



## Family, Democracy and Nation Building in India

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### ABSTRACT

In India attempt at embracing democratic governance for nation-building and national development has not been an easy task. The highly diversified multi-ethnic and multi-linguistic dimensions of the Indian polity have exerted divisive and negative impacts on an emergence of the ideals of democratic governance in the country. Although various governments and leaders have attempted to implement programmes and strategies aimed at instituting and stabilizing democracy in the country, these measure have not been noted firmly into the socio-political and socio-economic psyche of the Indian populace. It is considered and advanced in this exposition that a deliberate and effective embrace of education, through an adoption of the integrated and humanized curriculum offering of social studies in our schools could go a long way in producing large numbers of effective citizens who are needed in the task of bringing about sustainable national development in a democratic India. It is true that all of us realize that today's world is a connected one. Technology and travel have nearly made the world a global village. The world has to become a federation of nations. A nation is a federation of states, social groups, families and individuals. So what is needed is a situation of live and let live. One's needs, aspirations, accomplishments are all important. But there has to be a concept of a noble nation, where the welfare of the whole nation as a whole is ingrained in the thinking and actions of its people. This is the need of the hour. Taking into the account of Democracy one may stimulates the tools.

### KEYWORDS

Democratic Governance, Development, Democracy, Family, Sustainable National Development.

### INTRODUCTION:

Family, Democracy and Nation Building are the essence of the present human society. They are the three important pillars of the society. An Atom is the combination of small molecules which combines together by creating a bond among them like families in the democracy. A better family can establish a better democracy and ultimately plays a vital role in nation building. A better nation can be visualized in two ways such as internal and external. The internal is concerned with the individual and encompassing the family, community, society and so on and the external deals with the enterprises which covers the issues of livelihood, business, distribution of wealth and respect for individual property and rights etc. The better nation needs the rule of 'Live and let others to live'.

In the contemporary era, every now and then whenever a new Government is chosen by the public, they bother about the development of agriculture, industry or business but never think it proper to plan to promote the individual family which happens to be the most fundamental unit of the society. The nature of the family should form people, to train them to learn values, help them to learn virtues so they know how to live their lives. A stable, loving and secure family life may breed towards a sustainable and developed society. The youths should grow up with proper guidance, mentors, role models and a value system by which a citizen respects the family, respects society, and thereby respects the nation. In Europe there was no family before the 17<sup>th</sup> century. There was no term for people related by blood or marriage and sharing residence related by blood or marriage and sharing. For the first time it came from the Latin word 'familia'. After that family began to denote in the century. It also tends the person to conscious him or her as a part of the world family. A peaceful, prosperous and happy nation is evolved with economic prosperity with an embedded value system. Successful families are established and maintained on principles of faith, prayer, repentance, forgiveness, respect, love, compassion, work, and wholesome recreational activities. The most important thing is that Successful families can build successful and vibrant democracy, by allocating the role and values of the unit in the whole system.

### Importance of a family in nation building

From the womb of mother family starts. That womb becomes a child and child forms the family when grown up. Like a small tree the child grows up in the tenant of the society. A good child can march towards a good as well as golden society. One may think about the golden society that everybody likes to dream or cite. It may be non-other than the golden times of the Ram Rajya and the great Mohanjodaro or Harpan civilization. The whole Ram rajya concept revolves round the greatest characteristics Purusottam Ram Chandra and his family. He could prove himself as a good Son, father, Husband, Brother, King etc. subsequently these characteristics completed only with Sita mata who could prove herself as a good daughter, Wife, in laws and Mother. Rama Rajya never ever refers to business tycoon like Mittal, Ambani, Tata or Birla or no such information reveals of a scientist, agriculturist, or industrialist. Some time now we are missing the link of a purusottam Ram and pious Sita Mata. All we are in the era of competition for materialistic gain. In this race Government acting as a catalyst to promote the have's and propagating the welfare activities for have not's. Thus the have not's are not at all in the race and all time struggling for existence whereas have's are running faster like bullet trains. Every minutes their speed is increasing with leaps and bounce. One may think about the golden society that everybody likes to dream or cite example is none other than Ram rajya or Mohanjodaro Harpan civilization. The whole Ram Rajya concept revolves round the greatest characteristics Purusottam Ram Chandra and his family. He could prove himself as a good Son, father, Husband, Brother, King etc. but his characteristics completed only with Sita mata who could prove herself as a good daughter, Wife, in laws and Mother. Rama rajya never ever refers to business tycoon like Mittal, Ambani, Tata or Birla or no such information reveals of a scientist, agriculturist, or industrialist. Some time now we are missing the link of a purusottam Ram and pious Sita Mata. All we are in the era of competition for materialistic gain. In this race Govt. acting as a catalyst to promote the have's and propagating the welfare activities for have not's. Thus the have not's are not at all in the race and all time struggling for existence whereas have's are running

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*"The data's shown in the latest survey in the BPL percentage was 47% in 1947 and now it is 31%, every 2person out of 3 are illiterate in rural India. Indian got freedom since 1947 but in true sense Indian society is still struggling against poverty illiteracy".<sup>3</sup>*

This is only because Indian has neglected the very unit of Indian society i.e "family" and family truly refers to a faithful true couple who generate a feeling of believe, fait, love, affection, duty, obligation, accountability and responsibility. The moral of the "joint family" is missing day by day due to increasing "nuclear family" .If each family can strongly stand by a true couple/parents then a truly developed society/nation is not far behind. Indian can imagine of a Ram Rajya. But there is a strong need of Ram and Sita like many couple.

### Family, Gender and Nation Building

Society on the other hand must not be refer to Hindu, Muslim or christen society rather than it should be Indian society as a whole. Gender discrimination is another obstacle in holding a true family and faithful family. Gender discrimination always lead to a degrading female sex ratio, female feticide or female trafficking, neglecting female education, health and morality. A good family may refers to a parental dominant family or so to say a good couple. Neither a wife nor a husband alone can give rise to a good family but together they can look after numbers of family they basically link to, like- paternal families and maternal families. Thus ,to create more and more good couple such creation may only be possible if Government can fix a criteria of faithful family or faithful couple .For these, the biological need of the couple may be converted and expertise through rewards, recognition, facilities. Such laurels or lucrative offer or ideas may confer upon those couple who guaranteed the true role of a husband, father, in laws, Brother, wife, Mother and sister. It is a common practice of the present society that, whoever never bother about dowry related wealth they rather prefer marital relationship with good natured family of moral background and not so called industrialist, agriculturist or business tycoon . Before entering into the grant parent's stage they must promisingly leave a numbers of good couple of rich cultural and moral belief.

Now a days there is a scarcity or rare occurrence of quality couple in the society, may be another reason gender discrimination. Since time immemorial the women has been given a sub status whether it is at the time of sex determination, female feticide, education or decision making at any level .However women must be given equal status at all phases of her life be if at fetus, child hood, grown up age, married life or old age.

### Gender discrimination and its negative impact on the society

The society undergoes under the following negative impact of gender discrimination

- Female feticide leading to the decrease in sex ratio of female.
- Forceful activities for getting a boy child ,increase the number of girl child in a family
- Moral depression of woman.
- Women ultimately treated as a sex toy or production machine.

### Reason of gender discrimination

- Daughter never treated as a source of carrying the dynasty forward.
- Daughter treated to be=meant for another family from whom nothing can be expected in exchange in old age.
- Daughter treated as a cook & maid servant of a family where she get married.
- Fault of a daughter treated as a greatest shame to this family.

### Rules so far available to safe guard the women in India

1. To check female feticide PC& PNDT (Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994 ...) Act is there.
2. Bêti padhao, Beti bachao yojana.
3. Girls educational promotional activities.
4. 33% reservation in employment.
5. Skill development programs through the SHG.
6. Dowry prevention act.
7. Female child rape and murder act.
8. Women trafficking act.
9. Right on paternal property act.
10. Punishment against miss-conduct or miss-behaviour.
11. Divorce under Hindu marriage act.
12. Widow right act under Hindu marriage act.
13. Right to be properly treated by her offspring.
14. Single parents right act.
15. Live in relationship act.
16. Compensation and rehabilitation provision after rape victim & stringent provision of punishment to the culprit like hang till death against the cases of rape and murder.

### Evaluation of rules, regulation and provisions regarding checking of gender discrimination.

- Discrimination was there, discrimination is there and hopefully it will be there.
- Still couples are going for more than 2 children.
- Female feticide, gender determination, no schooling or neglect to the girl child education, health.
- Early marriage, diverse without reasons, exempt from paternal property. Clean cheat to rapist, family or home torture or violence against women, old age disability & orphanage etc.
- Discrimination in this field of employment, public dignity post etc.
- Solution to the gender discrimination.
- Only solution to give equal status to the women in all respect in every walk of her life, starting from womb to tomb as because she is another pillar of the home. Couple or parents must be "faithful couple" in all respect like.
- Committed to comply their respect for each other irrespective of their role in the family i.e. whether one is bread butter earning hand or home supporting hand.
- Duty, obligation, accountability must be reciprocal because both husband and wife descended from to diff. family i.e. husband has same responsibility to his in laws house as that of wife to her parents.
- Regarding offspring, opinion of wife and husband must be of equal weight age & must not be going beyond the limit fixed by the Govt.
- Moral teaching to the family members must be based on sacrificing nature without a selfish objective.
- More and more joint family be honored & relationship be promoted.

### Democracy and Nation-Building

Democracy and nation-building are fundamental for development. For a democracy to survive and flourish a critical mass of its citizens must possess the skills, embody the values, and manifest the behaviours that accord with democracy. They must know enough about the basic features of a democratic political system to be able to access it when their interest are at stake and they must believe in the importance of certain key democratic values, such as tolerance for divergent viewpoints and support for the rule of law. They must also be willing and able to participate in local and national policies. They must also believe that their participation is important to the continued viability of the democratic political system.

In most mature democracies, citizens have had the opportunity to absorb democratic beliefs and practices over a lifetime. As they participate in family and neighborhood life, join local organizations, move through the educational system and are exposed to a free and independent media, citizens have the opportunity to absorb and practice the basic norms of a democratic culture and nation building.

In countries emerging from long periods of authoritarian rule like India, this preparatory experience is largely missing. While many informal democratic practices may exist at the community level, citizen are unlikely to have much knowledge about formal democratic structures and processes and may be unaware of the opportunities that exist for advancing their interest at the local, regional, or national levels. Dewey sees democracy from a broad and a totalitarian view. This view of Dewey agrees with social studies integrationist philosophy which states that issues and problems of life are best approached from holistic perspectives. Democratic principles are used at home, in schools, offices for conflict resolution, governance and for nation building. Thus social studies education must also recognize these democratic principles for effective functioning of society. The basic rules of democracy include recognition of the fact that power belongs to the citizens and the importance of achieving the following goals (a) the greatest possible freedom for all; (b) a just society; (c) the same rules for all; (d) equality before the law; (e) respect for the rule of law; and (f) equal opportunities for all.

In a democracy, people rule themselves either directly or indirectly through their representatives. Giving examples of the definition that is provided by Abraham Lincoln, the US President who abolished slavery in America, in his famous Gettysburg Address, delivered at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on November 19, 1863, during the American Civil War: 'a government of the people, by the people, for the people.' This implies that in a democracy, citizens share the job of governing the state. Most people understand democracy as a form of government in which policy is decided by the preference of the majority in a decision-making process, usually elections or referenda open to all or most citizens. In a democracy, a high degree of political legitimacy is therefore necessary, because the electoral process periodically divides the population into 'winners' and 'losers'. A successful democratic political culture implies that the losing parties and their supporters accept the judgment of the voters, and allow for the peaceful transfer of power – the concept of a 'loyal opposition'. Democracy needs tolerance and agreement between the citizens, especially where one group is bigger than all the others. In a democracy, such a majority should not ignore the wishes and needs of members of smaller groups or minorities. Minorities include not just ethnic group but disadvantaged people and persons of disability.

### Conclusion and Suggestions

From the above it is clear that family and Nation Building are the essence of Democracy. Family plays a great role in shaping the good village, good society and good state. A good state is the outcome of the democratic family. If a family is democratic than the state combining the families will be a "Home of Democracy". Subsequently, there may be various suggestions taken in this regard.

- "Faithful couples" card may be issued to those couple who meet the standard Criteria of best couple like all others card ex. Green card and BPL card.
- Under this provision the couple may be provided with rewards, recognition 7 facilities like (a) Employment facilities to husband (if unemployed) in case of death of lady spouse of faithful couple. (b) "Surrogacy" child bearing facilities to lady spouse of "faithful couple". (c) Higher educational facilities to children of faithful couple.
- Handicap child born in the faithful couple family be totally brought up by the Government.
- Handicap faithful couple may be given extra facilities.
- The best families in a village must be recognized by the government of India and must be awarded to them.
- The families should be taught about the responsibilities in their local language and should brought under the direct supervision of the government of India.
- Unlike the government of the people, by the people and for the people.... it should be of the family, by the family and for the family.

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