

## IMPACT OF NATIVISM AS AN IDEOLOGICAL APPROACH FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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### ABSTRACT

*Nativism is basically a political term later applied in literature. It advocates how one's nativity can affect future development of society. This ideological approach is studied in this paper in three important aspects. First aspect is the cultural approach towards nativism. Indian culture is discussed in short in the context of Western influences over it. A case of urban influence over village sanitation campaign is illustrated as an example of native influences and counter results of the same. Literature is the permanent knowledge source of any native culture which is discussed further. Comparative analysis between Wordsworth and Tagore is envisioned for the native influences of literary development of respective authors. Education is the last approach discussed in this paper. Influence of mother tongue education and defects taking place due to lack of implementation of the same is observed in this part. Language is contemplated as an integral part of one's own native creation. Culture, Literature and Education are the integral parts of native mind which construct a natural sense for sustainable development.*

**Keywords:** *Nativism, Sustainable Development, Urban Culture, Mysticism, Mother tongue influences, provincialism, universalism.*

### • INTRODUCTION

It is worldwide accepted that sustainable development is not limited only for practical and physical approach, but apart from this it is an ideological, thoughtful approach of particular community towards the available resources for future development. Nativism is one of the very important literary aspect originated in American as well as other Commonwealth countries literary tradition. In India Mr. Bhalchandra Nemade opinioned this nativism in the context of pure Indian culture generally entitled as *Desivaad*. Purpose of this study is to highlight ideological approach behind the sustainable development. Nativism is in general 'back to the rootedness' and to cherish ideas as original as those could be. It's a not a kind of fashion or trend which may be set for particular period, but apart from this it has such kind of rootedness which knit the spiritual as well as physical bonds of human society with their traditional culture. The concept of sustainability itself has its roots in nativism. As a result of this, material and scientific development also has huge impact on native spirit behind it.

In the context of India, even after seventy five years of independence some colonial impact is still notable in the Indian society. Nativism is the reaction to this Western attitude to universalize everything in favor of European interest. So the dream towards sustainable development is dreamt by the generation which is hanging between pre-colonial native past and post-colonial universal future. Let us study this native influences through following important aspects.

### • A) Cultural Impact

Culture is the native result of any society. As far as Indian *Unity in Diversity* is concerned, nativism has a huge impact on different cultures while unifying as a national integrity. India is the rarest example where one can find the peculiar unity in diversity. Cherishing nativism in this context was prejudiced by colonial

Englishmen before independence. Apart from, carrying forward mock and dumb influences of culture, there is need to strive for own native modernity-*a desi modernity*.

Wherever nativism is entangled with regionalism and provincialism, universalism is observed as an opposing force. One can definitely raise the question against universalism and the existence of nativism itself. If the sustainable development has its core in nativism then universalism also hinder for its native progress. As defined earlier, Indian culture is one of the prime example of such universality which is to be expected as worldwide. Nemade further appeals as, *Universality means appreciating the variety of native styles of different regions in their individual contexts* (Nemade, 21). In such way universality and global widened approach whatever we are dreaming for must be carried through only native sources. As river has its origin in different streams and breezes same universalism has its origin in native influences unified together. In Indian context, national unity apart from diverse cultures and creeds has made very effective impact on Indian society. Sustainable development has definitely its core in the native influences, where it has to widen its approach and to set universal recognition to achieve this kind of unity as above.

Indian culture is an amalgam of several active as well as potent cultures within it. It itself developed, nourished through various influences and foreign impact on them. For cultural development such rootedness is very important. Nemade claims that-*Every living and potent culture has the inbuilt capacity to convert and absorb suitable external influences into a native system.* (Nemade, 24). Indian culture is ready made example of this kind of unity. So many confluences have been bound together to create Indian culture. One can easily predict why Indian culture is so stable apart from having such ever long foreign influences of invaders. This is because it has submissively absorbed external influences so practically that those parts have become an integral part of Indian culture. In such a way as far as cultural context is concerned; India as a nation is potent source of sustainable assets within it.

- **Case Study-I: Sant Gadgebaba Gram Swachhata Abhiyan in Maharashtra (Rural Sanitation Program 2005-2014)**

It is considered that cultural set up can't be borrowed but that should be rooted in the native culture of that particular society. *Gramswachhata Abhiyan* (Rural Sanitation Program) is the foremost example of such a big demonstration that how culture through native influences can affect on sustainable development. Actually Indian traditional villages have their traditional set up of sanitation and rest other related things. Villages have natural resources of sanitation and they have been preserving such resources since from long ages. But urbanization and mimicry of urban life style disturbed rural culture in recent days. People started to migrate from villages to city. Most of them went not only for necessity but only to adopt urban culture and to get recognition of urban citizenship.

This campaign was one of the attempt to attract villages in such a competitive manner that a significant race started among villages to get the rank in Maharashtra. In the vein of such competitive spirit main native set up of villages got disturbed and they started to adopt whatever proclaimed by urban sanitation as the best one. One thing should be noted that urban civilization and its style were completely artificial. There is a proper administration system in cities to control such sanitation. In villages as it was only for the sake of ranking, they started to compete among each other from divisional sections to district. That was not sustainable experiment but it was exhibitory show for the tentative purpose. Meanwhile race started even among the politicians in their own electorates to promote their native district villages before other districts. After getting ranks, awards one can easily visit and check the post campaign status of these villages. Only after two to three years of this dramatic ceremony once again whatever filth and drain was stuck for few years started to emerge out suddenly. Once again diseases and epidemics started in these specially ranked villages now with largest extend than earlier.

The above instance justifies that how native culture can be helpful. There was more idealism in the campaign rather than empiricism. One has to expect to keenly observe the natural life style of villages and plan it properly. Thus urban and rural culture made the difference. Apart from adopting artificial set up of cities, villages were supposed to follow natural discipline in more correct way than earlier.

- **B) Language and Literature:**

Nativism is basically a literary term. Literature is the mirror of society. Whatever origin one has around oneself has been propounded through language and literature. Namade claims further that *literature is not a theoretical construct but a living phenomenon* (Nemade, 84). So how much there will be discussion around nativism and culture for sustainable development, literature and language will be definitely the part of its construction. Sustainable development thrives towards only as a binding link to that particular area where nativism enters as an ideological approach. *Nativism evokes a whole constellation of feeling, perception, thought, enlightenment and memory which has grown due to ones attachment to a specific geographical era.* (Nemade, 33). These all segments, feeling, perception, thought, enlightenment have deep sources and manifestations in literature. That's why great poem *Geetanjali* is truly Indian even if it is translated in English. Tagore himself was claiming for universal brotherhood, but he had never fed away from his Bengali impact on literature. In the same way, sustainable development is reflected through Indian literature. Nemade further claims that *Any literary work, sculpture, piece of music or painting is an inseparable part of its environment, place and period.* (Nemade, 15). In Malgudi stories by R.K.Narayan one can find South Indian traditions and ethos as well as in the works of Premchand one could easily find North Indian native influences respectively.

- **Case study-II: Tagore and Wordsworth**

William Wordsworth (1770-1850) is a famous English poet well-known for his poems related to nature and native culture. Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941) is an Indian poet. His famous Indian poetry *Geetanjali* is the depiction of not only Indian aspect towards of life, but it includes overall Eastern spiritual outlook towards life. Let us study how nativism of poet depicted through their work and exactly in which concern these poets have motivated sustainable development.

William Wordsworth is also called as a poet of nature. He was nature lover. His famous poems like *Daffodils, The Solitary Reaper, The Prelude, Tintern Abbey* express his ideas in general. He was the saint of *mystical pantheism*. It means secret divine power which nature has. He regarded nature as God. Nature was friend, philosopher and true guide in his life which has been depicted through his major poems. In such way he imbibed his native influences through his poetry and expressed how human experiences could strive towards sustainable development. His was the poetry of common folks. But he never excluded nature out of his native context where he had spent his childhood. Thus *mystical pantheism* has its gem in native culture. It is nothing but an ideological hunger to cherish one's own idea.

Rabindranath Tagore is the national poet of India. In Wordsworth we have studied how native influences have developed the personality of a poet. In Tagore's view it was more mystic. It means pure spirit inhibited in human being which teaches to accept good and to resist bad. He does not regard nature as God, philosopher or an extra entity who is governing upon. His thought was *mysticism* rather than pantheism. He cherished his native influences for universal brotherhood-*Vishwakutumbkam*, which still we are discussing upon. Even if Wordsworth got international recognition due to being the member of colonial stance, Tagore is the truly national in our own sense. Indian culture has natural demand of sustainable development for universal brotherhood-*Vishvbandhutva*. This kind of ideological thought is very important to cherish the same, because only one sided material demand of scientific approach can create further problems severe than earlier. Tagore appeals for such kind of universal brother hood through his all-important works. In the words of Winifred Nowtonny it is said that, *Meaning and value in*

poems are the product of whole array of elements; one element is set in discernable relation with another. (Qtd.in Barche, pg.20). In such way native identity and regional influences of a person has been reflected through the significant literary works. However ideological necessity to develop such a spiritual thought is very important.

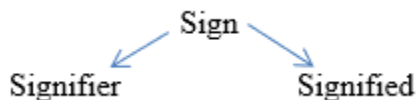
- **C) Education:**

Education is the most influential source to entangle the influence of nativism for the sustainable development of social thought. As discussed earlier apart from only teaching- learning traditional mold of education, it is supposed to widen its boundaries. It is quoted in Upreti's thesis that *Education for sustainable development allows every human being to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary to shape a sustainable future* (Qtd. Upreti, 4). Thus only constructing ideas are not important, but to construct the mind is comparatively more important. Whatever is hidden through language, literature and culture is juxtaposed if found in segmental manner. Through education all practical and theoretical ideas can be integrated for sustainable development. Education always strives for better and future development. New education system must have its goal through Indian context. As quoted by Jubilee that, *A basic premise of education for sustainability is that just as there is a wholeness and interdependence to life in all its forms, so must there be a unity and wholeness to efforts to understand it and ensure its continuation* (Qtd.Jubilee, 31). This unity of native influences and later on wholeness as a result of sustainable development is expected to be achieved through education only.

- **Case study-III: Mother tongue or other tongue?**

Education is a very important to nurture particular society. In the words of Carl Jung -a Swiss Psychoanalyst the *collective unconscious* is developed and nurtured among the common people only through education. But main utopian ideas about state of education are hidden in medium. Whenever the role of nativism is discussed; medium of education will be important altogether. The primary debate is focused on the choice between mother tongue medium and English medium. Even if English medium has gained marketing success in Indian educational institutes, after checking the overall development of pupils, one can definitely introspect about the need of proper medium. China and Japan are well known examples to adopt native medium for overall education. These countries on priority translated all syllabi in their mother tongue and later on started renovating new ideas by establishing their own original discourses. Apart from blindly borrowing Western influences these countries have made their original native set up which is more sustainable on their own grounds and for their own community.

Indian mind is so far confused about such kind of national nativism. Still there is cynical debate about which should be national tongue of this country. However one important thing should be seriously noted, that in case of native influences for sustainable thought development one must rethink about trend of English medium education especially at school level. At higher education level one can naturally adopt and make it more flexible to learn and to appreciate along with mother tongue. Hammering of foreign tongue since from child hood only for trend following purpose can result into harmful defects in future generation. Let us study the birth of word meaning in human mind. As per the Modern Linguistic studies the primary set up of any meaning of word depends on three different concepts as below,



(Figure-1, Selden, 73)

Sign is the proper symbol of language which we generally follow as an identification of what word or idea it is. Signifier is the main structure, script or uttering by which receiver recognizes proper word.

However signified is the meaning which is intended in particular context. In short signifier is conveyed identity of that word through oral, written or pictographic medium, however signified is the meaning understood based on the primary context. Nonetheless nativism works at third stage where signified is supposed to describe the meaning of ideas conveyed through symbolic word. That's why native influences and education which promotes nativism, native language, culture and society is very important for sustainable development. Otherwise that can become only as one more un-necessary trend which would captivate in its era, copied some parts and lost its own significance. This is the same danger which English school education in India could face.

#### • CONCLUSION

Nativism is the original inhibited force which automatically works in the collective unconscious of that particular society. It is a psychological as well as biological demand of each and every human being. Universalism and global concept which is enjoyed and discussed today has one sided partial approach of still colonial dominated Western influences on Indian thinking. *Desivaad* is either of provincial or of national level depends on its scope. Apart from traditional culture forceful adoption of foreign culture is equally harmful. Development through such influence may be tentative and decorative but in that case it may not be called as sustainable in exact sense. There are several literary influences also studied like Wordsworth and Tagore. How native influence can expose the thought making is studied with comparison of these two elite poets. Thus language and literature are the soul of that particular society. What has been poeticized today is stylized and refashioned in tomorrow. Wordsworth's mystical pantheism and Tagore's *Vishvbandhutva* are these ideas which promotes sustainable as well as universal development along with philosophical development. Education will play very definite role in this all process of gaining native influences for sustainable development. But the very education system is supported to have such kind of well-planned discipline apart from only external and commercial influences. Marketing of education especially at school level can affect native culture which will result into problem in sustainable thoughts also. Thus nativism is an idea to promulgate owns self for overall development by keeping in mind that ideological foundation is very important to establish sustainable approach towards world.

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