

REDUCE POLLUTION

Air pollution is an escalating environmental crisis with significant consequences for both human health and the ecosystem. Human activities, driven by the relentless use of energy, industrialization, and transportation, have substantially improved our quality of life but have simultaneously introduced harmful pollutants into the air. These emissions, characterized by particulates, organic molecules, and toxic substances, have given rise to a plethora of health problems, including respiratory issues and cardiovascular diseases. Air pollution can have severe health consequences for humans. The emissions from vehicles, industrial processes, and other sources contain poisonous gases and harmful substances, including carbon monoxide and lead particles. These pollutants can cause respiratory problems, cardiovascular diseases, and other health issues, and they have been linked to the emergence of new diseases. Air pollution also affects the environment. It contributes to smog formation, acid rain, and can harm plant and animal life. It can even lead to climate change by releasing greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

Addressing air pollution is indeed a collective responsibility. Government regulations, industry standards, and individual actions all play a role in reducing pollution. Transitioning to cleaner energy sources, improving fuel efficiency, and adopting sustainable practices can help mitigate the problem.

New Dimensions in Police Work Develop Community Relations

■ MAHADEEP SINGH JAMWAL

Disturbed and anarchic societies exhaust all their potential in unworthy things. On the other hand, if they have a sense of safety, security and order they can develop and prosper. This is where the role of police becomes important in society. At all times, in some form or the other, this system existed with varied responsibilities and duties. It is generally felt that police play in the hands of Government, whereas police is a lawful command of the government for maintaining peace and execution of law enacted by the peoples representatives. When we talk of police in India prior to attaining independence, it has remained an instrument in the hands of rulers for keeping people under subjugation and suppression. But with the changes in the forms of the government in due course of time responsibilities and functions of police have also undergone changes depending upon the social set up they have to serve. The police had been concentrating on their assigned duties only and little was thought about maintaining relations with the people to whom police had to deliver. In modern democratic India changes in the social structure during the past few decades have been many and multi-dimensional. There has been a lot of awakening among the people, the level of education and literacy has gone up from 12% at the time of independence to around 75% presently. All this has increased expectations from the police. This has added new dimensions to police work not only in the quality, approach, behavior and methods of police work but also developing a spirit of general helpfulness to the people to prove it as 'Peoples Police' than 'Ruler Police'. Another area in which the direct involvement of police is being, increasingly felt is the eradication of social evils, like child marriage, wanton labor, drugs addiction, smuggling, black marketing etc. Another area where the service of police towards society needs appreciation is at the time of natural calamities and catastrophes at many occasions. In all these Areas, where society needs help from the police, at the same time police need cooperation from the society. The police must recognize we are members of society with the only difference being that in the interest of the community and on its behalf we are employed to give full time attention to redress the grievance of the society. Often, the relationship of law enforcement organizations and their communities is seen as unidirectional. In reality, a healthy relationship between police and community requires reciprocal input from the community. With the changing scenario, presently it is a matter of great concern for law enforcing agencies to bond with the public and police relations with the community are the need of the hour. Police attract criticism and one of the reasons we can arrive at is that police have distanced itself from the public and day by day we are losing the co-operation of the community that we have to serve. Police depend on the community to report crimes, cooperate as witnesses, and even look out for themselves and other officers. Police work runs much more smoothly with the trust and cooperation of the community. The relationship is the backbone of the community policing strategy. It determines the level of public confidence in the police, the level of public satisfaction with police activities and the level of trust the public has on the police. It also influences the level of support and respect given to the police by the public. With the changing environment police can perform efficiently only when we have the cooperation from the community.

How can we gain the public's confidence ? 1) Police must not evade the registration of a crime as that means committing a breach of law under the Penal Code. Such evasions enbolden the criminal. 2) Police must not misbehave with the citizens; 3) Police must not implicate innocent persons in criminal cases and must not fabricate evidence with a view to securing conviction; 4) Police must not resort to third-degree methods in the investigation of cases. Such practices only tend to alienate the police from the public, and are not permitted by the law either; 5) Police must not extort confessions from the accused by adopting tortuous methods of investigation; 6) Police must be apolitical in their professional capacity and impartial in their application of law; 7) Police shall not indulge in excesses like violation of the principle of the minimum use of force; 8) Police officials must not show any proclivity to please the political bosses for their personal and professional gains.

Some of the measures I suggest are: We have to develop relations with community led organizations. Monthly meetings can help us to engage with the community. Community-police advisory board: (All party meeting). This will help in digging into issues more than others. Much of the honest information comes from the community members when we interact with community members. There must be a qualitative awareness and transformation between the police and the public that restore their relationship on issues related to their rights and duties. Police should implement diversion programs that improve public safety by not arresting and inflicting fear on the people but by resolving the root issues causing crimes. The key to improving police effectiveness and public safety is to return to the fundamental principles of modern policing, which means both increasing police-community trust and preventing crime instead of reacting to crime. Law enforcement agencies need to focus their efforts on public safety priorities, and directly engage the community in our work. 'The relationship between the public and the police that are entrusted to protect them is critically important.

Concluding: The literature on the Indian police system is meager. The role of the police has evolved continuously and still needs change. There is an urgent need to transform it into a professional service rather than one who is simply following the orders of the authority unmindfully. The ethics, conduct in public, public dealing mannerisms, legitimate use of power, and freedom of police are certain aspects of the police department that are expected to be maintained by you and that will definitely change image that has been carried by the police from the British era of discourteous, rude, and aggressive needs to public-friendly police. When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it.

Promoting Self-Help Groups (SHGs) for Women Empowerment

■ DR. BANARSI LAL

Women are the key agents for the society development. Government have launched a lot of state and centrally sponsored schemes in the state from time to time for the upliftment of women. It has been observed that poor people have innate capabilities and make strenuous efforts to come out from poverty. Self-Help Groups (SHGs) especially for women help to start entrepreneurial activities and thus can help to eradicate the poverty. Formation of Self-Help Groups can be an effective tool for the women empowerment in the Union Territory of J&K. With the help of Self-Help Groups women can be trained for different kinds of skills under different programmes and schemes by the various organizations which further can help them to improve their socio-economic status. The concept of women's empowerment is the result of several important critiques, debates and discussions generated by the women's movement across the globe, especially by the third world countries. Women constitute around half of population in the social system but still there is gender discrimination in many spheres of life. Poverty and gender discrimination threaten the well-being of women, deny their choice for education and training, restrict them for their participation in different programmes, curtail political and economic rights etc. Women are given secondary importance in every section of society. Right from beginning of her life restrictions are imposed and she is prohibited to express herself properly. It has been observed that large percentage of population of women is unemployed, have poor socio-economic status, least decision making, lack education and awareness on different developmental aspects and so on. So, there is dire need to empower the women through different kinds of schemes or programmes launched by different governmental and non-government organizations.

Self-Help Group (SHG) is a small, economically homogeneous and affinity based group of people who decide to save and contribute to a common fund to be lent to its members as per the group decisions. SHGs are a way to involve rural men and women actively in the developmental process by increasing the income, technical skills, mutual help, address constraints etc. The agenda of SHGs is 'Empowerment' and shift from dormant masses of the rural women to vibrant masses by bringing more income in their hands so that they can lead a better social life. Self Help Groups (SHGs) formation in J&K especially in hilly areas can assist in the women's empowerment. The origin of Self-Help Groups is the brain child of Economics Prof. Mohammad Yunus of Chittagong University who founded Grameen Bank of Bangladesh in the year 1976. This was exclusively established for the poor section of the society.

The Self-Help Group movement is a silent revolution to uplift the poor people across the globe. World Micro Credit Summit was held at Washington in 1997, converged the developed and developing countries of the world to overcome the serious problem of poverty by using micro credit as a tool to empower the poor section of the society. The major objectives of SHGs are :- (1) to inculcate the habit of saving and banking among the rural women. (2) To develop credibility among the rural women and the bankers. (3) To develop group activity so that women can start the entrepreneurship.

There is no doubt that the women of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir have suffered a lot during the last 30 years. SHGs formation can be one of the important options to assist these women to come out from economic distress. For this purpose, government has launched several state and centrally sponsored schemes/programmes for the upliftment of women. Some of these are as: (1) Women belonging to minority community viz, Buddhists, Sikhs, Christians etc. are being financed under the national minorities' development and finance corporation.(2) Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) scheme was introduced in 1999 with the major objective of developing micro enterprise in rural areas, thereby developing the potentials of rural poor who belong to below poverty line, financial assistance both in the form of loan and subsidy is provided to the beneficiaries, both individuals as well as Self-Help Groups so that they can set up their own entrepreneurship. As per the reports, the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana scheme is implemented in all the districts of Jammu and Kashmir. This scheme mainly emphasis on the formation of women's Self-Help Groups. (3) Reports signify that Jammu and Kashmir women's development corporation (JKWDC) has put forth various socio-economic schemes for the upliftment of women belonging to minorities, backward and other classes.(4) Various social welfare departments also implement various schemes for the women. Presently, there are around 150 social welfare centers which impart different kinds of training to the women so that they can start their entrepreneurship. Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) under SKUAST-J, SKUAST-K and CITH in J&K are imparting need based farmers and vocational trainings to the women and the trained women start the entrepreneurship in agriculture and allied sectors. These KVKs assist in the formation, management and strengthening of SHGs.

The size of an ideal Self-Help Group should be of 10 to 20 members. An informal group should not have more than 20 members and the group members should have homogeneity in their socio-economic status. It has been observed that the members in a big group do not actively

participate and the chances of conflict also increase. Only one person from a family should become a member of a self-help group and in this way more number of families can join Self-Help Groups. The group should be either of only men or only women. The group leaders viz. chairman, secretary and treasurer are decided by the group members. The group leaders should be benevolent in nature and they can be rotated as per the need. It has been observed that the women groups generally perform well and women are considered more credible by the banks for returning the group dues than their counterparts. The group members should follow rules and bye-laws of SHGs. The group should meet at weekly or fortnightly intervals and the participation of all the group members in all the group meetings makes easy to stabilize and develop credibility among the group members. Fine can be fixed for not attending the group meetings and after sometimes inter-lending can be initiated in the group. Registers of the group should be kept upto date by the group by making the entries regularly. The funds should be managed and controlled by the group members themselves without any outside interference. Self-Help Groups are mainly based on savings by the group members and credits from the banks. Savings and credit services from local banks are the logical methods of extension of SHGs growth strategy to mitigate the increasing credit demand in the group. The Self-Help Groups' main function is to economically empower the group members. The members join the group on voluntarily basis. They save the money and then link their credit to a nearby bank to start an economic activity. Group members are guided by government or non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In hilly district Reasi women Self-Help Groups on milk processing, food processing, bracelets making etc. are assisted by the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Reasi, local banks and NGOs and are working excellently. The successful SHGs can be a source of inspiration for the other people who want to earn a substantial income for the upliftment of their socio-economic status. The Self-Help Groups can be an effective technique for women empowerment in the society. The group members should have passion to work honestly for their economic improvement. In order to run the SHGs smoothly there is a need of support from the heads of the family of group members, local people and external organizations. Keeping unemployment scenario in view presently the SHG concept has immense scope in J&K. Government and Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) should involve all the rural as well as urban areas economically vulnerable people to participate in the SHGs.

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National Unity is the need of India

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

The country has celebrated the national unity day on October 31, 2013 with great enthusiasm and fanfare. It is the occasion on which people remember Sardar Patel as it is his birth anniversary and it was Patel-the iron man of India who is credited with the integration and merger of more than 500 princely states with India. Thus rightly the birth anniversary of this great leader and first home minister is celebrated as the national unity day and it is because of this unity in diversity that India is considered as a great nation. It is our moral and constitutional duty and responsibility to uphold the national unity of India and for this we should take required steps so that all the states and union territories are kept as inseparable parts of the country even with the principle of federal structure as India is a state which is unitary in character and federal in spirit and all of its people should endeavor to uphold and strengthen the national unity and the national unity day is celebrated by us with this aim in mind. On this day people take pledge and resolve to uphold and further national unity as it is the need of India and is also the need of hour. All the citizens belonging to various religions, castes, classes and regions are equal and there is no distinction between them. As per the Indian constitution and various laws, all the citizens are equal and have equal opportunity for development and therefore there is no distinction between them so far as the claim on the national and natural resources is concerned. All regions and languages are

sacrosanct and are equal scope for development and therefore all regions and all languages are important means for information and transmitting knowledge and there is no distinction between them. Citizens belonging to different religious faiths, sects and castes and regions are equal players in the development of the nation. There is unity in diversity and all of us should try to make sincere efforts to maintain national unity, communal harmony and national cohesion. For maintaining national unity, it is all the more important and necessary that all citizens are given equal treatment and the hard fact is that all the citizens belonging to various faiths have equal opportunity of development so that all feel honored and dignified. All the citizens are duty bound to uphold the national unity, pluralism and secularism as these finer attributes and doctrines are enunciated in the constitution. All the people are the sons and daughters of mother India and all of us should take pride that we are Indians first and foremost and secondary we are Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists etc. We should discourage hatred and communal disharmony and condemn all acts which lead to disintegration in the country. We have achieved freedom from the British yoke after great sacrifices of the freedom fighters and national heroes and thus it is the bounded duty of all of us to safeguard and protect the much valued freedom. All the people are equal and there is no distinction between the citizens belonging to various faiths, religions, regions and languages. There is great need to further national unity,

national integration and national cohesion and Sardar Patel is our torch bearer and guiding force as well as the great inspiration and all the citizens should follow the path of unity shown by the iron man of India. We should emulate and follow the ideals of Sardar Patel in letter and spirit to further the much needed unity and communal amity .Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day is celebrated on October 31 every year in the memory of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel ,the first Home minister of the country ,affectionately known as the Iron Man of India .Rashtriya Ekta Diwas is celebrated across the country on the birth anniversary of Sardar Patel to honor his contributions to unifying India after independence .The Rashtriya Ekta Diwas was established by the central government in 2014.The main aim of this event is to pay homage to Sardar Patel for his remarkable efforts in integrating India after independence by integrating all princely states .In 2014 Prime minister Narendra Modi led the celebrations of the first National Unity Day with the Run for Unity programme in Delhi. The National Unity Day has its special significance as it affirms the inner strength and fortitude of the nation ,reminding citizens about unity ,integrity and security .Rashtriya Ekta Diwas is celebrated with enthusiasm in most public and private institutions ,schools and colleges across the country .In 2019,PM Modi attended an event on National Unity Day at the Statue of Unity in Gujarat .The National Unity march was also organized on the occasion .In addition National Unity Day

provides an avenue for rewarding those who have contributed to the unity of the country and national integration .The Sardar Patel National Unity Award ,the highest civilian award in the field of contribution to the unity and integrity of India ,was established by the central government .The awardees are conferred with this prestigious award on October 31 every year .Apart from this ,schools and colleges actively participate in the National Unity Day by hosting a range of cultural activities with the overarching theme of fostering unity .The observance of National Unity Day not only pays homage to a significant historical figure but also serves as a reminder of the importance of unity and integrity in the diverse and culturally rich nation like India .On this important and auspicious occasion besides remembering Sardar Patel and his contribution in unifying India after independence ,we should solemnly resolve to uphold ,strengthen and further national unity and integrity by bridging the differences if any between the different communities, castes ,regions and sects so that communal amity and mutual brotherhood is maintained which gives strength to the country .The best tribute to Sardar Patel on his birth anniversary is that we should resolve to uphold national unity ,integrity ,security and pluralism and secularism which represents the very idea of India .Let us dedicate ourselves for the right cause of maintaining and furthering national unity at all costs and in this lies the good of the country.

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

YOUR COLUMN

Free Water and Free Power for Government Schools

Dear Editor,

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has announced free water and free power supply to government schools. This is like lake water dropped into lake. If the government schools are given free supply, the government curtails the grants to be given to such schools. Free water supply and free power supply do not alleviate the problems of the parents of the school students. People are gravitated towards private schools for admission of their children notwithstanding hefty donations and hefty fees to be paid. Education among private operators is more a commercial activity than imparting education to students at nominal cost. Government schools are unable to withstand the competition from private schools management. Merit is the casualty in recruitment of teaching staff. Poorest of the poor people send their wards to government schools much against their own willingness to send them to private schools. To be precise, the poor people send their children to government schools more due to compulsion than out of choice. It is no great thing for private schools to be in flying colours with good results of students. The private schools give admission to meritorious students only. Good results are the corollary of the meritorious students finding seats on payment of huge donations in private schools. Waiving off water charges and power charges makes no difference to the students and their parents. The government schools must be equipped to provide good education with the recruitment of knowledgeable teachers and with infrastructures made available. Mid-day meal is being provided in government schools. It is a well-conceived idea. But that has not been attracting the students to join the government schools. With no mid-day meal in private

schools, the strength of the students is higher there compared to government schools. Instead of providing free water supply and free power supply to government schools, the government would do well to provide books and other study materials free of cost. Private tuitions by the government schools have been proscribed. Still it has not been stopped. Allured by good earnings from private tuitions, the teachers in government schools show little interest in teaching in schools. Government school buildings present poor look whereas the houses of government school teachers present magnificent look. Private school buildings present magnificent look whereas the houses of private school teachers present poor look. While discipline among students and desire for learning by them are inculcated in private schools, the government schools with teachers without profound knowledge in subjects can hardly motivate the students to embark on studies. Notable exceptions are there in government schools also. Teachers in privately managed schools work hard because they can be removed from service at the drop of a hat. They have to endure every difficulty. The government should rein in the private school managements which deny salary to the teaching or non-teaching staff for the entire period of holidays if a teacher applies for leave on any working day intervening between or preceding or succeeding holidays. This policy cuts a big hole in the pockets of working staff in private schools. The government as a licence issuing authority for opening private schools must throw spanner at unfair labour practices by private management. Anything given free for government schools or colleges does not benefit the students.

K.V. Seetharamaiah

Skills that lead to Long-Term Goals

Dear Editor,

This is a term which is becoming more prevalent in this technological era. Since the advent of new tech-

nologies in the job market, youth are constantly trying to make themselves aware of these technologies. But have you ever wondered whether the skills you are currently learning will be as relevant to you in a few years as they are today? So whenever you try to learn something new, do not make the assumption that we can use these skills only to achieve our goals. Learning for. Emphasize practical skills If you truly want to learn new skills to meet your long-term goals, your focus should not just be on bookish knowledge but also on practical skills.

This kind of education will encourage you throughout your life based on knowledge and education. Develop transferable skills Transferable skills are known as 21st century skills, soft skills and social emotional skills. This skill helps children and youth in personal, social and economic.

Always encourages to become an adaptive student and a good citizen while dealing with challenges. Transferable skill: Always inspires others to enhance their skills by sharing their knowledge and values while controlling their emotions. UNICEF report According to the Transferable Skills Report released by UNICEF, today's youth live in a very challenging environment, where the labor market is constantly changing. Here, the youth also have many opportunities with new technology.

So to be successful in this environment. It is important to provide quality education to children and youth from their early stages and promote knowledge, behavior and positive values for long-term skills-based learning. Follow the training module If you want to develop skill-based knowledge not just for targets but also for long-term goals, you will have to change your traditional learning techniques.

To develop skill based education, research based work should be done even while studying in school and college. There should be an opportunity to do training modules and field based work.

Vijay Garg