

A NATIONAL DEMOGRAPHIC DEVELOPMENTAL HIGHWAY TO HUMAN HARMONY

The salvation of Mankind lies in making everything the concern of all (Solzhenitsyn Nobel Lecture, 1970). I may add that global wellbeing shall be the obligatory commitment of humanity all over the earth. We are one. The planet wide communities have a lofty socio-economic nexus and moral-material linkage which make the whole world kin. This felicitous fellowship, with its spiritual and temporal confluence, promotes a happy fraternity through planned population policy and compassionate economy. This process leads to a cosmic society free from chaotic overpopulation. This is the consummation of a felicitous world order.

An over-populated world is an under-nourished earth of militant Powers scrambling to rob each other's resources by belligerent processes primarily aimed at imperial domination over colonial subject nations. In pretentiously moral vindication of barbarian competition the Big Powers speciously invoke the opium of religion and intoxication of royal dominion. Indeed, even recently, in the Afghan invasion by over-bearing President Bush, he told the world that during his Sunday prayers his sanguinary God authorized him to wipe out Afghan Muslim terrorists. 'An

honest God is the noblest work of Man'. He is never blood-thirsty and ever flies a banner of peace. Malignant man, turned demon, drags God into blood-thirsty inhumanity and injects godist hatred to infuriate bigotry into barbarity. Imperial struggle for resources and means of survival is mainly motivated by rivalry for occupation. Population escalation is at the riot of this violent competition. These national and international factors are manifestations of demographic density beyond the gross wealth and the people, and when there is desperate disparity discontent and discord erupt. Then arsenal the difficulties of family welfare and issues of too many children to be taken care of. Population control thus emerges is a national issue. Under ideal circumstances a child is a boon but the harsh to milieu of backward societies makes pregnancy, delivery, bringing up a baby with nourishment and on good health a big burden. Education even at primary level, becomes a liability with privatization and profit-making as a business making the family budget a terrible problem. Inevitably, birth control and population regulation claim State policy attention. Child-delivery, slaving and starving to breast-feed and baby-sit the crying little one. And the masculine sex claims nocturnal pleasure, without birth-control and contraceptive contravenes and sanity violates gender justice and tortures our sisters by maximizing the privations of

pregnancy, delivery, feed and fondling a number of children in yearly succession. Here comes the wickedness of godism out of communal lunacy invoking religion. We want more Catholics, says the Cardinal and so more Catholic women in poignancy. Similarly, more Muslim, say Mullas and politicians demand more Allah devotees for Islamic numbers with vote-bank objectives. This potential numerical terrorism instigates Hindu high priests to force their women to enwomb more of their community to maintain ballot majority as if child-birth to press-button easy process. O! Lord, show mercy on women of all religions whose life and liberty are robbed, ravished and traumatized until society allows compassionate liberality in free choice to bear or not to bear children and how often and how many. Young girls carrying their own little babies crying to catch the breast of the famished mother is an ungodly sight but religion, in its rabidly communal obscurantism commands kids to come, infant and maternity, mortality notwithstanding! It is a pity that every major religion has a population-crazy God as its power in a democracy, a communal divinity which is an anti-thesis of secularism and the foundation of a mad brand of militant ballot challenge. Be you bishop, mullah, or baba acharya, if you are bribing the bigots of each faith with malignant communalism and divisive discord, burying the sublime spirituality of Jesus, suppressing the world the

brotherhood teaching of Prophet Mahmood and the dynamic universality of Swami Vivekananda, that cosmic sadhu who inspired East and West, with noetic power and 'advaitic' wonder. These population profusion advocates are covert political operators, using philistine godism for seizing State Power. This competitive, communalist, corrosive spirit ruins India through rival electoral ballot battles and aggressive acquisitive operations. They want more members and, towards this end, campaign against birth-control and family planning. Our culture is secular and so, our demographic perspective cannot be polluted by vulgar religiosity. God is Absolute, in spiritual thought and higher philosophy; but to bargain for more Christian and Muslim children in the name of God is a dishonest deal and gross indifference to women and their mothering travails. God belongs to all. There is no Christian or Islamic or Hindu God. An honest God is one, only one and Universal Creation is That and Omniscience, Omnipotence and Omnipresence. All else is dishonest. The great thinker Ingersoll rightly said : An honest God is the noblest work of Man. Let us, Indians, whatever our religion, refuse and refute all narrow perspectives defiling the divine. Population control has social, economic and political dimensions. This finer materialism shall not be profaned by disguised communalism. Population control is a national policy conditioned by hard economics and other material

factors. It is pro-poor because too many children is a grave liability they cannot bear. Infant mortality and maternity mortality afflict women. It is feudal reactionarism to oppose family planning. As the Bible put it: Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesars; and unto God the things that are God's. (Oxford Quotation P-67 : 20) Rightly, India's national population policy has dialectically formulated a two-child family norm. This is fulfillment of the constitutional fundamental of Justice Social, Economic and Political.

In temporal matters we are governed by the Constitution, not by the Bible or Qur-an or the Bhagavat Geeta nor by Bishops, Mullahs and Babas. In this perspective, our national policies may respect moral values but are governed by socio-political criteria of material welfare. Our first Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru, and the National Congress Party whose leader he was, stood firmly for a National Population Policy. The density of population was so high—and remains so high even now—that the economy of the nation could justly sustain the burden. We are deplorably backward and many millions continue destitute. Every Indian in our free country has the guarantee of fundamental rights, including the right to life. 'Life' means more than mere physical survival. Dignity, good health, finer faculties and other basic amenities, on a

broadly egalitarian basis, belong to every man, woman, and child. Social and economic justice are, in theory, enforceable through the court, from the resources of the country. These imperatives are paper promises, in the context of excessive population. The right to life, if it is to be actualized by the masses, desiderates serious limitation on the growth of our population. In pragmatic terms, we need inhibition of population escalation. This has nothing to do with religion, Church, mosque or temple but has everything to do with a happy material life organized by State Plan. To oppose population control is to oppose decency and dignity of the vast people in poverty whose aspiration for a better life is a legitimate expectation from a socialist democracy. Humanism must govern legalism and population pluralism must submit to economic wisdom and non-communal nationalism.

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