



SDG AND PRESENT SITUATION

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It is highly important to discuss about SDG at this time of great danger of the whole world. I am not in a position to discuss about this matter as little do I know, yet I want to share with you my feelings which have touched my heart. 193 countries of the whole world with their united power have endeavoured to fulfill the 17 objectives in 2030, which they have not been able to in the past. I do not know much of these objectives be successfully completed, but it is an undeniable fact that though the pandemic Covid-19 situation has made us face a number of grave problems, it has shown us the path of fulfilling some goals.

The ways of solving problems have been obviously indicated. The feelings that I am going to express will be identical with some of these 17 objectives of SDG. While returning home after closing our College sine die, in the second half of March 20, we thought that we have to suffer the consequences of what has been happening in the remote corner of world. All the educational institutions are being shut down, and it did not occur to our mind those words of Bengali Poet Bharatcahandra, “Can temple of God be spared, if city burns?” Truth was brought home when all the works and the throbbing of life stopped. We have to suffer, and will have to suffer advantages of Globalization. When the world has built its nest in a single courtyard, “Temple of God is not spared, if city burns”. We perceived, that we could not be far away from danger, when China, Italy or America suffering from Covid-19. We felt that we were trapped in a stand still life. In this waveless flow of life, a wonderful change in the behaviour of Nature was seen. We noticed some unknown birds singing in nearby trees, and in the social media we found peacocks and peahens moving in Rajpath of Delhi. The river Yamuna, whose pollution had gone beyond limit, was becoming clear gradually, the white darkness of smog and particles no more shrouded the Capital city of India. The unbearable heat-wave that swept through out the months of April and May, in Purulia, and people could not come out of home and without AC sleep at night was unthinkable, had been reduced to normalcy. We need not to switch on the fan. The degree of Global warming has wonderfully, come under control within a few months, which we had not been able to reduce notwithstanding our century-long effort. In reality, the 13th objective of the SDG is being fulfilled.

For climatic change, almost all the countries of the world have been continuing different projects and efforts unitedly, and even after spending billions of dollars, we have not been able to control our polluted environment and we still do not know whether we would be successful in controlling the pollution by 2030, but Covid-19 situation has indicated the ways. We noticed how fast Nature can bring back equilibrium in her environment. We were moving towards a great danger due to our extremely luxurious, lustful and aggressive ways of life-style. But during this Pandemic Covid-19 situation we are forced to return to a slow, tranquil and waveless simple life-style of ancient period. We are now accustomed to home-made food instead of fast-food, we do not go to the restaurant to gratify our lust



for sumptuous food. It is Covid-19 that has compelled us to forsake our aggressive and lustful way of life.

It became clear to us that unbridled consumerism brings about disaster in human civilization, restrained and simple life is the secret of welfare nations. At present situation, a change in the heart of human being was also found. We became helpful and sympathetic for our fellow people who turned out be the victims of Covid-19. Numerous people and Govt. and non-govt. organizations have contributed liberally to relief fund for the marooned people and migratory workers, some opened relief camp for providing cooked food to hungry and workless communities. A tendency was found among children to spread food grain for the street dogs and birds. Many people were generous enough to provide monetary help to housemaids who became jobless due to the pandemic situations. I think, this is a pointer to the 16th objectives of SDG, where the establishment of justice and peace has been mentioned. I would like to end my speech with focusing a few words about 4th objective of Development Goal. For providing qualitative education, and education for all, we could not reach the desired end after long years of continuous endeavour. The percentage of literacy and education is very low in many countries even today, let aside the question of qualitative education. A number of schemes, and missions had already been taken to bring all children of age group from 6 to 14, and to reduce drops out, but none of those missions were effective enough to fulfill the goal. Now it is time to bring education to the courtyard of very children, instead of bringing all the children to the field of education. Situation Covid-19 probably points to this direction. At present each and every educational institution is trying to reach the students through ‘online class-teaching, YouTube and other social media. Let us think how education can be brought to the home of the learners. We have to find a way out, in which a learner can be provided allsorts’ education ensuring all round development, Just as electricity has reached the remotest villages of India. Those who work in the field with their parents, or help their father in shop, will learn from home at night. There will be no question of drop out. Let schools and colleges be in Evening session. Learners are required to come to Institution only for the purpose of research work and orientation.

My findings are that if the wealthy and highly affluent people can restrain their aggressive life disciplined themselves in a tranquil and simple life and proceed towards liberalism, we would be able to achieve 117 objectives, not the 17 only, as mentioned in SDG.

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