

India's Rise as an Emerging Economy and the Impact on her Consciousness

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Abstract

'The race for the 'last instance' is between economics and power.' - Gayathri Spivak

The success of India in the 21st century will be the political will and spiritual resilience of her leaders who are voted to power by a majority of people who belong to the middle and bottom of the economic pyramid. If India is an ancient civilization as Mahatma Gandhi once quipped, we are equally a post-colonial state that has had experienced the brunt of oppression, suppression, resistance and migration. The country in the age of digitalization is subtly subject to a neo-colonial capitalism and the very idea of Independence has not solved any problems for the country today. We find rampant poverty; low levels of illiteracy against the ideal of superstructures in the form of large scale organizations that offer employment but are also responsible for economic exploitation and land grab cases. In 1991, 25 years since India has opened up her economy to the globe and much progress has been accomplished as she has to accommodate views that are global and cosmopolitan which is being twice removed from that of pre-Independence. The crux of my argument will be to discuss economic governance, political will, corporate governance, farmer suicides in the wake of neo-colonialism, neo-capitalism and neo-liberalism with identities being shaped and fashioned accordingly that reveals a people and how much is being re-invented and re-constructed as the validity of the post-post-colonial in the throes of emerging from an ancient civilization being rooted in tradition and spirituality becomes the topic of choice in all post-colonial states.

Keywords: post-globalization India, economic liberalization, emerging economy

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I. INTRODUCTION

A culture is always on an evolutionary plane and is procedural. However, India has been the oldest and largest democracy that has influenced, been influenced by many cultures upon being invaded by many rulers and goes back in history as being a country that has had many leanings on Buddhism, Jainism, Islam, Christianity and also is Hindu. Hence, through the vestiges in time, the nation has had many a powerful bearing on identity being shaped and fashioned according to the times and hence stands true to her maxim 'Unity in Diversity'

with its many fissures, fluctuations and fractures being echoed by the margins or the peripheries as we currently experience in post-modern emerging India.

Post-independence India is squabbling on the border where at the very core of the truest meaning of democracy and what it should mean for all the peoples living in this country with a social, political, economic with its many historical narratives and counter-narratives seem misplaced. The classic question one has to keep asking in the search for comfort and a drive to pursue a truth that embodies

one of nationhood complementing one's identity to the very core of the procedures of nation making as India lays a fervent emphasis on a post-colonial identity that is formidable but still remaining true to the verity that oppression and suppression will be the refrain of the Indian psyche is if can she reassert herself in the global committee of nations as the global ecosystem tethers on an edge with its many shifts and shocks coupled with its unprecedented fissures and gnawing fractures as a nation positions herself poising to be an emerging economy that aims to be more egalitarian, equitable in all areas of socio-economic and political and cultural.

India's rising to the occasion after 200 years of cultural and colonial hegemony have resolved and contested a few of the past ghosts but yet many an area need to be re-looked into or needs a re-acquaintance with. All cultures have to be in confluence with one another and all cultures are in a constant flux as HomiBhabha in 'Location of Culture' and in 'Culture and Imperialism' affirmatively asserts that a nation in the making is always '*procedural*' and not '*pedagogical*'. Nation making or building is always in an evolution phase, never being definite. However, in our contemporary times, India has to adapt to the continuum of procedural changes embedded in the global economy based on political authority and economic superiority. Hence, the world is a flatter world owing to *globalization* and *technology* that shapes how people in a country make decisions and governments which keeps taking a different stance on policy making suffused with many a newer idea and a fresh approach to create more 'spaces' in order to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth and development.

Being a global player, a country must participate from being an isolated player. In order to solve a few problems that inherently weighs a country and its economy down, solutions in the free market economy in trade and services has the potential to create avenues of growth that will help in the

domestic side or the microeconomic front. India's relations with America, Russia and major economies have proved to state that she is serious about her place in the global economy.

At times, the Indian government has to intervene in foreign policies of other governments which does not favour the Indian community abroad. In most cases, the intervention if or when the needs arise has gone in favour of the NRI population. We should contend that though most Indians after being highly educated leave India for better career or economic prospects which should make the bureaucracy to create opportunities for the human capital to remain at home and contribute to the GDP. The demographic dividend for the average Indian is about 32 years old which clearly indicates that the country has the largest resource in comparison to China, or any developed economy. In today's age of globalization and infusion of technology and the economic shifts and pulls, India has moved to be a multi-aligned nation making diplomatic friends with countries that can offer us trade or services and we can offer the same. History has proved to be the best judge as Rabindranath Tagore, our greatest poet and story teller always felt and believed that for India to be an unrivaled country must interact and engage with other countries which was much opposed to Mahatma Gandhi who believed that India should engage and participate less. In this case alone, Tagore has established the truth proving him to be a visionary. exacerbate the caste system from the veneer and fabric of the social consciousness and using education as a tool to empower a few and disempower as well.

In my attempt to throw light of the positives of globalization, it is also the negatives of globalization that weigh and reflect poorly on a country. In my view, a brief idea of the caste system that has seeped into the psyche of many individuals, elite, the educated and the uneducated as well.

Investment in a low-carbon economy

“Affordable, clean and abundant energy provided by nuclear sources is our gateway to a future that is healthy, learned and connected – a future that will span deep into space and crosses the boundaries of human imagination”. -**Abdul Kalam**

In making innovation work, inspite of the criticism of living in a post-Fukushima world, with Japan claiming that they would dismantle all nuclear reactors; Germany and other developed societies dismantling their nuclear plants or where they rely less on nuclear plants reveals the fear and loss to humanity or where the agricultural soil will lose out on its nutritional value making it impossible for any level of yield is a matter of concern for the governments and the leadership in power.

India is a poor country with majority of its people from the middle class society who rely on for state support and hence the Public Distribution System. The country with its teeming population aspires for a better life, enhanced lifestyles and is willing to go to any lengths to ensure that the basic necessities are met, like food, education, a removal from poverty and decent jobs that will keep their dignities intact. If there is a rainy day, hoping that their savings will bail them out from niggling hassles. It is quite difficult living in a poor country where agriculture is being threatened and replaced with big concrete jungles, or people taking the risk and paying for a house through mortgage, or where once the challenge of paying heavy school fees is over, the children must be put through College and for that, the costs are heavier and higher and then to find proper employment for the children is a bigger task. The other areas is where the quality of food seems to be diminishing as the years go by or where the cost of healthcare is inadequately high and unbearable. People who cannot afford healthcare as the costs are so high that they prefer living in pain and dying. The thought that a life can be saved but a choice being made to leave the world in pain is a condemnation of values that a society does not heed to.

The other problems for a growing India is that she keeps getting messy with more pollution in the air making it a risk for children and the old susceptible to various health disorders. The revealing find is that nearly 2 million lives are lost due to Indoor Air Pollution and one can imagine the Urban Outdoor Pollution. On the whole, about 451,000 deaths are reported every year due to pollution.

In an essay that came out in the Hindu written by Dr Abdul Kalam, the 11th President of India and one of the world's best acknowledge scientists and brilliant teacher who passed away recently in July, 2015 which came as a shock wrote that the future to India's success is nuclear power. In the essay he asserts that India is currently using so much of coal which in turn is causing immense pollution. Fossil Fuels is creating even more pollution with a growing number of cars on the roads. He asserts that if India uses nuclear power, pollution can be confronted and electricity can be generated at triple the amount that is being generated with burning of coal. The future for India if she utilizes nuclear power as the developed societies have moved onto renewable energy but in a country like India, and with climate change and global warming, unpredictable weather patterns, makes it an impossibility to rely on solar or wind technology to power large scale industries. We have to utilize nuclear power as we are a growing economy where we have reached the 2 trillion dollar mark and by 2025 we will cross the 4 trillion dollar mark. This is mainly due to the exports being driven by the demand of the global economy and businesses operating at full flow keeping up to stiff competition of the developed world. There have been just 4 accidents in 60 years and the main causes for the accidents was due to improper safety mechanisms, gross human error or utilization of poor technology and the technology used had not been upgraded. India should not heed to these naysayers and the public must be educated on nuclear power.

The idea of setting up nuclear power plants in areas that threaten livelihoods and displacing people should be taken into consideration and plants must be set up where agriculture land and people's livelihoods are not threatened. It is seen and been proved that the developed world have used or are using nuclear power in tandem with renewable sources of energy making their economies – low carbon. If India can use the same principles as the weather in India being unpredictable makes the economy reduces the carbon footprint and in turn making societies more adaptable and efficient. What must be noted is that fossil based fuels or fossil fuels is not sustainable and even more important, is that with the scarcity of fossil fuels, there will definitely be geo-political instability. We have seen that in the case of Exxon which is a leader producer of petroleum and is on a new trajectory in trying to find shale gas from complex rock formations in the Arctic to counter the problems of not being able to find petroleum as they had exploited the earth, all parts of the globe, from Indonesia to Africa, Latin America, Russia, Iraq and now to the Arctic region trying to find shale gas under tough weather conditions. Exxon Mobil had been tough on criticizing the global community of changing weather patterns and global warming until in 2009, did agree that the planet is warming due to manmade disasters. When we keep in mind, a warmer planet, the size of the carbon footprint growing larger, agricultural practices being disrupted due to global warming and climate change, we must realize that the people who will have to struggle will be people who lives on the fringes of society or who live on state's benefits.

II. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

The critical thinking and leaning on contemporary and sustainable challenges that range from education, healthcare to energy and infrastructural development through governance advocacy plans and initiatives or the lack thereof need more than just the escalation of newer government policies but the intelligence to get to the root of the problem

which is happening a little too slow. Policy-making has become phenomenally challenging in a post-modern India and has proved cumbersome for the political elite who have to constantly keep changing sides especially when they lose sight of contemporary reality with the larger confrontation of measuring up and pacing with a global economy that is evidently post-structuralist proving to be a phantom of sorts.

Jacques Derrida was right when he echoed time and again that the centre is falling apart and the fixation remains on the peripheries. In a global economy, there are many witnesses to prove the theory and that self same theory becomes more valid in a large working democracy like India. For instance, in every election our political leaders keep shuffling in and out of office based on the decisions millions of people who belong to the bottom of the economic pyramid as against the minor concentration of people who belong to the top of the pyramid and their financial authority in a society. India becomes an influential democracy, besides being the largest owing to the rights owned by the 'marginalized' groups of people who diminish the 'core'. In a neo-liberal capitalistic democracy that hinges on Marxist ideals and capitalistic ideas, how do we define growth prosperity in the face of global warming and climate change where our energy grids revolve around fossil fuels and how efficiently and effectively would the transition be towards renewable energy, agricultural challenges – climatic and economic, exacerbating poverty, water crisis that leaves farmers drought-stricken pushing them into further problems of poverty, social inequity and mental turmoil, growing costs of healthcare where majority of people simply cannot afford where the government's initiatives towards providing healthcare facilities is simply not enough are the core concerns of my research on India and its projecting her post-colonial identity in a post-capitalistic society fraught with its many neo-liberal economic views with its many and differing political leanings in sync with its changing climate of

leadership morale. Problems and challenges such as global warming and poverty are global problems and are not pertained only to a specific country. When these problems are tackled headlong globally, can countries find solutions especially developing and poor countries like India. In today's environment, India's position in the global scene of political affairs is based on how well we adapt to the globe and its changes but also how best problems that affect the GDP can be solved as today, global problems naturally become a country's problems.

The functioning of democracy in a manner that is transparent with an egalitarian agenda proves to be resilient and sensitive to the demands made on her by the people who live in the country and in confronting challenges and demands made by foreign governments. The success of India's democratic fibre lies in her leadership, her connect with the pastness of the past and the manner she can link to the future from being an ancient civilization to one that can have an impact on an ecosystem that is cosmopolitan and internationally global.

As HomiBhabha asserts in the 'Location of Culture' that all cultures are slowly being merged being hybridized or taking on the fabric of being more Cosmopolitan. It is a fact that in order to stay relevant, India needs to and is becoming more hybridized where the past is not forgotten but which remains a central part of our Identity but where the future is shaped through interaction with foreign sources – the global order. This creates a space which shifts toward reclaiming our own position in the world where through the process globalization, India integrates with the global economy sharing resources, meeting tough demands made on her and where financial resources are flushed into the country through Foreign Direct Investment attracting more Foreign Institutional Investing. This is a pivotal element in globalization where a space is created and wealth gets to being distributed and re-distributed with a top-down approach which creates an environment bring to light in situation or creating

a post- colonial identity make the validity of the post-post colonial relevant, resilient and that of being more broad-based and multi-ethnic constructing a truly important democracy that is institutional that works for the people in a transparent and efficient manner.

India in the 21st century has come a long way after being fraught with changes and challenges of economic liberalization, insurgence of foreign-owned companies who prefer destinations like India that offers promise coupled with human capital. Any government that comes to power has to be a corporate friendly government that looks to creating opportunities by way of jobs and where the financial deficit is controlled by way of royalty and taxes, foreign companies pay to the treasury. What was unheard of yesterday is a possibility today. The opening up of corridors to foreign players has made life convenient and economically feasible to people from all parts of the economic pyramid. It is also obvious if these foreign-owned companies were in their own countries, the confidences and successes they enjoy can only remain a probability or an excessive goal. Globalization has made everything possible and is, for a fact, shrinking the world, further. We live in a techno-centric democracy today that has to pander to the cultural elite ensuring that civilization heritages and traditions that have been a country's identity are not lost in the maze of economic hegemony. The bigger challenges as countries keep shrinking with the initiation of globalization is tackling issues of climate change and global warming that influence levels of poverty in a country. It is here that the influx of institutional democracy is at play that pivots the conscience of a country's political leaders against the spirit of a growing country that needs financial investment and job creation to steer clear of unemployment and poverty. A country like India swears by her cultural identity and affiliation but at the same time, to survive in the 21st century of geopolitics and geo-strategic crisis that range from freshwater, climate change with a host of other debilitating issues need

an armament of tactics to create an ecosphere of inclusive growth and sustainable development. It is here in an economy that has shifted from a Hindu rate of growth to one that is on its way of being neo-capitalistic; policies of institutional democracy need careful implementation. The moot point is to ensure that institutional democracy disallows capital accumulation within a minority of elite individuals but rather foster an ecosystem promoting redistribution of wealth, reproofing economic inequality, gender bias forging an atmosphere where people from all fractions of the economic pyramid have an access to resources and learn to take cognizance of the fact that economic success cannot override the need to protect and conserve natural habitats, water bodies that sustain a community. The realization of protecting the environment from capitalistic interests without compromising on quality of life is India's challenge in post-modern India. We have to build a clear-conscience in nation building embracing a mental make-up that is Gandhian and Nehruvian for the 21st century citizenry. A liberal economy creates opportunities for all but the implementation of an effective institutional democracy should become the overriding factor for good governance structures that lays the groundwork for a state in maintaining harmony and societal welfare. When the state fails to promote good governance in a democracy, it is then that problems of disempowerment grow. The political elite who set standards have a great responsibility to the citizenry who have elected them to office and are entrusted with the responsibility of instituting policies that controls and dwarfs behavior that is unbecoming to and for a democracy.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A liberal economy must be engaged by being constantly interfered with guiding principles of the institutional democracy set up by her political elite. In a developing country like India, policies that govern and empower cannot be changed on and off or else, it interferes with the political consciousness and economic growth prospects while validating in

being part of a global economy. All countries big and small, all economies – big and small cannot afford to follow an agenda of isolationism but rather have to be multi-aligned. It is only through this governance makeup on the global perspective of resource allocation and distribution of resources in a manner that is of a transparent manner and nature that mirrors the tenets of an open and free-market economy, can all countries solve persisting problems, which in turn, strengthens institutions in a country to keeping a check by drawing up mechanisms that promote growth which quite naturally function as harbingers of success for a healthy economy.

In all democracies, we must be reminded of people and communities that are deprived or are not paid much attention. The success of an economy is largely determined by how many people are removed from poverty and have a decent opportunity in life rather than the number of millionaires and billionaires that are produced. As a hybridized state, India cannot afford to ignore the perils of inadequate healthcare facilities or conditions of living that are unsustainable for an urban poor or for people who live in our villages. Institutional governance in a democratic setup can be successful if keeping in mind, economic interests accomplished by foreign investment is balanced with protecting ecological reserves that are more significant to a country and her peoples. In the past few years, many voices have been echoed against investment of promoting corporate interests against protection of biodiversity and ecological spaces. Protests that have come about in protecting ecological spaces from powerful corporate bodies clearly reveal and reflect the changing nature of a truly, free, egalitarian and democratic ecosystem.

The success of a country is determined by how many people have access to resources such as food, water and education and enhance their livelihoods as against the small concentration of people at the top of the economic pyramid. When more people are

better off with access to quality healthcare facilities, effective educational standards and where gender equality becomes more of a reality than a myth, can India call herself a successful democracy. The more India inks agreements with the developed economies in bring prosperity to her people, conquering the ill-fated problems such as inadequate healthcare, exacerbating poverty and ensuring that through her initiatives, feeding more people through her various schemes to diminish hunger and malnutrition, and furthering investments and schemes in protecting farmers and enhancing their livelihoods against the moneyed or corrupt moneylenders and powerful financial institutions, can democracy prevail in India and the ideals of our Constitution see the light of day. When corruption exists in India, there subsists a gridlock that impairs the functioning of a democratic state with the *haves* colonizing the *have-nots* as ¹Frantz Fanon and ²Nelson Mandela experienced and did witness. When ordinary people who lack resources are exploited and subjugated, we see democracy crumbling and being challenged. ³President Barack Obama did assert unequivocally in his United Nations General Assembly: "The strength of nations depends on the success of their people -- their knowledge, their innovation, their imagination, their creativity, their drive, their opportunity -- and that, in turn, depends upon individual rights and good governance and personal security. Internal repression and foreign aggression are both symptoms of the failure to provide this foundation".

It is essential that there are myriad problems and challenges in India. None of those problems if ignored they'd reflect the lack of commitment in ridding problems that will have further repercussions which will impair the proper functioning of the complex country like India making her more imbalanced. Our leaders must have a multi-pronged approach towards resolving old issues and invoking new innovative ideas to reclaim lost spaces – cultural or economic on the global economic order and scheme of things. The manner

in which India hybridizes and maintains a multi-ethnic perspective will bring much triumph as an emerging economy with a very young population that make up her human capital, much to the envy of any developed economy such as America, the United Kingdom or even China. India has amassed much resource from the days of yore and in the 21st century, is the world's youngest and oldest democracy with globalization as the principal agent to generate wealth or to re-distribute wealth throughout the economic pyramid.

IV. CONCLUSION: DEVELOPMENT FOR A BETTER DEMOCRACY

The 21st post-Independence India that has emerged with a strong post-colonial identity has relinquished herself to being globally competent, with the potential to tap into the politics of knowledge in order to sustain colonialism and neocolonialism through the representations of socio-cultural-politico-economic agents that are in a constant flux. Today, we live in an interconnected world that is inter-dependent adapting to newer problems and challenges that is partly symptomatic of undemocratic structures. A few questions that shapes our identity analogous to a shifting global economy, both on an individual level and collectively as a country determining the politico-economic consciousness emerge from the following dynamics of decolonization and depersonalization especially from being under colonial hegemony:

Who am I?

How did I develop into the person I am?

To what country or countries or to what cultures am I forever linked?

How does gender, race and social class function in the post- colonial sphere? In what ways is the colonized culture silenced?

What is my construction of the West and vice-versa? How does the 'unheroic' Indian cope with the might of the West?

And from a post-globalization perspective: What is the future of the country?

What can be the future of India's politicians as they interact with the global economy moving from an interconnected world of technology, science and integrating the complex of global markets?

These are the tough questions a global India must keep asking without compromising on the consciousness of her identity.

India has become a global player and yet as Arundhati Roy, who has written many books attacking the capitalism in India with scathing remarks on why poverty still remains a larger than life factor in the social milieu is a deep critic of India's success to which she rationalizes the understanding of the difference between the rich and the poor in a world of ecological conservation and economic subjugation. She writes from her new book:

"the 300 million of us who belong to the new...middle class... who live side by side...with the spirits of the netherworld, the poltergeists of dead rivers, dry well, bald mountains, and denuded forests; the ghosts of 250,000 debt-ridden farmers who have killed themselves, and of the 800 million who have been impoverished and dispossessed to make way for us".

As India is being projected to the global ecosystems of business, economics and politics, we need to take step back and question as to what and who is India. The growth rate, if it shows that it is growing, are the farmers and the millions who are impoverished benefited and how are people being benefitted is a question that has no answers to. Every country has its problems, but countries have worked hard to develop and implement certain policies that have changed the economic course of the nation.

India is behind in the race for development and democracy and needs a lot of reshaping to do. The re-engineering of policies in lifting more people out

of poverty and solving issues of hunger, and malnutrition are the untold stories of a million people that remain unaddressed and if the world sees this side of India, there could be more stress for any government in power. All the governments in power as they are voted in and out of office must adhere to invest in the lives of the poor, the marginalized and the farmer who live from one day to the the next with little or nothing unlike most of us who aspire for a bigger paycheck every month or every year or look at making more money by investing it all on the stock market ignoring the pains of the dispossessed, the displaced and the marginalized sections of society that reveal the real and grim picture of how much India is growing.

¹ Frantz Fanon – Black Skin, White Masks, The Wretched of the Earth discusses the processes of de-colonization and the impacts after the 'colonial Master' leaves rulership to the colonized authority

²Nelson Mandela – Long Walk To Freedom, who faced a similar experience in the 1950's and 1960's where his own people behaved and mimicked the white Man subjugating his own people. The fight for freedom for the Afrikaner to have the same rights as the White Man in South Africa which belong to the African..

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