

Profile of K. C. Agrawal

SELECTORIAL DEMOCRACY

THINKING OUT OF THE BOX TO RESOLVE THE NATION'S PROBLEMS

Sixty years of the current form of democracy has failed India's poor millions miserably who still languish in extreme poverty unchanged since 1947. Sixty years and this form of democracy has failed to provide the requisite leadership necessary for economic development and upliftment of the masses. While millions have been killed by totalitarian forms of government (Stalin's Purges, Mao's Cultural Revolution and the Khmer Rouge's killing fields to name a few), our cherished and much vaunted democracy has not been far behind. More Indians have been killed silently by an unresponsive democratic system by hunger, malnutrition and poverty related diseases that Stalin, Mao and Pol Pot combined, notwithstanding the availability of modern tools, both managerial and technological. This unresponsive democratic structure continues with its silent deathly harvest. Millions of children, more acutely the girl child, die of malnutrition or want of a few cheap and easily available drugs. Millions die at birth or in the womb for want of minor medical care due to poverty. Of what use to them has been this democratic variant? All this goes unreported, because it does not make sensational news, nor provide the visuals like the *Bluelines* do for the TV channels, nor is any government willing to publicise this abject failure. While Stalin, Mao and Pol Pot have been placed in the rouges gallery, our variant of democracy continues its silent rampage while being admired as what John Kenneth Galbraith called a 'functioning anarchy'. Sixty years of experimentation with this variant of democracy has been more than enough. It is high time that our form of governance be reviewed and correctives applied – just like any other concern, which is failing to deliver.

The failure of leadership is just not the failure of individuals, but a failure of the system to make the optional choice. Electoral democracy, whereby every adult, irrespective of his ability to make an informed choice, has one vote and elects the executive and legislature, has failed miserably to elect leadership that can resolve the problems of the day – think Nixon and Bush in America; Charan Singh, V P Singh *et al* in India. Totalitarianism too has failed and has thrown up likes of Stalin, Mao and Pol Pot who were more enemies of their own people than their leaders. The current democratic structure is not that for the people, by the people or of the people. It cannot be. For the people have been either dying of poverty related causes or have been kept ignorant with the inability to make informed choices or have been misled by catchy but deceptive slogans like '*Garibi Hatao*', '*Mandal*, and '*Mandir Masjid*'. It is instead a government for vested interests, by vested interests and of vested interests – the elite of caste, class and religion.

Though leadership currently emerges from mass electorates, it is essentially through deception by a professional political class – think Mandir and Mandal, both non-issues which have traumatized this nation for over a decade. What did the silent martyrs of poverty gain from such issues or leadership? The current political system has regularly

derailed the popular will (removal of poverty), by its inability to select leaders who have the right intent and more importantly the right capabilities. What is needed is a new variant of democracy, which retains popular will but includes the advances made in education, science and technology so that the correct leadership is chosen. What is needed is 'thinking out of the box' and the application of the advances made by humankind in the last sixty years to the structure of governance, which were unavailable to our founding fathers.

The ills of all nations can be resolved by 'Selectorial' Democracy as opposed to 'Electoral' Democracy. All citizens will have the vote. They will however not elect the executive, just like the third arm of governance, the judiciary, which is not elected by the masses, but selected from a panel of skilled professionals by those elected by the masses. In 'Selectorial Democracy' the masses will elect the legislature from a panel of skilled professionals selected by a Supercomputer, which will have the names, qualifications, experience of those willing to participate in the process of governance fed into its data bank, taking into account regional demographic, geographic and linguistic constraints and suitable software developed with the various criteria for selection by the Supercomputer. Technological advances have made it possible for every capable Indian to participate in Nation building. The Legislature of skilled experts will then form the Electoral College that elects the President from a similar panel of experts provided by the Supercomputer. The President can then select his cabinet from the elected skilled legislatures, similar to the American Presidential form of government, unlike today where politicians with no skills other than self-aggrandizement and deception are selected to run highly specialized departments. This system has the added benefit of doing away with the current requirement of astronomical black money electoral funds, the root of all corruption. Educated professionals have the requisite intelligence, expertise and experience to focus on problems and find its solutions, unlike the current breed of ignorants elected by the more ignorant.

The 'Selectorial' variant of the Presidential form of government, is an option whose time has come. We have the technology to achieve it. Society and its form of governance have always changed with changes in the factors of production i.e. technology. Tribal leadership of the pastoral economy gave way to monarchies of the agrarian age, which subsequently gave way to electoral democracy of the industrial age. Electoral democracy too will have to evolve to suit the new factors of production of the electronic age, where every man can be a participant in the process of governance instead of members of a limited political club. That is inevitable. The question however is, will India take advantage of the new tools available or will it be denied to India by the class that stands to lose the most from it – the professional political class. For India to take advantage of these new opportunities available, sixty years of our democracy needs to be reviewed, its ills diagnosed and suitable correctives applied. This needs the establishment of a new Constituent Assembly of educated professionals, achievers in various spheres of socio-economic activities, similar to that of 1947, which would rewrite our Constitution taking into account the advances made in technology, the vast pool of highly skilled professionals available and the structural failures of the current variant of democracy. Only then can we resolve the problems of poverty and underdevelopment.

Crusade India, an NGO headed by Mr. K C Agrawal has taken upon itself the task of mobilizing public opinion in favour of 'Selectorial Democracy' which is the only way out from the present morass the nation has been stuck in, caused by the failure of 'Electoral Democracy' which has divided the Nation on caste, class and religious lines such that the main issues of development and upliftment of the masses have been given short shrift, while non-issues, like *Mandal & Mandir*, than can perpetuate the rule of a club of deceiving politicians are forced on the people. A thoroughly researched and revolutionary book titled 'Crusade India', written by Mr. K C Agrawal, a technocrat industrialist, has taken into account the causes of failure and the way out, and enumerates the system of 'Selectorial Democracy' in minute detail and has been published for the benefit of those interested in resolving the problems faced by the Nation. Crusade India is planning to launch a PIL for a change in the system so that the problems of poverty and underdevelopment can be solved and the nation moves towards a trajectory of repaid growth and wipes the tears of our impoverished millions – the aim of our founding fathers.
