the administrative apathy of the state institution towards the polluting sources,

which has resulted in the uninterrupted dumping of hazardous waste into the lakes. More shockingly, the joint commissioner of the solid waste management unit of Bengaluru suspected that it is the farmers who might have set the fire as they harvest grass around the lake for fodder (www.thehindu.com, 2017). With a blind eye towards the real problem – as the already identified polluting entities are operating unpunished, the installation of CCTV camera around the lake is hardly making any constructive impact in solving the problem of lake pollution.

Institutional Apathy Towards The Shrinking Lakes

In the aftermath of the continuous fire in Bellandur Lake, the principal bench of National Green Tribunal (NGT), New Delhi has questioned Bengaluru's civic institutions for their constant apathy towards the pollution problem in the lakes. On 19th of April 2017, the NGT had directed for the closure of all polluting industries around the Bellandur Lake. The NGT also levied a fine of Rs. five lakh on anyone found polluting the lakes. Further, the NGT directed Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) that under section 33A of the Water Act of

1974 and Section 5 of the Environment Protect Act, 1986, KSPCB has authority to inspect, shut and seal polluting bodies. However, on 16th of May 2017, a joint inspection by KSPCB and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) did not find any violation of water and environmental laws by industries such as Shashi Distilleries Pvt Ltd. Further, on 15th June 2017 the Karnataka High Court listening to the petition of Shashi Distilleries Pvt Ltd (the petition has contended the jurisdiction of NGT's principal bench in New Delhi under section 4 (3) of the NGT Act, 2010 to the matters pertaining Karnataka) has stayed all further proceedings before the NGT's principal bench on pollution of the Bengaluru lakes (The Hindu, 2017). Similarly, the Lake Development Authority of Karnataka has failed to accomplish its responsibilities of regulation, planning, restoration and integrated development of the lakes in Bengaluru. Apart from the regulatory and administrative failure of the state institutions, there is barely any partnership between the state and civil society institutions who are working towards resolving various environmental problems. An effort towards bridging such a partnership could be instrumental in

addressing the growing problem of pollution in the lakes.

Way Forward – Need for Ecosocial Transition

What is the way forward at this juncture? The first and fundamental essence of any individual is a right to life and liberty. And the denial of the right to have a healthy environment is a denial of the right to life and liberty of the individual. It is our constitutional right under Article 21 and constitutional duty under Article 51A (g) of the Indian constitution, to protect and improve the natural environment including lakes, rivers and to have compassion for other living creatures.

The way forward could be an ecosocial transition of societies while incorporating new principles and values of the ecological, economic and social paradigm of sustainability. Transition means a process of essential change from one form to another. In this sense, ecosocial transition means a new value attachment to the ecological and social processes. The first and foremost principle of the ecosocial paradigm is about fulfilling the need of having a healthy living condition/environment for all living beings. Because the fundamental argument of this

perspective is that environmental crisis is a social crisis, as it increases inequality and marginalisation of the most vulnerable section of society (Dominelli, 2012 and Gray et al., 2012). In other words the ecosocial perspective advocates about balancing the economic and social aspects of development through a substantial reduction in the consumption of environmental resources. Further, the central thesis of ecosocial transition mentions about a unified task of researchers, policymakers and civil society institutions for making sustainable changes in ecological, economic and social spheres of life (Elsen 2011, Fischer-Kowalski et al. 2012; cited in Matthies & Narhi, 2017, pp. 17-35).

Nevertheless, the ecosocial paradigm demands social and political responsibilities. At the implementation level, the ecosocial model/action focuses on multiple facets of everyday life. For example, it advocates for minimizing the consumption of environmental resources on the occasion of cultural festivities. Similarly, it works towards sustainable use of food by preventing food wastage. It promotes adoption and use of public transport facilities with an aim to curb the

use of fossil fuel and they're by reducing carbon emission. At the governance level, a move towards citizen's participation in decision making, ecological friendly environmental policy and zero tolerance towards environmental pollution is core to the ecosocial transition of society towards sustainability.

In the context of Bengaluru lakes, elimination of encroachment/infrastructure projects from the lake bed and other wetlands is the need of the hour. The shutting of manufacturing industries around the lake will stop pumping of hazardous industrial chemical in the lakes. Enabling ecosocial changes in the urban spaces, such as reduction in the use of detergent powders at the household level could make a substantial contribution in reducing pollutants from the lakes. Similarly, segregation of food waste, plastic materials, glass and paper wastes at the household level will be a step forward in efficient and effective solid waste management with therecyclable use of the waste products. For residential housing societies and other industrial houses, a direction for mandatory establishment of sewage treatment plant will stop dumping of untreated sewage and toxic chemicals

into the lakes. These multiple steps advocates for an integration of ecosocial perspectives in the developmental process of urban spaces.

Conclusion

It is the combination of state's blind eye towards current economic development model and state/administrative apathy towards environmental policies which has led to the current environmental crisis in Bengaluru lakes. Further, the emergent adoption of anthropocentric values in the larger society has intensified the ecological imbalance and degradation of environmental resources such as water bodies. As a solution, technological advancement and intervention alone cannot convey adequate changes to address these environmental problems. Therefore, it becomes absolutely essential to incorporate the principle and values of ecosocial paradigm for future progress. This principally connotes a fundamental transition towards balancing the three pillars of sustainability i.e. ecological, economy and social dimension of development. More decisively, a social psychology towards minimal consumption of environmental resources is embedded in this new set of ecosocial values.

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COMMENTARY

SOCIAL ENTERPRISES IN INDIA: CONCEPT, HISTORICAL ANTECEDENTS AND CHALLENGES

By Ritesh Shahi

Introduction

Social entrepreneurship has become the buzz word in the arena of policy and academics across the countries of the world (Sassmannshausen & Volkmann, 2013). One of the reasons of the growing interest in the phenomena of social-entrepreneurship is the failure of commercial as well the government entrepreneurship in addressing the pressing social issues. For example, despite impressive economic growth and poverty reduction rates, a large chunk of Indian population still struggle to get basic amenities of life. As an indicator of this scenario, India ranks at the 131st position in the list of 187 countries in terms of human development index (The Human Development Report 2016 of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Proper sanitation facilities are not accessible to more than 600 million. Almost half of the female population are illiterate and more than twenty percent of

children aged between six to fourteen years are out of schools. Health services are not equally accessible to all and there is growing disparity in health across states and amongst its rural and urban areas. These weak socio-economic indicators have necessitated the growth of social enterprises in India. Hence, Indian social enterprises are predominantly seen to work on these pressing socio-economic issues through innovative approaches.

However, notwithstanding this rising interest, the social enterprise movement is still in nascent stage. There prevails a lot of ambiguity over what constitutes a social enterprise. Social enterprises are struggling with unfavorable regulatory framework, human and financial resource constraints and other challenges emerging due to the cultural and societal diversity of India. This article tries to give an overview of the concept of social enterprise, its historical

antecedents and current scenario along with a brief overview of the major challenges faced by Indian social enterprise in contemporary time.

An Overview of the Concept of Social Enterprise

As seen in the prelude, despite the growing interest, there exists no universally accepted definition of the phenomena of social enterprise. As a consequence of this unsettled definition debate, there is scope for ambiguity and variations in identifying social enterprises across the countries (Defourny & Nyssens, 2010). Nevertheless, the one element which has been commonly agreed upon across definitions is the pursuit of the double bottom line between social and economic value creation (Austin et al., 2006). However, it will not be possible to review and discuss all the definitions here, but the elements of a social enterprise across a different evolving school of thoughts- The Social innovation School, The Social Enterprise School, EMES Network Approach and UK Approach (Hoogendoorn & Pennings, 2010), are briefly discussed.

According to *The Social Innovation School*, developed in the US, the emphasis is on individual's i.e. social entrepreneurs and their innovativeness in tackling social problems (Dees & Anderson, 2006). Moreover, since the focus is on the individual (social entrepreneur) and not the social enterprise, the elements of the social enterprise like legal structure, financing, governance are not emphasized upon. So, as per this school of thought, organizational form of a social enterprise is considered inconsequential as the social entrepreneur is assumed to have focussed on a social mission.

The second school of thought is called '*The Social Enterprise School*'. This school of thought has also emerged from the US but it focuses on the enterprise. According to this school, SEs are mostly non-profit entities deploying business methods and tools to improve their effectiveness in serving their social mission. In other words, SEs generate their own income by using business tools to serve their social mission (Nyssens, 2006).

The Emergence of Social Enterprises in Europe (EMES) approach is also focussed on the enterprise. Under this school of thought, a social enterprise is seen as

citizen's initiative with clear aim to benefit society. In such enterprises, decision making is not solely guided by capital ownership but it is participative in nature (Defourny & Nyssens, 2008). The EMES approach focuses on new specific legal forms and has limited constraints on the distribution of profits.

The UK Approach also has enterprise at the centre and a social enterprise. According to DTI (2002) social enterprises is *“businesses with primarily social objectives whose surpluses are principally reinvested for that purpose in the business or the community, rather than being driven by the need to maximize profits for shareholders and owners.”* SEs can adopt any organisational forms with limited constraints on profit distributions.

Thus, considering this diversity, social enterprises are not be treated as a homogenous set of organizations as there are variations in legal structure, profit distribution policies, the link between mission and business activities etc. (Seelos & Mair, 2005). However, there is broad agreement among the scholars that is driven by social goals.

Historical antecedents of Social entrepreneurship In India

Even prior to the emergence of current social enterprises India, there has been a lot of social initiatives. Gandhi's trusteeship philosophy, Vinobha Bhave's Bhoodan movement, Amte's Anandwan and SEWA are some of the examples. The voluntary ventures have been in existence in India for more than a century, and non-profits remained a dominant model of social venturing till the emergence of Microfinance institution (MFIs) in the early 1990s (Tandon & Srivastava, 2003). The success of micro-finance in India as a social innovation demonstrated that poor can pay. The success of microfinance experiment along with growing competition for limited donor funds gradually shifted the focus of the social sector to self-sustainable models.

With sustainable models, the terms and forms of investments for social ventures began to change. Of the late, India has witnessed growing number of impact investors. However, roots of impact investing in India can be traced back to 1982, when the Ashoka Foundation provided financial support to local social entrepreneurs. But it was not until recently

that India has witnessed an increase in the number and size of investments in businesses with a clear triple bottom line. Grassroots Innovations Augmentation Network (GIAN) in 1997 and Aavishkar in 2001 became India's first non-profit and first for-profit social venture capitalists respectively. India is also witnessing increasing academic interest in the social entrepreneurship. TISS, Mumbai started, for the first time in India, a full two years Masters programme in Social Entrepreneurship in the year 2007. Moreover, of late several other academic institutions have started offering short-term or diploma courses on social entrepreneurship. Also, a significant growth in the number of social venture competitions, seminar and conferences on social entrepreneurship and institution of awards for social enterprises can be seen. However, despite all the encouraging signs and the hope attached to social entrepreneurial initiatives, social enterprises are handicapped by a number of factors.

Major Challenges Faced by Indian Social enterprises

Notwithstanding encouraging signs, the social enterprise movement in India is yet

to take off as a significant contributor in addressing social and economic developmental challenges. There are numerous challenges before social enterprise sector which restricts its growth. These challenges can be broadly classified as Regulatory, Challenges in attracting Financial and Human resources, and challenges emerging out of diverse Cultural and Societal milieu.

Regulatory challenges: Unlike few of the western countries where a social enterprise can be registered as the benefits corporations, the social purpose corporation, the low profit limited liability company, the regulatory framework for social enterprises is still evolving in India as there is not any separate regulation for the registration for SEs as a legal entity. So, SEs in India has to choose existing regulatory options, i.e. from those applicable to Indian voluntary sector and commercial sector. SEs in India can be Public Charitable Trusts, Registered society, Not For Profit company, Cooperative Society, Producer's company, Non-Banking Financial Companies, Private or Public company, Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) etc. (Allen et al. 2012).

The lack of a separate regulatory framework for social enterprises, specific to their requirements, becomes a limitation. Also, the organisations registered as not for profit, Trust or Societies find it difficult to restructure themselves in order to respond to emerging requirements of governance and growth due to cumbersome rules regarding merger, dissolution or restructuring. Moreover, Social enterprises registered as for-profit are treated at par with pure commercial ventures when it comes to the application of Income and Corporate Tax Laws.

Sometimes state, which is largely seen as a partner for a social enterprise, may also pose threats to the existence of an SE. The reason behind this is that both, SE as well as State, try to reach same customer/beneficiary base, and at times there are chances that their effort may contradict each other.

Financial challenges: Studies have found issues related to financing as big hurdle in establishing and running of social enterprises (e.g. Clarkin, 2014). However, theoretically, there is a broad range of financing options available for SEs. This includes financing instruments from the for-profit sector such as equity, debt and

mezzanine capital; non-profit financing instruments like grant capital and donations; and Hybrid capital financing instruments designed specifically for the needs of social enterprises, like recoverable grants, convertible grants, forgivable loans or revenue share agreements. However, since SEs have access to for-profit, non-profit as well as hybrid financing instruments, the motivation for investment and the type of return expected is not homogeneous in nature. For e.g. while non-profit investors expect only social returns (and not financial returns), the for-profit investors expect a market rate of financial returns, and the social investors who provide hybrid capital expect social as well economic returns. So, the availability of a broad range of financing instruments and multiplicity of return expectation along with the pursuit of the double bottom line makes the financing of social enterprise challenges. Hence the choice of funding sources plays a critical role and a wrong choice may lead to mission drift.

Notwithstanding the theoretical financing possibilities, it has been seen that there is a mismatch between financing needs of SEs and the available sources of funds. For example, the formal source of funding is

almost non-existent during initial stages of SEs. During the start-up phase, most of the SEs are dependent on founders' own fund or loans from family and friends. Also, in some other cases, besides bootstrapped money, the other sources of finance are winning business plan competitions, incubators. However, the financial support received from incubators and business competition is small and seed capital grants are also not easily available. Therefore, it can be suggested that the risks for the social entrepreneurs are very high, especially during the start-up phase. This is so because, in case of venture failure, they not just lose their investment (pulled out of their personal savings in most of the cases), but also the money which they could have earned doing a normal job. Moreover, even for the SEs in growth stages, there is limited accessibility to formal debts products.

Human resource challenges: Without accessibility to human resources SEs cannot achieve their objectives. However, SEs face difficulties in recruiting the best talents because, on one hand, they are not in a position to pay competitive salaries and other hand considered riskier than the traditional organisations. Moreover,

retention of employees is equally challenging. Location of SEs, mostly semi-urban and rural areas, is another reason for not attracting best of the talents. Hence, there exists a talent gap in the social enterprise sector and this gap is mostly filled by recruiting volunteers and interns. That is why social enterprises in India are often seen running various campaigns to attract volunteers. As a result, often volunteers serve key functions, such as board members, to help with fundraising or to provide professional services, or as staff to deliver their services on the ground as well.

Challenges arising due diverse culture and geography: The diversity of India in terms of geography, landscape and culture poses serious challenges to scaling up and replication of social enterprises. For example, success of microfinance in southern part of the country could not be replicated in northern states. Also, SEs also struggles in getting societal acceptance. Affordable products offered by social purpose organisation are often seen with suspicion and can be also perceived as substandard by the consumers. Moreover, Entrepreneurship in general and social entrepreneurship, in particular, has not yet

got the societal acceptance as a good profession. Jobs are still preferred over self-employment.

Conclusion

Given the large BoP population and poor socio-economic condition in India, social entrepreneurship can play a critical role in the development process. For example, social enterprise can come up with innovative models to tackle the challenges

in the delivery of good services to a significant portion of the country's population due to lack of social and physical infrastructure. However, to unleash the true potential of social entrepreneurship, it is critical to address the barriers curbing the growth of social enterprise movement. Also, Indian financial system can be more enabling by offering customised products according to the need for social enterprise sector.

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COMMENTARY

RETHINKING EMERGING ISSUES AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICE FOR LANDSLIDE RISK REDUCTION IN CONTEXT OF HIMALAYAN REGION OF INDIA

By Somnath Bera

Abstract

Human-induced disaster is drawing attention by a host of scholars in the present paradigm of disaster studies. Standing in the same discipline, this study also appeals to uproot some grounded causes of landslide leading to human activities which accumulate risk. The study examines the ridiculous humanly activities in different places of the Himalayan region. In addition, this study also suggests some practices of landslide risk toward the trace of sustainable development. Foremost, the ultimate purposes of this paper to glimpse landslide risk which is protectable, controllable and applicable. The study is based on the extensive field observation and interview with the local community.

Keywords: Landslide, Human activities, Risk, Sustainable development, Himalayan region

Introduction

Disaster is the inherent nature of active mountainous region in India – a country of ‘diversity of disaster’. The disasters appeared in not only in different form but also in different intensity with a different scale. In the last decade the disaster like Uttarakhand flood (2013), Sikkim earthquake (2011), Kashmir flood (2014) remind the destructiveness and damage. However, behind these traumatic experiences, awareness of local disaster

like a landslide is still now elusive. Although it is more frequent and its cumulative loss is greater than any other disaster in the hilly region (Petley et al. 2005). According to GSI, about 12.6% of the country covering over 0.42 million square kilometres is landslide prone area. In Himalaya, one person kills per 100km and in every year average 200 lives and Rs 550 core losses due to landslide (Defence Terrain Research Laboratory). But it is

apathy; authorities yet fail to learn from past experience. The present studies argued that the figure of landslide risk is anticipated and accumulated not only by natural causes but more than unscientific human activities.

The study is grounded on extensive fieldwork and interview in landslide affected area of Uttarakhand, Darjeeling District of West Bengal from 2016 October to 2017 June. The whole discussion is divided into three chapters. At first, the study highlights the human activities which are a moulding landslide. Second, the study gives some possible suggestions to reduce landslide. Last, the study concludes with some remark to bring the idea into practice.

2.1 Emerging Issues

The present study area is Garwal and Darjeeling Himalaya, recognized as one of the most landslide prone area in the world. Most of the landslides occur during the monsoon season due to severe rainfall. The existence of soft soil, enormous stream erosion, and active tectonic activities make a favourable environment for landslide occurrences. Behind, the physical condition, human activities are emerging as drivers to occur landslide ridiculously. In

this decade host of researcher have heeded to infer how the human activities bringing shape to landslide disaster. Worldwide different studies illustrated road construction (Petley et al. 2007, Quinn et al. 2010, Brenning et al. 2015), deforestation (Schuster and Highland 2001; Glade 2003), urbanization (Alexander 1993; Pedrozzi 2004), cultivation (Bhandari 2014), population growth (Alexander 2005) is a pivotal triggering factor of landslide phenomena. However, in context of India as a developing countries study on the relationship between human activities and landslide disaster is far more needed.

One of the emerging themes in this context is road construction. In the context of the remote mountainous region, development of road is important paramount to development region. However, cutting slope due to road construction is witnessing landslide. It is also notified the construction of road without concerning safe time. The construction of road just before monsoon allows hazardous movement in monsoon season although rainfall is below an average threshold level. Such kind of phenomena is recently happening in Sangre village of Darjeeling Himalaya. Secondly, the morphology of

road at the point of cross-cutting stream create a problem. The paved road from higher land both side of stream act as a funnel which accumulates high amount of water. It evokes as favourable source to anticipate a high rate of discharge and associating landslide in a different form. It is prevailing in many villages (i.e Lower Bom Basti, Deorali Gaon) of Darjeeling District, even though the villages are far from distance of the road. Third, the study wants to highlight most importantly, the ludicrous dumping system of cutting slop material on side of road. After construction of road the slope material like rock, debris deposited anywhere without thinking of its further consequences and as result, these all moves downward and buried houses, agricultural land at downhill. In most villages of Garhwal Himalaya (i.e Gir village), it creates a severe problem (Figure 1).



Figure: 1 The road materials moved downward and buried agricultural land in Gir village of Uttarakhand (Photo credit: Author)

Another uncertainty of landslide occurrences is the improper management of drainage system. The damping of wastage at the path of stream obstructs the natural flow of water. As result, the stream redirected and generate alter channel which often turns safe area too unsafe (i.e Tairi gaon of Darjeeling District). All these unintended consequences of human action reflect outpaces of environmental learning and lacking attendant awareness of community.



Figure 2 Vulnerable houses due to threat of upcoming landslide in Darjeeling District, India

3. Sustainable Practice

3.1 Community-based mapping

The map is an important tool for development planning zone and reduces risk. Its success lies in practical implication to figure out realistic future scenarios. In the present decade, numerous method of landslide susceptibility and hazard mapping are developed due to the advancement of space technology.

However, these are not out of limitation due to its scale variation which sometimes avoids local uncertainties, sensitive exposure leading to landslide risk. Secondly, this map is inaccessible and not understandable to the local community who are the most important agent of risk reduction practices. Participatory GIS mapping (PGIS) is a tool in which local people and expert meet together through mutual learning (Brown and Kyttä 2014). It was applied in various field like natural resource management (Coen Bussink 2003, Chattopadhyay 1999, Brown and Reed 2009, Sedogo 2002), land suitability and land use planning (Bojorquez - Tapia et al. 2001, Sedogo and Groten 2002), disaster management (Twiggg 2004, Cadag and Gaillard 2012, Meyer 2009, Singh 2014, Kienberger and Steinbruch 2005, Chingombe et al. 2014, Bird 2009, Peters Guarin 2008, Solana and Christopher 2009). In practice of landslide risk reduction, it will be also can play a major role. In the process of this mapping, community actively engages and put local knowledge in the map. Partially, it raises awareness of risk reduction.

3.2 Risk Reduction Practice and Livelihood Security

In study region, many houses are in verge to destruction and people are under threat due to concern upcoming moonson (Figure 2). This plight condition is common and continual. It reflects the adequacy of attendant coping capacity due to poverty, lack of proper communication with authority due to lacking education and foremost, the insufficient effort of authority. Although poverty risk reduction government scheme like NREGA is adopted to enhance the livelihood security by guaranteeing hundred days of wage employment. It is not enough to poverty reduction completely at all and it is not always incorporate disaster risk reduction practices. In the context of the disaster-prone area, livelihood scheme like MGNREGS is needed for poor people; which will ensure job particularly on activities for disaster risk reduction. It will not only bring economic support but people can engage to reduce landslide with their indigenous knowledge. It helps to embrace

economic security, social equity and ecologic integrity which is the foundation of sustainable development.

Conclusion

Sustainable development is a global concern but it cannot illuminate the local action which may or may not be linked with global activities. Hence, this study depicts some local issues which are mute but its consequence is come out in form of disaster. However, farther more scientific research is needed with more empirical evidence to understand the man-environment relationship. Significantly, this disaster can easily controllable through the waking awareness of community. The awareness will be brought up through the development of the sustainable community. However, it is a long-term process and it is only possible when a researcher, authority and community come actively to the common platform. The practices of risk reduction should be linked with the traditional knowledge of community and skill of modern technology to bring robust outcome.

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NEWS AND EVENTS

5th Indian Social Work Congress (ISWC), 2017 (10th to 12 of November 2017)

The 5th Indian social work congress was jointly organised by the National Association of Professional Social Workers in India (NAPSWI) and Department of Social Work, Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit Kalady, Kerala from 10th to 12th November 2017. The conference moved into its unique platform to discuss “Social Work Profession and Social Realities: Responses and Ripostes”. The conference witnessed a progressive deliberation on the aspects of existential struggles like dilemmas of social exclusion and the human rights issues of the marginalized groups, struggles and responses in health, mental health and wellbeing sectors, ecosystem climate change and global warming, democratic and political struggles. Further, the conference also highlighted critical reflections of social work practicum and social work education in India to introspect the strategic interventions of the social work profession to the meaningful management of the challenging social experiences in contemporary National and International contexts. A total 13 poster presentations and 172 academic paper presentation enabled mutual learning among social work educators, researchers, practitioners and students in order to build up the theoretical and practical perspectives of social work profession during this three day conference.



Prof. P.K. Shajahan being felicitated for his plenary address at ISWC 2017 at Kalady, Kerala, India

Prof. P. K. Shajahan, Regional president (South Asia) of International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) delivered the plenary address on “social work at the intersection of social

policy and social transformation” at the 5th Indian social work congress. Prof. Shajahan highlighted a critical understanding of social policies as a broad framework for action more particularly for the state to interfere in situations of social inequalities and economic vulnerabilities as well as for ensuring social justice. And more importantly, according to him, social transformation is one of the intended outcome of social policies; as this perspective is expected to change the social inequalities, oppressive structures and processes, attempts to ensure equitable distribution of resources (state as well as natural resources) and ultimately aim for a situation where people realize their potential, employ the agency (capability approach) and finally have control of their life. Further, elaborated on how social work is located in the understanding of these collective marginalities.

Key-Note Address by Regional President (South Asia) of International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) at Vimala College, Thrissur

Prof. P. K. Shajahan, Regional President (South Asia) of International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) delivered the key note address titled " Critical perspectives on Community Organisation and Collective Action: Beyond the Bounds of Methods at the Department of Social Work, Vimala College, Thrissur. His address was focused on how for social workers "community" is a site of practice in most situations. However, communities are at critical crossroads across the global south. He further discussed about how in a technology and market driven process of development, the expanse of the marginalized and deprived sections of communities has increased. Those who have been historically disadvantaged, dispossessed of land, lack appropriate skills, quality education and/or other resources, are not able to benefit from the fruits of the so called “progress” and “development”.



Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development (SWSD)

Conference Theme: “Environmental and Community Sustainability | Human Solutions in Evolving Societies”

Conference Organisers: International Federation of Social Workers, The International Schools of Social Work and the International Council on Social Welfare.

Conference Dates: From 4th-7th July, 2008 in Dublin, Ireland

Conference Venue: Royal Dublin Society, Dublin, Ireland

Conference Website: <https://www.swsd2018.org/>

20th International Conference on Social Work

Conference Dates: From 13th-14th September, 2018 in Zurich, Switzerland

Conference Website: waset.org/conference/2018/09/zurich/ICSW

AUTHOR GUIDELINES

The newsletter welcomes articles and commentaries on topics such as social welfare, governance, social policies, social protection, peace, and human security, with focus on South Asia. It encourages scholars and practitioners to write articles from their research work, academic papers, and field experiences. The newsletter strictly follows APA referencing style. It shall be the responsibility of the author(s) to ensure appropriate citations and referencing as per standard referencing rules. The selection of article and commentary would be primarily based on the quality of the manuscript and its relevance to the contemporary subjects and fulfilling the objectives of the newsletter. We request contributors to submit original articles and take due care in aspects such as methodology, theoretical discussion, clearer flow of arguments, and diplomatic language.

For Special Articles

The word limit is between 5000 and 6000 words (including abstract, keywords, and references). The author(s) should submit the article in MS Word format. It should have a cover page specifying aspects like title, author(s) name(s), affiliated institution, communication address, and a short bio (of 100 words). The article should have an abstract of not more than 150 words and five keywords. In case of multiple authors, the first author will be considered as the corresponding author. A letter of authorisation from all the authors to agree to the order in which the names appear will have to be submitted along with the article.

For commentaries

The word limit for commentary is between 1000 and 2000 words. The author(s) should submit the article in MS Word format. It should have a cover page specifying aspects like title, author(s) name(s), affiliated institution, communication address, and a short bio (of 100 words).

Review system

The manuscript received will be reviewed by the Editor and the Guest Editor. The accepted manuscript may undergo a process to fit within the policy outline of this newsletter. The Editor and the Guest Editor will provide inputs to the author(s) and it is the responsibility of the author(s) to make the necessary corrections. The decision of the Editor will be the final. All the communication will be carried out through e-mail.

Communication

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