



REVIEW OF THE BOOK 'A BETTER INDIA A BETTER WORLD' BY N.R.MURTHY

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Abstract

Narayan Murthy, really a man of vision as well as action, a remarkable person who meticulously transformed his dreams into reality through his assiduousness, leadership skills and unquestioning trust and faith in the miraculous capacity of techno savvy Indian youngsters, who were pillars of strength in his ICT company INFOSYS. As all visionaries, Krishnamurthy Narayan Murthy is not a self-centered corporate who likes to revel in the pleasures of the success of his brainchild but has a vision for India as a glorious, economically progressive, educationally advanced developed country. Though a staunch believer in globalisation, he wants India to be powerful and strong. Present article is review of his well-researched book 'A Better India A Better World'. Key words are Entrepreneurship and Globalisation.

Keywords: India, Murthy, Better India, Better World

Narayan Murthy, really a man of vision as well as action, a remarkable person who meticulously transformed his dreams into reality through his assiduousness, leadership skills and unquestioning trust and faith in the miraculous capacity of techno savvy Indian youngsters, who were pillars of strength in his ICT company INFOSYS. These people helped him to bring the company in the world map. His IT Company demonstrated the spectacular success of a philanthropic, compassionate and generous entrepreneur who brought a change in the mindset of energetic youngsters as they felt convinced that they could match the skills of any world-class technocrat.

As all visionaries, Krishnamurthy Narayan Murthy is not a self-centered corporate who likes to revel in the pleasures of the success of his brainchild but has a vision for India as a glorious, economically progressive, educationally advanced developed country. Though a staunch believer in globalisation, he wants India to be powerful and strong.

In the series of lectures compiled in the book, Narayan Murthy presented his views about globalisation, values, empowered India, important national issues, education, leadership challenges, corporate and public governance, corporate social responsibility and philanthropy, entrepreneurship, globalisation and his brainchild Infosys. A brief overview of these points are presented below:

Secularism: According to him, secularism is respecting all religions

Lessons to be learnt: India is considered as the growing economy. Despite being a large country and second largest in population, our country is backward in many areas. It is 127th in human development index. India caters to majority of illiterates. In India there are problems like intellectual dishonesty, corruptions and indiscipline. There is need to remove them. India is well-known for family ties but these

maladies should be removed. West can be a role model for Indians as Indians can learn honesty, sincerity, punctuality, time management, accountability, civic sense. India should give harsh punishments to violators of discipline. Fairness, transparency and accountability should be encouraged. Lessons can be learnt from a less corrupt country like Singapore where even a minister had to commit suicide due to corruption charges.

In, our country even investigating agency like CBI is not doing its job. For empowering the country competent bureaucracy, high performers, reduced difference between haves and have nots is required. India has the benefit of low cost skilled labour as there is high growth rate of working population. But high population growth and density led to overloaded systems. China progressed in comparison to India. In this country there is unsustainable economic and population growth. There has been economic growth but enough jobs are not created. India requires proper urban planning, conservation friendly policy, radical immediate reforms, proper housing for development and advancement.

Eight Visions which changed the face of India: According to Murthy India has gone through a sea-change and spectacular rise in recent times. Following factors contributed for that.; Green Revolution: It made the country self-sufficient in food.; White Revolution: Kurien's White Revolution empowered women and farmers.; Telecom Revolution: It made the communication fast.; Space Technology: India is now one of the leading nations in space technology.; Atomic Energy: It also brought a revolution of a sort.; Software Revolution: India's progress in software is internationally recognized.

Importance of Education: According to Murthy only by bettering education system, good citizens can be produced.



According to Aristotle, 'civilized society is one where good people become citizens.' For betterment of education system, the writer advocates interactive class, less size of the class and skilled citizens as teachers who are role models. The writer gives examples of U.S. and South Korea. U.S. has world class education system where world class incubators of innovative and knowledge creation are produced. Seventy percent of Nobel laureates are employed in U.S. universities. The seeds of growth of new technology are sowed in these universities. South Korea also encouraged knowledge intensive investment. Actual progress comes from thinking, articulating, debating and executing ideas in an environment of respect for pluralism. According to Benjamin Disraeli, "A university should be a place of light, of liberty and of learning." According to Clark Kerr, "On a global scale, wealth and prosperity have become more dependent on the access of knowledge than the access of natural resources."

Research has shown that the countries that have higher levels of literacy and have invested steadily in raising the educational levels of their labour force have sustained high levels of economic growth.

But the deplorable fact is that India's Ph.D. is 1/10 of U.S. pool. India spends only 1.9% of the GDP on higher education. In India, only 9% people are university educated whereas in China the percentage is 15. According to Amartya Sen access to basic education is human right. Even primary education is not of good quality as there are cases of dropouts. The saddest part of this is that some of our institutes which were internationally reputed in past have lost their shine due to our wrong policies. He quotes the example of Kanpur IIT, which used to attract even foreigners for Ph.D. and produce world-class research papers in mid sixties is now failing to do that. Indian universities should have an environment of openness. It is required to raise aspirations, confidence, energy and enthusiasm of our educational institutions.

Leadership : In 1981, INFOSYS was established by seven software engineers. In that company, professionals progressed in an environment of energy, enthusiasm, happiness, joy, satisfaction and confidence. They had a great vision, a purpose which was noble, lofty and inspirational. They had courage, commitment to values, openness and fairness. According to him good leadership translates a great vision

into productive results through the instrument of effective public governance.

Entrepreneurship: It requires a great idea, ability to face challenges and strong team. Shared vision, marketable idea, sound strategy, implementable action plan, a layer of competent management, shared values, professionalism, separating control from professionalism, spirit of sacrifice, pride in creation of wealth, leadership by example and finance are important ingredients for a successful entrepreneur. The writer quotes Jr. Luther King, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

Globalisation: According to Nehru, "We have to fight poverty as stoutly and as bravely as we fight any enemy who invades our country. We can build our nation when we build our people and make them happy and contented."

Globalisation is necessary to help others intellectually, to provide technical help, to increase competitiveness and to expand the market geographically. To bring globalisation, we should be open minded and stop arguing about isms and philosophy. We should stop using democracy as an excuse for failure, embrace intellectual integrity, embrace speed of decision making in government, stop using democracy as an excuse for failure, become reliable, practise what one preaches, make the bureaucracy accountable, make a transparent system, welcome foreigners, create public-private partnership, follow discipline, improve quality of education.

Corporate World: According to Murthy sound predictability, sustainability, profitability, derisking are necessary. Corporate should be trustworthy and contribute to society. Openness to new ideas, meritocracy, speed, imagination and excellence in execution are the attributes of a successful corporation.

Suggestion by Murthy: The technocrat is livid in praise of the magic movie Chak De that he highly appreciates for positive message to empower and strengthen India. Murthy provides an excellent suggestion to youngsters "Choose a worthy dream for yourself. Go after it confidently. Create a life that you will be proud of in the years to come. But always, without fail ensure that you follow your bliss."

Reference

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