

Responsible Engagement for Equal Opportunities in an Unequal World

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ECO FOUNDATION
FOR SUSTAINABLE
ALTERNATIVES

The Nature of Inequality

Dimensions of inequality -economic, social, political and cultural- Above all a human tragedy.



- The victims of inequalities are systematically deprived of their rights to food, health, safe water, education, livelihood resources, human dignity, economic, social & cultural rights
- This implies that excluded and marginalized are denied of their rightful access to resources, opportunities and power
- Inequality not a distortion of the system but the logic of the new liberal paradigm and necessary requisite for growth and permanence of the system.

Neo liberal Growth Model: The structural re-production of inequality & its consequences

- Global South under spell of the Neo-liberal growth model- Excludes large number of people of their livelihoods and survival support systems.
- Free market & commodification of natural resources leading to environmental destruction.
- Anthropocentric unsustainable growth paradigm of development leads to:
 - Civilizational challenges,
 - Global warming,
 - Impending water shortages,
 - Declining yields and productive land,
 - Pollution, Biodiversity loss



Towards an Sustainable Alternative Paradigm

- Paradigm shift from 'market' to people- life centric approach
- Commitment to create prosperity based on humane, democratic, secular, ecological social justice, values of compassion & nurturing

Responsible engagement for sustainable alternative economies

- Local economies are based on empowering democratic cooperation, reciprocity, responsibility, plurality, sustainability of resources & solidarity
- Economy as an ethical and life sustaining rather than only a materialistic enterprise for profit motive
- Pluralistic enterprises take different forms in different ecological, socio-cultural contexts



Alternative Models: Vision & practices

- M.K.Gandhi - Economics based on dignity, justice, non-violence & creative labor - **'Well- Being of All'**
- J.C.Kumarappa- 'Economy of Permanence'-a quest for a social order based on non-violence, sustainability & respect for nature
- E.F. Schumacher - **Small is Beautiful:** Economics as if people and 'earth' mattered
- James Robertson - **'SHE' Economics** (Sane, Humane & Ecological)

Traditions & long established practices in Asia

- Sacred Groves, Cooperatives , Community water management Schemes, Self help groups, social enterprises, NGO activities for community building etc

Emerging blend of traditional and new community based economic practices

- A New way of promoting sustainable alternative socio economic practices & for confronting neo-liberal economic globalization
- Rooted in local contexts - sensitive to local cultures & values
- New creative practices to confront patriarchal attitude, social practices, greed based economy & to create culture of democracy & responsible governance



The Need for redefining corporate social Responsibilities

- To redefine its legal obligations, its social commitments and its duty vis-à-vis ecological and human protection

The need for an alternative Mindset of sharing, nurturing and to confront dominant non social economy

- The process of creating sustainable alternatives is a long-term endeavor
- Develop an alternative mindset based on genuine self-worth and recognition of interdependence between people and between people and nature

