

PROTECT NATURE

Pollution is considered to be directly related to nature, but it is not only related to the harm or damage caused to any one thing but to spoiling or wasting all those natural resources which nature has handed over to us with great beauty. Are. We all have heard and read this saying that the way we behave with nature, we will get the same from nature in return.

For example, we can remember the time of Corona period lockdown, how the beauty of nature was seen, when all the man-made things (vehicles, factories, machines etc.) were closed and the pollution level in India dropped for a few days. It had reduced considerably or rather, it had almost become zero.

One thing is as clear as water from this example that it is only humans who are responsible for the natural events, disasters, epidemics etc. happening from time to time. Whenever we talk about nature or natural resources, they include all those things that man has received as a gift from God or nature.

These include things like air, water, trees, plants, animals and birds, rivers, forests, mountains etc. As humans, it is our first duty to protect all these natural things and resources. Nature will protect us only when we protect it.

Why do we need to be Kind?

■ MAHADEEP SINGH JAMWAL

As a freelance theorist when we talk of traits in a living human creature, we can consider that no one is deprived of generosity and always carries some kindness somewhere in his soul. According to the bulk of the scientific evidence, most people are instinctively kind. We need to perceive that the best element bestowed by the almighty to every soul is kindness. Each one of us has something to give to the world; we just need to recognize what it is?

Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see. William Arthur describes 'A warm smile is the universal language of kindnesses'. So one of the most significant life lessons we can pass on is the value of kindness. Even we find that kindness is one of the universal principles that all religious traditions adhere to. A traverse in different religions faith brings us to a point of commonality that kindness is the 'best way to live.' "This is my simple religion. There is no need for temples; no need for complicated philosophy. Our own brain, our own heart is our temple; the philosophy is kindness" - The Dalai Lama, Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader. 'The world endures because of three activities: study of Torah, divine worship, and deeds of loving-kindness' - Judaism. 'Five things' Gravity, generosity of soul, sincerity, earnestness, and kindness' constitutes perfect virtue' - Confucianism. 'Dignity, kindness, courage, and a benevolent, loving heart - these are the qualities of men born with divine traits' - The Bhagavad Gita. 'A spiritual person cannot be complete without kindness. Kindness is a most excellent way of life', Sri Guru Granth Sahib (SGGS) informs the Sikhs of the importance of kindness, a virtue which he puts on an equal footing with truth and contentment.

We feel that kindness in people has shrieked owing to tension and conflict in society that seems to care more about winning an argument than caring for peoples' hearts. The world is full of kind people, but if you cannot find one, be one, this we have to understand and to react accordingly. Kindness implies a deep-seated characteristic shown by considerate behavior as Kind, gracious, kind hearted, implying a sympathetic attitude toward others, and a willingness to do good or give pleasure. There are a lot of people who want to reach out to others in the smallest of ways, make someone else smile. Psychological studies have found that acts of kindness are linked to increased feelings of well-being. We may appreciate a person's beauty, strength, wealth, knowledge, or fame, but if a person is not kind it stands out like a huge blemish.

Why do we need to be Kind? When we ponder on this query, we need to reflect on what's important in life and in our relationships with others and I am sure, ultimately we will conclude that kindness is high on the list of what's important in our life. Kindness is caring for others, even when they may not care for you. Kindness has been defined as 'the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate'. It is the quality of being gentle, caring, and helpful. We can club kindness as a helpful or considerate act. Kindness in words creates confidence. The world would become a much better place, if people are kind to each other. Small acts of kindness can make a big difference. A person with a pleasant disposition and a concern for others is said to be kind. By being kind to other people, we do not only help them and light a smile on their face but also feel good at a deeper level. It gives a sense of satisfaction. Showing kindness towards others does not necessarily mean doing something big for them. It can be something as small as being polite and offering emotional support to someone. Kindness is must for humanity and humanity has no existence without kindness. Helping others can also improve our support networks and encourage us to be more active. This, in turn, can improve our self-esteem. Beautiful saying that constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust, and hostility to evaporate.

Kindness is more important than wisdom, and the recognition of this is the beginning of wisdom. A little thought and a little kindness are often worth more than a great deal of money. It is futile to judge a kind deed by its motives. Every choice of kindness raises our collective consciousness and manifests itself as a kinder humanity whether we, personally, see the result or not. Kindness can become its own motive. We are made kind by being kind. Being kind had a profoundly positive effect on happiness. When we reflect upon the prevailing scenario of kindness that is in rarity, we must focus on fostering kindness in our students and in ourselves, a habit we can practice every day of the year.

Summing up with the words of Albert Einstein, 'The ideals which have lighted my way and time after time have given me new courage to face life cheerfully have been kindness, beauty, and truth'. Kindness is always rewarded.

Being kind had a profoundly positive effect on happiness. True kindness should not be selective. All people with whom we have dealings should be the recipients of it. It should not be reserved for those in the higher positions in life.

To direct its use in such a selective manner would be to remove it from its heart-quality source of which it should be. Even the humblest servant should be afforded the opportunity to profit from it. It isn't so much what one says in life that counts, but the manner in which he says it. Even the word "no" can be said in a kind spirit which can be pleasing to the ears of a listener. Three things in human life are important. The first is to be kind; the second is to be kind and third is to be kind.

Agricultural Extension for Rural Upliftment

■ DR. BANARSI LAL

Agriculture is the source of livelihood for about two-thirds of the population. Although green revolution was the cornerstone of India's agricultural development but that remained confined in certain irrigated areas of the nation. Present scenario calls for the effective agricultural technologies and agro-management practices to mitigate the food and nutritional security, market demand, export opportunities, environmental concerns etc. Extension programmes in rural communities play a significant role in linking farmers and experts in rural development agenda. Farmers are the grassroot stakeholders. Extension programmes have undergone various changes throughout the years in response to farmers' needs as well as the changing market needs. Extension and research are the cardinal pillars of agricultural development of any country. Agricultural extension as a profession has completed more than five decades of its existence. Substantial contribution has been made by this profession for the development of farmers. In order to get the true potential, the country need to go along way to meet the challenges to increase the agricultural and animal production from the available resources, keeping in mind the ecological and environmental sustainability. There is need to tune our technology transfer system in line with the national and international level. Farmer is backed with many sources of extension services. The extension services are provided to the farmers by the government institutes, directorates, research centers, input companies, NGOs, agro-processors, cooperatives etc. The agricultural extension and supported extension services are unique in structure and function. Interestingly, agricultural extension is not restricted to single fixed programme rather it adjusts according to the changing needs of the society. Now the time has come to assess as to how the effectiveness of this profession could be increased to achieve our cherished goal of developing agriculture. To mitigate the challenges in the new millennium, there is an urgent need to redefine the structure and functions of agricultural extension. Also to make agricultural extension more viable and efficient tool of technology transfer, several issues must be addressed so that it can be further meaningful to accommodate with the changing scenario of agricultural research and development in coming years. In India, above 70 per cent of the farmers are resource poor, comprising marginal and small farmers. They do not fully adopt the technologies recommended by extension workers because of many reasons. Mostly it



is found that these recommendations are not compatible with the farming system of the farmers. Much emphasis is not given to this section of farmers while designing and developing the agricultural technologies.

It has been observed that the developed technologies must be tuned with the requirements of the farmers in his farming situations. The existing extension approach is questioned for being mainly push type. The extension workers took the developed technologies to the farmers irrespective of their applicability and suitability of the farming system. There is a need to identify and delineate the specific farming situation or recommendation domain to which the specific intervention could suit. There is a dire need to develop the appropriate, location specific, ecological sustainable and economically viable technologies that could be compatible and suitable for the resource poor farmers inevitable. Several methods such as farming systems research and extension, broad based approach, technology assessment and refinement (TAR) through institution -village linkage programme etc. have been initiated in this direction. The matching of the technology with the farming systems characteristics are operationalised through such methods. Moreover the traditional system of the farmers need to be appreciated, documented and validated in order to bring them under the domain of appropriate technology. Technology transfer is a process for creating the awareness among the farmers about the new technologies, then generating interest about the given technology, creating conviction so that they can evaluate it within their own agro climatic conditions and finally

adopt it to increase the production. It has been observed that there are five factors which mainly limit the process of technology transfer. These include the limited availability of location specific technology and the low degree of ability to understand risk and uncertainty, lack of strong support systems, weak economic base of the households and farm resources, weak infrastructure and market structure have increased the bottlenecks in technology transfer process. Many models have been developed in India and in abroad for developing effective and functional linkages between researchers and farmers.

There is no single extension system which can be described as the best model in all the countries for all the farmers. The extension models need to be drawn, modified and adopted according to the farming system of the farmers. The technology transfer paradigm is mainly of two types namely-i) TOT (transfer of technology), which is simple and indicate the linear relationship between research, extension and farmers. The technologies are transferred through a pipeline.ii) Circular model of TOT (transfer of technology), which helps to bring researchers and farmers much closer through much emphasis on adaptive researches in farmer's field. It helps for the two-way communication and development of multiple options for innovations. Both the models of TOT suggest evolving a paradigm of TOT which could be most appropriately considered by the extension wing. Any agricultural extension system is related to its ability to build and maintain the linkages of various types. A research-Extension-Farmers linkage acts as a back-

bone for implementing participatory methodologies at the field level. Emphasis is also required for developing linkages with the systems such as NGOs, farmers' organizations, input agencies and other formal and informal knowledge and information systems. It has been observed by many studies that there exists weak linkage between research, extension and farmers. In order to strengthen linkage between research, extension and farmers, there is a need to institutionalize more number of structural mechanisms and simultaneously there frequency of activities has to be kept regular as well as contingent.

The female population of India constitutes about 48 per cent of the total population. It has been reported that 79.40 per cent of all economically active women are engaged in agriculture as compared to 63.33 per cent of men. Women role in agriculture and livestock farming is very important. The technology related to agriculture and livestock farming must reach to the women farmers. It has been observed that the limited impact of new technologies on rural women is due to the factors viz. their neglect by the extension workers who are mostly men, lack of authorities to them, lack of their participation in development process and lack of gender-based technology. This is a global issue and needs more attention as women play an important role in agriculture. For an effective extension system there is a need to have well defined objectives and priorities of extension programmes, effective linkages with the other organizations such as research, financial institutions, marketing systems, input suppliers etc. Also there is a need of adequate financial support and adequate number and well trained and motivated staff. The provision of regular in-service refresher trainings for the extension workers cannot be ruled out. There is a need of privatization of agricultural extension services at national level. Also there is a need to identify area and type of farmers, geographic locations to whom private extension system can suit. In Indian system of farming there is a need to mix up public, private, voluntary and cooperative extension efforts. The existing extension system of our country mostly operates on the basis of selected contact farmers, whereas, the resource poor farmers are neglected in the process of technology development and dissemination process. Thus, redefinition in such approach should be in terms of involvement of representatives of all groups of farmers' classified on the basis of resources.

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Alas! Our Killer Roads



available roads accident prone .Moreover the road widening is not commensurate with the big increase in number of buses and light motor vehicles .Every time a fatal road accident happens ,the government and its various agencies and departments become active for a very short time and after some time go into hibernation and this also can be said to be a cause of road accidents in UT of Jammu and Kashmir .The increasing and frequent road accidents which claim a large number of passengers should be taken very seriously by the powers and way and means should be found to curb the growing number of accidents .The road transport department ,traffic police ,executive police ,PWD (R&B) department do not take these road accidents seriously ,with the result people continue to be killed .There is lack of cooperation ,coordination and liaison between these line departments of the government and there is the menace of corruption and the interplay of all these factors play their part in fatal road accidents which result in killing ,injuring ,incapacitating and handicapping a large number of passengers .The DPAP chief and former chief minister G.N.Azad has rightly expressed anguish on the recent accident in Doda and demanded that the government should probe the causes of frequent road

accidents in Chenab Valley .The UT government should fully investigate the causes of frequent accidents and correct the wrongs so that minimum or no accidents happen on our roads and the large number of precious lives is saved .The government should widen the existing road network so that roads will take the burden of the heavy rush of the ever increasing vehicles .Road barriers should be erected where ever necessary .The traffic police should be on toes and check overloading ,rash driving ,overtaking and driving vehicles while drunk .Chalans should be made and fines should be imposed on those drivers who drive fast ,overload ,overtake and mix alcohol with driving. The drivers should understand and should be made to understand that they have no license to kill passengers so that they drive vehicles very cautiously and carefully in order to make it sure that no accident takes place .The drivers should be held responsible and accountable for accidents and killing and injuring of the passengers .Government should take some hard decisions so that the road accidents will be minimum and loss of precious human lives will not be lost in road accidents .The licenses of those drivers should be confiscated who do not obey traffic rules and cause accidents consuming the lives of the people

.Those drivers whose carelessness and negligence causes accidents resulting in killing and injuring of the passengers should be tried in fast track courts and punishments should be pronounced upon them so that others will obey traffic rules and will drive vehicles properly with utmost care and caution so that the chances of the accidents will be minimum .Those vehicles which have become outdated and unfit for driving should not be allowed to be plied on the roads .Common people ,drivers ,conductors ,school and college students et. al should be given awareness ,information and education about traffic rules and safety norms so that general public will follow traffic rules and the accidents will be minimum and the precious lives of the people are saved .Every time government orders probe in the road accidents and frames committee to investigate the accidents and suggest measures so that accidents will be minimum and loss of precious lives is no more .But the fate of these committees is lost in time and in some cases their suggestions are not put into practice .There is urgent need to take serious action in order to curb road accidents and for this high powered committee should be constituted by the UT administration to probe the ever increasing accidents which consume human lives and also result into fatal and non-fatal injuries .Such committee should be directed to probe the causes of accidents in time bound manner and suggest the recommendations which can put curb on the road accidents and the consequent loss of hundreds of human lives .The suggestions and recommendations of such probe committees should be put in to practice so that there will be very less risk and chances of accidents and the loss of human lives will be minimum .In short all of us should play our role and help the powers in curbing frequent road accidents which have unfortunately become a matter of routine and are devouring large number of people and also injuring and incapacitating many more.

(The author is a columnist, social and KP activist).

Victim of chronic ignorance!

■ ER RAJESH PATHAK

With the awareness of the country in general, and its achievements in particular Rahul Gandhi seems to want to remain stranger for ever. Country has seen much of it; and the allies of I.N.D.I.A. Alliance either: More than the seat sharing tussle, the issue of Rahul as a PM,therefore, has made them keep falling apart despite Congress party's fictitious display of indifference.

And now this notion about Rahul gets to be more firm when he gave yet another piece of his ignorance by telling with utter contempt that Chinese phones are there in the hands of the people in the country in an election rally in MP. And now he is left with no option but to be rubbing the pain off counter attack of Modi's

jibe ' MoorkhonkeSardar' ('Chieftain of stupid').

Modi is not wrong. PLI [Production Linked Incentive] scheme was launched to promote mobile manufacturing inside the country soon in post Covid days that country knows. Under this the production of electronic components and semi-conductors is targeted to undergo manufacturing inside the country itself .The scheme is of 41 thousands crores. Among the proposals came presently so far are from the domestic and foreign companies in general; and contract manufacturers of Apple in particular- such as Foxconn, Vistron, Pagtron, Samsung, Lava and Dixon. They are mostly those companies that want to take their business out of China to other destinations. These

companies applied for the production of mobile phones with the cost of 15 thousand or above, as per provision of PLI schemes. However, no such limit of cost is set for Indian companies. From this scheme almost 12 lakhs people in country would get employment in the next 5 years.

The result is there for all to see .Today mobile-manufacturing has touched the figure of 4 lac crores in the country. Apple today is making its latest iPhone in India. Samsung Giga factory is also working with record production. Once totally dependent on import, India today has become second best 'Mobile -manufacturing hub' of the world. So says none other than former IAS officer Er. AshwiniVaishnav, electronics and information

technology minister of present government . The export of iPhones made in the country has touched the amount of 23,000 crore rupees, which is half of the total export from the country so far . By the end of the fiscal year 2022-2023 the total amount earned from export would get to be 1lakh crore by the end of this year, according to a report.

Notably, like mobile phone, the production of laptop, computer and tablet may also flourish in the country itself in coming days, as their import is now banned. Two years back a PLI scheme was started in this sector; the result of which has now begun to be appeared. Hope this time Rahul would not be caught unaware of the report of the performance ever published in this new emerging sectors.