

The process of development begins from the bottom and moves towards the top. The roots of our nation lie in rural India. So the development of our society and country must begin from the rural areas.

**CAMPAIGN FOR
SELF-RELIANCE
Chitrakoot**

If parliamentarians who represent rural constituencies initiate a process of self reliance through villagers, it will pave the path for our country to become prosperous and wealthy.



DEENDAYAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

More than half a century has passed since we got our independence. But neither our country nor its citizens could achieve self-reliance. As a result, all of us are becoming victims of various injustices.

The Noble Goal of the Freedom Struggle:

Only the rulers and administrators are enjoying the fruits of independence. The status of the common man is still the same as it was during the pre-independence period. This was definitely not the goal of our freedom fighters. Our independence was achieved with the aim of giving all the citizens of our country, a dignified and self-reliant life. Inspired by this noble goal, numerous freedom fighters underwent terrible tortures and even sacrificed their lives for our freedom.

Independence was for Self-Reliance:

In the post independence period, constant efforts were required at the social level to achieve self-reliance. For centuries, our country had been under foreign rule. During this long period of servitude, the spirit and quest for self-reliance and a dignified life almost vanished. To revive this spirit after independence, an all out effort was required. But unfortunately, we equated independence with self-reliance. This was merely a self-deceiving attitude. Unless we get rid of this fetid concept, it will be impossible to attain self-reliance in our social, economic and political life. Unless the goal of self-reliance is achieved, the independence we earned through hardship and sacrifice will be worthless.

The Sorry State of Affairs:

After independence, in 1969, the then Prime Minister, Late Mrs. Indira Gandhi decided to eradicate poverty from our country. Although 32 years have passed since then, people in this country still die of starvation. Even the Supreme Court has reiterated this fact. Hundreds of poor children can be found begging on railway stations, bus stands and the footpaths of the cities. These children rush for food that is thrown away as garbage. This is the pitiable scenario even 54 years after independence. If this same style of functioning continues, then how and when will the future of this country be built?

Frightful Unemployment and the Danger of Disintegration:

After independence, our rulers tried to develop India through the bureaucracy using money power. These efforts did not yield the expected results, in either the economic or social sector. In fact, on a broader level, these efforts have resulted in growing social disintegration, unbearable economic disparity, and dreadful unemployment. With constantly increasing lawlessness, the atrocities and injustices inflicted on the people is ever increasing.

Neglecting Peoples' Power and Financial Extravagance:

Long periods of servitude have made the people 'government dependent'. After attaining independence, this slavish mentality of 'governmental dependency' should have been removed from the minds of the people. But this task was overlooked. Developmental work in the country was carried out through the bureaucracy with monetary incentives. Until the citizens of our country take the initiative for their own development, the bureaucracy and monetary incentives alone cannot achieve economic and social development. This fact is being overlooked. As a result of this, in spite of foreign loans to the tune of lakhs of crores of rupees, we are unable to eradicate poverty and unemployment in the country. Disappointment and unrest among the people is growing. On the one hand, the potential of peoples' power is being neglected, and on the other, money is being poured into development schemes, that has given rise to laziness among the people and corruption in the administration.

The Goal of Deendayal Research Institute:

This is the sorry state of affairs in our country even after 54 years of independence. In such a despairing situation, the need of the hour is to infuse a spirit of hope and confidence among the people for building the future. Deendayal Research Institute has resolved to develop a model to serve this purpose. To achieve this goal, our only capital is the strength of the people and the natural resources that are available in the rural areas.

Self-Reliance Campaign:

A self-reliance campaign will be conducted by Deendayal Research Institute in 500 selected villages around Chitrakoot. At the initial stage, to

be inaugurated on 26th January, 2002, this experiment will be carried out in 80 villages. Preparations for the campaign have already started since October, 2001.

Every five villages will form a cluster. So there will be 16 clusters in the initial stage. For every cluster of 5 villages, one *Samaj Shilpi Dampati* (a recently married 'Social Architect couple') has been appointed to work as the coordinators for the self-reliance campaign. Both husband and wife are graduates. Both of them are conversant with village life and have a deep affection for the people. 16 *Samaj Shilpi Dampatis* have been appointed, all of whom have been trained at Deendayal Research Institute. These couples have already reached their respective areas.

On the morning of 26th January, 2002, at the centre of each village cluster, all the villagers (men, women and children), will gather together for the hoisting of the national flag. They will be administered the following oath — **"We, all the villagers, with mutual cooperation, will make our village self-reliant. By 26th January, 2005, we will eradicate unemployment, poverty, and illiteracy from our village. Every family of our village will become self-reliant and prosperous. We will see to it that no dispute of our village will reach the courts. And all the old disputes will be settled amicably at our village level. We will also see to it that our village will become green and clean. And will built our village into a model of self-reliance."**

Our Goal:

35 of these 80 villages are in Satna District of Madhya Pradesh and the remaining 45 are in the Chitrakoot District of Uttar Pradesh. Deendayal Research Institute has an Agricultural Science Centre (Krishi Vigyan Kendra) in each of the districts. These Centres were allotted to Deendayal Research Institute by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Agricultural scientists from these centres are also going to participate in the self-reliance campaign. The campaign will be taken to all the remaining villages by 26th January, 2009. This means that efforts will be made to make all the 500 villages in Chitrakoot self-reliant by 2009.

India is Blessed by Nature:

In many senses, nature had made India self-reliant. From Kashmir to

Kannyakumari, and from Manipur to Kutch, one can see all types of climatic zones and land patterns available in the world. It is as if nature has bestowed a mini-version of the world to India with the mission to lead in its development.

India has the highest mountain ranges in the world. A large network of perennial rivers; big and small lakes and other water bodies are spread all over our country. We also have a 8,000 km long coastline. Our country has vast forest cover. Our soil is rich in all sorts of minerals and metals. India is also rich in its variety of birds and animals. Our country has all three seasons. Unlimited solar energy is available.

Our Great Motherland:

Russia, China, America, Canada, Australia, Western Europe and Brazil — all these countries have more land available than India. But India is blessed with more cultivable land than all these countries.

India has 190 million hectares of arable land — whereas America has 177 million hectares, China has 124 million hectares, the old Russian Union has 123 million hectares, Western Europe has 77 million hectares, Australia has 56 million hectares, and Brazil has 53 million hectares.

The Indo-Gangetic Plain extends from Punjab in the West, to Gangasagar in the East. It is considered to be the single largest, most fertile plain in the world. This unique arable land is about 3,000 km long and 250 to 450 km wide, spread over an area aggregating about 80 million hectares. This huge land mass has such soft soil that there is hardly any stone or rock to a depth of 1,000 ft. Water flowing from the Himalayan rivers, carries with it soft fertile mud, which rejuvenates the land each year.

In addition to this, the arable land in the Eastern and Western coastal areas is equally fertile and productive. From the Konkan on the Western coast to the Malabar on the Southern coast, though the arable land is narrow, it is highly productive. The width of the available land here is on an average 7 km. On the Eastern coast, arable land spreads from Kalinga (Orissa) to Coromandel (Tamil Nadu), including the Andhra Pradesh coast, which is wider. The arable land on the Eastern coast is naturally irrigated by the Eastern bound rivers of the great Southern plateau. The most productive agricultural land of the Eastern and Western coasts is about 40 million hectares. The rest of the cultivable land is on the Southern and

Central plateaus. This wide area falls in the water basin of many rivers.

The Blessings of the Himalayas:

India is gifted by nature with the Himalayas — the highest mountain range in the world. Though geographically, the Himalayas is shared equally by India and Tibet (now China), it is more favourable to India, as all the water flowing from the mountains — both rain water, and water from melting ice — flows to India alone. The Ganga, Yamuna, Brahmaputra and Sindhu (major portion in Pakistan), are all perennial rivers that originate in the Himalayas and flow through Indian land (Pakistan is a natural part of India), irrigating Indian land all through the year.

The Need of the Hour:

Nature has left no dearth of any sort for the sons and daughters of India. The only need of the hour is for us to make an all out effort. That is all that is required to achieve the goal of self-reliance.

Agriculture:

Since ancient times, Indians have used the proverb *Annamaya pran* (Man cannot survive without food). This proverb is nothing but a fact of life. And the only source for this invaluable food is agricultural land. In terms of available arable land and productivity, India stands first in the community of nations. But it is extremely sad, that in comparison to other countries, the current per acre production is quite low. About two hundred years ago, Indian agricultural productivity was the highest in the world.

III-Effects of Landlordism:

In their own interests, foreign rulers enforced landlordism in India. This system helped the then rulers to collect taxes from the peasants. But this system was certainly not conducive for agricultural productivity. As the land was owned by a landlord and he dictated the terms to the tillers, the tillers had to obey them. Tillers were not free to exercise their own choice in farming. For this reason, during the freedom struggle, freedom fighters simultaneously fought against landlordism.

After independence, the government abolished landlordism. A 'Land to the Tillers' Bill was enacted. Though landlordism was abolished through this Act, in reality, very little was done. Till today, there are many big land

owners who have much more land in their possession than is legally permitted. They clearly violate the prescribed land ceiling. These big landlords influence a large chunk of voters in their region. That is why political leaders rely mainly on such big land owners for votes and are indebted to them.

Our Wrong Agriculture Policies:

After independence, our agricultural policies were influenced by the big landlords. As a result of this, the large and needy section of small peasants were neglected. That is why even after 54 years of independence, 3/4ths of our agricultural land remains uneconomical. Because of this lacuna in the agricultural policy, not only have small farmers remained below the poverty line, but our country has not prospered agriculturally.

The Need for Constructive Attitudes and Activities:

In the fight against foreign rule, non-cooperation, strikes, bandhs and other destructive measures were justified. But after independence, these destructive activities cannot have any role. Such destructive actions can only become obstacles in the development of our society and country. Moreover, our new generation is misguided by such activities. In the post-independence period, only constructive activities should have been promoted. Deendayal Research Institute believes in this philosophy.

In the Satna district of Madhya Pradesh — more specifically in Majhgawan of the Chitrakoot region, Deendayal Research Institute has successfully proved that uneconomic holdings can be converted into economic holdings. It is assumed that landholdings of two and half acres and less are non-profitable units. Deendayal Research Institute has now proved that even such small unit owner/farmers can save Rs. 5000/- per year after meeting their family's annual expenses. Actually, these farmers can now contribute to the nation's capital formation also. This contribution can grow even bigger. The then Director of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), a council run by the Central Government, Dr. Paroda, and the Director General of CAPART, Shri Rangan Datta were overwhelmed to see these successful experiments. These models are examples of how constructive programs can be of great help in the development of our nation.

Turning Uneconomic Holdings into Economic Holdings:

In Deendayal Research Institute's self-reliance campaign, the program of converting uneconomic holdings into economic holdings will play a major role. The illiterate marginal farmers of uneconomic holdings are today considered as deadweight in the country. But tomorrow, these same farmers will play a leading role in the development of the country. Our aim is also to achieve the highest agricultural productivity per acre in the world. At present, agriculture is considered to be loss making business. Unless we convert it to profit making one, our country cannot achieve prosperity.

Irrigation:

To increase agricultural production, Irrigation Management is a must. Rain water can only provide enough water for the *kharif* crop. Nowadays, even rain water is not regularly available. The pumping of ground water has increased at an alarming rate, and recharging of the ground water has been neglected. As a result, the water table in the country is rapidly decreasing. Wells in the villages are going dry. That is why, in many villages, drinking water has become a serious problem.

Rain water is wasted every year. The tradition of preserving rain water has almost vanished. Rain water is no longer added to the ground water. Earlier, old lakes (big and small) were used to recharge the ground water. Now these lakes are drying up. Many lakes have been brought under cultivation. Because of the lack of recharging the ground water with rain, the water table is receding very fast. Serious attention has to be given to this problem.

Water Scarcity and its Solution:

Deendayal Research Institute, through the efforts of its scientists of the Krishi Vigyan Kendras, has tried to tackle the issue of water scarcity. In many villages, people are forced to carry drinking water from a distance of 5 to 6 km. At least one person (generally a woman) from each family is engaged in fetching drinking water full-time. A meeting of villagers from 19 such villages was called. The villagers were brought together to make sincere efforts to solve the drinking water problem. They happily and enthusiastically cooperated to resolve the problem on their own. During this period, the Madhya Pradesh government announced the *Rajiv*

Gandhi Jal Prabandhan Yojana. As a result of our efforts, Deendayal Research Institute was given the responsibility of implementing the scheme in these 19 villages. Under the able guidance of scientists from the Krishi Vigyan Kendras, villagers started constructing check dams in their region to stop the flowing rain water. Men, women and children, wholeheartedly participated in this program. As they were to be emancipated from the scarcity of drinking water, these villagers completed the construction work prior to the rainy season. No cement or steel was required. Only locally available stones and mud was used for the construction of these dams. Initially, the 'leaders' in the region said that such dams would not even last through the first rains. But they did. Water remained stored in the pools created by these check dams. The same water then recharged the ground water. Now there is 10-15 ft. of water in the local wells even in the months of May and June. These wells earlier used to go dry. As a result of these massive efforts, more than 12,000 hectares of agricultural land is now being irrigated. The level of confidence of the local farmers has increased tremendously. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is encouraging scientists from its other centres to visit and study this experiment.

Productivity of Land:

Every crop reduces the fertility of the land it uses. To rejuvenate its productive capacity every year, the land needs fertilizers. Crop development is an organic process. So logically speaking, fertilizers should also be organic. Western countries seem to be unaware of this fact. The tradition of agriculture in those countries is quite new. They have very little experience in agriculture. Europeans settled in America. In America, each farmer owns 700 to 800 acres of agricultural land. And it is impossible for a single family to manage such large farms. That is why they adopted mechanized farming methods, and started using chemical fertilizers. This is how farming is done in America. To achieve higher agricultural production, chemical fertilizers help initially. But later, the cost of production keeps increasing, while actual production decreases. At the same time, the land loses its fertility permanently. Westerners have now realised this fact.

Indian Vision:

In India, agriculture is not looked upon as only a means of earning.

Agriculture is not only an issue of personal profit or loss. It is considered to be a lifeline for mankind. We consider society everlasting. Likewise, we consider agriculture as a sustainable system. Therefore, to protect agriculture is our mission. This has been a special feature of our agriculture policy.

Due to this approach, Indian agriculture has developed through the efforts of ages, and the productivity of our agricultural land has been preserved.

Blind Race for Progress:

For western agricultural scientists, this fact of Indian Agricultural has remained a great mystery. They cannot understand how the productivity of our agricultural land has been preserved. Today, America is the most developed nation in the world. But its history is hardly of a few hundred years. In America, the motive of life is to maintain economic supremacy. They lack human concerns. That is why the motivation for every activity is to earn maximum profit. Because of this attitude, within a period of 250-300 years, the land in America has started losing its productive capacity. Food produced by using chemical fertilizers and pesticides has many hazards. They give rise to new diseases. After experiencing these adverse effects, westerners are now resorting to organic farming. In India, instead of preserving our traditional, self-reliant, sustainable mode of agriculture, we are shifting to mechanized agriculture with high doses of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Ironically, we consider this to be a more progressive method!!

Undemocratic and Parasitic Direction:

Even though India is a newly independent nation, it is certainly not a new country. Ours is the oldest civilization in the world. Many social, cultural and administrative systems were tried in this country. Our democratic system is also one of the oldest. Indian tradition holds that personal, social, economic and political interactions are integral parts of human life. This is the essence of Indian philosophy. Our traditional teachings tell us that cooperative and complimentary social interactions is the way for a peaceful social life. The self-reliance of each person in society is the basis of our democracy. And India had, in the past, practiced such a system successfully.

The Pillars of Democracy:

In India, farmers are considered to be the backbone of our democracy. You will find that those who are not self-reliant cannot sustain a democracy successfully. That is why, in India, farmers have been recognised as the vanguards of democracy. And farmers have always been the majority in India. Farmers provide us with our food and will do so forever. Today, they constitute more than 70% of our population. With this background, self-reliance for farmers is of the essence.

The agricultural policies followed in India after independence did not make our farmers self-reliant, but instead, made them more and more dependent. This not only weakened our democracy, but also adversely affected our agricultural production.

The Illusion of Mechanization:

Big land holders in our country are rapidly opting for mechanized farming. With this process, they usually face a scarcity of diesel every year during the harvest season. You will find them standing in queues at petrol stations for upto 10 days with their tractors, waiting for diesel. As a result, they can't plough their fields in time. Nowadays, a lot of agricultural work is carried out by machines. But our country doesn't have sufficient diesel for these machines. This diesel shortage is overcome by importing diesel with foreign loans. This policy has made our country totally dependent on foreign countries.

What Sort of Democracy is This?

Due to the high degree of mechanization in the agricultural sector, more and more agricultural labourers are being rendered unemployed. These unemployed labourers then migrate to the cities and settle in slums. Those farmers who use mechanized farming methods are inevitably forced to use chemical fertilizers. These chemical fertilizers are manufactured by fertilizer companies. These companies are either owned by private industrialists or the government, and require huge capital investments. In this interdependent system, big farmers become more and more dependent on industrialists. On the other hand, their agricultural land is losing its productive capacity. Diesel machines and tractors are polluting the village air. This is the sorry state of big farmers of our country. One can imagine then, what the condition of the small peasant,

who form 3/4ths of the population, would be. In such a situation, farmers cannot be self-reliant. In fact, in independent India, under the rule of our own democratic governments, our farmers are tied to a chain of dependency. This is certainly a major reverse for our democratic society. Were the great martyrs of our freedom struggle expected this from us? Is it not a blow to our democracy?

Irrigation Management:

Irrigation management today is done through large canal systems. In this system, big farmers have always benefited, as they have all the resources to meet their own interests. But the irrigation needs of the small farmers are never fulfilled. They cannot get water for their crops in time. This irrigation system promotes corruption in the administration. In every instance, underhand dealings have become essential. The life of the poor has become miserable. Does this mean that our independence is only for moneyed people? The need of the hour is to implement a local level irrigation system. This will make farmers self-reliant. The land will be irrigated in time and the underground water table will also be preserved.

Are Hybrid Seeds Beneficial?

Seeds play a vital role in agriculture. If fields are not sowed in time, then farmers lose half their work. In this modern technical era, tissue-culture and hybrid seeds are becoming more and more popular. Plant saplings grown out of tissue-culture and hybrid seeds are quite costly, and can only be used for one crop. This means that in the quest of high yield, farmers will become more and more dependant on big industrialists. In the process, industrialists will multiply their profits, but poor farmers will not get anything other than dependency. This is not good, either for our democracy or for agricultural production. That is why, in the interest of common people and our country, it is the need the hour to work for self-reliance.

It is not very difficult to make arrangements to provide the best seeds to a group of villages. As these are not crossbreeds, farmers themselves can produce the next generation of seeds on their own. Deendayal Research Institute has successfully experimented with this technique in its Krishi Vigyan Kendras.

Organic Fertilizers are the Best:

Organic fertilizers can be made popular in villages. Even small farmers can produce organic manure in a corner of their land with vermiculture. And these small farmers can become self-reliant for their fertilizer needs.

Use of Cattle — Best for Agriculture:

The use of oxen for ploughing the fields is more scientific and less expensive. It also protects the productivity of the land. In the quest for immediate gains, big farmers are abandoning this conventional method. The long term effects of this change will prove to be hazardous. Cows and oxen survive on grass and other plants that are inedible for humans. In addition, they are 'captive factories' of organic fertilizer. Farmers can also use them, without additional expenses, for other agricultural activities. This is a dignified self-reliant method of agriculture. It will even reduce unemployment and preserve the production capacity of the land. Crops produced in this manner will be tastier and more nutritious. This process will provide the farmers with an opportunity to lead a self-reliant, dignified life. Uneconomic holdings can be transformed into economic holdings.

Inhuman Political System:

Our rural sector is blessed by nature. But since independence, the people of this community have been put under hardships, unemployment, poverty, migration and many other injustices. There cannot be a more unjust system than this. It is a pity that in the name of democracy, all these things are going on, and the leaders of our country are busy blaming each other.

Social Commitment — A Lack of Understanding:

The youth of our country are focused on getting specialised University degrees and finding highly paid jobs. They are not bothered about the problems of the people or our country. Their parents are encouraging them in their self-centered missions. The behaviour of many of our political leaders, intellectuals, thinkers, writers and speakers is also no better than the common people. Even their children are not inspired by the semblance of social responsibility. As a result of this, in many sections of society, you

cannot find even a spirit of social commitment. In such a situation, how can we expect a rebirth of our nation?

In our Democracy, Peoples' Participation is Absent:

After independence, elections were held on the basis of adult franchise. For the last 50 years, political leaders have convinced the people that they will solve all the problems of the country if they come to power, and cater to all the requirements of the people. They never ever mention, that peoples' participation is required to do all this. That is why there is no chance for our new generation to ever feel the spirit of patriotism — They are never told that it is required.

Root of Uncontrolled Corruption:

Since 1952, elections have been held in the country. Candidates of all political parties participated in the elections. Since then, election expenses have risen by leaps and bounds. Though the Election Commission has set a limit for election expenses, nobody adheres to it. The Election Commission has also been a silent bystander on expenditure violations by candidates. The intriguing question is, from where does such large sums of money come? We are all aware that this is black money. All successive governments were formed the basis of this black money. In this scenerio, what can grow in this country other than corruption?

Right Way to Correct it:

This doesn't mean that we should be stuck in such a situation and let these shameless activities go on. There is a way to tackle this turbulent situation and that too by legitimate ways. To tackle this situation, we will have to move to rural India.

Peculiarities of Villagers:

Our villagers are still more ampathetic than their urban counterparts. They can identify with the pains of others. And try to help the needy. They still have a fear of immoral acts. They are still under the influence of faith and devotion. They eagerly join in efforts where personal and social causes are achieved together. To establish a new social order, all these qualities are essential. There is another positive aspect. Most of the villagers are still far from the 'easy money' rat race and they still believe

in earning their livelihood. They are honest and hardworking. These two qualities can help develop a fair, complimentary social order. A self-reliant social system can blossom in such an atmosphere.

Need for Guidance:

A supposedly 'progressive thinking process' is now spreading in rural India. The traditional way of life and modern life styles are clashing against each other. Rural people are unable to choose between these two life patterns. This has slowed down the pace of social activity. This is why proper guidance is needed. Earlier, foreign rulers and officers used to look down on villagers. Our government officers are no different from them. Because of this high handedness, the huge creative potential of the people has not been brought into use. If the rural population is encouraged with love and affection, rural society can be transformed into a prosperous society.

Social Architect couples of Deendayal Research Institute and agricultural scientists are staying in the villages, along with the villagers. They participate in all the activities along with villagers. This interaction is the need of the villagers.

Health:

If a person is not healthy in all senses, he can't use the resources that are available to him. So, a self-reliant life pattern in the villages can only be achieved if priority is given to the health needs of the villagers. To do this, health environment creation programs were initiated even before Diwali last year. The roads and lanes of all the selected eighty villages were cleaned. All the pot holes on the roads were filled up. Garbage dumps in or around the villages used to get decomposed during the rainy season. This created unhygienic conditions. All these dustbins were cleaned before Diwali. Domestic effluents used to spill over the roads emitting foul odours. All this solid waste and effluents were collected in 4-5 pits in the village, and then spread in the fields after every 4 days. Different species of useful trees are being planted around the villages. This will help oxygenate the air.

Arogyadham (Health Centre):

This Health Research Centre is located at Chitrakoot. With the use of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, a life long health system is being

developed there. Personal health, family health, and social health — a compact training program on these three issues is going to start shortly at the centre.

Life Long Health:

Objectively speaking, nature has created human beings in a manner that he can remain healthy throughout his life. All other animals also have this benefit from nature. They do not need hospitals. But humans, in a lust for various material comforts, have adopted a lot of unnatural ways of living. It is the ego of humans that makes them try and conquer nature. But in the process, they have pushed themselves towards great dangers. Human society must come out of this vicious circle. Then only can it achieve peace. Arogyadham is commencing its work in this direction in rural areas.

In the eighty selected villages, preparations are on to provide lifelong health to all the children who will be born after 26th January, 2002.

Fifty percent of the diseases that are prevalent in the villages are due to unclean drinking water. The first task to be taken up is to provide clean drinking water in these eighty villages.

Counseling Centres for marriageable youth and newly married couples are also being started. In these villages, pregnant women will also be given proper advice and counseling about pregnancies, midwifery and children, which includes ideal parenting methods and diets for newborn babies.

As villagers do not get proper guidance about a healthy way of life from their childhood, they suffer from many diseases. A study was conducted that verified this fact.

Dadi Ma Ka Batua (Grandmother' Medical Kit):

Traditionally, grandmothers in the family used to keep a medicinal pouch which use to contain various locally available medicines. She used them to cure many small health disorders. They were treatments that evolved through experience. Arogyadham has prepared a medical kit of a similar type. 35 herbal medicines prepared in its *Rasashala* are used in this kit. All frequently occurring diseases can be treated by these medicines. All these medicines are prepared using locally available herbs and are very cheap. This medicinal kit has become very popular among the people of these villages. The direction for the use of these medicines is also given along with the kit in very simple language. Once this kit is in your

hand, you need not to go anywhere for simple, common illnesses. The poorest of the poor can also be self-sufficient. Socially aware persons in the villages have also been trained in the use of these medicines. They treat the patients in the village. Chronic and serious patients are sent to Arogyadham at Chitrakoot for further treatment.

Meals:

To keep oneself healthy, and active, one needs to eat daily. But nowadays, even our food has becoming a source of diseases. Grains, vegetables and fruits produced using chemical fertilizers are a cause of concern. They may be attacked by bacteria. To control these bacteria, pesticides and insecticides are sprayed on these products. These poisons are then carried to the human body. As a result of this, the human body tends to develop many disorders. This has become a common phenomenon. Such food products are becoming a great hurdle in our campaign for self-reliance. To avoid this, special healthy food processes are being adopted. All the grain, vegetables and fruits are being produced using organic fertilizers. And if the crops still get infected, then an extract of neem leaves and 2% cow urine can be sprayed on them. This solution controls all types of infections. In fact, such crops give higher yield and better quality. Such products have higher nutritional value and taste. This is the scientific method to protect crops. Even western countries, that are so called 'developed', are now adopting these methods.

Crop Production:

Scientists from our Krishi Vigyan Kendras are engaged in converting noneconomic holdings into economic holdings. Poor farmers are also making an all out effort to achieve self-reliant development. This will lead to surplus agricultural production in the villages. These eighty villages will now be able to supply their organic products to cities in limited amounts. In this way, self-reliant farmers will be help in improving the health of urban citizens.

Udyamita Vidyapeeth — Entrepreneur Training Centre:

Our Entrepreneur Training Centre, Udyamita Vidyapeeth, will guide the villages, as to which of the crops can be sold in urban centres. This will give an opportunity to these farmers to earn additional economic benefits. All these healthy organic products will be supplied in safety packs. The

packing methods will be taught in Udyamita Vidyapeeth. In this way, an interdependent system between villages and cities will be established. There is no supply of such health products in the cities. This shortcoming will be overcome through the program conducted by Udyamita Vidyapeeth. On one hand, this program will provide healthy agricultural products, produced using organic fertilizers, to citizens in urban areas. And on the other hand, lots of employment opportunities will be generated in rural areas. Thus, self-reliance will be achieved.

In the forests, lots of materials that are commonly used in the cities are available. Illiterate, simple tribals are exploited for such forest products by industrial companies. As a result of this, villagers and tribals, once rich from such resources, are now in a very miserable state. To eradicate such misery, Udyamita Vidyapeeth is training villagers and tribals to become self-reliant. Social Architect couples are playing a very important role in this program.

Useful herbs that is naturally available in the forests are being semi and fully processed by local tribals, so that it can be sent to the cities. For this process, the required skills are being taught to the tribals by Udyamita Vidyapeeth. These tribals can then become self-reliant.

Our rural areas are full of natural resources. But tribals are unaware of how to use these resources. Udyamita Vidyapeeth is trying to strengthen the tribals in this respect.

Wealth from Livestock:

In the rural areas, there are many types of useful livestock. Villagers can greatly benefit from them. Today, villagers are simply playing the role of shepherds. If they are taught various methods of producing livestock products, then they can improve their economic earnings. This will also benefit our citizens in many ways. New interdependent social systems between villages and towns can be evolved.

The quality of livestock breeds is deteriorating. This problem has to be tackled immediately. It is great loss to our country. Our national leadership has no time to look into these rural issues. In this campaign for self-reliance, we will be raising the quality of sheep and goats in the villages. The best available steer of these species will be provided at every village cluster centre. Udyamita Vidyapeeth will try to develop various processes

to use all the available livestock products.

Goal of Educational and the New Social Order:

Our established educational systems have become career factories. This has led to a generation of self-centered and consumer oriented people. The only motive of every person has become to earn the maximum amount of money. If the expected dowry is not received, then newly married girls are put through such great atrocities, that they commit suicide. Most of the people who provoke the girls to commit suicide are educated. Why is our existing educational system making us inhuman? *Sarve Bharantu Sukhinah...* 'Where let all live happily ..' is a popular slogan in our country. So how, on our holy land, are our youth becoming so inhuman? Is it due to the educational system? Nobody seems bothered about this issue.

The Britishers turned our teachers, who were our *Gurujan* into salary earners. Their need was to have obedient employees rather than nation building teachers. Since independence, there has been no effort to make our teachers responsibility for teaching their students nation building ideas.

Deendayal Research Institute, instead of entering into undue controversies, has decided to develop an essential educational system. The human body is an integrated form of body, mind, intellect and soul. Pandit Deendayalji highlighted this fact. But nobody bothered to try and understand or work with these elements.

The basic elements of the body and soul work in opposing directions. The body has a tendency to indulge in pleasures. It provokes us into accumulating possessions beyond our capacity to consume them. It hardly thinks about the sorrow or happiness of other human beings.

But the tendency of the soul is totally different. It gets hurt with the sorrow of others. It always tries to comfort others. It inspires human being to help others, rather than accumulate material goods. It develops compassion in human beings. To achieve a perfect balance between these two totally opposing tendencies, education is essential. This should be the goal of education But this basic motive has been lost.

The personality development of children begins at an early age in our homes. This is the preliminary process of education. But during this

period, the proper educational direction is lost. After this, the child enters a school. In the existing education systems, various subjects are taught that only help in acquiring degrees. The humanitarian development of the students is overlooked in the school. Even the teaching staff in the schools do not appear to be aware of the goal of education.

Objectively speaking, unless a complimentary atmosphere is created in schools, families and society, a new generation of children cannot be developed in a 'discrimination free' social atmosphere. Only when this happens, will these children be able to identify with the sorrow and happiness of the people. But due to the lack of this atmosphere today, these children feel isolated in society.

In Swarajya, Teachers are Workers:

After independence, many commissions were set up to reorganise our educational systems. Sufficient money was spent on them. But many good suggestions were not adopted. Why? This is an unanswered question.

Children from various social stratas come together in the school classroom. Their levels of understanding are not the same. All of them should be developed to be Indians. This is the responsibility of teachers. As they are the guardians of these students, teachers should make these students into architects of the nation.

But even after Independence, these teachers are not free to exercise their own judgement in the use of different methods for teaching students from different social and cultural backgrounds. They are compelled to complete the prescribed curriculum. Their promotion depends on it. They are only workers. In this situation, it is quite obvious that in the place of a spirit of nationality, only selfish attitudes will be developed.

54 years after independence, we are still in a precarious educational atmosphere. The results of this educational system has to be critically evaluated. A new generation has grown into self-centered individuals. They don't feel as part of our society or our country. In this situation, who will build the future of our country?

Innovative Attempts:

Late Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay had thought over this issue. According to his thoughts, Deendayal Research Institute is trying to develop a

model educational system. The children of the 80 selected villages are learning in our schools. Work is already begun among these students. Efforts are on to make these students self-reliant and integrate them in social activities. Efforts are being made to seek the cooperation of the teachers. With this intention, special efforts are also been made to have close contact with their families. Our efforts are to develop the potential of these students as social beings. To assume that these students can only develop upto the school level, is to dwarf them. That is what is happening today. These upcoming citizens will be inspired to spend at least one hour each day for a cause of the people, family or society. This will help them to develop an ability to work on a practical level. And they will have an integrated feel for society. Appropriate work programs are being designed. Teachers are also being encouraged to work with their students and guide them in this direction.

The educational tradition in India was the *Gurukul* system. In this system, not only were students taught various subjects and rituals, but they were also required to do all the domestic work. Their overall development was achieved. They were trained in social cooperation. There was no scope for self-centered thinking.

Children of all social stratas used to learn in one *Gurukul*. The story of Krishna and Sudama is an example of this tradition. The result of this practice was that social unity and integrity was maintained. There was no scope for a self-centered or separatist way of life. The whole population used to live like a single family. Value systems of life remained unabated. This was the great benefit of our older educational systems. But in independent India, our leaders choose special school for their children. They provided cars for their children. These children do not come into contact with common children. Is this the right educational system?

Foreign rulers, especially the British, adversely affected our educational systems. Their policy was one of 'divide and rule'. Rulers are always blindly followed by those they rule. The English rulers started separate school for their children. Many of the then kings also started separate schools for their own children. And slowly a process of separate schools for every caste and religion started. In this land of *Gurukuls*, where schools were a medium for social unity and integrity, a new trend of schools emerged. And that gave rise to social disintegration.

The existing educational system promotes separation and self-centeredness among children from an early age. Public schools are considered to good educational centres. To teach children in such costly schools has become a status symbol. Children of rulers, administrators and the influential class study in such schools. That is why, to expect the current state to transform this antisocial education system, is like running after a dream.

It is a great relief that rural schools are still not affected by this antisocial tendency of separate schools. The need is for teachers to be made aware of their responsibilities. This task can only be fulfilled through close dialogue with teachers, and not by *diktats*.

The men and women involved in teaching are the true nation builders. Our old traditions have proved this fact. Social values are inculcated to children by these men and women. *Sarvabhut Hiteratah* 'Well-being of all' was the message given by our great teachers.

Humans cannot live alone. The family in which a human is born also cannot live in isolation. Small and big societies are the basis of a human being's existence. Rishis and Munis who were involved in education highlighted this fact. The motivation of 'Well-being of all', gave rise to social cooperation and social amity. This made all society happy. This was not promoted by any ruler, but was part of the educational thought process that inspired it.

In the current social system, unless teachers adopt our traditional values and take up the task of implementing them, the spirit of social life cannot be revived in our society. The spirit of patriotism will not be revived in the new generation. Our rural society is the most favoured section to start this noble work.

Family life:

Family life is the source of human values. This is a proven fact of Indian tradition. Till our family value system was practiced, our society continuously progressed. Whenever social values were neglected, our social life became turbulent. This is a historical fact. Families, through their offsprings, maintain an eternal continuity in society. But this is not a mechanical process. This is our eternal duty. This is a sacred rite of development for a person, family and society. Reviving this tradition is

the need of the hour. This the basis of self-reliance.

The Teachers (Gurujan):

Teachers (*Gurujan*) are the guides for every person, family, nation and the universe. When the ability of teachers to guide is preserved, moral coordination and harmony in the state's management, commerce, social life and family life is maintained. Otherwise dishonesty, disorder and corruption grows. They are the guardians and guides of each new generation of society. Good or bad tendencies can originate from them. Schools are the root source of this and the teachers are the controllers of the schools. Family members, administrators, rulers, thinkers, writers, editors were all educated by teachers. Unfortunately, this task was overlooked after independence. For Deendayal Research Institute, this is one of our most important tasks. To fulfill this task in the rural areas is slightly easier. That is why this program is being started in the 80 selected villages. In all these villages, no person below the age of 40 years will remain illiterate. The meaning of education is not only literacy, but also understanding human society. Various disputes in the village can be resolved through dialogue instead of going to the courts. This was our tradition. This practice will be revived.

Balodyan:

'Children are the provident fund of society' — this sentence has become a catchy slogan of every leader. But the precarious and malnourished state of children in the rural areas is beyond the imagination of people in urban areas.

Though villages are located in the backyard of nature, they have today become centres of solid wastes. The children are growing up in a very unhealthy atmosphere. But who cares for this provident fund of the nation? The development of these children is the basis of *Balodyan*.

Children love playing. Entertaining and educational parks will be developed in every village. A model of the *Balodyan*, Nani Duniya, is being developed at Chitrakoot.

Information:

There are various events that take place around in the world that affect

our lives. But villagers are unaware of them. Deendayal Research Institute feels it is essential that all the useful and important information be given to villagers from time to time. For this purpose, a huge blackboard will be placed at a central location in the village. Arrangements are being made to provide important information in bold letters on these boards. This will allow villagers to access important information which could be useful for them.

Gramoday Fund:

Under the village self-reliance program, every step is designed to make villages self sufficient. For this, it is essential to make an arrangement for the villagers to work on their own in this direction. That is the purpose of the Gramoday Fund, which will be placed in every village cluster.

Every family will contribute to the Gramoday Box (which will be with every family) according to their capacity. Even the poorest of the poor will contribute at least a handful of grain to this box. This act will impress upon the children of the family the importance of social commitments. Isolation from society is not in the interest of a person, family or society at large. The Gramoday Fund will integrate every member of the family to society. Happiness of an individual and of society is inseparable. This will be experienced by everyone.

Expectations from Parliamentarians:

The process of development moves from the bottom towards the top. Rural societies are the root of our nation. That is why our development process should begin from rural areas.

Parliamentarians from the rural areas can initiate a process of development in their respective constituencies, using different method and peoples' participation. This will pave the way for the prosperity of our nation:

- 1) Transactions in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha can be changed to a more constructive form.
- 2) Assemblies in our States, Metropolitan Councils, Civic Councils, District Councils and Village Panchayats can be guided in a more constructive manner.

- 3) The State and Administration can become more people oriented.
- 4) Corruption can be controlled.
- 5) This will impart new a constructive vision to our future generations.
- 6) This will eliminate self centeredness from individuals and families as well as reduce casteism and sectarianism in our society. Our society can become more united.
- 7) This will provide an opportunity to control malpractices, tyranny and violence in our society.

With these expectations, Deendayal Research Institute has started this campaign for self-reliance.

|| Vande Mataram ||