Impact of the formation of the SAARC on the International Organizations.

The major portion of the SAARC was ‘colony’ and therefore their independence had opened up new political chapter in the South Asian Region. Leading members of the SAARC organization were new emerging states. They were treated as developing states in world politics. Individually their progress and development was at a very slow pace. The new leadership in Indian Sub Continent realized if they have to compete with other developed states they have to gear up their economies and cooperate with each other on the regional basis. This idea of cooperation among South Asian States on regional basis was put forth by Bangladesh and was upheld by other six member states of SAARC. Thus came into being SARC which was later modified and renamed as SAARC. The Seven Member States declared that hence forth they will keep aside their political differences and work for the up-liftment of the people of SAARC community; the community which was only divided by the natural boundaries but was inter-linked with cultural, social ethnic and economic bonds. To overcome the political differences and work for the economic and social up-liftment of the people of the region Seven Member States enacted the charter of the SAARC and every member state pledged to adhere it. The formation of the SAARC has fulfilled the long standing dream of cooperation among the seven states of the region. The brotherhood and ethnic tolerance among the citizens of the member states was used as a centre theme to achieve it. These has not only removed the barriers of land border but also the barriers of the sea and thus the Sri Lanka and the Maldives island were included as member states with five other Indian Sub-continent states i.e. India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh.
The SAARC member states did not follow structural or ideological role model of the earlier regional organization i.e. NATO, CEANTO, ECM, ASEAN etc. Therefore, it was distinct in its nature and objectives from the earlier and existing regional organizations in the Community of the States.

The Western and the Communist world had doubts about the success of the SAARC in its infant stage because the member states of the SAARC organization were neither developed, rich nor strong and hence it was treated by them as the collective effort of the developing state of the South Asian region to help each other and overcome the poverty and backwardness only. But the collective efforts of the SAARC Member States to devote their efforts and economies in establishing SAARC Head Quater and other offices besides action committees has changed their opinion regarding SAARC and now they treat it as a regional organization with respect because SAARC agencies have brought positive changes in the standard of living of the SAARC region people. Once unknown facilities and services are made available in remotest areas of the land-locked member states of the SAARC i.e. Nepal and Bhutan. Linking Maldives Island with other six member States by telecommunication is a big achievement. Many agreements were made as per the SAARC guidelines to open up new markets. All the markets created as per SAARC guidelines will be common markets for all the member States for trading and they will be accorded special concessions in levy and tariff so as to make these goods available at buying prices to the consumers. The services which are termed as scientific and technological are available to some extent in India, Pakistan Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. If one makes the comparative study of the community life of Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives society prior to the establishment of the SAARC with that of today's society one has to accept the changes brought about in the life of the natives of these states by the work carried out by the SAARC agencies. The work carried by the SAARC is slowly and steadily being recognized by the community of the states and this
recognition is to be treated as an acceptance of the SAARC as one among the prominent regional organizations in world politics.

i) Impact on the U.N.'s:

The United Nations is an international institution which serves humanity, at large. The functions of the U.N. are so widely spread and agencies which are created to implement these functions are unable to cover very wide range of world territory. To expect the United Nations work to reach every nook and corner of the world is to expect too much from the U.N.

The responsibility of the UN is shouldered by its member states. The United Nations has become an arena of world politics, today. It was divided by the bipolarity politics till the disintegration of the USSR in fifteen independents states took place. Now it is dominated by the USA. Today's politics in the United Nations hampers in achieving the humanitarian aims and objectives given in its Charter.

The demand of the Himalayan region states of the Indian subcontinent regarding up liftment of their standard of living was never given priority by the UN's agencies hence health, education, sanitation, communication etc. fields were in the neglected states. The emergence of the SAARC took over these areas as priority areas and carried out foundation work at elementary stages and then developed it step by step thus bringing desired changes expressed in the Charter of the UN. This is a proof that the work carried out by the SAARC is in accordance with the aims and objectives expressed in UN Charter.
One of the objectives of the UN is to unify human race by removing the ethnic barriers which were and are strengthened by the ideology of nationalism as it is practiced by the states. The work carried out in this regard is only at humanitarian level therefore the barricades do exist in the United Nations in the form of 'More Equal States' i.e. Veto Power States. This concept is not given any room in the SAARC. All the member States of the SAARC hold sovereign-equality and therefore, there is no difference among the member States on the basis of their size, population, military power, economics status, religion culture etc. Being in one geographical region SAARC member States are homogeneously united with each other, where as the UN as it is exist today is an association of States spread all over the world. The SAARC is therefore, different from the United Nations in its nature, structure, composition function and power. But as an Organization it has the same responsibility to the people of the South Asia, as the UN has towards the humanity at large.  

The work carried out by SAARC in upliftment of the people of the SAARC region is recognised by the UN and the United Nations is so impressed by it that it helped it in which every way is possible through its agencies; The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); The United Nation’s Development Programme (UNDP); The United Nation’s Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF); The United Nation’s Environment Programme (UNEP) etc.

ii) Impact on the Common-Wealth of Nations:

The Common Wealth of Nations has 51 states as its members. These 51 states have common heritage i.e. British legacy. Out of these 51 states India,

1. E. Sudhakar: SAARC - Origin, Growth and Future, P.P. 39
Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives united themselves with Nepal and Bhutan to form the regional organization in South Asia region i.e. the SAARC.

Common wealth of Nations is an international Organization of loosely associated states which were British Colonies. Therefore, their unification was primarily based on the history of England and this history was capitalised to convert this association into an international power block but it failed and therefore, the Common Wealth of Nations became a traditional 'get-together' of the Head of the member states in its ceremonial atmosphere. The Common Wealth of Nations could not coordinate the member states in achieving economic and social objectives, it failed in strengthening the bonds of friendship among its member states, could not improve trade and business and was unsuccessful in providing basic necessary services to the people of Common Wealth of Nations. 'Get-together' is in the fashion of the British Raj, a 'Grand Darbar' adorned by the Queen of the England. The SAARC came much after the formation of the Common Wealth of Nations but successfully achieved its objectives and thus raced ahead of the Common Wealth of Nations in humanitarian work.

The achievement of SAARC has led the prominent leaders of the Common Wealth of Nations to think on the lines of the concept adopted by the SAARC. But the differences among the member States of the Common Wealth of Nation are obstacles in uniting the people of the Common Wealth community because it includes states from all the continents and the oceania. The condition of the Common Wealth of Nation is like that of the United Nations in respect of its diversified membership having different ethnic origin, culture, language and civilization. Common Wealth of Nations is also in line with United Nations in bringing about unification among its member states. India realized this truth and therefore it took initiative and worked hard to establish with its might to and develop the SAARC.
Some of the member of the Common Wealth of Nation are keen to establish a new regional organization, they proposed Indian Ocean as a region to constitute it. Australia and South Africa which are the members states of Common Wealth of Nations are asking India to form and lead M/14 Group i.e. Mauritius/14 Group (the association of the 14 littoral states of India Oceans- Australia, India, Kaneya, Mauritius, Oman, Singapore, South Africa, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mozambique, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Yemen). If this impact of the SAARC is realized, it means the importance of the United Kingdom in the common wealth of nations will be reduced, further. This will enhance the importance of India as a Indian Ocean Power in the world politics and India will hold strong position in the UN in achieving its objective of converting Indian Ocean in to 'Peace Zone' with the help of M/14 and SAARC.

iii) Impact on Non-Alignment Movement:

The emergence of Non-Alignment Movement from the South Asian region was a new phenomena in world politics. Non-alignment offered third alternative to the newly independent States and thus non-alignment movement created "Third World" in the politics of community of States. Non-alignment policy is accepted by more than hundred States in the span of 50 years whereas the international organizations created by Western or Communist bloc never had such numbers of States as their members. Non-aligned movement was a spontaneous creation which enabled new independent States to have non military relations with both the super powers at a time. Non-aligned movement which created 'Third World' is now more important than in the days of super power rivalry, because non aligned movement has offered a platform to the regional states to come together to establish regional organisations on the pattern of the establishment of SAARC. SAARC has shown the path to the members States of the NAM movement situated in the various geographical areas of the world to come
together to free themselves from the sphere of influence of the super power or the dominant States in the world politics. The emergence of SAARC has strengthened the regional integrity of South Asia region within the NAM movement. In this regard NAM and SAARC even though differ in their ultimate objectives are trying to understand the problems of each other and are keen to solve these problems. NAM and SAARC and coordinated their resources to eradicate the poverty, illiteracy, ill-health, etc. and overcome the problems of sanitation and communication etc.

NAM is influenced and led by India in the same hidden way as it leads the SAARC even though it is equal sovereign member of the SAARC. Therefore, India is a common factor in NAM movement as well as in the SAARC. India offers its technical know-how, and infrastructure to both these organizations. India's financial contribution is almost equal to these organizations and world also recognised India as a spokesman and leader of the NAM and the SAARC.

India is competed by the other member states, particularly by the Pakistan in the SAARC and Indonesia, Cuba etc. in the NAM but their competitiveness lacks inertia and support from other member states of the organizations. NAM is impressed by the achievement of the SAARC and desires to have infrastructure like that of SAARC but in nature and objectives the NAM is so different than the SAARC it can not have it in reality, therefore, for NAM the SAARC is an Oasis'.

iv) Impact on the European Common Market:

The idea of European Community is realized in establishing European Common Market and starting one currency for ECM member states in the form of 'Euro Dollar' on 1st January 1999. The 11-member European Monetary Union
(EMU) adopting the Euro have a stock market capitalisation of an estimated $3,300 billion. European Union emerged as an economic power and changed the equations of world politics. Eleven nations of more than 300 million people accounting for more than one-fifth of the world’s output, adopted the Euro as their common currency which faces its first trading day on Monday. European Community since its inception tried to established its relationship in potential market regions of the world. In this respect European Union establish its relationship with the SAARC. In 1996 as part of plans to link up with regional trading bloc in Asia, the European union proposed relationship with SAARC. European union proposed in its memorandum of understanding to establish Cooperation between these two institutions in the field of Exchange of Commercial Information and assistance in certain SAARC economic infra structure along with institution building.

For ECM SAARC region is a largest regional trading bloc and therefore ECM is eager to have more and more economic cooperation with the SAARC. The State Bank of India (SBI) and Abn Amro Bank on Friday struck a five million Euro deal, probably the first inter-bank trade in the world, heralding the arrival of the single currency for European monetary Union. ECM took the advantage of 1996 New Delhi Summit Declaration of SAARC, in this declaration SAARC expressed its willingness to enter into cooperation agreement with other regional organizations. EU already had relationship with ECM and therefore, European Common Markets intention to establish closer links with SAARC is a matter of time only. SAARC region is considered to be the future market of European Union and in this regard when one analyses today's import-export in between EU and SAARC, EU and ASEAN, EU is more closely associated and shares more exchange of goods with ASEAN than the SAARC.

1. Ed. Padguonkar Dilip: Times of India (Mumbai), Monday, Jan. 4, 1999
2. Ibid, Saturday, Jan. 2, 1999
3. Ibid, Saturday, Jan. 2, 1999
As other western economic power EU also considers SAARC region as a non-globalised region and is barrier prone area to have free trade. Since the establishment of SAARC, its member states opened up their economy for the free trade and removed many restrictions which were in force earlier. Establishing industrial, commercial institutions by 'non-states actors' and their emergence as an economic powers of the world challenged European Common Market. Member states of SAARC opened up their economy and encouraged foreign investments. Slowly and steadily the relationship between ASEAN and SAARC strengthened. SAARC member state, particularly India started dealing in its international business in Euro Dollar on its very first day. This step by India and other member states of SAARC is a sign of very close linking between the SAARC and the EU and their faith in each other in their collaboration to serve the people of the SAARC region effectively in providing them necessities and services. The work of the SAARC is complimented and actively supported by the European Union.

v) Impact on the ASEAN:

ASEAN (The Association of South East Asian Nations) is a fore runner of SAARC in establishing regional organization in Asia. The ASEAN was established in 1967. Initially it included five member states, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Brunei joined ASEAN on 1 January 1984. Whereas SAARC came into being in 1985.

SAARC is the spontaneous result of the urges and inspirations of the ruling elites of South Asian countries, whereas ASEAN was the culmination of US

attempts to form a regional organization of pro-Western countries in the wake of the escalation of Vietnam War in the late 1960’s. Establishment of ASEAN is a product of regional and global politics. Whereas establishment of SAARC is a creation of pure regional politics of South Asia. The success of the SAARC and contribution of India in it has led ASEAN to invite India as a dialogue partner and India is considered to be prospective future state of the ASEAN.

ASEAN is having bigger infra structure and wider experience in international trade and business and is linked with various international regional agencies. In this context it was ASEAN to extend its hand of friendship and cooperation to the SAARC and include South Asian Region in their sphere of operations. This means that SAARC has became one of the prospective regional market for the ASEAN produce and vice versa SAARC may have ASEAN region as its market place in 21st century.

Gujral’s Doctrine related to SAARC specifically deals with its expansion by including Afghanistan and Mynmar as new member states of the SAARC. Afghanistan is in turmoil, whereas military ruler’s of Mynamar are keen to join ASEAN. Mynmar gives prominence to ASEAN in comparison to SAARC.

The creation of regional organization such as, The South Pacific Forum, ASEAN and SAARC is a positive development: Co-operation among these organizations is the obvious next step.²

1. Ed. Molkote Rama S. SAARC and Asia - A Comparative Perspective, P.P. 189
vi) Impact on the other international Organisations:

The emergence of SAARC in world politics and its relationship with other international organisations has created a chain of action and reaction in the field of ‘welfare economy’ of the SAARC region. SAARC establishes its relationship with international organisation purely in the field of economics, only it keeps itself aloof from diplomacy and politics and therefore, SAARC is well received by international organizations.

Previously GATT and now WTO is closely collaborating with the SAARC in trade and tariff, commerce and business, transport and communication, import export and marketing, etc.

All the member states of the SAARC are member as well as customers of the world Bank, I M F etc.

SAARC did not establish relationship with NAFTA; because NAFTA is far away from SAARC region and is dominated by the United states of America. NAFTA is closely associated with European community and ASEAN. Therefore, SAARC could not have any impact on NAFTA. NAFTA neglects SAARC. This is an indication that SAARC is not yet treated as a economic power or potential economic power of the world.

APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) is a regional organization which loosely associated pacific rim states with each other. APEC promises cooperation among its member states only in commerce and not in culture and civilization or in any humanitarian trail; whereas SAARC deals with the unification of
commerce, trade culture and civilization of its seven member states. The concept of bargaining is a base for establishing APEC whereas SAARC is created on the basis of faith among its member States. There are many more regional organization in the form of groupings but there impact on SAARC or vice versa is negligible.

There are many international organization which did not show any interest in the SAARC. SAARC did not depend on any one for any kind of help or assistance.

SAARC in its process of growth had to widen its sphere of influence and thus it came in contact with different regional organizations and international organisations. It was and is obligatory for SAARC to keep relationship with whom ever it comes in contact. This has led SAARC to expanding its infra-structure to accommodate its expanded relationship with regional groups, the United Nations and its various agencies.

For the people of the South Asia region the establishment of SAARC and thereafter implementation of its action plans has resulted in improving their standard of living and brought positive changes in their earnings. The positive changes in the lives of the people of the South Asia region by the commendable work of the SAARC is recognised by the UN and its agencies. The groups in the various parts of region learned to cooperate with each other and side tracked political and military relationship and gave importance to humanitarian and economic relationship among the governments and peoples of the region.

Even though SAARC is not fully matured and is developing step by step its line of thinking and course of action is so accurately planned that it is bound
to be one of the most successful regional organization of the world. The opinion of the European Union regarding the work of the SAARC is based on its extended cooperation with the SAARC in realizing some of its projects. This gives clear indication of the success which SAARC will achieve in future. This hope about SAARC has made more and more international organizations to establish relationship with the SAARC in various fields and activities.