

Rational Outlook

Key for Innovation in Rural Development

□ Dr. Manish Mohan Gore

Giving out of the box ideas is innovation. In our daily lives, we usually discuss general things and happenings. If anyone gives any idea which is unique, that will be called as innovation. Innovation can be defined as the application of new ideas to the products, processes or other aspects of the activities of an organisation or a country at large that leads to increased *value*. This value benefits the consumers of the organisation as well as citizens of any country.

India faces considerable challenges when it comes to strengthening its innovative capacity and the need to improve education in terms of access and quality for a larger share of the population. India's increasing demand for innovative products and services – resulting from a rapidly growing economy and purchasing power – as well as the demand for solutions to some of India's domestic challenges like pollution, health care and education, connectivity and communications, etc. provide significant opportunities for European companies but also demands to promote innovators of India for the sake of rural as well as urban development.

Need of Innovative Attitude for Rural Development

Around 70% population of India lives in villages. Most of the Indian villages are facing several day-to-day problems. These are related with their living conditions, agricultural practices, land usage, electricity, sanitation, hygiene and health, etc. Unless the development of Indian villages takes place, our country at large cannot be developed. Government, public-private partnership and

non-government organisational efforts will prove meagre, if individual engagement is not done. For this to happen three things are required – first awareness about the problem, second willingness to solve it and third readiness for behavioural changes. Citizens both men and women can be made aware about the problem along with the logical solution. They may be convinced through learning by doing or logical thinking approach. This is the process of scientific temper in which villagers can be motivated to engage in rational decision making in their daily life. Villagers solve their day-to-day problems through traditional mind sets and if they are ready to switch over to rational thinking, this change is itself innovative.

We know, education is the power. Human is intelligent by birth. Intelligence is the gift of nature given to human being. In our scientific name (*Homo sapiens*), sapiens is derived from 'sapiens' which stands for intelligent. We have biologically provided logical mind. But logic can be applied both in good and evil deeds. Only the education shapes human mind as wise and beautiful. From savage life to civilised one, we have been reached gradually. This did not happen overnight. Education, exploration, invention and innovation have played pivotal roles in creating a developed and civilised society. In this process of making rural India Innovative, logical thinking and rational outlook plays a key role. .

Rational outlook

In fact, scientific attitude gives rational outlook to the society and this is innovative perspective itself. Long times ago, Gautam Buddha said, '*Do not believe what you have heard, do not believe in tradition because it is handed down many generations, do not believe in anything that has been spoken of many times, do not believe because the written statements come from some old sage, do not believe in authority or teacher or elders, but only after careful observation and analysis, when it agrees with reason and it will benefit one and all, then accept it and live by it.*'

This statement should not be misconstrued as a call for indifference or a flippant attitude. If we carefully observe and analyse the above statement of Buddha, we can find a scientific temper or rational thinking that Buddha has highlighted. Such temperament causes positive attitudinal changes among public. They then, give up following the things blindly. They start questioning, reasoning and reach to a rational conclusion.

Children possess inborn curiosity and their questions are unique. Age, family and society mould them in a modified youth, man or woman. Resultantly, that childhood

curiosity is suppressed. Many a times, we take unjust decisions in our lives knowingly. We don't apply logic there. But, it is essential that we always nourish our childhood within ourselves and never get rid of questioning habit. Our time tested values and good practices are equipped with rationality. But unfortunately new generations do not bother those significant value systems. For example the habit of putting water, grains or bread on house roof for the birds, comes from our value system. These are invaluable and timeless values to conserve our nature. If we add more value to such value systems that will be innovative approach.

The utility of science, technology and innovation will be paramount in achieving aim of rural development as it is most important and effective tool for ensuring poverty alleviation, food security, life skilling, and educating masses. But only scientific and rational outlook can help us determine whether a technology is in harmony with nature or not. Else, it may adversely affect our natural resources, flora and fauna. Only on inculcating this rational and logical thinking, we will be able to achieve the goal of sustainable development. We must remember that survival of human beings is linked with the survival of living organisms and environment.

'To know' is the root of 'science'. Curiosity is the basis behind any discovery, invention and innovation. Western science and its workers attempt to open new windows while we usually watch the world from those already

opened windows. We must remember that unless new window opening tendency is strengthened and inculcated, damn new exploration in science, technology and innovation will not be occurred.

Innovation can play crucial role in the upliftment of rural India and for this purpose; the culture of innovation needs to be absorbed among every strata of society. To fulfil this, there is a dire need of creation of awareness about need of innovation and its benefits in our lives.

Technological innovations ease our lives. These should be used in a sustainable manner and only to the extent they do not interfere with the nature and ecosystem. The key to a developed and prosperous village lies in the sensible and rational usage of technological innovations which are in harmony with nature.

In India, government is committed to ensuring adoption of innovations by the public so that public welfare can be achieved. Through ensuring inculcation of innovations in association with science and technology especially among rural and marginalised population, the goal of sustainable development can be fulfilled.

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Innovative Ideas

A Torch with an Additional Bulb

□ Md. Alisher

*A young mind is the sharpest mind. It learns quick and acts quicker. The education system today focuses on books and rote-learning, but times are changing as these young geniuses, who chose to take a different path, have proved. They have picked machines over books and ideas over words. The **IGNITE** competition held by National Innovation Foundation – India is a platform that is giving these young minds a place to experiment and innovate, and come up with something extra ordinary. One of such interesting and impressive innovations by a student Md. Alisher of class 12 of KSS College, Lakhisarai, Bihar is given here.*

The idea is to have another bulb below the main bulb of the torch so that light is available near the feet of user and also for people following the user. Once Alisher was returning home with his grandmother at night. As he was using his torch to show his grandmother the way, he could not see a pit himself and fell into it. Idolising Abraham Lincoln, he likes writing stories and wishes to join CBI to rid the country of corruption.

Note: This idea has been reproduced from the NIF website in the interest of the budding innovators.

