

# THE ECONOMIC TIMES

An Annual Journal

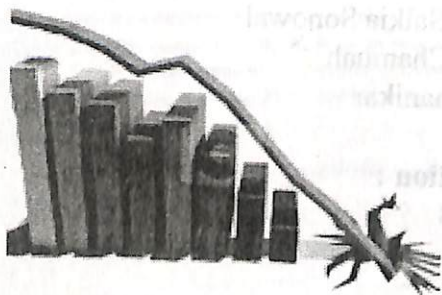


**Editor**  
Mr. Madhab Mahanta



# THE ECONOMIC TIMES

AN ANNUAL JOURNAL



*EDITOR*  
**MR. MADHAB MAHANTA**

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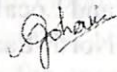
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A Message from Principal's Desk :-

I am happy to know that the Department of Economics of this H.C.D.G. College, Nitaipukhuri is going to publish a research journal "The Economic Times" for the session 2013-14. I hope the journal, is likely to have an impact on various contexts, such as education, professional development and research practice. Ideally, this journal ought to be multidimensional, capturing the significance of the materials published and proof of use in both scholarly and application context.

I am sure it will focus on the economical issues of the fast changing World of globalization.

With greetings and warm wishes.

  
Dr. Sanjib Borgohain  
Principal  
H.C.D.G. College, Nitaipukhuri.

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## Editorial

**Happiness Economics and Tragedy of Commons:**

Revolution against the established thoughts and arena of knowledge has been identified as the pivotal element of evolution of every branch of social sciences. Economics being the most vibrant branch of social sciences has accumulated various contemporary ideas to enrich knowledge economy through ages. Happiness Economy or Happiness Economics is such an upcoming idea which not only questions the so called concepts of development but believes in rejuvenating the suppressed dimensions of material growth after which whole world is running now. The term happiness economics is fashionably used to denote the quantitative and theoretical study of happiness, positive and negative effects, quality of life, life satisfaction and related concepts, typically combining economics with other fields such as psychology and sociology. It intelligently treats such happiness-related measures, rather than wealth, income or profit, as something to be maximized. It is a great area of dissatisfaction among the economists that the composite indices of development from Gross National Product to Global Peace Index do not reflect the genuine goals and status of development. Gross National Happiness (GNH) - the focal subject matter of happiness economics is a consequence of such strives for constructing a healthy composite index of development. In fact theorizing human happiness can be traced back to Aristotle and particularly the classical economists were the initiators in the field of economics. But the term "gross national happiness" was coined in 1972 by Bhutan's fourth Dragon King, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, who has opened Bhutan to the age of modernization. He used this phrase to signal his commitment to building an economy that would serve Bhutan's unique culture based on Buddhist spiritual values. The first generation of this idea included four dimensional

elements viz. economic and overall growth, expansion of values & proper preservation of cultures, preserving and conserving the pristine nature, good governance. At first offered as a casual, offhand remark, the concept was taken seriously, as the Centre for Bhutan Studies, under the leadership of Karma Ura, developed a sophisticated survey instrument to measure the population's general level of well-being. Later on a more acceptable definition of GNH in its second generation development has given by Med Yones, Chairman of International Institute of Management. According to him GNH can be improved by taking care of seven indicators as economic wellness, environment and ecological wellness, physical wellness, mental wellness, workplace wellness, social wellness and political wellness. No doubt Buddhist philosophy was the main illuminating factor of this measure at the beginning, but it has been slowly getting popularity among social thinkers as it specifies some alienated dimensions of so called composite indices of development. Preserving and conserving the pristine values of the environment and the ecology is the most important factor in this regard.

As we all know the origin and evolution of human civilization is the blessing of the mother environment. The economic development is also based on the environment and its resources. But two opposite features viz. unlimited wants of mankind and limited capacity of the nature in terms availability of resources have been creating innumerable problems. Unprecedented destruction of environment is leading to various local, regional and global threats such as smog, acid rain, global warming, Ozone depletion. So, the composite indices need inclusion of all this aspects of development in order to represent the costs and benefits of development. But unfortunately except the Indicator of Sustainable Economic Welfare and Happiness Economics none other composite indices of

development have been incorporating any steps towards this end. This is the most devastating tragedy of commons or human civilization. Because every individual, every society and every nation aware about that conserving environmental health is the real solution of the question sustainability. But guided by personal interest we are exploiting natural resources in such a way that it has been exceeding the natural process of regeneration in one hand and environment's waste sink capacity stands helpless in front Everest like residual production on the other. We the developing countries have been fighting with the basic necessities of life and hence environmental protection is a luxury for us. Although it is a necessity for the developed nations while they fear for sustained slowdown of growth rate and believe in common but differentiated responsibility. This a structural problem of the countries now which will bring only devastation if it continues. Here lies the relevance of Happiness Economics as it displays explicitly the true value of environment. Because material development should not be the prime objective, rather altruistic path is the need of the hour. So happiness economics has established the Zulu philosophy of Ubuntu which translates into "You are, therefore I am" again. We may reasonably anticipate that objective research oriented growth of this infant branch of economics will open up a new path of human civilization as we cannot take the risk for a second Earth in the solar system.

#### **About "The Economic Times"**

It believes in representing the truth of the Hindustan where almost forty crores people fight everyday against vicious cycle of poverty not of India of few millionaires who capture more than half of the national wealth. Our endeavor is to bring out the reality of these people, so that they can powerfully defend them against the necessary evils of globalization and place them as a fertile hub of glocalisation process.

## Tea Industry in Assam: Through a Historical Perspective

Tarun Gogoi

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There is still no end to discord about the origin of the tea. However, China and Assam in India are the only two regions in the world with native tea plants. The scientists were not sure till to the seventeenth century that whether tea was first found in India or in China. But one thing is sure that tea seeds and tea plants had been brought from China to India for plantation much before it was discovered at Patkai hills in 1823. It must be mentioned that present day cultivation of tea in India owes its origin to the British commercial interests in the 19th century. The scientific name for the tea plant is *Camellia sinensis*. The Assam variety is known as *Camellia sinensis* var. *assamica*.

In 1815 it was noticed that the Singpho people of Assam drank a tea from locally grown plants, which was called by them as 'Finap' but identification of these as tea plants proved inconclusive. In 1823, Major Robert Bruce, a retired general from British army of Scotland, who came to Assam for the purpose of trade and commerce, had learnt of the existence of tea in Assam. In the meantime he came to the contact of Maniram Dewan. At the request of Maniram Dewan Singpho King Bisa Gam had brought some tea seeds and tea plants from Singpho hills of upper Assam to Robert Bruce who was at that time at Gargaon. Bruce immediately sent these samples to the East India Company's Botanical Gardens at Calcutta, but they declined to confirm that the samples were tea. In 1825 R. Bruce died. In the

same year Lieutenant Charlton, Neuvielle, Colonel Surgeon etc were went to Singpho Hill in search of wild tea in accompany with Maniram Dewan and Bhollanath Parbatiya Phukan. With the help of Maniram Dewan this team visited many places of upper Assam like Namrup, Margherita, Tipam, Namsang, Joypur, Charaideo and Amguri etc and they found wild tea in all these places. Lieutenant Charlton, who was on service in Assam in 1831, sent plants to the Agricultural and Horticultural Society in Calcutta with the observation that the leaves were drunk as an infusion in Assam, and that they tasted of Chinese tea when dried. Charlton's plants were also denied official recognition. But fortunately Lord William Bentinck, the then Governor General of India had set up a Tea Committee in India in 24th January, 1834 in order to cultivate tea. Dr. Wallich was appointed its chairman and instructed to prepare a report on it. On the other hand G. J. Gordon was sent to China to bring tea seeds and plants. Besides, tea seeds and plants Gordon returned from China with some expert Chinese labourers. Charles Alexander Bruce, Robert Bruce's brother, was appointed as the Chairman of Tea cultivation. He shipped one twenty-five boxes of sample tea to Calcutta and England. Out of which Charles himself prepared 95 box of tea and rest 30 boxes were prepared by Singpho king Ningrulai. On examination this tea was found to be equally good as that of China. Thus, identity of the plant was finally confirmed to be tea, or more accurately, Assam tea. Soon after that Assam Tea Company was formed in 1839 and in tea was planted on 213 acre land in the front of Kareng ghar of Gargaon in the same year. Since 1840 British government conferred the responsibility to Assam Tea Company to look after the maximum tea gardens. Two separate branch offices were set up on both sides of Brahmaputra River, of which one was at Tezpur in the North bank by giving its charge to Alexander Bruce and other was at Nazira in the south bank by appointing

J.W.Masters as its incharge.

It was found that better quality tea could be manufactured from Assam tea also and which was in no way inferior to Chinese tea. Tea planting became popular and there was great demand for land and seed. In the meanwhile, British army officer Captain Hammett himself had also established a tea garden. Tea garden was established at Joypur near present day Naharkatia town where both Chinese and Assamese tea seeds and plants were cultivated. In this way, three types of tea were manufactured, such as pure China, pure Assam and some were deliberately inter planted with both types. Thus Indian hybrid tea was formed, which has great variability and vitality. This was undoubtedly the most important event in the evolution of the commercial tea plant in Assam. When the British government observed the great rush and interest in tea cultivation of the people, they had framed definite rules for the grant of land for tea cultivation. Thus the tea industry has continued to prosper steadily since 1869. It had also helped in the growth of urbanization in the state. As renowned historian Dr. Rajen Saikia has very rightly observed that "The tea industry was the main economic force behind urbanization in Upper Assam. In absence of such a force the urbanization process in the lower Assam districts was slow." (R. Saikia, Social and Economic History of Assam, 1853-1921). In the growth of tea industry in Assam the contribution of Maniram Dewan cannot be ignored. He was the person who inspired the Britishers to invest in the tea plantation sector. Because he knew very well about the availability of the wild tea in the forest of Assam. Due to this reason Edward Scarth of Mahabodhi Tea Company, W. Farmingar of Bareilly Tea Company and S.B. George Simpson were recognized Maniram Dewan as the discoverer of Assam Tea in 1870. Maniram Dewan himself also established a tea garden at Chinamora in Jorhat in 1843, for which he is also regarded as the first Assamese tea planter.

Since 1839 with the formation of Assam Tea Company the Britishers had established tea gardens in many places of North East India viz. Lakhimpur and Sibsagar (1839), Sankhani in Sylet (1855), Takbhar, Kening and Hoptown in Darjeeling (1856), Samta district in Terai (1862), Phulbari, Gajaldhwa and Bograkata (1874). In 1859 tea was planted in 5227 acres of land only in Sibsagar Sub division of undivided Sibsagar district. The out turn of manufactured tea from these gardens in 1852 was 267,000 lbs, of an estimated value of £23,362. In that year three other tea planters came forward in the district out of which two belonged to wealthy native, and the third was a European gentleman. In the real sense the foundation of the present tea industry in Assam was laid down between 1856 and 1859. In 1859 Tea Planters Association was formed in North East India in order to facilitate the tea cultivation. In the same year in the month of June Jorhat Tea Company was also formed. Because of such systematic effort of the British govt. the tea garden in Assam increase from 51 in 1859 up to 160 in 1862; but in 1863 because of a rush reckless speculation and careless management a crisis was evolved in 1866 which resulted in a threatened to the destruction of the new industry. This depression of the tea industry was continued up to 1868, but condition began to improve from 1869 and thenceforth the cultivation and manufacture of tea has been steadily increased. It is noticed in the Assam Tea Report of 1869 that there were 110 gardens in the Sibsagar District which were managed by 53 European officials and employing 13,399 imported and 790 local labourers. By the end of 1874, the total area under tea cultivation in the District was 22,573 acres; the total out turn was 4,528,329 lbs. 1872 a large number of tea gardens were established by Indian Tea Industry (TPA); out of them Panitola, Dinjan, Moran, Maijan, Tingori, Rangagora, Chabua, Mohanbari, Since Rangajan, Chakalating, Numaligarh, Negheriting, oating, Balijan,

Dafalating, Dhekiajuli, Salmara, Chaulkhowa, Singarijan, Bokahola etc were the important. In 1881 Indian Tea Association was set up. This association had always kept a close contact with the British govt. in order to speedy development of the tea industry in Assam. At that time 1.3 lakh acres of land was covered under tea plantation in North East India but with the help of this association it was rose up to 6lakh acres in 1962.

A Tea Research Centre was formed in 1900 at Calcutta on the basis of the resolution passed in the Indian Tea Association conference held in 1899 at Calcutta. Thus a systematic research had begun for the field of tea cultivation in India. In 1911 another Tea Research Centre was also established at Jorhat in Assam, which was better known as Toklai Tea Research Centre. Since then research has been going on the various aspects of the tea cultivation, as result of which different qualities of tea are produced and many diseases has been also explored. Today, Assam is the largest black tea producers in the world more than either Sri Lanka or Kenya. There are at least 780 tea estates registered with Tea Board and 527 estate factories (the Number may be more at present).

Assam tea is well known for its unique quality especially for its strong liquor, rich body, taste and colour. In order to provide a distinctive identification mark Tea Board had used a symbol for Assam Tea. Generally, Assam is famous for its Orthodox and CTC brand of tea and these two types of tea is mainly exported to foreign countries. There is still a good scope for developed market for organic tea if this region produced more organic tea. The Guwahati Tea Auction centre is the biggest in India and is mainly for the domestic trade. In 2005, this centre handled 143 million kgs of tea, valued Rs.865 cores which was 31% of the total tea produced in N.E. Region. This has undoubtedly made the tea planters economically rich and tea occupied prime position in the cropping pattern of the state. But

oppression and exploitation of the coolies were going on from the side of the planters. Their low wages, rising prices of commodities, excessive labor, unhealthy environment and exploitation of the planters worsened their living in the gardens. This had ultimately led to the formation of the Bagan Mazdur Unions. They have been organizing various agenda like Strikes, Dharna etc. in order to meet their various demands.

In the last few decades there has been a significant development in the tea industry of Assam with the emergence of small tea growers. Originally, tea plantation in Assam has been exclusively owned by the estates. But with the emergence of small tea growers, many households and co-operatives have started to tea plantation which has resulted in the growth of tea production in Assam in recent years. According to the statistical data of Tea Board of India there are 52000 small tea growers in Assam till March' 2009 out of which 3767 were registered their name in the Tea Board of India. Most of these small tea gardens are basically confined in the upper Assam. They have covered at least 65,000 hectares of land and produce annually more than 100 million ton of tea leaf. This is certainly a welcome change for the economic development of the State. However, today the tea industry of Assam has been facing a number of problems. Many tea gardens have already become sick due to lack of infrastructure, modernization and competent management. The Assam Tea Corporation, a state-level public sector enterprise, for example, is not functioning at all. The age old good will that Assam tea had long been carrying for its better quality in the international market has now been gradually eroded to a great extent. Its demand has already in recession due to overuse chemicals and fertilizers and of better quality-tea supplied by countries like Sri Lanka, Cuba etc. at comparatively lower prices.

The tea industry in Assam must be modernized and therefore, a change in technique of plantation, quality improvement of tea



and managerial excellence has to be enhanced. If the proposed policy of "Special Purpose Tea Fund" as declared by the Government of India is properly implemented, the industry may possibly be got back its pride again in the global market. Taking into consideration of the glorious past of origin of tea in the state of Assam, the present state government should formulate a special policy for preserving the golden past of the Assam tea as this industry is still earning a notable per cent of the foreign exchange for the country. On the other hand, tea industry turns to be an important economic sector for providing employment to 10.4 percent of the labour force of the region. Moreover, it has been treated since long period as the major sector to the economic growth in the state. It has been observed that since the last two decades of the twentieth century many people especially in upper Assam came forward for tea cultivation and an organization was formed by them in the name of Small Tea Growers Association. Some of them have even set up their own factories for manufacturing tea. Thus, it has on the one hand solved the unemployment problem and on the other helped in the growth of tea production in the state. However, they should be more conscious to maintain the quality of the tea leaf. As we all know that the Assam tea has a very good name and fame in the international market and this standard must be maintained to survive in the competition of international tea market. We are optimist enough that the tea industry of Assam will continue to maintain its international standard and contributed to the economic growth of the country.

**You don't make the poor richer by making the rich poorer.**  
— W. Churchill

## War Memorials and Prospect of Tourism

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### Introduction :

In September, 1939 the World War II began as Germany and Slovakia invaded Poland, and England and France declared war against Nazy Germany. Almost all the countries joined in either side and soon it became a global conflict. All the great powers joined in the war; two opposing military alliances, the Allies and the Axis were formed. The World War II was a mobile war where Germany attacked everybody fiercely with tank and aircraft. The Allies and the Axis brought world wide havoc. When Britain declared war against the Axis power India as its colony had to be involved in the war. This was the most widespread war in history, with more than 100 million military personnel and a lot of workers got entangled. England, USA used aircraft. Nuclear bomb was also used.

It was the deadliest conflict in world history in which 50 million to 70 million people died. Hospitals were established at different places. Medicines and food were supplied in great quantity. In Assam too, roads were built for communication, and for supplying of materials as well as for easy landing of aircrafts airfields were constructed. The dead soldiers were buried in various places. The havoc of the great war remains everywhere in India as well as in Assam. Lots of burials are noticed at different places. Air fields are found in Moran,

Chabua, Dinjan, Ledo etc. In this paper an attempt is made to study different war memorials of World War II in Tinsukia District.

### **Digboi War Cemetery :**

Digboi War Cemetery is at Digboi, which is situated in the north-eastern corner of Assam. It is near Burma border. During the World War II Assam served as an operational area of the Burmese campaign. As Digboi is situated near the Burmese border, it became the only way through Ledo, the only line for communication and a military hospital was established there for the wounded soldiers. The soldiers who died in the hospital were buried at Digboi cemetery. By the end of the war, a total number of 70 burials had been recorded. Some other army graves were transported later from the grave yards of Panitola (Dibrugarh District), Jorhat, Ledo, Margherita and Tinsukia to Digboi Cemetery. Now 200 burials are there which are looked after by Commonwealth War Society. Graves were transported from the US Military Cemetery at Shingvuiyang, Burma. The earthquake in 1950 and the subsequent landslides caused by heavy rains affected the graves, therefore, it became necessary to shift them from their original spots to the present site at Digboi. These are amidst beautiful natural scenery. Visit to this cemetery is an unique experience for the visitors. The graves are the living testimony of the devastating war. The burials of brave soldiers "who gave their today for our tomorrow" arouse a feelings of worship and respect for the heroes. They remind us the brutality of blood-thirsty nations. In this brutal war about sixty million people died, twenty million of which were soldiers and the rest were civilians. In the cemetery the dead heroes are lying in peace.

### **The Burials of Jagun :**

In front of Longtong Naga Gaon of Jagun, near Burma border a grave yard covering four bighas of land are seen. These burials are of Commonwealth soldiers, workers or labourers who

built the Ledo Road. The place is deserted and the graves are surrounded by wild grass and small trees. The graves are not looked after by anybody. So, how many burials are there in this area is not known to us. If the graves would be preserved and looked after by somebody or by some organizations like the Digboi cemetery this historical place would turn to a beautiful tourist spot.

### **Ledo Airstrip :**

Historical record says China-Burma-India and United States forces in India Burma Theatre from March 1942---August 1944 constructed some airfields. With the arrival in India of United States Army force in 1942 the services of supply immediately began preparation of facilities for their use. The Airforces began constructing airfields in Burma. The engineers who built the Ledo Road which is later on known as Stillwell Road, constructed the airfields adjacent to the road. The engineers arrived in Assam before Feb, 1944.

The Ledo Airstrip served as an aid for supplying materials as well as the war flights used to take fuel and fly from this field. Local contractors were given the charge of building the air fields with the help of local labours and coolies. Cement was mixed with the sands manually, therefore, the quality of the concrete was poor. Now the field is broken. Only the remnants of the gate (two broken posts of the gate) of the airfield remain. It is not preserved or maintained by any authority.

### **Digboi Air field :**

The airfield situated at Digdoi is also another memorial of World War II. Unfortunately it was also not maintained by anybody else.

### **Stillwell Road :**

Originally it was known as Ledo Road. It was built during 1942-1944 from Assam through Burmato to Kunming, China.

The road is 430 km long. British General Vinegar Joe Stillwell built the road in order to maintain the supply line to China, from Ledo Railhead in Assam, during the World War II.

**Prospect of Tourism :**

All these memorials are some of the probable tourist spots as a lot of people from different parts of the world come to visit the places. The relatives of the dead soldiers also come time to time to pay homage to their dear ones. These memorials keep the memory of the destructive and devastating war alive. It is noteworthy that , on every second Saturday of November, a prayer ceremony is held to remember the brave soldiers and hymns from holy books like the Bible, Gurugrath Sahib, Geeta and Koran are read. If some other ceremonies would be arranged in fond memory of these people it will attract many more tourists to the spots.

**Suggestions :**

The State Government of as well as the Central Government of India should pay attention for preservation and maintenance of these priceless memorials.

1. The grave yard of Jagun should be considered as archaeological estates. If the graves are cleaned and preserved like the graves of Digboi Cemetery it will become an attractive tourist spot.
2. Ledo airstrip becomes a deserted area. This vast area of about 50 bighas of land should be decorated with fence . The broken parts should be repaired . Archaeology departments , NGOs and other voluntary organizations should take care of this area.
3. These war memorials mark the probability of some other business related to tourism such as hotels, shops, bookstalls containing the books on World War II and the memorials, market of traditional things of Assam and North Eastern Region. The researcher should give emphasis on searching

the historical elements of that era. Moreover, the entrepreneur should pay attention to eco- tourism so that the natural beauty and sanctity of the place will not be damaged.

4. Government as well as the universities and colleges of Assam may open some courses to prepare a lot of interpreters to help the tourists .
5. Local people may provide the facility such as paying guests to fulfil the criteria of eco - tourism.
6. Opening of Stillwell road surely increase international co-operation for economic development of the East Asian countries. But at the same time some problems like smuggling, militancy, illegal export or import of things, prostitutions may arise in the area. Chinese invasion is another problem related to the opening of Stillwell Road for the foreigners. The Indian Government should form special task-force to maintain law and order situation of the area.

**Conclusion :**

Maintenance of these memorials requires a lot of money and labour. So, the government should pay attention to provide money and some dedicated employees to take care of the broken and desolate memorials of Tinsukia District so that an infrastructure for tourism will be developed centering round the memorials of World War II.

**Economics is a very dangerous science. – J.M. Keynes**

**That Economics is untrue which ignores or disregards moral values. – M.K. Gandhi**

## Ecotourism

Dr. Sudhir Kumar Das

Associate Professor

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With the development of better communication modes and a desire to travel to places and know about its people some persons who have the resources and the drive set out on to visit new places. This desire of such people to see new places different and distant from their own has given rise to a whole new industry called tourism. With the development of the tourism industry countries formulated rules like liberalizing visa regime so as to encourage more and more tourists to their respective countries. Tour operators mushroomed. A competition grew up among countries to attract more and more tourists by setting up tourism development centres and publishing the country's places of tourist interest in glossy brochures. The tourism industry offered a substantial contribution to the national exchequer as it generated employment and brought in much required foreign currency so vital to the economy of a nation. But with unregulated growth of tourism in certain eco-sensitive places resulted in devastating effects on the fragile ecological balance of some places all over the world.

Unregulated tourism driven by an unrestrained desire for profit brought about destruction and cultural corruption to areas of tourist attraction. Then some environmentalists and nature lovers woke up to this new problem of pollution due to unplanned growth of tourism and started thinking about its remedy. They thought of such a new type of tourism which would not only help in bringing those places of tourism interest to limelight but

also benefit the local people without causing any damage to their environment and corrupting their culture resulting in interaction with foreigners. Thus emerged the concept of ecotourism. An organization called The International Ecotourism Society (TIES) came into being in 1990 with the objective of promoting ecotourism. The Society of International Ecotourism, is about uniting conservation, communities and sustainable travel. This means that those who implement and participate in ecotourism activities should follow certain principles of ecotourism.

The concept of ecotourism was first coined by a Mexican named Hector Caballos-Lascurain in July 1983 when he was performing dual duty of Director General of Standards and Technology of the Mexican Ministry of Urban Development and Ecology. He was later the founding president of PRONATURA, an influential Non Governmental Organization of Mexico. However, there is a counter claim that Claus-Dieter Hetzer, an academic and adventurer, of Berkely coined the term in 1965 and organized first ecotours.

To provide a straightjacket definition of ecotourism is not an easy task as people tend to define things based on their own perception, hence on ecotourism too there are several varied definitions. However, The International Ecotourism Society defines Ecotourism as "Responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the welfare of local people." Another definition offered by The Australian Commission on National Ecotourism Strategy is "Nature-based tourism that involves education and interpretation of the natural environment and is managed to be ecologically sustainable". But the most acceptable and widely quoted definition of ecotourism is coined by Martha Honey in her book Ecotourism and Sustainable Development. Martha Honey's working definition of ecotourism states seven points. They are:

1. **Involves travel to natural destinations** : These destinations

are often remote areas, whether inhabited or uninhabited and are usually under some kind of environmental protection at the national, international, communal or private level.

2. **Minimize Impact :** Tourism causes damage. Ecotourism strives to minimize the adverse effects of hotels, trails, and other infrastructure by using either recycled materials or plentifully available local building materials, renewable sources of energy, recycling and safe disposal of waste and garbage, and environmentally and culturally sensitive architectural design. Minimization of impact also requires that numbers and mode of behavior of tourists be regulated to ensure limited damage to the ecosystem.
3. **Building environmental awareness :** Ecotourism means education, for both tourists and residents of nearby communities. Well before departure tour operators should supply travelers with reading materials about the country, environment and local people, as well as a code of conduct for both the traveler and the industry itself. This information helps prepare the tourists as The Ecotourism Society's guidelines state "to learn about the places and peoples visited" and "to minimize their negative impacts while visiting sensitive environments and cultures". Essential to good ecotourism are well trained multilingual naturalist guides with skills in natural and cultural history, environmental interpretation, ethical principles and effective communication. Ecotourism projects should also help educate members of the surrounding , community, school children and the broader public in the host country. To do so they must offer greatly reduced entrance and lodging fees for nationals and free educational trips for for local students and those living near the tourist attraction.
4. **Provides direct financial benefits for conservation :** Ecotourism helps raise funds for environmental protection,

research and education through a variety of mechanisms, including park entrance fees, Tour Company, hotel airline and airport taxes and voluntary contributions.

5. **Provides financial benefits and empowerment for local people:** National parks and other conservation areas will only survive if there are 'happy people' around their perimeters. The local community must be involved with and receive income and other tangible benefits (potable water, roads, health clinics, etc) from the conservation areas and it's tourist facilities. Campsites, lodges, guide services, restaurants and other concessions should be run by or in partnership with communities surrounding a park or other tourist destination. More importantly, if ecotourism is to be viewed as a tool for rural development, it must also help shift economic and political control to the local community, village, cooperative, or entrepreneur. This is the most difficult and time consuming principle in the economic equation and the one that foreign operators and 'partners' most often let fall through the cracks or that they follow only partially or formally.
6. **Respects local culture :** Ecotourism is not only "greener" but also less culturally intrusive and exploitative than conventional tourism. Whereas prostitution, black markets and drugs often are by-products of mass tourism, ecotourism strives to be culturally respectfully and have a minimal effect on both the natural environment and the human population of a host country. This is not easy, especially since ecotourism often involves travel to remote areas where small and isolate communities have had little experience interacting with foreigners. And like conventional tourism, ecotourism, ecotourism involves an unequal relationship of power between the visitor and the host and a commodification of the relationship through exchange of money. Part of being a

responsible ecotourist is learning beforehand about the local customs, respecting dress codes and other social norms and not intruding on the community unless either invited or as part of a well organized tour.

7. **Support human rights and democratic movements :** Although tourism often is glibly hailed as a tool for building international understanding and world peace, this does not happen automatically; frequently in fact tourism bolsters the economies of repressive and undemocratic states. Mass tourism pays scant attention to the political system of the host country or struggles with in it, unless civil unrest spills over into attacks on tourists. Ecotourism demands a more holistic approach to travel, one in which participants strive to respect, learn about and benefit both the local environment and the local communities. Although not part of The Ecotourism Society's definition, giving economic benefit and showing cultural sensitivities to local communities cannot be separated from understanding their political circumstances. In many developing countries rural populations living around National Parks and other ecotourism attractions.

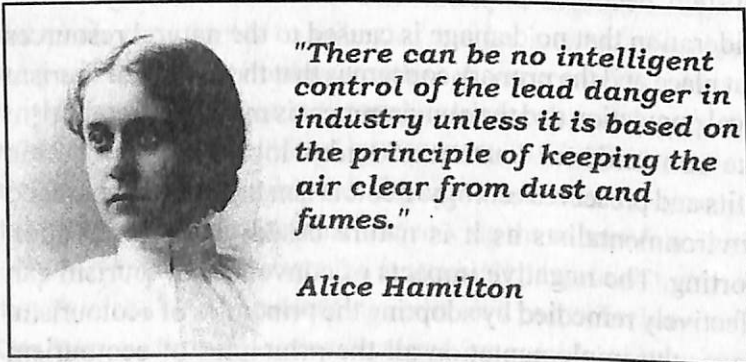
Although ecotourism is considered to be highly beneficial to the concerned locals or tribes of tourist interest, there are some problems in its implementation. Contrary to its avowed aim it sometimes poses a threat to the local culture. Since ecotourism is all about going into remote tribal inhabited areas, some tour operators, who are usually from outside arrange demonstrations and entertainment involving the tribes of the area. So it may fun for the tourists but it gradually degrades to crude commercialization and projects the tribe in a bad light. *Secondly*, Ecotourism is almost always arranged by outside groups who aren't even based in the country that they are visiting. Vacationers think that they are benefiting the country that they visit, when in fact they are using the country's resources and infusing very little

economically. In these cases, the vast majority of the fare paid for the trip goes to the outside agent who arranged the trip. *Thirdly*, Some environmentalists have argued that ecotourism causes extensive ecological damage by construction of roads and developing the infrastructure which releases the dangerous greenhouse gases. Next, Safety issues of the visitors is compromised in conducting ecotourism. Conventional tourism has caused damage because of its unregulated growth, ecotourism is going in the same way as there are no regulatory authority that provides any certificate of authenticity to such operators of ecotourism in most cases it is found that ecotourists are taken for a ride by unscrupulous tour operators.

If the bottlenecks in the field of ecotourism can be solved it can prove to be beneficial to concerned. Ecotourism basically aims at conservation of biological diversity and cultural diversity through a protection of ecosystem. While encouraging ecotourism care must be taken in order to provide jobs to local population, that is, they must get the benefits of promoting their area as a place of tourist attraction. The consent of the local population and their participation o in the protection of the ecosystem becomes imperative. Ecotourism also takes in to consideration that no damage is caused to the natural resources of that place and the primary concern is that the impact of tourism on local population and their environment is minimal. Ecotourism unlike conventional tourism provides local socio-economic benefits and preserves ecology. Ecotourism has been encouraged by environmentalists as it is nature based, and conservation supporting. The negative impacts of conventional tourism can be effectively remedied by adopting the principles of ecotourism. However the implementation all the principles of ecotourism throws a challenge to every government worldwide but sustained and consistent effort would definitely bear fruit and the world from further ecological degradation.

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## Child Labor in India : Present Status

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### Introduction:

Child labour is a concrete manifestation of violations of a range of rights of children and is recognised as a serious and enormously complex social problem in India. Working children are denied their right to survival and development, education, leisure and play, and adequate standard of living, opportunity for developing personality, talents, mental and physical abilities, and protection from abuse and neglect. Notwithstanding the increase in the enrolment of children in elementary schools and increase in literacy rates since 1980s, child labour continues to be a significant phenomenon in India. Irrespective of what is shown in the official statistics, we say that the phenomenon of child labour is significant because, the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 is a legislation to address hazardous industrial child labour in a limited way as the purview of the Act covers only the organized sectors of production. As it is inbuilt in the law, this Act has excluded a vast section of toiling children in the unorganized sectors, as over 90 percent of the labour force in India is accounted for by the unorganised sectors of production. The political weight behind the initiatives towards government legal intervention has been very dissimilar across states of India. Generally under the era of globalization and liberalization policies, the underlying attitude of the government is not to strictly impose labour laws that will disturb the production process. With regard

to other forms of intervention, the flag ship programme of the Government of India is the National Child Labour Project (NCLP). The NCLP Scheme started in 1988, has so far covered 400,200 working children. About 3.08 lakh children have been mainstreamed into formal education system so far. The Scheme is running in 250 districts in 14 states. Even after discounting for the inherent problems in the NCLP scheme the coverage is very low compared to the magnitude of the problem (12 million according to 2001 population census) even by the official statistics. In fact the magnitude of child labour has increased in absolute terms by about one million between 1991 and 2001.

#### **Background :**

Indian economy is booming at a record 8-9% GDP growth for the fourth successive year but the tottering Indian agriculture where 60 percent of the workforce depends is struggling to achieve even an average 2% annual growth! The average annual growth rate of food grains production in the country during the last 13 years (from 1994-05 to 2006-07) works out to a meager 1.49 per cent. The growth rate of non-food grains is 1.46 per cent per annum in this period. There is no need to stress the implication of the fact that this is lesser than the growth rate of the population. Interestingly, this entire period is, by strange coincidence, supposed to be the greatest and unprecedented boom period for the overall economy and the total GDP of the country. But the agrarian sector is facing a crisis that led to suicides of many farmers in the country. This crisis is affecting most of the rural poor. Studies in Andhra Pradesh show that the families of suicide victims are withdrawing their children from schools and putting them to work. It is often said by leading economists in India that the most significant failure of post-independence Indian economic development is that the proportion of the workforce dependent on agriculture has declined much less than expected. India as a whole the share of

labour force engaged in agriculture still remains at around 60 percent compared to 70 percent during 1951. Over the years the contribution of agriculture and allied activities to the national income has been steadily falling, currently to a level of about 20 percent (Abhijit Sen, 2002). This trend has been differently impacting on the labour and livelihoods of people living in rural areas. The changes are also influenced by the development and growth of non-farm economy and social development policy regime (in terms of education, infrastructure, industrial policies and so on). While there is a deceleration in the growth of employment in India, an analysis of NSSO data with regard to changes in rural casual labourers, wages and poverty between 1983 to 2000 (Sheila Bhalla et al 2005) shows that in Rural India, casual labourers have been identified as the largest occupational group characterized by chronic poverty. This casual labour workforce is growing both in terms of absolute numbers and in terms of its share in the rural workforce. It is also found that one of the most important features of this large casual labour workforce is that substantial subsets of its members do more than one kind of work. As per the NSS data, during 1990s, the reform period the share of agricultural labourers in officially defined total rural poor increased from 41 to 47 per cent and almost every aspect of their well-being was seriously dented.

#### **Nature of Problem of Child Labor :**

In India, the nature of the working children is very complex. Most of the urban working children are in unorganized manufacturing sectors and also in marginal occupations on the street and these areas are truly termed as 'unexplored areas'. In fact, many aspects of the problem of working children in India have not yet been explored and are, therefore, not known. However, while analyzing the nature of the problem of urban child labor ten types of childhood activities could be kept in mind and they are--(i) domestic work, (ii) non-domestic work,



(iii) nonmonetary work, (iv) bonded labor, (v) wage labor, (vi) marginal economic activities, (vii) schooling, (viii) idleness and unemployment, (ix) recreation and leisure, (x) productive activities(3). Schooling or inadequate access to schooling, particularly in urban slums, coupled with irrelevant curricula in different States of India compel poor parents to make their children enter urban informal labor markets, often along with self-employment. The problem of child-wage labor in the unorganized urban industrial sector and in the service sector is serious in India. The wage labor can be analyzed in terms of the following criteria: (a) Family or individual basis; (b) Part time or piece-rate; (c) Regular or casual; (d) Work compatible with schooling; and (e) Legal or illegal work.

Children working in unorganized manufacturing units, in transport and trade sectors are the most deprived ones and during the slack season these children are the first ones to be thrown out of their jobs. Thus the social and economic nature of this problem is clear now. Sexual dualism, which is created through the paid domestic activities performed by young girls in urban India, perpetuates and will continue to perpetuate the stereotyped sex roles in our society. Thus the problem of urban child labor is both a symptom and a cause of extreme poverty.

**Magnitude of Child Labour in India :**

According to Census of India, 2001, there were 12.26 million working children in the age group of 5-14 years as compared to 11.3 million in 1991 revealing an increasing trend in absolute numbers though the work participation rates of children (5-14) has come down from 5.4 percent during 1991 to 5 percent during 2001. The recent round of the National Sample Survey (NSSO) estimates suggests that the child labour in the country is around 8.9 million in 2004/2005 with a workforce participation rate of 3.4 per cent (NSSO 2004/05). Due to definitional problems, as discussed in this paper, a substantial

proportion of child labour may remain uncounted. Census data shows that there is a decline in the absolute number as well the percentage of Main workers of children (5-14 to total population in that age group, from 4.3 percent in 1991 to 2.3 percent in 2001. But there was a substantial increase in marginal workers in every category of worker irrespective of sex and residence. As a result, despite the number of main workers declining from 9.08 million in 1991 to 5.78 million in 2001, the total number of children in the work force increased. A large part of the increase was accounted for by the increase in marginal workers, which increased from 2.2 million in 1991 to 6.89 million in 2001. Main and Marginal workers put together, the work participation rate (WPR) of children in the 5-14 age group has declined from 5.4 percent during 1991 to 5 percent in 2001. The trends between 1991 and 2001 of declining main child workers along with increasing marginal workers may indicate the changing nature of work done by children. There is a general trend of marginalization of labour force in the country and this is also reflected in the Census figures. This is to be seen in the context of decelerating employment growth in general in the economy during the last decade that is characterized as an era of globalization.

**Changes in work Participation (Mains & Marginal) Rate of children in different age group**

All India Age group	1991			2001		
	Boys	Girls	All Children	Boys	Girls	All Children
5-9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.5	1.4	1.4
10-14	10.9	9.9	10.4	8.8	8.5	8.7
5-14	5.7	5.1	5.4	5.1	4.9	5.0

**Working Conditions :**

The working conditions of urban child labor, particularly

street children and those employed in hazardous informal manufacturing units, have minimum basic facilities which exert negative effect on the physical and mental development of children. In case of direct wage employment in the manufacturing units particularly of brassware, match and sticks, diamond and precious stone jewellerys, carpets, locks and other such products, they are exposed to harmful chemicals and dusts. At present these problems have become more aggravated due to overcrowding of working places with lack of basic amenities like basic health care, sanitation facilities, preventive measures against industrial accidents and so on. Children are also forced to work for long hours beyond their capability without any break for recreational activities, games or opportunity for developing their natural potential. In case of 'invisible working children' such as maids-of-all-work and child prostitutes, the working conditions are more detrimental.

#### **Earning and Super-exploitation :**

In India, so far, no systematic study of the earnings of working children has been done, because of the complex nature and mode of payments. We know that the bulk of child labor is unpaid in our country specially those engaged in helping the household activities and those supporting their parents and other family members at work site. Even in the informal sectors, a large number of working children are unpaid under the excuse that they work as apprentices for training. However, micro-level studies reveal that the working child's income varies between zero to 200-300 rupees per month. The nature of payments also varies such as piece-rate basis, contract and monthly basis. Also there exists 'wage discrimination' between male and female child workers though they may be having same level of productivity in particular occupation. Thus it is universally accepted that child labor is cheap. In India, at present, if the issues of effective implementation of the Mini-mum Wages Act and regulation of

children's work are repeatedly exposed through critical research and political pressure-there may be hope for some redressal of working children.

#### **Determinants of Child Labor :**

To discuss the major determinants of child labor belonging to economically poor population sectors, the following factors have been highlighted : (a) General fertility rate-this refers to the number of children born in a year to women in the age group 15-55 years. The underlying assumption is that high fertility rate might lead to high child labor due to poor economic condition. (b) Percentage of agricultural population- represents the level of industrialization of the country. (c) Percentage of homeless population and landless households-in India, urbanization and poor rural children and migration largely occur amongst the landless and houseless poor people, which indicates the level of child labor. (d) General literacy and school enrolment- these factors influence the social development of population and exert influences on the child labor rate. (e) Wage rate-if the income of the family is high then the need for the child to enter the labor force is reduced. (f) Expectation of life at birth-it is felt that the high child labor rate influences the death rate in the age group of 5-14 years and also determines the health of the children who may die prematurely.

#### **Nutritional Status of Working Children :**

According to the Planning commission estimates 40.1% of rural and 28.1% of urban population are below poverty line. National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau findings reveal, that, on an average, 50% of rural people consume daily <2400 calories and children from age 1-5 years are undernourished in calories, iron, Vitamin A and riboflavin. However, with the technological advancement and industrial revolution it is possible to introduce health care system all over the world. It is reported that 51% of total male and 56% of female deaths occur in the age group of

0-14 years and child labor aggravates malnutrition and ill health among child population. The health situation of these working children along with their family members in agricultural jobs is slightly better than the urban child worker. In urban areas, child labor belongs to the very poor population and most of them are migrants living in slums. These children are illiterate, have no health care awareness, do unskilled jobs for very long hours having no choice but to work for survival and many of the associated diseases can be attributed to the extreme poverty situation. Severe malnutrition, anemia, hard labor, fatigue and inadequate sleep make them more vulnerable to infectious diseases, defective vision due to Vitamin A deficiency and skin diseases due to lack of personal hygiene. Female Working Children The problem of child labor is worse for girls than it is for boys. This is due to higher illiteracy and long entrenched social attitude towards women. At present the female child laborers are on the increasing trend and bulk of them are found in the rural areas. The health status of the working girls in agriculture and house-hold jobs is little better than those who are engaged in home-based industries, match and bidi industries. But sexual and physical abuses are common among them. In a study of 1000 female working children aged 5-15 years, sexual abuses was reported to be far greater and physical neglect was observed in 8.5% of females as compared to 5% of males. A child prostitute is a special category of rigorous case of child labor. Nearly 20% of the total number of prostitutes in India are children. The reasons in our country are many such as: (i) demand of virgin girls, (ii) poor families with many girl children, (iii) parentless poor girls, and (iv) lastly, a craze for film and the tinsel world.

#### **Action-oriented Rehabilitation Programme :**

In 1980, the Government of India initiated several action-oriented rehabilitation programmes to withdraw children engaged

in direct wage-employment, prevent children from entering into urban labor markets and create adequate sanitary, health care and schooling facilities. Several projects have been sanctioned by both the Ministry of Labor and Ministry of Welfare, Government of India. However, the allocation of funds for the rehabilitation programme seemed to be negligible and the programme, so far, implemented by different microlevel Governmental and non-Governmental organizations have proved ineffective in urban India. The following factors are responsible for the ineffectiveness of the rehabilitation programme such as: (a) conceptual ambiguities, (b) administrative loop-holes, and (c) lack of missionary attitudes of the grass root level implementors and involvement of community members. What is required here is to allocate more funds and motivate people for these programme. The amount of money and the projects sanctioned by Ministry of Labor, Government of India in 1991- 1992, can only cover a very negligible fraction of the working children.

#### **Programmes Need for Child Labor :**

It is a national disgrace that millions of children in India spend the major part of their day-time at work. It is also a reality that in the existing socio-economic conditions, emphasis not given to abolish child labor, at least in the short run, but actions should be taken on the following aspects :

- (a) To investigate the various aspects of the phenomenon of child labor.
- (b) Appropriate implementation and effective enforcement of legal measures.
- (c) Need for forming national commitment for designing effective poverty alleviation.
- (d) Primary and basic education needs to be expanded fast.
- (e) Measures for basic sanitary, health care and educational facilities.
- (f) To launch an effective campaign against child labor.

**Conclusion :**

Thus, instead of making sympathetic comments, each individual irrespective of positional hierarchy should take initiative to campaign against the misuse of human resources. We can conclude with the words of Gabriel Mistral, Chile's Nobel Laureate, that, "We are guilty of many errors and many faults, but our worst crime is abandoning the children, neglecting the foundation of life."

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**টকাসর্বস্ব ক্রিকেট আৰু ভাৰতৰ ক্ৰীড়াঙ্গণত :**

**এক অৱলোকন**

**শিৱৰঞ্জন শৰ্মা**

মুৰব্বী অধ্যাপক, বুৰঞ্জী বিভাগ

"Money is not everything in life, but make sure that you earn enough before thinking such nonsense." আমেৰিকাৰ এখন আগশাৰীৰ আলোচনীত প্ৰকাশিত এই কৌতুকটো যিদৰে জনপ্ৰিয়, একেদৰে অৰ্থপূৰ্ণও। অৰ্থসর্বস্ব আধুনিক জীৱনযাত্ৰাৰ বাস্তৱ ছবিখন সোমাই আছে কৌতুকটোতে। আজিৰ পৃথিৱীখনত টকাৰ ভূমিকা এনেকুৱা যে জাগতিক দৃষ্টিকোণৰ পৰা টকাই সকলো বুলি ক'লে সেয়াই সত্য যেন লাগে। বিশেষকৈ আমাৰ নিচিনা দেশত, য'ত টকা থাকিলে সকলো সম্ভৱ, সেই ক্ষেত্ৰত টকাক আওকাণ কৰি কথাষাৰ মিছা বুলি কোৱাটো কঠিন। টকা থাকিলে যিকোনো লোকেই আজি সংগঠক হ'ব পাৰে, ৰাজনীতিৰ ক্ষমতাসালী লোক হ'ব পাৰে, গতিকে টকাই সকলো বুলি সাধাৰণ লোকে ভাবিলে ভুল বুলি ক'ব নোৱাৰি।

বিশ্ব অৰ্থনীতিও আজি স্থিৰ হৈ থকা নাই। ক'বলৈ গ'লে এই মুহূৰ্তত কোনোখন দেশেই অৰ্থনীতি অতি সবল বুলি ক'ব নোৱাৰি। প্ৰবল প্ৰত্যাহ্বানৰ সন্মুখীন হৈছে আমেৰিকান অৰ্থনীতি। মূৰ ডাঙি উঠিছে আৰব ৰাষ্ট্ৰসমূহে। শেহতীয়াকৈ এচিয়াৰ বৃহৎ শক্তিক্ৰমে বিশ্বৰ পুঁজিপতি দেশৰ নিদ্ৰাহৰণ কৰিছে ৰঙা চীনে। একেদৰে আফ্ৰিকাৰ নামিবিয়া জিম্বাবৱে আদি দেশ আগবাঢ়ি আহিছে। '৯২ চনত ইথিওপিয়া আছিল বিশ্বৰ সৰ্বাধিক দুখীয়া দেশ। কিন্তু ক্ৰমাৎ সলনি হৈছে সেইবোৰ দেশৰ ছবিও। লেটিন আমেৰিকান দেশসমূহৰো অৰ্থনীতি বিশেষ উন্নতি হোৱা নাই। সদ্যসমাপ্ত কনফেডাৰেচন কাপ চলাকালীন অৱস্থাত ব্ৰাজিলত চৰকাৰ বিৰোধী আন্দোলনে তীব্ৰৰূপ ধাৰণ কৰে, যাৰ ফলস্বৰূপে প্ৰতিযোগিতাখন আধাতে বন্ধ হৈ যোৱাৰ উপক্ৰম

ঘটিছিল। বিশ্ব ফুটবল সংস্থা ফিফাই বিশেষ বৈঠক আহ্বান কৰি যিকোনো প্ৰকাৰে প্ৰতিযোগিতাখন শেষ কৰাৰ নিৰ্দেশ দিছিল। ব্ৰাজিল দেশখনৰ জনসাধাৰণৰ দাবী আছিল যে চৰকাৰে শিক্ষা আৰু স্বাস্থ্য বিভাগলৈ সম্পূৰ্ণ পিঠি দি অজস্ৰ টকা প্ৰতিযোগিতাখনত ব্যয় কৰিছে যাৰ ফল ভূগিব লাগিব দেশবাসীয়ে। এতিয়া ২০১৪ চনৰ বিশ্বকাপ ফুটবল আৰু ২০১৬ চনৰ অলিম্পিক ব্ৰাজিলতে অনুষ্ঠিত হ'ব। এই দুই বৃহৎ প্ৰতিযোগিতা অনুষ্ঠিত কৰাৰ আগতে চৰকাৰে নিশ্চয় দেশবাসীৰ আৰ্থিক দিশটো চিন্তা কৰিব লাগিব।

আৰ্থিক দিশটো আগত ৰাখি ভাৰতীয় ক্ৰীড়াৰ জগতখনলৈ চকু দিলে আন এখন পৃথক ছবি চকুৰ আগত ভাহি উঠে। এই মুহূৰ্তত ভাৰতীয় ক্ৰিকেট নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ ব'ৰ্ড হ'ল বিশ্বৰ ভিতৰতে চহকী ক্ৰিকেট সংস্থা। স্বাভাৱিকতে আন্তৰাষ্ট্ৰীয় ক্ৰিকেট পৰিষদে যিকোনো সিদ্ধান্ত লওঁতে ভাৰতীয় ক্ৰিকেট ব'ৰ্ডৰ স্বার্থ জড়িত থকা বিষয়সমূহ আওকাণ কৰিব নোৱাৰে। ইয়াৰ কাৰণ হ'ল টকা। ভাৰতীয় ক্ৰিকেটৰ প্ৰাক্তন অধিনায়ক কপিলদেৱে বিজ্ঞাপনত ভূমুকি মৰাৰ বাবদ পালমলিভ (PALMOLIV) নামৰ কোম্পানীটোৰ পৰা ১৫ হেজাৰকৈ টকা পাইছিল। এতিয়াৰ অধিনায়ক মহেন্দ্ৰ সিং ধোনীয়ে ইণ্ডিয়ান প্ৰিমিয়াৰ লীগৰ এখন খেলতে ৬০ লাখ টকা পায়। বিজ্ঞাপনৰ পৰা পায় বছৰি প্ৰায় ১২০ কোটি টকা। তেওঁলুকাৰে বাৰ্ষিক ১০০ কোটি টকা অৰ্জন কৰে। দেশৰ হৈ খেলা প্ৰতিজন ক্ৰিকেটাৰে লাভ কৰে কোটি কোটি টকা। কিন্তু ইমানখিনিৰ পিছতো মেছ ফিল্ডৰ কথা আছে, স্পট ফিল্ডত জড়িত হৈ ক্ৰিকেটাৰে জেলৰ ভাত খাবলগীয়া হয়। তেনেহ'লে টকাৰ বাবে মানুহে নকৰে কি? অৰ্থাৎ টকা থাকিলে স্বচ্ছল জীৱন, গ্লেমাৰ, সন্মান সকলোখিনিয়েই পোৱা যায়। ভাৰতীয় ক্ৰিকেটাৰকেইজনৰ কেলেংকাৰীয়ে যিটো দিশ আঙুলিয়াই দিয়ে, সেয়া হ'ল যিমানোই বৃহৎ অংক নহওক কিয়, এটা নিৰ্দিষ্ট পৰিমাণৰ টকাক লৈ মানুহ সন্তুষ্ট থাকিব নোৱাৰে। যাৰ বাবে উইলসন টেনিছৰ পৰা আৰম্ভ কৰি ফেশ্বন জগতৰ বেঙ্গপত খোজ দিয়া মডেলগৰাকীলৈকে, কোন বনেগা ক্ৰীড়াপতিৰ পৰা বিশেষ কোনোবা অনুষ্ঠানত চিত্ৰ তাৰকাৰ নৃত্যলৈকে সকলোতে মাথোঁ টকাৰ অবাধ ৰাজত্ব। ইয়াৰ পৰা আঁতৰত ৰ'ব পৰা মানুহ পুথেন্দ্ৰা গোপীচান্দ বা আন্না হাজাৰেৰ দৰে আঙুলিৰ মুৰত লিখিব পৰা কেইজনমানহে ওলাব। কিন্তু দোষটো জানো কেৱল বাকীসকলৰ?? নিশ্চয় নহয়।

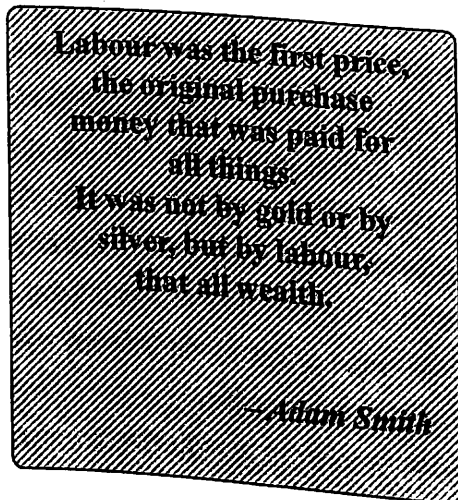
ভাৰতীয় ক্ৰীড়াৰ জগতখনৰ আৰ্থিক দিশটোলৈ চকু দিলে চকুত পৰা পাৰ্থক্যটো হ'ল ক্ৰিকেটৰ বাহিৰে ক্ৰীড়াখণ্ডৰ বাকীবোৰ অংশৰ বিপৰীতধৰ্মী আৰ্থিক ছবিখন। উমেশ যাদব বা ইৰফান পাঠানৰ সফলতাৰ বিষয়ে, সুৰেশ ৰাইনা বা শিখৰ ধাৱানৰ বিষয়ে যিকোনো এজন ক্ৰীড়াপ্ৰেমীয়ে কৈ যাব পাৰে। কোন ক্ৰিকেটাৰে কোন কোম্পানীৰ লগত নতুনকৈ চুক্তিবদ্ধ হৈছে সেয়া আমি কৈ যাব পাৰো। কিন্তু বৰ্তমানৰ ভাৰতীয় ফুটবল বা হকী দলটোৰ চাৰিজনমান খেলুৱৈৰ নাম ক'বলৈ ক'লে আমাৰ অসুবিধা হয়। ইয়াৰ কাৰণ এটাই। ক্ৰিকেটৰ দৰে অৰ্থ, গ্লেমাৰ আৰু সন্মান আমাৰ দেশত আন কোনো খেলতে নাই। বিজ্ঞাপনৰ জগতত হকী খেলুৱৈৰ ছাঁটোও দেখিবলৈ নাই। আই পি এলৰ আৰ্হিত যদিও হকী লীগ বা ফুটবলৰ আই লীগ আৰম্ভ কৰা হৈছে ক্ৰীড়ানুৰাগী বা বিজ্ঞাপনদাতা কোম্পানিক ই আকৰ্ষণ কৰিব পৰা নাই। ফলতেই অৰ্থৰ ঢলো অহা নাই, গ্লেমাৰৰ স্ৰোতো (CURRENT) নাই। ফলতেই বিশ্বকাপ হকীয়েই হওক বা অলিম্পিকেই হওক, চূড়ান্তভাৱে ব্যৰ্থ হৈছে ভাৰতীয় হকী। ফিফা ৰেংকিঙত আজি বহুদিন ধৰি ১৪৫ ৰ পৰা ১৫০ ৰ ভিতৰতে অৱস্থান কৰি আছে ভাৰতীয় ফুটবলে। গতিকে সচৰাচৰ কোৱাৰ দৰে ক্ৰিকেটে ভাৰতত আনবোৰ ক্ৰীড়াক ধ্বংস কৰিছে বোলা কথাষাৰ উলাই কৰিব নোৱাৰি। ইয়াৰ শুৰিতে হ'ল টকাৰ ভূমিকা।

আৰ্থিক নিৰাপত্তাৰ অভাৱৰ বাবেই একমাত্ৰ ক্ৰিকেটৰ বাহিৰে বাকীবোৰ খেললৈ বা ক্ষেত্ৰলৈ খেলুৱৈৰ অনীহা বিশেষকৈ আমাৰ দেশত চকুত পৰা বৈশিষ্ট্য হৈ পৰিছে। ফুটবলত কমি আহিছে দৰ্শকৰ সংখ্যা। আই এফ এ শ্বিল্ড বা ডুৰাগু কাপ ইত্যাদি প্ৰতিযোগিতাসমূহেও পূৰ্বৰ ঐতিহ্য ধৰি ৰাখিব পৰা নাই। অসমৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত ছবিখন অধিক দুখলগা। বৰদলৈ ট্ৰফী বা স্বাধীনতা দিৱস কাপ ইত্যাদিৰ প্ৰতি দৰ্শকৰ আগৰ সুনাম নাই। সমীকৰণটো এনেকুৱা, দৰ্শকে কয় ভাল দল নাই, গতিকে খেলা ভাল নহয়, উদ্যোক্তাই কয় স্পনচৰ কৰিবলৈ কোনো আগবাঢ়ি নহয়, গতিকে দল আনিব পৰা নাযায়, মনোৰঞ্জনৰ আহিলাসমূহ ঘৰতে উপলব্ধ হোৱাত বোকাপানী গছকি গাঁথিৰ ধন ভাঙি নিঃসমানৰ খেল চাবলৈ দৰ্শক নহয়, ফলতেই উদং গেলাৰীক সাক্ষী কৰি আমাৰ ফুটবল চলি আছে। আৰ্থিক দিশটো টনকিয়াল কৰিবলৈ কিছু সুদূৰ প্ৰসাৰী পদক্ষেপ লোৱাটো অত্যন্ত প্ৰয়োজনীয়।

২০০৮ চনত ফিফাৰ সভাপতি যোচেফ ব্লেটাৰ ভাৰতলৈ আহোতে চন্টলেককে

ধৰি বিভিন্ন ষ্টেডিয়ামসমূহ পৰিদৰ্শন কৰাৰ পিছত মন্তব্যকৰিলে যে ভাৰতবৰ্ষত এখনো আন্তৰাষ্ট্ৰীয় মানদণ্ডৰ ষ্টেডিয়াম নাই (The Indian Stadium lack international standard)। নব্বৈৰ দশকত ভাৰতত ফুটবল প্ৰশিক্ষণ দিবলৈ অহা প্ৰখ্যাত এছিয়ান প্ৰশিক্ষক ৰুস্তম আক্ৰামভেও (Rustam Akramav) মন্তব্য কৰিছিল যে ভাৰতত ফুটবল এতিয়াও ভৰিৰে গুৰিওৱা এবিধ খেল হৈয়েই আছে। এই ক্ষেত্ৰতো প্ৰথমেই আহিব আৰ্থিক দিশটোৰ কথা। উপযুক্ত আন্তঃগাঁঠনি, খেলুৱৈৰ আৰ্থিক নিৰাপত্তা, উন্নত প্ৰশিক্ষণ ইত্যাদি এক দীৰ্ঘম্যাদি আঁচনিৰে এক স্পষ্ট ক্ৰীড়ানীতি গ্ৰহণ কৰিব নোৱাৰিলে পৃথিৱীৰ বাৰখনমান দেশে খেলা ক্ৰিকেটৰ বাহিৰে হকী, ফুটবল আদিত ভাৰতে সদায় ব্যৰ্থতাকে সাৱটি থাকিব লাগিব।

চৰকাৰৰ স্পষ্ট ক্ৰীড়ানীতিৰ ভিতৰত প্ৰথমেই আহিব আন্তঃগাঁঠনিৰ উন্নয়ন, খেলুৱৈ বিচাৰি উলিওৱা আৰু উন্নত প্ৰশিক্ষণ, কোন সময়ত কোনখন প্ৰতিযোগিতা কেনেকৈ পতা হ'ব সেয়া নিৰ্দ্ধাৰণ কৰা, এক্সপজাৰ ট্ৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা, খেলুৱৈৰ আৰ্থিক দিশটোৰ দায়িত্ব লোৱা ইত্যাদিবোৰ। যিহেতু অৰ্থই সকলোৰে মূল, গতিকে চৰকাৰে এই ক্ষেত্ৰত বিশেষ গুৰুত্ব দিয়া প্ৰয়োজন। ইয়াৰ বাবে লাগিব ক্ৰীড়া বিভাগ, প্ৰচাৰ মাধ্যম, এন জি অ' সংগঠকৰ সদিচ্ছা আৰু সৰ্বোপৰি জনসাধাৰণৰ সচেতনতা।



## Watershed Development Programmes and North-East India

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Watershed Development refers to the conservation, regeneration and the judicious use of all the resources - natural (land, water, plants, animals, etc.) and human - within a particular watershed. Watershed Management tries to bring about the best possible balance in the environment between natural resources on the one side, and human and other living beings on the other. Before going to know the demand of watershed development programs (WDP), we should know "What is watershed?" - A watershed can be defined as the drainage basin or catchment area of a particular stream or river i.e. it refers to the area from where the water to a particular drainage system, like a river or stream. Watershed development is necessary because people and their environment are interdependent. Any change in the surrounding environment directly affects the people living therein. A degraded environment results in a degraded quality of life of the people. Thus efforts to reduce poverty and improve the standard of living of the people must aim at improving the environment they live in. A watershed provides a natural environment unit for planning a development initiative. Watershed programs are also recognized as potential engines for agricultural growth and sustainable development in rain-fed areas. Success and sustainability of watershed programs are directly related to enhance crop productivity, livelihood for sustainable income development and gender equity.

Watershed Development is among the flagship programs of rural development that assist in rural poverty alleviation particularly in the more marginal semi-arid, rain-fed areas.

The Watershed Development Project has been implemented in North-Eastern Region like other states of India.

### **History of Watershed Development Programmes in Northeastern Region in India :**

Northeast region is characterized with the jhumpractice or shifting cultivation problem. Shifting cultivation is a primitive practice of cultivation. In the days when this system of food production emerged, it worked well and there was a balance between cultivation and fallow periods with fallow cycles of 20-30 years. With increasing population pressure the jhumcycle has slowly reduced to 3-6 years thereby, causing serious land degradation and ecological problems. According to the report of the Task Force on Development of Shifting Cultivation Areas, constituted by Ministry of Agriculture in 1983, the total area affected by jhumpractice was 43.57 lakh ha in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa and Tripura. In the seven states of Northeast (as per ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region) a total of 14.66 lakh ha was affected with jhumproblem, involving 4.433.lakh jhumiafamilies. In order to address the problem of shifting cultivation, the Government of India took a major initiative by launching the Watershed Development Program for Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA). The WDPSCA program was taken up during the Fifth Five Year Plan as a pilot project with 100% financial assistance from the Central Government and was implemented through Ministry of Agriculture. The scheme was launched during the year 1976-77 covering the whole of Northeastern states along with the states of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. After operating for two years, the scheme was transferred to state sector as per

the decision of National Development Council (NDC).

A total of 1700 jhumiafamilies benefited with an expenditure of Rs.129.71 lakh in its initial phase. During the Seventh Five Year Plan, in persuasion of the recommendation of the Task Force on Shifting Cultivation (1983), the Scheme for Control of Shifting was implemented with 100% Central assistance to the State Plan Program from 1987-88 to 1990-91 in the nine states - 7 NE states, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. Consequent upon the decision of NDC, the scheme was again transferred to state sector and was discontinued with effect from 1991-92. During the Seventh Five Year Plan the scheme 4 was implemented through the Ministry of Agriculture on the basis of family development approach and 26512 jhumiafamilies benefited under the program with an expenditure of Rs.60.72 crore. On a pressing demand from Northeastern states, the Planning Commission agreed for the revival of the scheme for Northeastern region only as an additional central assistance to State Plan Scheme from 1994-95. Accordingly, the scheme is continuing in the seven Northeastern states, on watershed basis with 100% additional assistance to the State Plan under the Watershed Development Projects for Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA).

The Government of India (GOI) undertook strategic investments through watershed approach for development of rain-fed areas in the country through sustainable management of natural resources in the region. The National Watershed Development Program for Rain-fed Areas (NWDpra) introduced at the national level in 1986-87 was started in NE by 1990-91. The funding pattern was 75% grant in aid and 25% as loan to the states. The NWDpra program launched in the Eighth Five Year Plan continued in Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plans. Apart from these, the Integrated Wasteland Development Project Scheme (IWDP), taken up by the National Wasteland Development Board, also aimed at developing wastelands on a

watershed basis in the region.

An overview of changing cropping pattern by implementing watershed development programmes at Khamenlok Watershed of Manipur, Phongi Watershed of Nagaland and Loyer Watershed of Nagaland:

After implementation of watershed development programme in Khamenlok Watershed of Manipur (year of implementation was 1992-97), Phongi Watershed of Nagaland and Loyer Watershed of Nagaland have shown the positive change of cropping pattern in those particular watershed area. This is shown by following tables.

**TABLE 1 : Cropping pattern of sample farms in Khamenlok Watershed**

Particulars	Before Project (in %)	After Project (in%)
<b>A. Irrigated Area</b>		
<b>i. Kharif</b>		
Wet land Paddy	69.70	71.70
<b>ii. Rabi</b>		
Mustard	1.88	2.47
Potato	0.19	0.30
Others	0.24	0.31
Gross Cropped Area	72.01	74.78
Cropping Intensity	103.00	104.00
<b>B. Rain-fed Area</b>		
<b>I. Kharif</b>		
Wetland Paddy		
Jhum	27.32	33.15
Ginger	0.46	0.65
Chilies	0.16	0.16
Beans	0.66	0.70
<b>II. Rabi</b>		
Potato	0.54	0.71
Mustard	0.33	0.45

Others	0.67	0.63
Gross Cropped Area	30.14	36.44
Cropping intensity	104.38	104.60
Total Grossed Cropped Area	102.15	112.22
Overall cropping intensity	103.64	104.29

**Sources :** Khamenlok Watershed Report, Manipur

This above table revealed that paddy was the only crop in irrigated land during Kharif Season. However, in Rabi Season a negligible amount of land was under cultivation for Rabi crops.

There was moderate increase in area under Rabi crops after the watershed project. The area under vegetables and cash crops in homestead land also increased marginally after the watershed project. The overall cropping intensity increases negligibly from 103.64% to 104.29%.

**TABLE 2 : Cropping pattern in Phongi Watershed**

Sl. No.	Crop	Area(ha)	Production(ton)
1	Paddy	91	47.3
2	Maize	41.5	24

**Sources:** Phongi Watershed Report, Nagaland (1994-97)

Although this above table has not shown the actual change of cropping pattern, but it indicates that the amount of production of main crops i.e. Paddy and Maize on the basis of Watershed Covered Area. Here Paddy and Maize were found to be the major crops. The Paddy production is mainly for local consumption and local varieties were grown. The farmers were growing Maize to use as food for Pig which is very popular in Nagaland.

**TABLE 3 : Cropping pattern in Loyer Watershed**

Sl. No.	Crop	Area(ha)	Production(tons)
1	Paddy	84	62
2	Maize	21.5	5.8
3	Yam	4	1.6
4	Wheat	0.5	0.4
5	Mustard	4	1.15

**Sources:** Loyer Watershed Report, Nagaland (1994-97)



This above table shown that Paddy and Maize were found to be the major crops. The Paddy production is for local consumption & local varieties were grown. The farmers were growing Maize to use as food for Pig which is very popular in Nagaland. Apart from Paddy & Maize, Yam, Wheat and Mustard is also taken up in small patches. Soyabean is widely grown and is locally called Naga Dal.

From these three tables we can say that WDP have a positive impact on changing cropping pattern.

#### **Conclusion :**

Here we can say that the watershed programs have contributed in improving cropping pattern. Like that it helps to livestock development, raising income, generating employment and conserving natural resource base as well as motivating people for abandonment of Jhum practice in North-eastern region in India. Watershed program have demonstrated the potential to stabilize agriculture, increase crop yields, cropping intensity, reduce soil erosion and most importantly increase family incomes and reduce the Jhuming practice in North-East India.

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## Globalization and Local Cultures: The Tribes of North-East India

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**Introduction :**

Globalization has been defined in different ways. These ranges from a narrow focus on the global population and marketing of goods by multinational enterprises and accompanying foreign direct investment to the broader perceptive on the political, technological and cultural aspects of globalization as well as economic causes and consequence. At a minimum globalization involve the creation of a world economy which is not miserly the sum of its national economics, but rather a powerful independent reality created by the international division of labour and the world market which in the present epoch predominates over national markets. Large-scale, long term flows of capital commodities, technological and labour across national boundaries define the process of globalization. It is important to recognize that when we talk about globalization, we refer to a process and not a state of being. It move or a series of moves towards what may be a describe as global economy. Globalization in its broader sense refers also to the situation where ordinary human being experience and get enriched by influence emanating from all over the world. In this sense it is said to have existed throughout human history. If it is taken the narrow sense of people of all continents and regions becoming aware of the author and trading object and commodities, plant and techniques with one another, then it can be said to have existed since the sixteen

century, and the contemporary globalization process can be said to have started in the 1970's since when there were drastic changes in the rules of the game.

**Objectives of the paper:**

The objectives of the paper mainly confined to the following way \_\_\_\_\_

- i) To see the impact of globalization on the local culture of tribes.
- ii) To see the globalization and local music of tribes.

**METHODOLOGY AND DATA BASE :**

This study has been carried out through inductive and deductive approaches. Deductive method based on the past facts and figures to arrive at satisfactory conclusion. The primary data collection from the secondary sources of data include published books and from internet.

The globalization we simply mean that the world has become a very easy accessible and open to any one of us. The new process has made the modern nations and communities increasingly more independent susceptible to the market forces and flexible to the changing currents. Almost every one of us is aware that there is no escape however strong our resistance might be from the all too powerful clutch of globalization. For some people it has become a craze, for others it is just fashion. But, for the unaware multitude of Indian masses it is just a magic word. For another group it is a new world avenue opening up through the IT boom and for some others it is an alternative route for progress and development through liberalized trade and corporate finance. Any way, it enhances the levels and volumes of global interaction (Lewis: 2002, 334)

The term Globalisation is looked upon by many as a new form of encroachment on the local or regional territories. It is never free from its own perils and tissues. That is why the critics of globalization ought right castigate it is an evil and the enemy

of human progress and democracy. We need to look at globalization from the point of view of its impact on local indigenous cultures. According to Lehman, Globalisation has two folds ways of interaction with local culture: i) Homogenization and ii) Cosmopolitanism. Globalization either eliminates local elements or incorporates them without acknowledging it. Secondly it may incorporate and celebrate local elements. Here a situation arises where the global and local overlap and the discursive articulation of difference between the self and the other becomes problematic. As we come to the tribes of North-east, globalization has already made an in road into the life and culture of its people. The Globalisation market economy as well as the entertainment industry has already encroached upon the traditional culture and the life style of the people of the region. Hence some people have expressed the fear that large scale commodification of their cultures would erase their unique identities. Authours like Appadurai (1990) and Featherstone (1990) however contend that Globalisation can not be simply measured from the set binaries of globalization and localism. It has depended the problematic of the linguistic terms to global and local, indigenous and heterogeneous, universal and particular. There are two views that glean from the whole debate on Globalization; that it is an opportunity for unhindered trade and commerce and economic empowerment.

The question of identity and its uniqueness in the present context are tricky. Those who vouch for unique identity like any other practice in a society is an evolving concept except that in a symbolic form it connotes the ethnic linguistic and cultural makers and differences. Although mutations are feels of life, all that is called essential and unique in defining an identity is because of exclusion from /of the other, not as something such self-evidential. Under a globalised cultural space, the larger question is can unique identities remain pure and uncontaminated? To

speaking the truth, that is not possible because each community keeps on learning from other communities and thus the process of acculturation continues. Keeping in mind the utilitarian value a community adopts new ideas and practices. While a cultural makes some readjustments in adopting the new. Similarly the new is reshaped to be appropriated by a host culture. It is also true identities already always hybridized. Once any community opens its door to the forces of globalization, its cultural assets and products are bound to be pushed for large scale commodification and loss of their unique identities. We should take up the challenge and see to it that instead of clamoring for unique identities, which are not out there turning the advantage of globalization to our benefit.

Keeping in view the opportunities globalization offer we have to examine in perspective what happens to some of the cultural products of the tribes of North-East. To be an effective player in the global market under an industrial and technological regime the smaller communities need to put their acts together and should merits of such a process by saying that people have been trading with each other from one part of the world to the other from time immemorial there is nothing new in the process of but what is damaging is that it perpetuates western hegemony in disguise as a logical prop for late capitalism. Noam Chomsky drives this point home with great polemical verve: it seems fairly clear that one reason for the sharp divide between today's first and third worlds is that much of the latter is subjected to experiments that remained free market down their throats whereas today's developed countries are able to resist such measures. Expressing his concerns R. Radhakrishnan maintains: Globality and Globalization are the Darwinian manifesto of the survival of the fittest the strong nations, will survive "naturally" for it is in their density to survive, whereas weak nations will inevitably be weeded out because of their unsatisfactory

performance as nation- status.

Beyond the economic and political debates, it is presumed that globalization is a challenge to cultures, in particular to marginalized communities and their identities. Interestingly when we look around us today we find what is specific and local acquires the object of global desire while the so-called global circulates freely, unrestricted in the local markets. In such a scenario where the local and the global seem to overlap, the discursive articulation of the differences of identities and social and cultural practices become more crucial. In the context of tribes of north-east, it is feared that globalization may bring in large scale modification of their cultures and would erase their unique identities that are so far consolidated mostly on the premise of ethnic difference.

Conceptually identity is primarily an unstable category. Paul M.L. Moya and Michal R. Hames Garcia in the introduction to their edited volume *Reclaiming Identity : Realist Theory* are not patented the producers of the material at the local level will lose their commercial potentiality. So, only recently there is an alarming talk of patenting the textiles items those are locally produced in the name of geographical indicators. This kind of question arises only where the local products feel threatened in the competitive market and there is no institutional control and monitoring.

Another area where the local ethnic communities can thrive in the market oriented global space is their ethnic food recipe and beverages. If the government of India opens its door to the East , that is for the countries of Far East and South East Asia the local ethnic communities of Assam and North-East can profit a lot in trading their handicrafts, industrial and agricultural products as they have been not benefited much as people say, from Tea and Oil. There are local products and folklore items in which the specific ethnic groups or localities specialize and the

people of far Eastern countries use these items for having a strong cultural affinity with these people.

Like the textiles food products and beverages, the ethnic groups produce can be patented and launched for the Far Eastern and global market. This is an area where the Autonomous Councils and District Council and NGOs can work in tandem for the benefit of the community and employ thousands of local educated youths. The exotic folk cultures with ethnic diversity of the region can draw the buyers from all over the world. Eco-tourism and Packages tours to ethnic places can immensely help this. But the infrastructure for the tourism industry is still a major draw back.

The Autonomous council of the Sonowal Kochari and the Mishing or any other local Autonomous body for that matters can play the pioneering role in this. If the colorful folk dances and performing traditions need to be showcased in the global context the autonomous bodies and the departments of the governments must take the initiatives Preservation of cultural heritage have distinct uniqueness and they should be empowered to negotiate for their rights over the folk products in any transaction.

As an example the folk music and dances forms of a tribal community of the North-East go global will they be able to preserve their cultural character? Popular music says Lewis, "has a Chameleon core which prevents it from being fixed and standardized Rap music began as the specific articulations of poor black youth in the West Indies and New York South Bronx, became authenticated as an international black music- not authenticated as an international black music not bordered by what might constitute official. American cultural expert, but as transactional art from which crosses and re crosses what has been called the black Atlantic(Lewis:2002). In the Indian context Bhangra based Punjabi pop songs have emerged as a very popular

art from throughout North-East India and in the rest of the Country. The modern day Bihu songs and dances, apart from the colourful ethnic dances of the region like Bagrumba, and Bardwisikla of the Bodos, gumrang or mishing Bihu of the mishings, have become very popular these days. Thanks to the revolution in the entertainment industry the Bihu VCDs and cassettes make a good business today.

But the rapidity with which the songs and dances have changed and modernized to cater to the market forces in really a matter of concern for the pursuits. Like Hindi pop and modern day Bhangara songs a new genre of urban folk songs have come up to entertain younger generation who want to go global even if they settle in the remote semi-urban centre of north-east. The new generation wants an Assamese or North-east - Bob Dylan, Michael Jackson, Bruce Jackoon or Madonna, Sakira to entertain them. The modern song produced by the entertainments industry have led us to the creolized world of music nor a Mishing music and not even an Assamese music, but a pure hybrid of many influences and borrowing popularly known as fashion music. This is the direct and indirect result of the impact of media and globalization. This is more prominent in the other north-East states like Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland where the modern music is completely westernized and the bands are almost inseparable part of the urban life. These bands, like the modern urban hubs and mega shops with ethnic and exotic dresses and recipes are attracting big urban crowds.

#### **Conclusion :**

The phenomenon of Globalization is looked upon by many as a new form of encroachment on the local or regional territories. It is never free from its own perils and fissures. That is why the critics of Globalization outright castigate it as an evil and the enemy of human progress and democracy. We need to look at globalization from the point of view of its impact on local

indigenous cultures. According to Lehman, Globalization has twofold ways of interaction with local culture: i) Homogenization and ii) Cosmopolitanism. Globalization either eliminates local elements or incorporates them without acknowledging it. Secondly, it may incorporate and celebrate local elements. Here a situation arises where the global and the local overlap and the discursive articulation of difference between the self and the other becomes problematic. As we come to the tribes of Northeast, globalization has already made an inroad into the life and culture of its people. The globalized market economy as well as the entertainment industry has already encroached upon the traditional culture and the life style of the people of the region. Hence some people have expressed the fear that large scale commodification of their cultures would erase their unique identities.

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## Hungry Hindustan, Food Security and National Food Security Bill (NFSB), 2013

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**Introduction :**

It is the Hindustan of millions who is hungry not the India of few billionaires. That is why the deputy chairman of Indian Planning Commission, Montek Singh Ahluwalia very foolishly comments that an Indian can meet his basic dietary needs with a daily income of Rs 28.35 and Rs 22.42 in urban and rural areas respectively. This is extremely impossible in a situation when food price inflation has been in double digit and they need to pay at least Rs 20 to buy a kilogram of rice. Under these circumstances the NFSB may mean various aspects to hungry Indians.

**Objectives :**

The central objective of this paper is to examine the relevance of the NFSB, 2013 in a situation of growing activism towards food security and mounting problem of hunger in Hindustan in particular and throughout the Asia-Pacific region in general.

**Methodology :**

Methodology of this paper is qualitative and analytical. All the data used in the analysis have been collected from various books, journals, individual and institutional research papers and newspapers.

**Analysis :**

**A.1: The conceptual spectrum of Food Security**

Food insecurity known as hunger in its extreme form has been remaining a central problem of human civilization. Essentially the global and national interest against it gained momentum immediately after the devastating World War-II when several countries were facing famine like situation despite the adequate availability of food production to meet the global and national demand. This war to establish a hunger free world was given institutional form in 1962 alongwith the establishment of World Food Programme. Thereafter it has been serving the need of more than 100 million people in more than 70 countries. It means that most of the countries are facing the problem of food security. Moreover the concept of food security since its inception in the 1970s has been moving through continuous evolution as an operational concept. It reflects not only the wider recognition of the problem but complexities associated with it also. The World Food Summit, 1996 defines "food security at the individual, household, national, regional and global level exists when all people at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life". This definition of food security clears three important dimension of food security as-

- a) **Availability** of food, which is a function of production and import if domestic production is inadequate.
- b) **Accessibility** which means existence of sufficient income or purchasing power more importantly in the hands of the people resulting from the employment in different economic activities.
- c) **Absorption** of food that represents quality of food supply and living conditions assisted by pure drinking water, sanitation and health care,

The report further recognized that poverty eradication is very much important to ensure access to food. Hence food security requires better quantitative arrangement along with qualitative assurance of those supplied foods. Therefore a country needs strong micro and macro management mechanism to meet the challenges of food insecurity.

**A.2: Public Distribution System (PDS) as a provider of food security in India**

The Bengal famine of 1943 taught Indian administration that production does not automatically guarantee consumption and entitle a person to consume. That is why achieving food security has been a major growth objective of India since 1947. Jawaharlal Nehru articulated this goal by emphasizing 'everything can wait but not agriculture'. That is why government of India provided foodgrains through statutory rationing and other measures immediately after independence and upto 1965 in an unorganized way. After the establishment of Agricultural Price Commission (now known as Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices) and Food Corporation of India in the year 1965, the Public Distribution System (PDS) was given institutional form. In 1992, central government initiated, in consultation with the state and Union Territory Administration, Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) so as to improve the reach of existing PDS based on an area approach. The RPDS was launched in the June of that year covering 1700 blocks throughout the country. For tribal, hill and arid area, population remotely located and having poor infrastructure additional items as tea, soap, pulses, iodized salt etc were provided along with the conventional items of rice, wheat and sugar.

Again from June, 1997, in a renewed attempt the Targeted Public Distribution System was introduced to fulfill the principle of reaching the poor in all areas. Under this programme beneficiaries were categorized into APL and BPL families and

assistance was given on the basis of that. The BPL families were provided food grains at 50% of economic cost and for APL issue prices were fixed equal to the market price. But these have been reformed in various ways in the later years.

But the fact is that several theoretical and operational drawbacks have been advocated against the PDS although it has been remaining as the world's biggest welfare scheme of this kind since initiation. The central problem was the error of inclusion and exclusion for which many critics argued for a universal PDS. That is essentially done by the National Advisory Council formulating the NFSB although it takes four years to get recognition. Naturally hot debate is still going on the viability and validity of the proposed bill as an instrument of providing the people the right to food.

### **A.3 NFSB: Food Bill or Vote Bill?**

Joseph Stiglitz remarked about the NFSB as "India has recognized right to food as a basic human right, leading the way for the rest of the world and on the verge of a historic implementation of the world's largest social protection programme against hunger". This may be a great relief for the supporters of NFSB and those who believe that it will eliminate hunger from the country. But it may not be so simple. Because food insecurity can be regarded as a natural problem of Indian economy from geographical and demographic point of views. India is the seventh largest country as it covers only 2.4% of the total geographical area of the globe. But unfortunately she has to feed more than 15% of world's population. So by going simple application of Malthusian theory of population hunger, malnutrition can, be logically viewed as complex problems generated by population explosion and scarcity of nature's buoyancy. According to the latest report of World Bank there are about 1200 million people facing absolute poverty in the world and about 33% of these people live in India (The State of

the Poor: Where are the poor and where are the Poorest?). Moreover, the Food and Agricultural Organisation's (FAO) recent statistics reveals that there are about 870 million people living with hunger and 98% of this is in the developing countries. More importantly, about 578 million hungry people live in Asia and the Pacific Region. India being the second populous country essentially bears a heavy burden of it. Consequently about ten thousand people commit suicide in India for the problem of hunger. This is definitely a national shame for the biggest democracy even in the presence of several flagship poverty eradication programmes.

Another report namely "The Hunger and Malnutrition Survey Report, 2011" showed that 42% of children below five years of age are underweight and 59% are facing chronic malnutrition. These statistics do not reflect that food production in India is inadequate but simply prove the failure of J.B. Say's law of market-Supply creates its own Demand. In fact India had attained self sufficiency in food production during 1980s and hence all of the above problems somehow established maldistribution and lack of emancipation to entitle. Side by side, PDS has been failed to ensure people's food security as the very criteria of selecting BPL people is fallacious. According to Planning Commission's recent considerations a person who is unable to spend Rs 28.35 a day in urban areas and Rs 22.42 per day in rural areas will be considered to be poor. The root of this formula is in the methodology applied in 1970s. Definitely with the rapid change in the socio-economic conditions and choice preferences of the people, all these need rejuvenation. At the same time World Bank set it as \$1.25/day and Indian criterion is far below that. Actually World Bank determined it as the median of the poverty cutoffs of 15 poorest countries of the world. We cannot say that India should abide by this classification as India is excluded from those 15 countries considered. Rather being a



democratic and welfare country, India need to set it higher than that which is not done by our policy makers yet due to political interest.

All these directly or indirectly justify a universal food distribution system for India. Empirical evidence of successful implementation of nearly universal PDS in some of the states like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh also turns the attention of policy makers to NFSB. But this needs critical review. First of all the bill would guarantee 5 kg of food grains (wheat, rice, pulses etc.) per head every month to 67% population or 25 kg per household. This is simply lower than the 35 kg entitlement mandated by Supreme Court and the caloric requirement recommended by Indian Council of Medical Research. This reduction could have been supported if there were proper housing and healthcare facilities (although there is Indira Awas Yojna and National Rural Health Mission). So bill may result in poor benefit than actually benefitting the poor.

As projected by the NFSB government will need about 63 million tonnes food grain to implement it. From quantitative point of view this cannot be regarded as something impossible as this is just 5 million tonnes higher than the current commitment of the PDS. This will need total increase of 15-20 million tonnes of food grain production because it has projected a collection of 30% at best from the total production during a financial year. This is going to be a problem for the government as for several years production and productivity of Indian agriculture have been declining and about 4% less than the targeted growth rate. In fact the high productive states like Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh have already crossed their optimum as well as maximum production capacity. On the contrary these states are fighting against problems such as soil erosion, salinisation and water logging, ground water crisis due to unprecedented mechanization of cultivation during green revolution. Viewing

all these Food Minister K. V. Thomas rightly acknowledged that the government will need long term plan to increase output from the water abundant Eastern states like Assam, Bihar, West Bengal etc. But structural inefficiency and prevailing technological backwardness don't allow us to think this as a viable goal in the short run. Data shows that eastern region contribute only 2.8% of national production. If mechanized agriculture is further enhanced wherever possible, it is going to adversely affect the ecological biodiversity of this region. In an age of increasing consensus on organic farming this will need to various tragedy of commons and also it will be in sharp contrast with the goal of sustainable development. Here we need a fruitful strategy based on eco-friendly production method. More interestingly the bill will adversely affect the agricultural sector. Because more than 50% beneficiaries will be small and marginal farmers which actually need cheap technology not cheap food grains to permanently break down their vicious circle of poverty. So, Ajay Jhakar, Chairman of Bharatiya Krishak Samaj comments with dissatisfaction that "rather than give cheap food, why don't you give technology to feed themselves" (Wall Street Journal).

Even if we assume that production and procurement targets have been fulfilled somehow, the problem will arise during storage and distribution. The present status of FCI warehouses and their distribution efficiency don't reflect an anticipated image in front of us. A report from the London based Institution of Mechanical research "Global Food: Waste not, Want not", 2013 displays that India wastes a quantity of wheat equivalent to the production of Australia every year. Strikingly, out of that, 21 million tones perish every year due to lack of adequate storage and distribution. This data also tally with the recent FCI's report which estimated that India lost 79 million tones of wheat or 9% of the total production over a period of four years 2009-2013. Government urgently needs adequate mechanism to save the deterioration of

grains in the open space during monsoon season and rotting in FCI storages before actual implementation of the bill. If this is not done then who will take the responsibility of tragedy like midday meal incident in Bihar and other states recently even if we assume zero corruption in this process?

It is also a well known fact that Indian cultivation is more or less a gamble of monsoon for which steady production may be a distant dream. In that case heavy procurement of foodgrains for NFSB will create scarcity in the market. This will definitely accelerate the ongoing high food price inflation. One may easily point out that NFSB projects to procure at best 30% of total production every year. So, remaining 70% will be enough to meet the domestic and foreign market demand. But this will happen if production is equal to the projected amount. Moreover the policy of Minimum Support Price (MSP) is not going to help the poor but will favour the big farmers. This may attract global giants to Indian cultivation. It will make small farmers more marginalized. That is why CAG report questions the basis for a high MSP which is viewed increasingly as a political sop to voters. So, bill needs to be more sensitive to those important issues.

Since the initiation of LPG policy in 1991 capitalistic features has overpowered the mixed structure of Indian economy. One major dark area of that policy is that the economy has been opened up to severe global crisis like East Asian Crisis, US depression and recent European Union Crisis. The result is mounting fiscal deficit which has been in an increasing trend. So, one can judiciously advocate that the food subsidy given through NFSB will create a heavy fiscal burden on the government. As its proposed coverage it will lead to increase of about Rs 30,000 crores in the food subsidy from current expenditure of Rs 90,000 crores which will constitute 1.2% of gross domestic product. Apparently it will be a huge fiscal burden

on the government. But actually it is not, because increase in food subsidy is less than the subsidy given to the gold and diamond industry a year which accounts Rs 60,000 crores in 2012-2013. So government will require transfer of gold subsidy on luxury to food subsidy on necessity. It will serve two important macroeconomic objectives of the government. Firstly, it will help in improving the Rupee depreciation for which dearness of Indian middleclass families towards gold and diamond and consequent import is playing a pivotal role. Secondly, it will reduce the fiscal burden of the government. Here the government can take the opportunity to show their real intension. If they take mandatory steps to divert gold subsidy to food subsidy then it will prove their real attachment with 'Aam Admi'. But if they don't do that to please the middleclass Indians it will clear their votebank politics. Our doubts whether it is food Bill or Vote Bill will be intensified.

Other provisions such as pregnancy benefits for six months, supplementary nutrition to children etc. are admirable. But all these are placed as a beginning step, while we need a giant leap instead.

#### **Conclusion :**

Debate is still going on the necessity and feasibility of the NFSB. This is the beauty of Indian democracy where we argue everything and our glorious history, philosophy helps us to find out a viable solution for any problem as pointed out by A.K. Sen in his book 'The Argumentative Indian'. The prevailing food and nutritional insecurity in the country definitely need a universal public distribution system. At the same time government must have to eliminate all infrastructural bottlenecks before haphazard implementation of the programme as well as rampant corruption. Here lies the role of Indian citizens and they must be vigilant enough which will not allow the politicians to play game on the common people. All we need a SMART governance and active

value added people's participation to convert the vote bill into a complete food bill.

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**In economics, hope and faith coexist with great scientific pretension and also a deep desire for respectability.**

**-John Kenneth Galbraith**

**Environment and Economic development :  
A Correlation**

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Environment is the most important agenda of the international community due to its far reaching consequences on the survival of human beings and other forms of biodiversity on the earth. Environment and economy are interdependent and need each other. Development that ignores its repercussions on the environment will destroy the environment that sustains life forms. Many environmental goods were earlier thought to be abundantly available free gifts of nature and hence outside the scope of economics. Economics is concerned with the use of limited resources at the disposal of individuals and the society to meet the unlimited human wants. Hence Scarcity is the main problems of economics. However, with the passage of time people started realizing that many of the environmental goods have been increasingly becoming scarce; accordingly, their use and allocation have increasingly attracted the attention of the economist and environmentalist.

**Economy :**

By economy we mean all the firms that make up industries, household in their twin roles as consumers and supplier of labour, government, the institution that govern interactions between this groups such as makers, the state of technology and our stock of produce capital.

**Environment :**

By environment we mean all the natural resources including land, land scape and ecosystems (flora and fauna), resource deposit under the land surface, the worlds oceans and atmosphere and natural climate and nutrient cycle.

**Inter-linkages between the economy and environment :**

There are three fold connections between the environment, human society and the economy. The inter-linkages can be realized from the services provided by the environment to the economy. They are

*Firstly*, the environment provides the economy with raw materials which are transformed into consumer products through the production process. The raw materials include energy coal, wood etc, which are itself a consumer product as well as an intermediate input. In other words, environment work as a supplier of resources.

*Secondly*, the environment is the supplier of recreational amenity or critical life support services for the use of human beings. More vitally the environment provides the ecosystem for continuation of human and other life forms in the earth, such as, the oxygen in the air that we breathe or the water that we drink.

*Thirdly*, environment work as a receptacle or a waste sink. The waste generated in the process of production and consumption or human economic activities are largely absorbed and assimilated by the environment and recycle it into material (organic fertilized) that can be used again. But there are certain forms of wastes that cannot be absorbed by the environment such as plastic, and leads to environment degradation.

However, it is recognized that these different services of the environment to the economy are interlinked and there are important trade-offs between one role and the other. For instance, too much dumping of waste into the environment impairs the capacity of its life support system. Similarly, increased extraction activities can damage its recreational value. So, we have to made balance between the different roles of the environment to the economy. Otherwise, it will leads to environmental degradation.

**Relationship between Environment and Economic Development :**

The process of economic development started after the industrial revolution and industrial development in the modern world. Industrial revolution has been irreversibly changing the economic structure, social

structure, family structure, nature of labour, consumption, living standard and thought processes of the individual on the one hand more thrust in the filed of production, power, science and technology increases the economic development but other hand it also increases environmental degradation.

Environment and economy are interdependent to each other. Along with economic development the nature, context and quality of the environment are also changing. Many studies have explored the relationship between development and environment. One of them is the environmental Kuznets curve (EKC), which has attracted much attention (Arrow et. Al. 1995)

EKC concept was put forwarded in early 90s by Gossman and Kruger (1991) as well as World Development Report (Shafilk and Bondopadhaya 1992). According to the hypothesis, there is inverted U shaped relationship between economic development and environmental degradation. Kuznets name was attached to the inverted u-shaped curve which established the relationship between pollution and economic development it resembled the original inverted U-shaped relationship between income inequality and development. The EKC assumes environmental degradation rise faster as income growth in the early stages, than shows down and reaches a turning point after which it tends to decline with father growth. The Figure 1: shows the EKC.

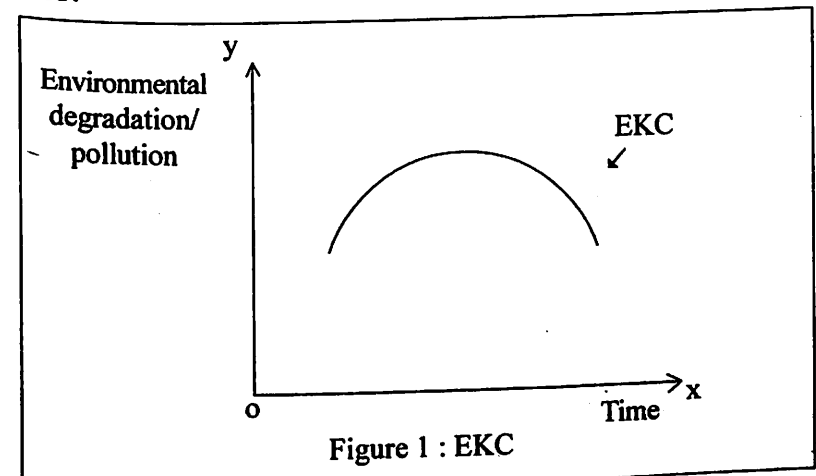


Figure 1 : EKC

*Firstly*, at the low level of development economic activities by and large are subsistence use nature. Hence, quality and intensity of resource use being limited and waste being mostly biodegradable and environmental degradation remains at a very low level.

*Secondly*, as economic development accelerated agriculture get intensified, resource extractions increases at a larger scale and industrialization takes off. As a result, the rate of resource depletion begins to exceed the rate of resource regeneration and waste generation increases in quantity and toxicity.

*Finally*, at higher levels of income, structural change towards information intensive industries and services coupled with increased environmental awareness, enforcement of environmental regulations, better technology and higher environmental expenditures results in leveling off and gradual decline of environmental degradation. In other words, as income increases, there is transition in the economy, i.e.; from a clean agrarian economy to a polluting industrial economy, and again to a clean service economy.

Empirically, EKC hypothesis are not supported by the economist and environmentalists. Because, if such a relationship exists, leaving environmental degradation unattended in the development process with the hope of the process itself taking care of the environment in the later stage is not a advisable approach of environmental degradation cross some threshold the damages may become irreversible. So, the environmental economists call for the sustainable development approach.

The term 'Sustainable Development' was popularized in "Our Common Future;" a report published by the United Nations instituted the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) in 1987. According to WCED, sustainable development is the "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

#### **The debate among the developed and developing countries:**

In recent years, economists have become increasingly aware of the important implications of environmental issues for the success of development efforts. The influence of environmental pollution does not remain confined to a local area, rather tends to spread widely on a

national and global scale. This is particularly true in case of environmental problems like, global warming, climate change etc. Thus, the global nature of the problem calls for international co-operation as a remedial measure. The international community began responding to the problem with the first World Climate Convention in 1979. The second United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) the so called Earth Summit held in Rio Dejanerio in June, 1992 and follow up conference in kyoto, Japan, in 1997 made global co-operation in this area.

However, achieving meaningful international co-operation is a major challenge. This is because of the free-rider problem associated with the non-excludable public good environment. If a nation does not show commitment to reduce emission, it cannot be prevented from enjoying the benefit of emission reduction by other nations.

There is a long debate among the developed and developing countries, as developed countries raise the ways to reduce environmental degradation in the international environmental degradation in the international convention. The developed countries insist that internationally uniform environmental standard should be applied to all the nations, but the developing countries argue that the provision of universal standard is unfair as the developed countries had already achieved a higher level of development by polluting the environment freely in the past. Therefore, developing countries argue that they should be made free of such strict environmental obligations. Otherwise, if they have to abide by the severe environmental regulation, the developed countries will have to compensate them for consequent economic losses. Again it is becomes an important fact in the international climate change negotiations when we find that the developed western countries contribute more than 50% to the total carbon emission in the world. Therefore, it is difficult to convince a developing nation not to invest in setting up factories and industries to improve the living standards of its client for environmental concern.

There has been another debate between population, availability and utilization of scarce natural and material resources among the developed and developing countries. Because, the developed countries, with less than one-quarter of the world's population, consume almost

80% of the world's resources. The average North American or European consumer uses up, directly or indirectly, almost 16 times as much of the world's food, energy, and material resources as compared to developing countries. According to this argument, developed nations should curtail their excessively high consumption standards instead of asking less developed nations to restrict their population growth.

Thus it appears that the prospect of arriving at a unanimous solution for environmental degradation and climate change in near future is very thin. Therefore international co-operation and negotiations on climate change and environmental degradation have not been successful till now. The world Community therefore, has to think about alternative solution. Economist and other analysts opine that the solution of this problem has to be self enforcing and voluntary. So with increased awareness of environmental hazards and the development of environment friendly technologies can help to reduce environmental degradation. Again, we must realize the essential unity of the universe and the inter connectedness of the existence of all life forms, indeed all of nature. It is the time we adopted the philosophy of ubuntu which translates into "You are, therefore I am."

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## Prospects of Ginger Growers in the North-East with Special Reference to Karbi Anglong

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#### Introduction :

Ginger is one of the most important spices obtained from plant roots. It is mainly used in cookery as a flavouring agent and to a smaller extent in medicinal and veterinary preparations. Ginger is also being used for the manufacture of several bye-products like ginger oil, ginger oleoresins, starch from spent ginger, soft drinks, ginger powder etc. India is the world's largest producer accounting for 50 percent of the total production. While India, China, Taiwan, Sierre Leone and Nigeria are the major exporters of dry ginger, USA, UK, Saudi Arabia, Japan, West Germany, Canada and Yemen Arab Republic are the principal importing countries. Both the area and production of ginger in India have increased in recent years. Spices contributed 1.24 percent of India's total export earning. The share of spices in the export earnings from agricultural and allied products is 8.5 percent.

The North-eastern region produces a variety of spices including chillies, ginger, large cardamoms, black pepper, tejpatta etc. Ginger is prominent among them and is cultivated as a cash crop mostly in jhum fields spread over the tribal areas of the entire region. Meghalaya, Assam, Manipur and Mizoram are the important ginger growing states in NER. The region as a whole produces over 50,000 tonnes of raw ginger every year. In Assam, the cultivation of ginger is undertaken in jhum fields either as a pure or as a mixed crop. Tea gardens also offer good scope for ginger cultivation. The hill districts of Assam viz. Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills are the main ginger growing areas. Karbi Anglong district of Assam alone annually produces about 12500 MT of finest organic ginger. Ginger grown in karbi angling is one of the best organic ginger of the world. The major varieties of ginger grown in karbi anglong are Nadia, Rio-

de-Janerio, Aizol and most of them are low fibre type which are in great demand. The major ginger growing areas of karbi anglong district are Singhason and adjoining areas under Lumjabong development block, Hidipi under Bokajan development block and in and around Chokihola of Nilip development block. Ginger of the state is very hot and pungent. Local consumption is very little and about 80-90 percent of the total production is available for marketing outside the state.

#### **Use of Ginger :**

The freshly harvested ginger is used for consumption as green ginger in the whole of north east. Little amount of surplus is sold outside the region through middleman at very low prices. Sometimes due to marketing problem the farmers are not able to sell their products since there is no local market big enough to absorb and handle green ginger in large quantities. Therefore it is essential to convert a part of produce into low volume high value ginger to make the crop remunerative. As it is abundantly available in the region, different products like ginger oil, ginger oleoresin, can be prepared for export. Dried ginger can also be prepared and it may be either sold as such or in the form of an off white to very light brown powder. The dried ginger or ginger powder is generally used in manufacturing of ginger brandy, wine and beer in many western countries. Ginger oil is primarily used as a flavouring agent in confectionary and for soft drinks. Ginger is also used for medicinal purposes.

#### **Ginger Cultivation in Karbi Anglong District :**

Karbi Anglong has unique climate for ginger cultivation. Ginger grown in the district is the best organic ginger in the world covering more than 2000 hectares of area and the average annual production per year is above 12,000 MT. The major ginger growing areas of the district are Singhason, Jirkinding, Kanduli, Ullukunchi, Hidipi, Chokihola etc. Varieties grown in karbi anglong are Aizol and Nadia and Rio-de-jenerio and most of them are of high market value for the rhizome variety have less fibre and high recovery of oleoresin oil. The planting time is between March-April and crop duration 9-10 months.

#### **Socio-economic problems of ginger growers :**

In the economic sphere, agriculture is regarded as the primary occupation of the people of karbi anglong. In the hilly tracts "slash and burn" or "jhum" method is practiced. Along with paddy, vegetables like tubers, pumpkins, brinjal etc., are also cultivated. This results in low production of each kind which makes them insufficient in future. Again those who practice wet cultivation, they too depend a lot on rain. Sometimes it is heavy and sometimes there is shortage of rain water. In such situations the farmers go for credit from the local money lenders and thus get trapped under huge amount of debts. Karbi Anglong has been a hot spot for both bio diversity as well as insurgency. Ultras of each and every kind of hue are presently active in the district and have added to the political turmoil that has seen not a few riots and bandhs in recent years. In fact ginger cultivation itself became a bone of contention and resulted in tension between two insurgent groups in 2003 which later flared up into communal tension between karbis and kukis.

#### **Various socio-economic problems faced by the ginger growers in Karbi anglong :**

**Jhum cultivation:** Under this method an area is cleared and agricultural crop is grown at one place for 3-5 years and after that the farmers shift to another place. Earlier this cycle was for about 10 years, therefore in the meantime the soil gets sufficient time for regeneration of biomass/forests. Now due to reduction in jhum cycle, the soil fertility has reduced. This system has caused large scale deforestation and depletion of resource base.

#### **Land tenure system :**

For boosting the production of spices, settled cultivation is necessary like other crops. The productivity is low due to land tenure system prevailing in the region because the farmers do not feel any sense of belonging to the land and therefore, they do not undertake adequate management practices. Settled cultivation and right of ownership of land to the farmers is necessary for judicious management of land.

**Small land holdings :**

Because of the terrain, the size of land holding is very small in the region and farmers are taking many crops as per their requirement from the same piece of land. Therefore the commercialization of crop/variety on large scale is very difficult in the region.

**Non availability of quality planting materials and other inputs :**

Good quality, high yielding and disease resistance rhizomes are not available to the farmers. The modern inputs like fertilizers, pesticides etc. are very low in use. Though many high yielding varieties have been identified and recommended by the researchers in the region, quality seed production in a large scale is lacking due to non-existence of agencies responsible for quality seed production.

**High rainfall :**

High rainfall received in the region causes heavy infestation with weeds, pests and diseases and leaching of nutrients.

**Lack of funds :**

Although ginger is a major cash crop in the state, farmers are not getting financial support from government for purchase of quality seeds and other inputs. There should be schemes to provide soft loans to farmers.

**Low fertilizer and pesticide usage :**

Low fertilizer and pesticide usage is another problem of the ginger growers. This has resulted in considerable losses on yield. Even the plant protection measures are not taken very seriously.

**Problems of processing and marketing :**

For a region like the north east the success of ginger growing is closely linked with the success of spice processing units, marketing and transport facilities. Till today, there are hardly any cold storage facilities available; few processing units exist but are not functioning up to the desired capacity. Marketing of ginger in the state possesses problems due to non-topping of value added products like oleoresin, volatile oils etc. Other problems include losses due to faulty storage method and diseases like rhizome rot, lack of trained personnel with sound knowledge in post-harvest technologies, lack of improved

production technologies and management practices, remoteness of the state from the national stream etc.

**GINFED :**

GINFED (Ginger Growers Cooperative Marketing Federation Limited) is a cooperative designed to promote ginger farming in Karbi Anglong. Set up on 3rd April, 2007 to assist ginger cultivators in the district it is providing technical support to farmers of the district for cultivation with an eye on the international market. The major objectives of GINFED are to provide technical as well as financial assistance to ginger cultivators so that they can gain a foothold in the international market and also escape the clutches of middleman.

**Objectives of Ginfed :**

- To introduce organic ginger of Karbi Anglong in national and international market.
- Ensure more income by value addition (cleaning, grading, waxing, packaging) and processing of ginger under RSVY scheme.
- To avoid distress sale of ginger by fixing minimum profit through payment on the spot.
- To directly link the growers to the market to enhance their profitability.
- To uplift economic condition of ginger growers by linking credit facilities as seed capital through banks by means of G-card.
- To find out various marketing avenues in ginger marketing.

**Target population of GIN-FED**

Farm families engaged in ginger cultivation in Karbi Anglong

Category	No. of farm families
1. Growing above 2 hectares of land	77 nos.
2. Above 1 hectare but below 2 hectares	65 nos.
3. Below 1 hectare	1700 nos.
<b>Total</b>	<b>1842 nos.</b>



**Advantages :**

- Will stabilize the ginger market and production and ultimately farmers will benefit.
- As GINFED aim is to target market intervention, and targets small and marginal farmers, it reduces distress sale and will get remunerative prices.
- Moreover it helps in understanding the national and international market and change or modify the marketing or production strategy accordingly.
- Fine tuning the entire agro-horticultural scenario of the district.
- Any buyer/firm will get assured quantity of organic ginger on fixed time basis with mutually agreeable terms and conditions.

**Procurement of Ginger :**

GINFED will have to procure ginger from registered members only at a reasonable price above the cost of production (@ Rs.4/ Kg) and as per prevailing national and international market price so as to give maximum benefit to the growers at the time of procurement as well as at the time of annual profit sharing, keeping a justified margin separately as working fund and other necessary heads of the society as per rules of the bye law and decision of the governing body. Time to time GINFED will have to fix the procurement price through an expert marketing sub-committee which will also guide GINFED in sales of the procured ginger to obtain maximum benefit considering all aspects like cost of value addition, freight storage, insurance, agent commission etc. in a transparent manner.

- All genuine ginger growers are eligible to apply for registration. Only small farmers will be enrolled as GINFED members.
- Only one applicant per family is allowed. A nominal registration fee will have to be deposited by the applicant at the application collection centre.
- A G-Card will be issued to all applicants after registration in due course of time.
- All govt. officials concerned will brief and guide the farmers about the future benefit from GINFED.

**Role of Various Agencies and Departments :**

The role of NGO's is to assist GINFED in procurement of Ginger at different locations of the District as per direction & request of GINFED Executive body. Alternately GINFED will provide all necessary assistance to the NGO involved in procurement by providing required amenities & funding etc. Agriculture Department will guide & assist GINFED in all technical matters relating to procurement, value addition, processing and sale, etc. Initial Registration of Members (Ginger Growers) under GIN-FED is to be done under the supervision of Addl. Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Karbi Anglong. State Bank of India, Diphu will take the initiative for issuing G-Card as per time proposal submitted by the Addl. Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Diphu and will make all necessary arrangements to provide seed capital to the registered grower (G-Card holder) through GIN-FED.

**Suggestions :**

- To facilitate rural credit, cooperative credit societies should be encouraged in the villages. This will provide mutual benefits to the cultivators and save them from the exploitation of the money lenders.
- Agricultural and cooperative banks can provide loans to the needy farmers.
- Rural mobile banking services will improve the credit facilities of the cultivators. Strict formalities in the bank should be avoided in order to popularize bank loan.
- Cheap credit facilities should be provided to the cultivators.
- Applying modern technique of cultivation to raise ginger production per acre of land.
- Facilitating better farming methods.
- Marketing, transport system should be given preference.
- There should be flow of funds both from centre and states and KAAC and subsidy should be given to the farmers.
- Ginger growers should be given training for the use of fertilizers and other implements and methods.

**Conclusion :**

In conclusion we can say that despite the improvement in ginger farming in the district within the past five years, there are still lot of things yet to be done for developing ginger farming in a commercial way. In order to lift the ginger growers out of poverty and stagnation different type of resources need to be utilized. The resources may be in the form of money, human efforts and so on. The development of the ginger growers can take place when sufficient credit facility on low rate of interest is given, more new raw ginger cleaning, washing, waxing, drying and packaging factories and markets are set up in those areas. Social development of the ginger growers can take place when sufficient health provision is made for them, when literacy and education are accessible to the farming families and finally when they are modernized and assimilated in the main currents of the society. Till the introduction of GINFED there was hardly any government or non-government organization for the upliftment of the production of ginger and the socio-economic conditions of the ginger growers. We can conclude with a hope that with the success of GINFED, the poor and marginal ginger growers of the districts will reach out to the national and international organic markets.

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