

Unemployment Magnitude and Left Wing Extremism

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We stand mere spectators as the list of indigenous terror groups operating in India has swelled to 27, making India home to the world's largest number of domestic terrorist organisations. It seems that the Maoists are interested in enlarging their area of influence outside the jungles of the 'Red Corridor' that runs from the Nepal border down to Andhra Pradesh. They have been setting up urban bases with the aim to penetrate and influence policy makers, judiciary, media, civil liberty, human rights, cultural, Dalit, women and youth organisations. The Maoist leaders are motivated largely by their desire to seek political power in disguise of fighting for genuine grievances arising from the political, economic and social hardships of the suppressed tribals.

It is India's long neglect to develop the tribal areas which has created large pockets of alienation against the government and these pockets have become the spawning ground of Maoist terrorism. The governments concerned have to take note of the genuine grievances of the tribals and deal with them in a sympathetic manner. There has to be a system for a prompt enquiry into all allegations of excess and it is here that activists like me can contribute to reach the base realities and unveil the truth. Extremism cannot be effectively countered without modernising and strengthening our rural policing and the rural

presence of the intelligence agencies. Not only the affected areas but also the tribal areas and coastal belts, which have not yet been affected by the Maoist virus, have to be developed on a crash basis in order to prevent the spread of the virus to them. There has to be an equal focus on several entities like education, employment, immediate settlement of disputes, environment protection and even providing security to the suppressed. The failure to develop the road infrastructure in the rural areas has facilitated the spread of Maoist terrorism. Hence that must be strengthened.

With "Human Development" being the focus on the radar of the world development community, there is a greater emphasis on the performance and progress of the social sector, the scope of which has expanded far beyond education and health in Odisha. There are bunch of socio-economic problems i.e. unemployment, poverty, land dispute, displacement, distress migration, improper communication, food insecurity etc. which have come into notice in the areas affected by Left Wing Extremism (LWE). Considering this both the Center and State Govt. has taken lot of steps to overcome the situation but still it has not reached at the target point due to several factors like unsystematic addressing the needs of the youth and people as well, loss of

livelihoods, failure to address land entitlements etc. However, unemployment is one of the major problems in the affected areas because teen age youths are inclined towards ideology of LWE whenever they fail to earn at least for their day to day maintenance. Later on; this leads to several problems like highly frustration on govt. mechanism, strengthen emotional attachment with extremely poor valunerable groups and so on.

Unemployment is becoming a serious problem in India, though accurate estimate is difficult to obtain. About 7 million people are to labour force every year and the number is also increasing at faster rate. But on the contrary the economy growth is not creating enough jobs. Of course India is such a large country that national averages can be quite misleading. In fact each state in India has a great population than most developing countries. In the development arena population and human development should go hand in hand. Unemployment is the problem of problems and it has made our youths Naxalites. Educated youths are deprived of all deserving comforts and their growing discontentment has given scope for the speedy growth of Naxalism. It is the basic problem which has given birth to a number of disconnected problems, such as, poverty, social disorder, insecurity, maintenance of law and order etc. As a matter of fact, it is the prime duty of the Planning Commission and the Government to provide suitable jobs to all those who are unemployed. Dantewala Committee (1969) appointed by Planning Commission subjected a new approach to the estimation of unemployment in India. The committee stated in its report, that in an economy like India there is very little open or chronic unemployment but there would be considerable unemployment or underemployment particularly in rural areas. As per the Govt. norm the unemployment would

estimate that if a person working 8 hours a day for 273 days of the year is regarded as employed on a standard person year basis. On the basis of recommendation of the Dantewala Committee NSSO in its 27th round gave three estimates of unemployment such as usual principal status employment, weekly status unemployment and current daily status unemployment. As per the Task Force report unemployment rate in India in 1999-2000 was 2.2% (UPSS) concept; while according to special group report given in May 2002 it was 7.32% (CDS Concept). The unemployment situation in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal was very grave, both in 1993-94 and 1999-2000. Later on it clearly shows in 2011 Economic Survey that in Madhya Pradesh, Chhatisgarh, Odisha and Jharkhanda status of unemployment has been increasing at faster rate in comparison to other states. In present scenario these areas are basically covered by Left Wing Extremism.

The number of unemployment in India increased from 2.01 crore in 1993-94 to 2.66 crore in 1999-2000. The labour force in 1999-2000 was about 363.33 million (36.33 crore) which has gone up significantly during 10th plan period. As noted in economic survey of previous years based on NSSO data, employment on Current Daily Status (CDS) basing during 1999-2000 to 2004-05 had accelerated significantly as compared to the growth witnessed during 1993-94 to 1999-2000. During this period about 47 million work opportunities were created compared to only 24 million in the period between 1993-94 to 1999-2000. Employment growth accelerated from 1.25 percent per annum to 2.62 percent per annum. However the labour force grew at faster rate of 2.84 per cent than the work force, unemployment force also rose. The incidence on unemployment on CDS basis

increased from 7.31 in 1999-2000 to 8.28 per cent in 2004-05. Employment growth in the organised sector, public and private combined has declined during the period 1994-2007. This has primarily happened due to the decline of unemployment in the public organised sector. Employment in the establishments covered by the employment market information system of Ministry of Labour grew at 1.2 percent per annum during 1983-94 but declined to -0.03 percent per annum during 1994-2007. However the later decline was mainly due to a decrease in the public sector establishments from 1.53 percent in the earlier period to -0.57 percent in the later period, whereas the private sector showed acceleration in the pace of growth in employment from 0.44 percent to 1.30 percent per annum.

It is clearly understood that in Odisha the projection of magnitude of unemployment at the end of the year 2011 will be 13.93% (*source: Economic survey 2009-10*) which is one of the important factors behind the growth of LWE in Odisha. In spite of that the number of HIV affected youth is increasing at faster rate; which is the major hindrance for the economic growth of localities and country also. Existence of poverty can not be attributed to a single cause—be it landlessness, unemployment, education, health, caste or religion. There can be only a broad identification of causes. Land and asset ownership, education and occupational patterns, health and physical well-being along with others can be considered as influencing the level of poverty and regional disparities. In fact, Education has always been a determinant of one's income and upward mobility. Quality of schooling and years of college education help raise productivity and entitle students to their jobs and earnings. Provision of education right from the primary stage assumes significance. This is where the deficit

starts in the under-developed regions of the State. With a very poor infrastructure and absence of the requisite number of teachers, students in the backward districts/regions have frustrating experience in the schools. Most of the students, as they come from socio-economically disadvantaged communities like the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are scared of the teachers (fear of corporal punishment) and do not find anything interesting to hold them onto the schools and gradually they start withdrawing from the schools and start looking for jobs in the job market which can offer them only low paid ordinary jobs. However; displacement has certain visible costs and can be given a monetary dimension. Its invisible costs like family crisis, social dislocations, emotional crisis and disturbances, loss of community attachments and local culture and the threat perceptions can be imagined but can not be calculated. Making investments in steel may be easier than building schools and equipping them with the right kind of teachers. It is still more difficult to create a sustainable source of income and livelihood for the affected people. Plants can be set up but the wasted Common Property Resources (CPRs) cannot be created. Once displaced, people may find alternative ways of earning a living but will not forget the trauma of separation from their ancestral land.

In spite of that there are also less opportunities for the unskilled and skilled agriculture based workers in LWE affected areas. The LWE are also trying to spread their red corridor across the State through recruiting unemployed youth from coastal areas. In present scenario it is expected that LWE are also equally powerful to fight against the Government. So it would be better option to youth problem and encourage them towards mainstream. In this

regard the PM's fellowship scheme is a great opportunity for young bloods to prove worth. Hopefully it clearly indicates that one need not be in the armed forces to protect the nation. In a nation every citizen is a soldier and they have to protect the nation from the internal disturbances. There are some of the suggestions mentioned below.

- Sustainable job opportunity for the youth after completion of higher secondary or fail at that level.
- Ensure sustainable vocational training for both boys and girls.
- Intervention of life skill based education
- Extensive support of bureaucratic
- Addressing governance needs
- Transparency and accountability at each level.
- Entitlement of forest and land rights
- Mutual understanding between LWE and govt. functionaries.
- Open house declaration of all decisions taken at the top level for affected areas and LWE's development.
- Development of all plans through equal participation with affected people.
- Integrated with CSOs and other stakeholders.
- Promote skilled labour intensive projects considering their potential.
- Empowering local self governance system through youth.
- Sensitization of gender issues
- Minimize the police action and raise friendship hands towards development.

In favour of social change we should create a more egalitarian society where people will leave with dignity and get justice at all levels without any discrimination. This usually involves a concern for those in society who are disadvantaged relatively to others and an assumption that there are unjustified inequalities that should be reduced or abolished. Our noble accomplishments and immediate action can suppress the rising extremism and it shall be our extreme honour to be a part of this mission.

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