Chapter – V

CONCLUSION

India is a very homogenous country blessed to have unity in diversity. The Independent Country’s journey of 67 years shows a mixed bag of success and failure on various fronts. Also true is the fact that the country is confronted with so many problems. Today our major concern is Development, because it’s a competitive World out there and we have to keep tap of every aspect in mind to be a competitive Nation. India’s democracy with unity in diversity, its spirit of enterprise, free press and tradition of tolerance could become a new political model. We are passing through a period of history transforming from feudal agricultural society to industrial society and this is a very painful and agonizing period. Rapidly widening gap between rich and poor, economic racism, institutionalized exploitation of women, the displacement of millions from their lands and communities, marginalization of the handicapped and the progressive destruction of the ecological systems that sustain us all are some of the glaring problems for us to solve.

The 21st Century is characterized by Globalization, Liberalization, Assertive Public Opinion, Web Technology, and Ever Present Media. Social media in last decade has changed the way our people connect to each other and has made World truly united and global village. India’s democracy with unity in diversity, free press and tradition of tolerance could become a new political model for World to follow. Democratic system demand solutions which are sensitive to the aspirations of the majority. The solutions must be rooted in Universal values of love peace, harmony, compassion and must translate plans into actions.

Today, we are living in divided, stratified and unjust world where the disparity of income, comforts and distribution of earthly resources are too big to
measure. Since the fruits of Development have to reach the underserved, marginalized equally, but it is seen that gains have been partial. By focusing on human development India can reap the demographic dividend that no other country can as we are blessed with dynamic demography comprising majority of Youth.

Voluntarism which is deeply rooted in our tradition has been a blessing for us. We are basically concerned people looking for welfare of all. The evolution of NGOs traced by the researcher showed that we have a very dynamic culture of Voluntarism in India since many times immemorial. Gandhian era is worth mentioning because it enlightened the common man to achieve freedom. Youth were mainly part of the Freedom Struggle which infused the culture of Voluntarism in India. The traced history showed that in 1960s there was lot of disenchantment and anger amongst people about the failure of planning and other efforts by the Government. Democratic system failed to respond to the rising problems like poverty, education gave vent to be filled by Social Activist through NGOs. Education and Health care were the prominent fields NGOs worked initially which gradually advanced to other fields such as environment, community building and advocacy. Starting from 1950’s and 1960’s, we have come to a stage where we have a very strong vibrant NGO sector working in much diversified fields. Planning in Five Years gave prominence to the Voluntary Action which went to be strengthened with time and today we have NGOs sitting across Government in Planning of our Policies.

Since then we have seen that NGOs are called by various names like Self Help Groups (SHGs), NGOs, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), etc. But, according to the researcher, the basic character NGOs share is that they work for people without any motive of profit, self governing, legally registered under various Acts and playing the role of enabler and catalyst of social change. Committed and professional individuals who lend their support to the causes espoused by people’s organisation are one of the basic features of NGOs today.
The Government of the day must work hard to stop brain drain which is affecting our Growth story very badly. Ideally we need a Corruption free Government Policies needs to be framed to Eradicate Child Labour and Poverty as they are our future and despite lot of development on all fronts today what we are witnessing is an unbalanced growth on every front. What is true is the fact that the vent created by the lack of political will to reach the unreachable has given a strong window of opportunity for the NGOs to create a niche for them and help the needy.

Isn’t it ironic that the recent catastrophic event witnessed in Uttarakhand showed that the NGOs and local people came first and Government came later with too much delay on their part. Food Security which has been recognized as the basic Human Right needs recognition ever than before because we are still living under Poverty. Women reservation is still a Dream and Social Upliftment of weaker sections is still a long road to be covered. Government has its own pace to work and bring change so it leaves a good window of opportunity to NGOs to work for the betterment of Society.

This goes on to show that NGOs have in fact a very potent role to play in development but it can’t be discarded that they come into picture because of deficiencies in the deliverance of Government duties. The best part with NGOs is that they engage in debates with people regularly which are entirely missing on government side. Moreover the work done by NGOs seems very meager and small in front of Government. Compromise, accommodation and give and take to work for successful and vigorous democracy which NGOs are best in doing.

On the Sustainable Development front, Rio Summit instisutionalsied the theory and practice of Sustainable Development. Sustainable Development is the promotion of holistic human well being. It involves change in the lifestyle and the style of development. Our Common Future emphasized on 8 key points/issues......Population and human resources, industry, food security, species and ecosystem, urban challenges, energy, conflict and environment
degradation, managing of commons. Social, economic and environmental development is mutually complementary rather than exclusive. For a layman Sustainable Development can be planting a tree, helping eradicate Child Labour, teaching women to read and even common social service. Environmental quality is an important synergy of Sustainable Development. Economic growth leads to urbanization, urbanization leads to environmental pollution. Sustainability is an important dimension of Human Development. We as members of society are the stakeholders of Sustainable Development. While we need to maintain high economic growth, we can’t be oblivious to be critical challenges of Sustainable Development. For long term Sustainable Development judicious use of resources is of paramount importance. On the values and principle of equality, democracy, and human rights can’t be understood in isolation. All needs a holistic look for Sustainable Development.

There are many development theories which have been interpreted by various scholars in their own ways. We also have Post Modern conceptualization of Development which says that no doubt we have made life comfortable, but also true is the fact that we have plundered resources at alarming rate. It is a common usage that when we talk about Sustainable Development, it is primarily Environment Sustainability whereas the truth is, it is holistic development taking economic, social, environment perspective in combined manner. When Bruntland Commission says we have to meet the needs of not only present generation only but also future generation, it gives a very responsible duty on common citizen to perform. But this is also true that various view point are there regarding the urgency of Sustainable Development. Some says there are enough resources with the earth and even if they are plundered, it will replenish itself. Whereas, some believe that we have limited resources which needs to be protected for all times to come to give our future generation what they deserve.

No one wants his or her environment to be degraded and depleted but today humanity needs social contact ever than before to make change. But diverse
and unequal economic socio-historical and political conditions have objectives
different for all nations. Growth per-se is not always causes of environmental
degradation. There are certain kinds of growth strategies that adversely affect
the environment and this need to be curbed and changed. A herculean task
seems to be on horizon for policy makers in India on Sustainable Development
Front. Man has devised various Indicators like Human Development Index
(HDI), Gross National Happiness (GNH), Ecological Footprint (EF), and The
Happy Planet Index (HPI) to measure the extent of Development. For example,
the four pillars of GNH are the promotion of equitable and sustainable socio-
economic development, preservation and promotion of cultural values,
conservation of the natural environment, and establishment of good
governance. These look perhaps the simplest measure but their gravity is hard
to find. Environmental Wellness is indicated via direct survey and statistical
measurement of environmental metrics such as pollution, noise and traffic.

These are all created to control the damage and create a sort of guidelines and
monitoring measures so that the Sustainable Development shall not take back
seat under the garb of Development.

Then there are various Models of Sustainable Development like Three Pillar
Basic Model which depicts that we have all the aspects like Economic, Social
and Ecological dimensions mutually affecting each other. Also in Prism of
Sustainability model, the inter-linkages such as care, access, democracy and
eco-efficiency need to be looked at closely as they show the relation between
the dimensions which could translate and influence policy in achieving
Sustainable Development.

Meeting MDGs does not appear possible given the current state of
development. For example, USA consumes 35% resources while having only
6% of the population only. Whereas more than 300 million people do not have
access to electricity in villages of India. This shows the monopoly created by
some Nations to capture the World resources.
The fact is the success of Sustainable Development depends on good leadership, commitment of community and availability of various models.

Gandhi was a practical Idealist in true sense of terms. Gandhi ji was original man, inspired confidence in others. He gave solutions to most of the problems we are facing today and was such a visionary that he was able to advice and suggests solution so many decades ago. It is said that the greatest enemy of truth is not lie but myth. So, is the case with people who discard Gandhi ji and his principles. Gandhi was a social entrepreneur and a true Satyagrahi. Gandhi’s solutions were based on need and not greed. His various campaigns for upliftment of poor and downtrodden are of utmost respect. Gandhi ji himself said that his life is an experiment and he truly lived up to that saying. Gandhi’s Model of Development was based on Decentralization and peoples participation, he was for making everyone part of the success story. More than anything else Gandhi was for holding highest ethical and moral values to be truly successful. He believed Truth is God and held onto this throughout his life. Gandhi’s view on Decentralization in politics and economics; Non-mechanization, Non-industrialization have been utterly disregarded today which has shown its ill effects as we are going through lot of problems.

For example, in education today, race of becoming number one is running the show. Memorization is promoted and Gandhi’s vision of education is thrown to the wind. We are in a tyranny and clutches of fixed syllabus and parents have become mere funding agencies to the mafia running the education market and commercialization of education is rampant. The purpose of education is shared learning missing entirely today coupled with repetitive curriculum. Our system encourages rot learning. The reality is Education is not a Citizen making process anymore.

Gradual degradation of value system and poor governance has set us back on many fronts. Moral values like truthfulness, honesty, conviction, sincerity and hard work have taken a back seat. People today consider these values as mere jargons. Good habits are infectious, so create ethos that can be imbibed by
others. Whereas Gandhi ji believed that our people should be embodiment of strong ethics and high moral values. Role of teachers and social activist becomes vital for saving our Education system as we have to reinvent and invest more in Education to shape our destiny. The need of the hour is to teach Gandhian values besides revamping the rotten syllabus in order to create asset out of children’s. Gandhi’s nai-talim for sustainable livelihood is the need of the hour.

For women, education, security, empowerment are the most important pillars to make them equal partners in development. Rapes and atrocities on woman had made this nation very unsafe for women. What is needed the most is that representation of women is secured at 33% in Parliament of India. Cases of crime registered in India against women are alarming and shows the respect we show to women. It would have pained Gandhi had he been alive today.

There shall be imparting of Peace Education to build a non-violent and just society which is essential for the survival of the human beings. Social scientist also needs to work on creating some Index like National Peace Index for India.

Emphasis on Sustainable Consumption is the cause of many diseases. Challenge is the way we consume and produce so mindless consumption is the cause of many of our ills. So, we have to integrate economy and ecology in such a way that the middle path can be found to achieve a Sustainable Development. Gandhi ji on many occasions suggested not plundering the resources and relying less on machinery but opposite of this happened and today we are crazy for comforts and machinery leading to our own doom only. Our Consumption levels have defied the know gravity rules which makes matters worse as we have become materialistic.

In Gandhi’s economic parlance financial justice will be possible only when implemented rich poor divide is bridged and people are made independent and self reliant. He was for Bread- Labour in which people must earn their livelihood; his economics was based on minimization of wants. On
Industrialization and Machinery which has increased drastically over the years has shown its ill effects and Gandhi cautioned mankind to avoid mad rush and race for accumulating it as it will enslave us. The warning was not adhered to and today we are dependent on machinery even for our day to day activities. It has really enslaved mankind. He cautioned that Modern life has many ills which are unsustainable but we are forced to live with those problems also.

Gandhi laid much emphasis on people’s participation in development. His endeavours to achieve freedom would have failed had people not participated in our freedom Struggle. His army of true Satyagrahis was his moral and physical strength. Rules for Satyagrahis are very much practical today and we need Peace Brigades to make our Mother safe. Gandhi’s life is an example to be learned from and it is not possible to contain his theories and principles in words only. His vision was to practice, he was a practical idealist. What we need is to take gems out of his galaxy of teaching and apply them in our deeds to make World a better place to live.

NGOs of Chandigarh is the subject of Case Studies in the present research and the researcher laid much emphasis on defining the universe in such a way that almost all NGOs representing a holistic picture for Sustainable Development were taken up. It must also be admitted that the task was not easy and lot of rejections and dejections were faced during the journey. But, despite that the researcher managed to work in details working of 10 prominent NGOs in Chandigarh from various fields. Despite long witnessed so called development a major challenge confronting cites like Chandigarh is to make it more inclusive, humane, safer and sustainable. It is very ironic that India is motorizing at higher rate than United States or countries in Europe did in 20th Century. The result is massive urban vehicular congestion. Chandigarh is Number 1 in terms of vehicles per capita. We have Tax inefficient use of cars if this trend continues. We have to encourage cycling. Luckily, if city gets Heritage status it will protects City from environmentally controversial projects. Non provision of parking space is a big issue in Chandigarh. Parking
on roadside need to be curbed as it leads to regular jams. It is advisable that riding on two wheeler is needed to beat the jam. Car pooling with relatives is also an option.

Chandigarh is facing problem of Child Labour and Begging. Beggars indulge in criminal activities. Modus operandi is to operate at various traffic lights and main city markets which need to be curbed. Former Director of Public Instruction (Schools) started a plan in 2008 to rehabilaite child labour and beggars which has reached nowhere till date. Intense effort is needed to curb begging in Chandigarh.

The Crime graph has shot up with regular snatching, thefts, murders, rape and eve teasing. We have in Chandigarh educated criminals who indulge in snatching, drug trafficking, etc. Most of the criminals caught very recently were Graduates and educated people. This shows the ill effects unemployment and increasing desires.

Slums are scars on City beautiful as we have more than 1.5 lacs people living in slums. It has given rise to many criminal activities also. Slums are cleared rapidly but their rehabilitation needs to be the top most priority for Administration.

Health facilities needs more care as Air pollution is increasing very fast in Chandigarh due to influx of outsider’s cars and increasing population. An alarming need is felt to control the population in order to lessen the burden on Chandigarh.

The following research Questions were sought to be answered by the researcher and answers obtained are as follows:
Research Questions

1. Have Social Entrepreneurs made any difference to the lives of the poor?

It’s one of the trickiest questions the researcher had opted to find out in study. As far as the experience goes answer is both YES and NO as well. It varies from NGO to NGO and from approach to approach. Approach followed by Mr. Zulfiqar Khan of Theatre Age is plain and simple that in order to make people change their life, change the way they think and help make them believe they can do anything by giving them education first. He makes slum children get education and explore their hidden talent through acting and make their carrier in ARTS and CINEMA. Whereas Mr. Devraj Tyagi of Gandhi Samark Nidhi and Mr. Onkar Chand of Servants of the Peoples Society believes in keeping Gandhi alive in every possible sense and they are working in this direction since last many decades.

Girls learning tailoring and cutting, beautician course from Aruna Asaf Ali Memorial Trust have been able to find employment avenues which is sustainable development. In nutshell, it can be very positively said that “YES” Social Entrepreneurs have made difference to the lives of the poor and that too in positive sense and right direction.

2. Are NGOs Catalysts of Social Change?

The humble and unbiased answer is YES, because they have filled the gap left void by Government which has given them the field to work and make society better. If an NGO has been able to give Women training in earning something for her family and make her independent the researcher believes it’s CHANGE, if slum children have been able to get good education and make carrier, the researcher believes it’s CHANGE, if an NGO has been able to aware citizen about making Environment Clean the researcher believe its CHANGE. So, YES NGOs are Catalyst of Social Change but the researcher believes Gandhian methods are not yet tried by NGOs to the extent desired.
3. To what extent NGOs can fulfill its role in making Sustainable Development a reality in ever changing and fast developing Society?

Today is the need to build a Sustainable Society based on practice of participation of groups, communities and people’s participation at the grass root level and hence involvement of a common man is essential. There is the need to develop new cultural and ethical values, transform economic structures and reorient our lifestyles so that future can be livable. NGOs have the leverage to impart these at grass root.

It is also true that NGOs are the only agencies which can work without much of Bureaucratic hindrances and regular procedures. So, they can bring real changes provided they get really dedicated staff and volunteers because results achieved in NGOs are very slow. So, they need a sustained effort on long term basis to achieve the sacred goal of Sustainable Development.

4. Do NGOs have any concrete framework at present for achieving Sustainable Development?

Most of the NGOs studied suggested that Government shall make voluntarism more attractive and organized. Promoting active cooperation and the exchange of information and resources among NGOs, locally, nationally and internationally is needed for Sustainable Development. Well each NGO the researcher studied have their own take on achieving Sustainable Development which in fact makes things more fruitful in the long run because each NGO works in their best ways to make society better and better. Gandhian methods like Vocational training, emphasis on respect for Nature is missing. Need based vehicles and lessening of burden on roads and environment not popularized to the extent required. Since NGOs does not take initiative to share information with others, it’s a discouraging factor as Projects as kept as top secret and pooling of mind is missing.

As far as the question of concrete framework goes each NGO works from Project to Project and this makes their working culture more dynamic. But the
repetitive nature of Projects is not very healthy. In nutshell, they don’t advice more to the Government and that is creating the gap in seeking framework. So, any specific Model was not found to be advisable by NGOs.

5. **What is the Success rate of NGOs in bringing Socio-Economic change?**

Developing national policies and strategies to encourage changes in unsustainable consumption patterns can go a long way in bringing social change. There are success stories but they are not popularized to the extent required. Success varies from case to case and the more honesty they put in the more success they will be able to achieve in the past, present and future also. The various success stories discussed in the case studies makes it amply clear that certain changes have been brought and that too in the positive sense but still NGOs are not working so vigorously as much they need to do and the researcher would advice that a Vocational Courses on Voluntarism and Human Rights and Duties needs to be introduced by NGOs. Voluntarism needs to be made attractive as there is lot of talent in the market to be explored and taken benefit from.

**Suggestions**

Well there are lots of ways to tackle problems and no universal solution can be applied to solve our problems in plain simple manner. We have to try and make room for experimentation in order to achieve development. Here are some of the solutions to our long lasting problems.

1. NGO- Government Collaboration is missing to a major extent as NGOs have the leverage to connect easily with the people whereas Government can provide funds easily for Projects.

2. According to Gandhi ji, Women's roles, needs, values and wisdom are especially central to decision-making on the fate of the Earth so there is an urgent need to involve women at all levels of policy-making,
planning and implementation on an equal basis with men which is essential for Sustainable Development.

3. Have long term vision, planning and perseverance. Public Diplomacy about listening and articulating is needed and move towards evidence based policing and ensure functional autonomy to NGOs.

4. Smaller families, greater life expectancy, balanced economic growth, positive social change; rising income will go a long way in tackling our problems. Big families are symptoms of poverty and not cause, so control on population is needed.

5. Human and economic development indicators should no longer exclusively or principally reflect material growth and technological advance but must take into account individual, social and environmental well-being. Industries and government must take full responsibility for proper treatment throughout the life cycle of the production process.

6. We must act to balance ecological sustainability with equity between and within countries. It will be necessary to develop new cultural and ethical values, transform economic structures and reorient our lifestyles.

7. Rural-Urban migration needs to be discouraged immediately and generate technology, management and recycling processes so that clean air, water and soil become once more available to rural inhabitants.

8. Encourage greater efficiency in the use of energy and resources and minimize the generation of wastes.


10. NGOs can influence the policy exercise of Government. NGOs need to move from repetitive project based approach to advising Government in
sharing their success and failure stories so that Government can frame better policies. Rigid government rules needs to be relaxed.

11. Delegation of work to lower cadre is missing in NGOs as work mainly revolves around the founders and Chief Functionaries which make them all one man army.

12. Government official lack the will to appreciate work done by NGOs which needs to be rectified. Transparency must be the fundamental premise underlying decision-making in all public institutions.

13. Motivation in people is missing to work for NGOs and the solution is to make voluntarism more attractive and employment oriented. Capitalize on the available social capital like unemployed people and create more employment avenues.

14. Government must set up some regulatory body for NGOs in India. NGOs in India play a significant role in the process of social and economic development though presently, there is no single regulatory body in India for NGOs in spite of having substantial resources at their command and influence they exert on society.

15. NGOs shall open and research and development Centres where certain volunteers are assigned the duty to read and collect latest data on happenings in India according to the field of NGO working in. Generation of more and more information is must for development of NGOs work. Wealth of experience of NGOs is not utilized by Government which must be encouraged.

16. Dynamics of change in time and aspirations are not taken into account by NGOs which is a discouraging fact. Most of the NGO are not ready to work under one Umbrella which may benefit the Nation in a long way needs to be looked upon.
17. We have 65% of our population below age of 35 years, we are a young Nation. So, skill development of youth is needed as competition is increasing day by day and we are known to be most hard working people in the World.

18. Economic growth based on industrial expansion and consumption has displaced rural populations from their land and intensified urbanization, creating worldwide growth of megacities accompanied by critical problems of impoverishment and environmental degradation. Protect biodiversity by making more wildlife sanctuaries. In India there is zero environmental accountability of Government agencies and Corporates which is very worrying sign and it needs to be addressed.

No research is an end in itself. There is lot of scope to enhance and enrich our knowledge to make our understanding of the issue clearer. The researcher intends to advice future researchers to take up the research on detailed financial accountability. Matters- like how revenue is generated, where it is applied and yearly figures like balance sheets. Indeed where the money comes from in running of NGO. Foreign funding also needs to be probed thoroughly. Research can also be taken up on NGO- Government relation over the years.

The exhaustive research has enlightened the researcher and has helped in adding to the current knowledge by making intensive reading and field studies. Various literatures have been cited at one point or the other to give out a complete picture regarding the efficacy of Gandhian values and their relevance today. NGOs which have become an important part of our system need special appreciation as they have many leverages and relaxations compared to Government. It can be said with confidence that Chandigarh is a Model city in many terms and NGOs have become an important part of the city’s development. Chandigarh has proved itself on many counts and stands out tall as an example. The only need felt is that NGOs are not popularizing Gandhian values to the extent required. There is no doubt that Government of India has thrown Gandhian values to the wind and he is remembered only on papers and
on anniversaries. There are very few number of Gandhian Study Centres in India which is shame on us. Many Western Nations are following his principles, but we are following the mad race of becoming the Number 1 Nation which is affecting our very moral grounds which is our strength. The researcher came across hundreds of definition, various models and indicators on Sustainable Development, but one thing is missing in all i.e. love and compassion for others. We have lost most of our moral and ethical values which has made us like beast to swallow all that comes our way. The world is far more unsafe today and considering the limited resources, it is high time to look seriously on Gandhi’s principles of Need and Wants and Means and Ends to achieve Sustainable Development. Gandhi’s ideas are not that much difficult as they are made out to be by us. The only need is consistency in following them and the results will start coming.