

YOUNG MAN AT 80

Bipin, at abroad, came across people from various races, nationalities, religions of the society. He found people, in general, with so much of materialistic abundance, most of the people in this country will be many many years away from. But, does all that materialistic abundance bring peace within oneself and, in turn bring smiles on almost all faces of this society.

Before someone judges on the above fact one should go to the basics of how this materialistic abundance is achieved in such society, in particular and the country, in general. There must have some hard work behind it, specially for a country whose natural resources is insignificant compared to that of this country and human resources are ageing.

Probably, it is because of many factors such as positive attitude of the people, education, social security system, positive attitude of the politicians (possibly because of awared electorate). It doesn't mean there is no corruption, there is no employees' union in that society. Yes, there is corruption, but it is insignificant (to affect the attitude of the people and the society in general). A passenger, without a valid ticket in a train or any local transport system, can't imagine of getting relieved from the ticket checker by giving some hush money under the table. Rather, there are two options available to that passenger, either to deposit the applicable fine or to go behind the bar, there is no third option available. Applicability of this type of two options is valid for almost in every facet of life in this society. Yes, there is employees' union what is called as employees' council as representative in the top management of a company. For any decision affecting the welfare of the employees, management discusses the reality with the employees' council before making any decision. These employees' councils are, in general, not affiliated to any mainstream political system. May be once in a year, trade unions in the country make a token strike for a cause affecting the employees' in general. But, there is no rail rokho, there is no burning of buses or any such irrational activities, at the same time there is no question of taking political advantage of it by one political party or other. In short, no irrational (to the awared electorate) decision can sway the vote from one party to other only because one is traditionally affiliated to one party or other.

There are effectively two strata of the society. One very rich category (may be 1-2% i.e. businessmen, industrialists etc) with very high income and the other is general public (because of structured tax system), and there is no class of poor or class below poverty level. Surprisingly, there is no so called middle class. Alternatively, there is no gap between poor and rich per se. One, in this country, will always try to Justify by saying that the population of that country is hardly 80 million vis-a-vis the population

of this country which is more than 1000 million. But, at the same time, the resources of this country is much higher than that of that 80 million populated country. Probably, there is no end in finding justification for wrong system, wrong doings except but to rectify the system from within (starting from oneself), desist from wrong doings and so forth.

In the road side shops or in the building area, one will observe how the plans are made so environmentally sustainable. One will observe greenery all around, whether in the office building or in residential building.

There are negative aspect of the state of economy of this country too as because the population growth is negative which means country is producing less children and getting burden of more aged people (because of better health care system). Hence, reform is very much necessary to sustain the economic growth of this country.

Bipin had got an opportunity to visit the countryside of this country by bicycle with an Indian residing in that country for more than 25 yrs. The infrastructure in the countryside is unimaginable with respect to that in the countryside of this country, in general. Probably, because of costly man-hour, the agriculture is based on mechanised systems and the lands are big in size and hence economical to get it cultivated mechanically.

One will find all the urban facilities like health care systems, road, school, college, transport systems, communication systems etc available in the countryside. People have hobbies to maintain a small piece of land (taking leased land from the government) as garden and also a place for party. Bipin found one trolley containing agricultural products like pumpkins, cucumber, plants in which price stickers are attached, and cash box attached in the trolley, lying idle road side in the deserted land. Bipin asked the Indian friend why no one is there to sell these goods. He said there is no time for the farmer to stay for whole day there. Any one wants to purchase, one shall pay the amount in the cash box and take the goods away and at the end of the day, the farmer will come and collect the cashes. It doesn't mean there is no theft, again it is insignificant. General public can not think of taking goods without paying money irrespective of whether farmer is there or not. Again, this is attitude which probably makes a dying nation to rise above the water (i.e. post World War II). Bipin also came across with an old retired person (working near his garden) whose energy is unimaginable when Bipin enquires his age of 80. The man still enjoys riding by-cycle daily 30-40 km, still enjoys maintaining the garden. According to this young man at 80, his wife of 70 still rides by-cycle daily. A man of 70 found flying remote controlled plane as his hobby. He seemed to be anti-foreigner while discussing with Bipin's friend. But, at the end of 20 minutes discussion his views changed and had positive views about Indian or the foreigners who contribute to the economy, not just taking social security benefits as part of political

asylum. Many people are disenchanted with the reality of the globalised world

Two days before the journey date (to India), one foreign colleague in the workplace always reminds Bipin that he must be happy to meet his family and have a dinner together after a long time. This was repeated at least 3 to 4 times at different occasions. Later on, Bipin enquired and found that colleague is alone and divorcee with a small daughter (staying with her mother).

Peace is lying within materialistic abundance or within one's self (without having ignorance) or mixture of both ?