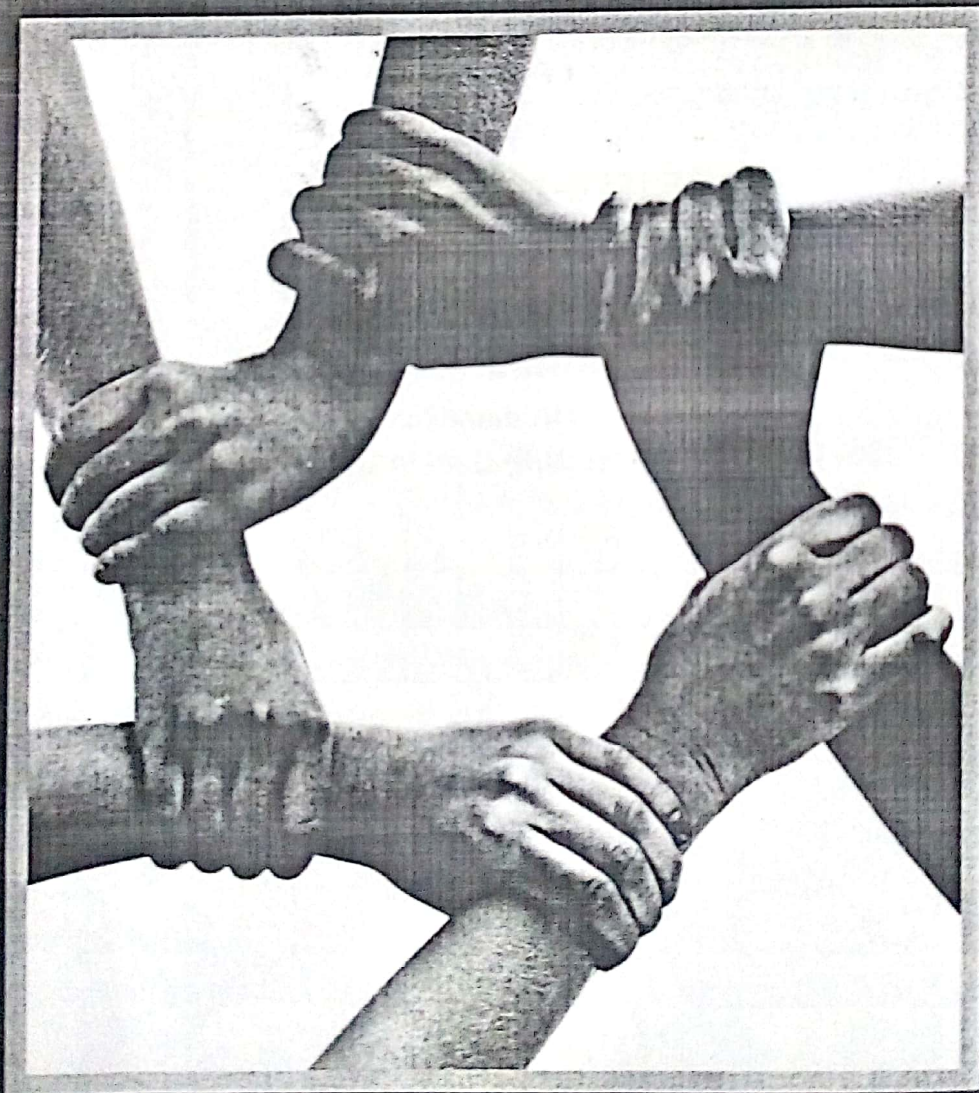


**ROLE OF TEACHERS
AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
IN SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION**

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TEACHER AS A CATALYST OF CHANGE IN SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES: LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD GLOBALLY VISION 2020

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Introduction:

Excellent saying by Swami Vivekanand to quote him: 'Education is not the amount of information that is put into your brain and runs riot there undigested, all your life.' Education for him means that process by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, and intellect is sharpened, as a result of which one can stand on one's own feet. Everyone has been given a special gift of knowing their inner self and listening to inner calls. If we tap this hidden potential our inner soul gives us a clear picture of genuine form of our deeds. In this fast changing materialistic world which is depleting at enormous speed socially and environmentally and is continuously giving signals to the society to improve at urgent levels. At this crucial stage emergence of good teachers are required to tirelessly work for the society and pass the torch of guiding light to the next generation. Let's take a glimpse at the issues which our society is encountering:

Social issues:

- Rapes and assault are increasing and have it to the headlines with alarming frequency.
- An agrarian crisis has created tragedies of suicides in Maharashtra, and many Indian families are still with backward thoughts and abort girl child as they feel it's a burden on the family to invest money on her and ultimately pay a huge amount of dowry in marriage. Issue of dowry is again a hidden enemy in the society.
- Studies have shown that economically weaker background children get fewer facilities in learning and are less motivated to pursue studies than from the enriched background children where the literacy rate is high.
- High level of rising corruption in all fields.
- Increasing urbanization leading to rise of illegal activities.
- Terrorist attacks and rise of fanatic attitude.
- Health related problems, sewage disposal hazards, rise of slum areas.

Environmental issues:

- Deforestation is one of the major causes of ozone depletion.
- Dumping of wastages and plastics in rivers, concrete constructions by builders blocking water canals.
- Very few empty lands left for gardens and green patches because of land encroachment.
- Excessive use of natural resources.
- Extinction of endangered species like tiger, giraffes, birds, lions. It had been predicted in Times of India that in a span of next ten years Mumbai shore will not see any marine life.
- Acid rain has been shown to have adverse impacts on forests, fresh waters and soils, killing insect and aquatic life-forms as well as causing damage to buildings and having impacts on human health.
- Air pollution is the biggest environmental problem. Perhaps even more surprisingly, it has been declining the past 110 Years.

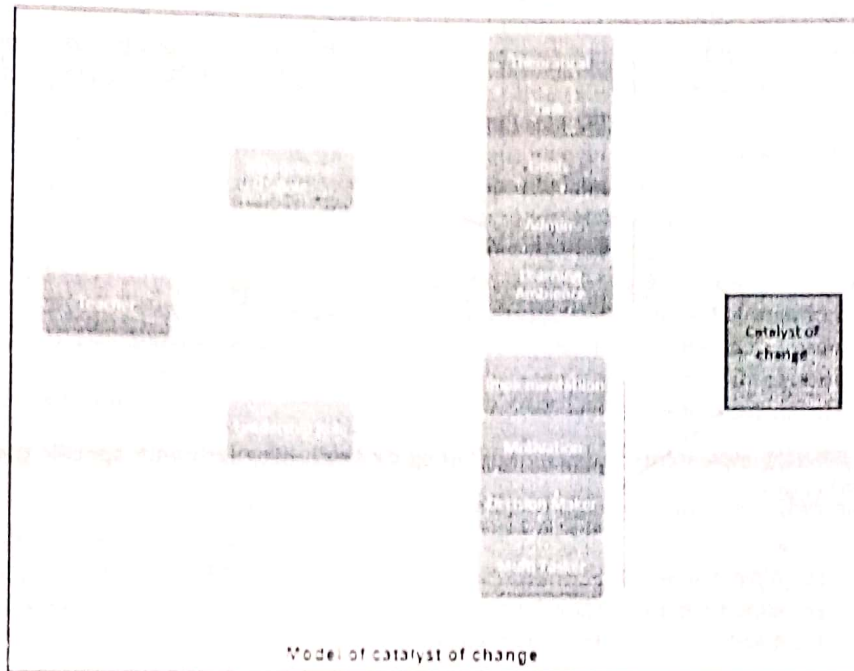
The highlights of above issues require a strong visionary to handle and if every individual contribute a bit of their deeds earth will be a heaven to stay.

Objectives

Objective 1) Need of strong teachers as leaders acting as a catalyst of change for balancing the imbalance System
Introspection of individuals about their attitude and considering that their behavior with the surrounding is responsibility for the answers they receive from nature. It is extremely necessary to have civic sense right childhood. Parents and teachers play a prime role in shaping the morals and ethics in a child. It is transformation of man through moral and spiritual education that he finds the solution for all social and economic imbalances.

Introspection and vision building is a challenging exercise as it aims to construct future scenarios and link the present with the future. It is essential to come out from normal day to day chores of life and act as role models by adopting a teacher's role. Strong teachers can generate awareness in an individual which will allow him to take a critical outlook on social and political realities and can sharpen the ability of self-examination, self-monitoring and self-criticism.

Teacher as catalyst of change: A teacher plays 2 major roles: 1) Instructional and 2) Leader. Both are two sides of a single coin & complement each other. An instructional role is to know the conceptual and technical know-how, task master, administration, goal setting, and creating learning ambience. Whereas a leadership role includes implementation of actual plans & acting as role model for others, motivation, building team spirit, fast decision maker and multitasking ability. Properly planned educational input can contribute to increase in the national gross products, cultural richness, build positive attitude towards technology, increase efficiency and effectiveness of the governance contributing positive efforts to society and acting as catalyst of change.



Model of catalyst of change

Objective 2) Global Minds amalgamation the need of an hour:

Global minds require awareness and action consistent with a broad understanding of humanity, the planet, and the impact of our actions on both. Globalization has a multi-dimensional impact on the system of education. However with increase in awareness of environmental and social issues globally the barrier of orthodox traditions and old customs have begun to fall. In most Third World countries, the intellectual and political elites are more likely to be the first generation to get an education. The parents of this generation are largely illiterates having no formal education and little knowledge to deal with modern life complexities. The elites, having more knowledge and better skills than most of their countrymen, usually develop an unhealthy sense of superiority. It is a superiority complex that most members of Third World elites acquire and use, not to help and lift their countrymen, but to rule over them and manipulate their needs and fears; they tend to do so in order to keep the masses submissive and often grounded in poverty and tradition. Rapidly now it is changing the way in which governments perceive their role in the society. Among the most critical dimensions of change are the convergent impacts of globalization, the increasing importance of knowledge as a main driver of growth, and the information and communication revolution.

Social Entrepreneurship: Growing competitive and aggressive market conditions, excessive digging of resources, increasing disparities between poor and rich, rampant construction with no empty spaces, high pressures kept on employees for profit maximization and many more reasons has built pressures even on largest corporations to think smartly and act sensibly. Many big organizations have come to the terms of accepting that healthy community converts into a healthy business. Social entrepreneurship is new and upcoming approach to business of inspiring and connecting social entrepreneurs with innovative ideas, information and strategies to help world in a global way in terms of social and environmental issues. They dig deep into unknown that fresh relevant inspiration comes to light.

Objective 3) Impact of Culture on Society:

Traditional cultures that have their roots in the pre-industrial age tend to believe in faith and destiny and accept certain myths as facts, and to have a prominent spiritual aspect to their lives capable of sustaining them even in a crisis. Because of such attitudes and convictions and psychological comforts, traditional societies in general tend to be inward and inward looking, to fear the unknown and resist change. They also fear looking at the world around them

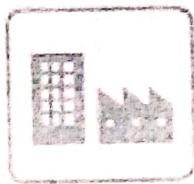
using an empirical approach, because such an approach disturbs their peace of mind and forces them to question their deeply rooted beliefs in faith and fate. Employing an empirical approach to view the world, furthermore, will increase a believer's life challenges at a time when he or she lacks both the right understanding of the world around him and the proper tools to deal with the increasing life challenges facing him.

Lack of meaningful ideology: There is a vast decline in the sociopolitical role of ideological thought in recent decades and the increasing societal role of institutions instead has caused the power and stature of all types of leaders to diminish. The future, therefore, is unlikely to witness the appearance of a great leader, a great idea, or a great ideology that can change the course of history in a meaningful way. Because of such a development, no society should wait for a great leader to emerge and save it; every society should accept life challenges and every individual should act logically, & consider it as his moral responsibility to create positive change.

Objective 4) Road to Progress - 'Vision 2020':

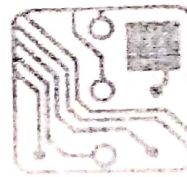
Where do we see India? By 2030, India will have the largest population in the world, in the higher education bracket. Increasing urbanization and income levels will drive demand for higher education. India's economy is expected to grow at a fast pace; rapid industrialization would require a gross incremental workforce of ~250 million by 2030; India could potentially emerge as a global supplier of skilled manpower. India has the opportunity to become a prominent R&D destination. Given the expected socio-economic scenario in 2020, India would need a robust higher education system that can deliver on multiple imperatives. India will be amongst the youngest nations in the world. Green OMRON 2020 is playing a vital role in environmental preservation. OMRON established the Group Environmental Policy in 1996 and its environmental management vision entitled "Green OMRON 21" in 2002. OMRON 2020 Environmental Targets (OMRON Group Environmental Targets for FY2020) 1.Improve carbon productivity (global sales / CO2 emissions from global production sites by 30% compared to fiscal 2010 level on global basis 2.Contribute to providing useful products and services for society. Environmental contribution > CO2 emissions from global production sites

Action Guidelines- OMRON implements activities related to six key areas, each with specific goals for fulfilling "Green OMRON 2020" vision.



Eco-Factories
Offices, Laboratories

Strive to minimize input of energy/resources for business activities, while promoting recycling/reuse for reduction of waste.



Eco-Products

Offer customers environmentally warranted products that help reduce negative environmental impacts throughout their life cycle.



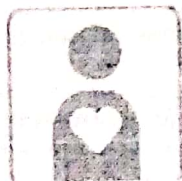
Eco-Logistics

Assess environmental impact of the entire supply chain ranging from procurement of raw materials to production, sales and distribution, and strive to reduce its negative impact on the environment.



Eco-Management

Expand acquisition of ISO 14001 certification and establish a multi-site ISO registration system, while reducing environmental risk and ensuring legal/regulatory compliance



Promote environmental education and awareness-raising activities to encourage all employees to heighten their ecological awareness and upgrade the level of environmental preservation activities they are involved with.



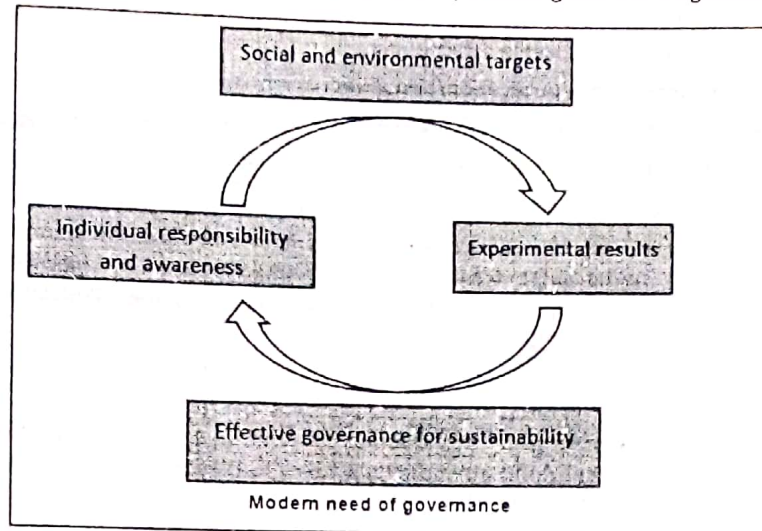
Eco-Communication

Proactively release information on OMRON's environmental activities and results and promote social and community contributions.

Whereas The NTT Group has endeavored to protect the environment through the three priority activities: mitigating global warming, reducing waste and reducing paper consumption. Globally the social vision should build trust and create amicable atmosphere for trade, education, health care, culture. Nations should have dialogues and debates on social enterprises by using their contacts in different countries for sustainable and prosperous future.

Conclusion

In this paper we have discussed some major socio and environmental issues and presented a model of catalyst of change along with modern need of governance. We propose that as an individual in whichever part on this planet we reside it is our moral responsibility to act sensibly and wisely for preserving this world against bad elements.



Modern need of governance

Following points if considered in a serious way can formulate the strategy of sustainable growth of the society.

- The main need of change in every country is to understand the problematic areas they are facing and place targets to achieve it.
- Every individual should possess pride for their nation and should have strong civic sense.
- Implementation of ideas giving results should be monitored with strict governance under the control of educated teachers, educational institutions, research scholars, NGO's, corporate houses with ongoing CSR practices.
- It is extremely necessary that government should have clear policy and procedures laid by maintaining transparency with the society.
- Effective and efficient teachers should act as role models in the upliftment of social and environmental causes and can pass the torch of guidance to future generation.

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Dr. Shaikh Aftab Anwar, M.Com; MBA; Ph.D (Business Administration) is an educational researcher, social activist and a transformational leader. He has more than 25 years of teaching, research, consultancy, executive education and industry experience.

He was nominated as 'Senate Member' of University of Pune by the Governor of Maharashtra. He is also member of various boards and committees of University of Pune.

Dr. Shaikh has worked as Director of Poona Institute of Management Science and Entrepreneurship and Principal of Poona College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Camp, Pune.

He is M.Phil and Ph. D. Research Guide of University of Pune. 22 students have completed Ph.D and 14 students have completed M.Phil under his guidance.

Dr. Shaikh is also Member of several Educational and Professional Bodies in India and abroad. He has been accorded with several prestigious awards including National Youth Award by the Ministry of HRD, Government of India, and Prof. G.B. Kulkarni Award for Best Teacher in Commerce by the University of Pune.

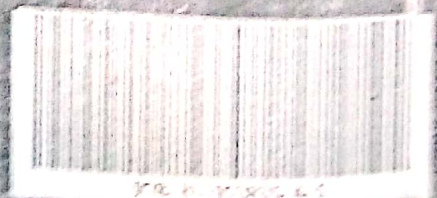
Dr. Shaikh's Ph.D Thesis 'Designing a systems approach to Human Resource Management in the Cooperative Federations in Maharashtra' was adjudged as the 'Best Ph.D Thesis in Cooperative Management' by the Indian Society for Studies in Cooperation, and was also conferred with the 'Rao Bahadur Edmalal Award'.

Dr. Shaikh has authored several books and published research papers and articles in refereed National and International Journals and presented papers in international conferences.

As a Social entrepreneur, Dr. Shaikh has established and run the organizations from scratch. He also offers advice to upcoming Educational Institutions and IT Education sector. He is a motivational speaker, Result focused and effective leader.

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