

**The State Perspective of India's Developmental Approaches:
Reviewing the Post-LPG Phase**

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Abstract

In India, the developmental approaches in the post-liberalisation phase have remained controlled by the philosophy of market, and Indian developmental approach is found to be increasingly getting centred at “the adoption of “trinity of Liberalisation, Privatisation, and Globalisation” (LPG)”. The state perspective of India's developmental approaches is gradually found to be getting implemented at the process of “the structural adjustment programmes” stimulated by International organisations (like World Bank) also. Though this has yielded impressive growth dividends, however, it has alternatively opened up numerous fronts of challenges and put serious question on the sustainability aspect of the country's economy and its developments.

If, development is rightly defined in terms of “key geographical concepts of scale and place”, and accordingly, the most important and inclusive approach to development must be considered to be ‘the Human Development Approach’, the LPG centric- developmental approaches ought to be found unsustainable. This is what the thinkers in the country are now seriously advocating for. However, the desire of getting of Human Development Approach to be successfully materialised, the role of the State is crucial. This paper examines in detail what is “Human Development Approach” and should be the role of the State and the Government for its materialisation. It is further argued that: there has to be certain sustainable developmental models, which the government establishment of India need to seriously examine and brought to perspective so that the desire of sustainable development of the country can be successful, what this paper seeks to analytically examine.

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Padmalochan Dash¹

1. Introduction

Webster defines development as causing something to unfold, to grow, to change for the better, to be realized². It regards a certain entity as being endowed with certain potentials which society should discover and maximize³. In terms of defining or noting down various types of development in the context of state perspective, we may note down various issues and aspects of development where the state considers its role to be mandatory. In the context of a welfare state like India, the overall development of the state is considered to be the primary task, and this is entrusted upon the democratically elected government as well as the whole governance structure of the country. Therefore, the prime aim of the country in the *context of development* is the socio-economic development of the people. This is the process of social and economic development in a society. This is measured with certain predefined tangible indicators⁴, and sometimes certain less-intangible indicators are also taken into calculations⁵. However, when changes occur to the prevailing social conditions⁶ are inevitable; the socio-economic impacts of such changes also continue to reshape and redefine the development process in given society.

2. Developmental approaches

Developmental approaches can be defined to be various approaches of the *growth and development of various areas and aspects* of socio-economic domain in a country, which can further lead to the overall development of the said country. So far the case

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² Internet Source (1) www.merriam-webster.com

³ Internet Source (2)

⁴ Indicators such as GDP, life expectancy, literacy and levels of employment

⁵ Less-tangible factors are also considered, such as personal dignity, freedom of association, personal safety and freedom from fear of physical harm, and the extent of participation in civil society.

⁶ For example, new technologies, changes in laws, changes in the physical environment and ecological changes

of India is concerned, and in the post-independence phase, its approach to development remained mixed with social welfare orientation, and the where the role of the government remain cardinal. However, the developmental approach of the post-liberalisation phase In India has gradually shifted to the condition where it remained controlled by the market philosophy or the approach of market-oriented growth.

Now India's developmental approach is now found to be much controlled by the globalisation and liberalisation policies. In the Post-Cold world war phase due to collapse of the socialist forces, there has been a renewed faith and increased reliance on the market economy as well as on the private capital and resources. The process of structural adjustment programme stimulated by International organisations like the Word Bank has put all most all developing countries in the purview of economic globalisation, which has brought advantages and disadvantages to the developing countries at the similar instance⁷. While, *globalisation has yielded impressive growth dividends, including for relatively poor developing countries*^{8/9}, it has alternatively opened up numerous fronts of challenges and the challenges out of rapidly growing inequality across and within nations. While, as result of LPG impact¹⁰, it has become possible for the open and wide access of markets and technology transfer¹¹ and thus helped in improving productive capacity and living standard¹² in the developing/least developed countries. However, on the other side, this has also become the cause of the increasing level of volatility in the global and national financial markets including unmanageable environmental deteriorations¹³.

⁷ Balakrishnan: 2004

⁸ Kishore, 2002

⁹ Internet Source (3)

¹⁰ The impact out of the policy of Liberalisation, Privatisation, and Globalisation

¹¹ open up and sold by the greater and developed countries

¹² *Internationally, globalisation has yielded impressive growth dividends, including for relatively poor developing countries. The list of 'post-1980 globalisers' includes Argentina, Brazil, China, Hungary, Malaysia, Mexico, the Philippines and Thailand which, as a group, experienced an acceleration in average growth from 1.4 per cent per annum in the 1960s, to 2.9 per cent per annum in the 1970s, 3.5 per cent in the 1980s, and 5 per cent in the 1990s (Kishore: 2002).*

¹³ Balakrishnan, 2004

Radical Transformation: Within this short time span since Independence, Indian economic regime has experienced two radical transformations. First, Indian experiment of a unique experiment in state-led 'growth with social justice' within the constitutional framework of parliamentary democracy¹⁴ (from 1950s-80s)¹⁵, and India's economic reform based on liberalisation plan (1980s-early phase of 1990s) as a response to the severe domestic economic pressure, which is mainly due to the unexpected 'balance of payments crisis (1990–91)'. Such a policy of economic reform is grounded on the trinity of 'Liberalisation, Privatisation, and Globalisation' (LPG)¹⁶. Since this period, India has never looked back, rather speeded up this trinity policy and has associated and adjusted itself to globalising forces, policies and institution to a greater extent¹⁷. However, India, still, in terms of adopting LPG has vowed to follow certain basic premises and parameters in terms of maintaining its national interests and disturbingly achieving its own national developmental goals. While Indian economic growth model was projected to be a state-led growth plus welfare-socio-economic 'self-reliant' developmental model; *India's transition to globalisation has shaken up India's commitment 'self-reliant' developmental model*¹⁸ to a (long-term) capital-intensive, massive public and FDI investment, import-substitution industrialisation, and 'expanded service sector' model¹⁹.

Challenges within and without: In formulating any developmental approaches India has to care for its constitutionally mandated federalism and it is quite challenging to take 35 States and Union territories into consensus. Secondly, as India steers for increased adoption of LPG, it has to confront and manage a wide range of social, political, ideological and domestic pressures. Thirdly, while India's Constitutional commitment remains paramount; any short of LPG adoption remains subject to democratic scrutiny, therefore, any shot of drastic revision and modification in LPG process and parameter remains difficult. In India, any given reform is based on

¹⁴ Internet source (3)

¹⁵ Kishore, 2002

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ For example: India has been a member of a small club of '24 globalisers' (In: Dollar 2001).

¹⁸ Kishore: 2002

¹⁹ Ibid

popular consensus and subject to highly pluralistic polity; 'gradualism' will remain inevitably unavoidable²⁰.

It is for the Indian approach to LPG adoption is irreversible; to maintain its durability, the country has to adopt a pan-Indian development model to which the adoption of LPG will fit, and therefore can enable the country to contain potential adverse shocks, while taking timing policy measures for maximising the benefits²¹. Balancing impressive amount of capital growth, flourishing market towns, long-distance trade routes²², including keeping alive small-scale manufacturing enterprises, agriculture, protecting fertile lands at one end, and the socio-cultural values and identity from the force of globalisation shall be further challenging²³.

While, the fruit of adoption of LPG is not uniform across different areas, state, and *sections of population* within the country, the unequal distribution of benefits and losses within the country²⁴ will continue to concern the advocates of social justice²⁵. In India, balancing the inequality and disparity parameters has been one of major challenge in terms of deciding any developmental strategy. Now it is an apparent fact that, the growth of inequality and disparity parameters out of the impact of LPG adoption has been multifarious. This remains in terms of income, region and urban-rural parameters, even the literacy rate and access to state-provided welfare measures. While, economic and social inequalities are common, inequality in income and wealth, inequality between regions, and inequality between the residents of rural and urban areas²⁶ has been serious concern. Though, attempts to tackle income inequalities has been undertaken since independence days with numbers of egalitarian

²⁰ Ibid

²¹ Ibid

²² Internet source (3)

²³ Kishore: 2002

²⁴ Khor 2000

²⁵ Bardhan 2001

²⁶ Internet Source (3)

policies for minimising socio-economic inequality²⁷ including poverty, these are still remaining pervasive in India²⁸.

Taking the above analysis into consideration and the study of various developmental phases, it is found that, in the first of its efforts (during the first decades of the Indian Republic) in reducing regional disparities, India has only succeeded partially through the planning process of acceleration of economic growth. In the second phase, with the increased participation of the private sector, it further aggravated regional disparities²⁹, and in the third (on-going) phase of economic reform (since LPG adoption, 1991) the regional disparity has further aggravated (Kurian 2000)³⁰. The adoption of LPG has led to the acute emergence geo-economic divide across the country, the pattern of the distribution of FDI among the states, and even sharing of external aid have been unequal³¹. This has been resulted with *inter-state differences in per capita income* (PCI) which are highly resulted into differences in other areas esp. difference in the access to basic life necessity³².

²⁷ Assessment of the impact of globalisation on income inequality, but it is clear that a vast gulf exists between different income earners. The pattern of distribution of income in the segment of the population above the poverty line is much wider than the distribution of income in the segment below. Moreover, the preoccupation with the alleviation of poverty has obscured the massive income inequality amongst people with incomes above the prevailing poverty line. Data pertaining to access to basic services such as water and electricity, healthcare facility still remains high.

²⁸ World Bank data indicate that 44.2 per cent of the population was living below the poverty line (BPL) in 1994–1998 (in: Kishore: 2002).

²⁹ Internet Source (3)

³⁰ In a detailed analysis, Kurian (2000) used data relating to: (i) private investment; (ii) bank branches, deposits and credit; and (iii) trends in infrastructure development, to clearly establish that there are considerable disparities in socio-economic development across the states (Kishore 2002).

³¹ The data released by the Controller of Aid Accounts in the Ministry of Finance (GOI 2001) show that a very high proportion (between 60 per cent and 75 per cent)

of total external assistance received by India between 1990/91 and 1998/99 was concentrated in only 7 of the 35 states and Union territories. Although these states' shares did decline by almost 15 percentage points over this period (Kishore: 2002).

³² or the desired indicators of development. such as electricity consumption, literacy, health, and other indicators.

3. The Post-LPG-adoption Approaches to Development

There are approaches to development which are generally defined in terms of *key geographical concepts of scale and place*³³. This may include the approaches like:

*the 'Trickle Down Approach', 'Bottom-up Approach, 'the Grass-roots Approach', the Growth Pole Approach', 'the Fair Trade Approach, 'the Regional Development approach', ' the Export -led-growth approach' 'the Import substitution approach', 'Foreign Direct Investment approach' and many others*³⁴.

Apart from the above, the most important and inclusive approach to development of the Century can be very appropriately said to be 'the Human Development Approach'. However, before going to focus elaborately on the human development approach perspective, it may be pertinent here to focus on the above approaches very precisely.

While economic growth which is generally considered to be the most important parameter and cardinal of development, the driving force behind economic growth are considered and perceived to be different by the above approaches and their proponents. For example, while the *proponents of the 'trickle down approach' argue that richer individuals and larger companies are the driving force behind economic growth because, the wealth created by the more successful parts of the economy and more successful people will naturally trickle down and benefit everyone*³⁵. For the *proponents of the Bottom-up Approach* the economic development of a country lies in the involvement of locals and commons from the grass-roots in the decision making process by directly helping and lifting the said people out of poverty; the *proponents of Growth Pole Approach', emphasise on the development of a core region or otherwise called to be the growth pole, what they feel that such growth poles will spread their effects in the country as whole*. The proponents of 'the Fair Trade Approach' aim to joining consumers in richer countries with producers in poorer countries for creating a fair trading relationship so that the producers are paid a fair price which can help the overall economic growth of poorer country. 'the Regional Development Focus Approach', is broader one, which aims of developing

³³ Internet source (4)

³⁴ Internet source (4)

³⁵ Internet source (4)

the peripheral regions of a particular country with the attempt of reducing the regional disparities and balancing the uneven development in the core and periphery regions with the aim of reducing rural to urban migration.

Similarly, *'The Export-led-growth approach' aims at economic growth through the production and export of products, which the country has a comparative advantage at producing. Here the role of the state in the form of investment, subsidies and protectionist measures are high*³⁶. *'the Import substitution approach' gives emphasis on the domestic production over import of products; the 'Foreign Direct Investment approach' encouraged by the World Bank either attract or encourage foreign companies to invest so as to stimulate economic growth in the economy which needs it Policy*³⁷.

Examining the above Approaches: If we look at above mentioned approaches of economic growth and development what we find that: India has taken up a mixture of all most all of these approaches, and different stakeholders of development have taken different of the above approaches seriously into consideration and given fillip to them at different phases of times and different parts of the country. But, “to what extent the above approaches have been sustainable and inclusive are necessary” to be examined, and whether “the above approaches can go parallel in complementarity”, and whether “the above approaches are either helpful or contrary to the achievement of the “human developmental approaches” and its goal” are the necessary subjects of examination here.

The much prevailing understanding that the economic-centric developmental approaches can be the core of social and national development has been found to be refuted on the high ground of argument that, such an approach minus the overall human development programme the whole idea of economic development is futile and unsustainable. Such an approach without taking overall human development concern seems to be not more than mere *Structural Adjustment Programmes*³⁸ at apparent human costs. The prevailing argument that ‘the growth of market forces and economic centric development will spread overall economic benefits’ and therefore end poverty is gradually found to be unsupported, when it is found in the cases where

³⁶ Internet source (4)

³⁷ Internet source (4)

³⁸ Origins of the Human Development Approach, <http://hdr.undp.org/en/humandev/origins/>

in spite of strong and consistent economic growth Social ills³⁹ were still spreading at one end, while, the wave of democratization and the demand for the people-centred models of development are gradually getting momentum at the other⁴⁰. The criticism and refutation of the above prevailing developmental approaches which are only centred on mere economic development found to be weak, and alternatively it was gradually re-recognised that there must be *a close link between national economic growth and the expansion of individual human choices*^{41/42}. However, this seems to be impossible when the developmental approaches remain centred at the State or larger private interests other than the individual human interests and values. Such a renewed desire⁴³ led to the formulation of the *human development paradigm*⁴⁴ based on the need for an alternative development model⁴⁵.

4. Why Human Development Approach?

According to the Nobel Laureate Prof. Amartya Sen "Human development approach has to be concerned with the basic development ideas⁴⁶, and these basic development ideas are to be: *the advancement and the richness of human life, rather than the richness of the economy in which human beings live, which is only a part of it*⁴⁷. In fact, the work Amartya Sen including many others has given the conceptual foundation human development approach⁴⁸. The HDA is a broader and seems to be most suitable alternative approach aimed at *enlarging people's choices and*

³⁹ Like: crime, weakening of social fabric, HIV/AIDS, pollution, etc.

⁴⁰ Origins of the Human Development Approach

⁴¹ ibid

⁴² Salih: 2011

⁴³ This is stated to renewed desire because, *many of its key principles can be found in the writings of scholars and philosophers from past eras and across many societies* (In: Origins of the Human Development Approach).

⁴⁴ Dr. Mahbub ul Haq, the Pakistani economist who played a key role in formulating the human development paradigm based on his recognition of the need for an alternative development model (In: Origins of the Human Development Approach)

⁴⁵ Origins of the Human Development Approach

⁴⁶ Prof. Amartya Sen, Professor of Economics, Harvard University, Nobel Laureate in Economics, 1998, (in: Origins of the Human Development Approach)

⁴⁷ Prof. Amartya Sen, Professor of Economics, Harvard University, Nobel Laureate in Economics, 1998 (in: Origins of the Human Development Approach)

⁴⁸ ibid

*enhancing human capabilities*⁴⁹. However, there cannot be specific definitions to explain HDA because, *this as an approach is always been flexible and open-ended*, because, *there can be as many human development dimensions as there are ways of enlarging people's choices*^{50/51}. Further, the priorities and parameters of it will can evolve and exchange over time and space. Nevertheless, there are some of key concerns like social progress⁵², economic growth⁵³, the desire for bringing efficiency and equity⁵⁴, participation-involvement-empowerment of commons⁵⁵, sustainability⁵⁶ and the materialisation human security goals⁵⁷, which will always remain central to the HDA implementation⁵⁸. At the practical sphere, the published work of Global Human Development Reports under the auspice of the UNDP is considered to be the applied and systematic study the HDA at a global level⁵⁹.

Developmental Models: Developmental models can be termed as *the common as well as specific aspects and aspiration of development* taken into exercise while deciding for or making of any shot of socio-economic models for development. These include one after other like: forecasting economic activity, and proposing economic policy to modify future economic activity, further, presenting consistent arguments to

⁴⁹ This includes: the range of things people can be and do, and further enabling them to: live a long and healthy life, have access to knowledge and a decent standard of living, and participate in the life of their community and decisions affecting their lives, (In: Origins of the Human Development Approach).

⁵⁰ Origins of the Human Development Approach

⁵¹ Internet source (5)

⁵² Social progress: greater access to knowledge, better nutrition and health services.

⁵³ Economics – the importance of economic growth as a means to reduce inequality and improve levels of human development, (in: Origins of the Human Development Approach).

⁵⁴ Efficiency- in terms of resource use and availability; human development is pro-growth and productivity as long as such growth directly benefits the poor, women and other marginalized groups; and Equity - in terms of economic growth and other human development parameters (In: Origins of the Human Development Approach).

⁵⁵ Participation and freedom - particularly empowerment, democratic governance, gender equality, civil and political rights, and cultural liberty, particularly for marginalized groups defined by urban-rural, sex, age, religion, ethnicity, physical/mental parameters, etc. (In: Origins of the Human Development Approach).

⁵⁶ Sustainability - for future generations in ecological, economic and social terms (in: Origins of the Human Development Approach).

⁵⁷ Human security - security in daily life against such chronic threats as hunger and abrupt disruptions including joblessness, famine, conflict, etc. (In: Origins of the Human Development Approach).

⁵⁸ Origins of the Human Development Approach

⁵⁹ ibid

substantiate such policy at the national level, and accordingly making of future strategy⁶⁰.

What can be the ideal “Sustainable Developmental Model” for India? And what are the approaches should be taken for making of this model?

In the study of development, various parameters are taken into consideration while deciding the models of growth and development. These are like: GDP, national income, capital, investment, productivity, tax revenue, infrastructure and public goods etc. these are traditionally considered to be the determinants of economic developments. However, these are now considered to be narrow parameters and the contemporary developmental models seek to also include the human welfare determinants such as life expectancy, literacy rates, child mortality rates, distribution of income at one end, and how much and in what why spending on public goods like education, health care⁶¹ has been done and what result has been drawn from this in terms of the improvements in standard of living of the commons at the other end; and this in totality now re-recognised to be correlated directly with improvements in development factors⁶².

Further, as per the World Bank’s understanding: the sustainable development parameters or focus areas of concern have to cover up many complex social challenges without addressing which the desire for sustainable approach will remain unfulfilled. Most of such important parameters are: Community Driven Development (CDD) initiatives, management of various internal conflicts, addressing gender issues⁶³, implementation of key social development safeguard policies⁶⁴, managing demographic pressures and issues⁶⁵ most importantly esp. high levels of

⁶⁰ Internet Source (6)

⁶¹ Internet Source (7)

⁶² Internet Source (7)

⁶³ Overview of the progress with respect to Gender issues for example gender mainstreaming

⁶⁴ the implementation of key social development safeguard policies are for example are Involuntary Resettlement issues and Indigenous Peoples rights

⁶⁵ esp. the problems like high levels of unemployment pressures

unemployment and bringing Good Governance that is at pace with the rapid changing socio-economic growth and changes⁶⁶.

Do parameters adopted in the NHDR (2001) fit to the sustainable human developmental desire?: It is important now to examine the parameters adopted in the NHDR (2001) fit to the right time expectation for a sustainable developmental approaches based model. It is now bring into analysis that The National Human Development Report 2001⁶⁷ has taken so called new parameters/variables into considerations as development indicator for socio-economic development analysis. These are: (i) *Per capita expenditure*, (ii) *Poverty*, (iii) *Safe water*, (iv) *Pucca house*, (v) *Literacy*, (vi) *Formal education*, (vii) *Life expectancy*, and (viii) *Infant mortality ratio*⁶⁸. But, “whether even cent per cent ensuring of these indicators can lead to sustainable human development?” is the question to be answered for.

5. Conclusion

The objective of this paper has not been to blame the globalisation and its impact, rather how India has over time shaped/reshaped and done its developmental policy adjustment toward managing or converting the challenges of globalisation into advantages, managing the impact of LPG, mitigating impact hazards, while taking fruits and benefit of LPG for its own. With its neo-adopted model of development, will India be able to achieve its objectives for national development like: ideals of distributive justice, balanced regional growth and empowerment of weaker sections and emancipation from poverty? Because, globalization has been with the country for centuries, and it is best part of India to take globalization into its advantages and do take best effort toward utilising its fruits for its own development before it starts manifesting its receding impact. Globalisation no doubt has come up with many ills,

⁶⁶Internet source (9)

⁶⁷ The National Human Development Report (2001) released by the Planning Commission.

⁶⁸ Internet Source (3)

but at the similar instance, it has come up with opportunities in the best interest of India, which India needs as much as harness to its interest possible, it has also given the best opportunities of heightened human welfare which India must also tap to its benefit. It must be remembered that: in a democratic and welfare country like India, “the objective of any programme of socio-economic development has to create continuous access to the beneficiaries”⁶⁹ that is the common citizen while ensuring the best avoidance of any types of conflicts and skirmishes.

⁶⁹ Internet source (10)

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