



Foundation for Restoration of National Values

Newsletter

August 2010 (Vol. 2 No. 6)

Editorial

At this 64th Independence Day on 15th August, 2010, We pray for a corruption free, ethical and strong Nation. Let's adhere to inspiration provided by the three stable pillars on which Independent India has vouched to rest firmly:



National Motto, *satyam eva jayate*, signifying that "Truth Shall Prevail", we chose for ourselves, in the wake of independence.

National Flag that proclaims ceaselessly the message of inner sacrifice, inmost purity, and preservation of natural abundance and vitality of the earth.



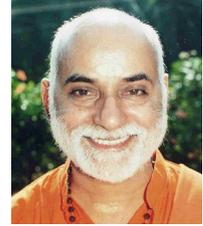
Fundamental Duties in the Constitution enjoining each one of us to value and uphold the composite culture of our country, and to be inspired by the great ideals that led our National Struggle for Independence.

Together, these make an exquisite triangle encompassing all our National values, it is spinal chord of our internal unity and empowers us to transcend customary and linguistic diversities and accomplish National goals. Let us adopt these in our action and take a pledge to be adhere toward development of our Nation.

Nationalize your Mind and Hearts and save the nation's soul

[Excerpts from Poojya Swamiji's article in the book 'Restoring Values: Keys to Integrity, Ethical Behaviour and Good Governance']

An individual's character and quality determine national behaviour - much like the role of a cell in the aggregate body. The educational system is the crucible to mould and shape the citizenry at any time. But alas, even after 60 years of independence, we have not evolved a national value-enriching educational process. As a result, the epidemic of greed and possessives has become widespread. Fissiparous tendencies too are rampant. Unless we arrest the trends by adequate curative and preventive steps, the nation's soul cannot be saved.



Normally, it is for the democratically elected Parliament and the government to educate and administer the people, making them strong, efficient and national. But the present value crisis is so grave and vast that the people in all walks of life have to address it in full earnestness and national vigour, to make any positive impact. For, it is the people who 'man' the government and their quality and character alone reflect in the Administration.

See how much our people have been victimized by inner degeneration. In 1985, the then Prime Minister said that only an incredibly small percentage of any project allocation reaches the intended targets. Now, after 24 years, the political successors have stated that it is a mere 5 percent! How disheartening and terrifying! Can the nation's conscience accept such distress with indifference and lethargy?

Infidelity, stealth and corruption have always intruded human minds. The spirited call of ethical and cultural values can alone touch and reform the inner personality with a strong national bond of inspiration and commitment. Fortunately, India has, right from prehistoric times, well proven national values disassociated from any religious tinge.

Do not blame the government at all. The people alone constitute the government. Government's lapses are our own inefficiencies. Parliament is elected by us. Its failure is our failure itself.

Our national struggle for independence was led by people with impeccable national fondness, fidelity and commitment. Do we not owe our existence to them? Should we not invoke a matching dedication and commitment?

Will our succeeding generations excuse us, if we fail now? Any effort for a public or national cause must first be by enlightening the people and authorities.

When efforts to enlighten fail, then alone collective democratic, lawful demand and protest will have to be resorted to. In fact, eternal vigil from the people is the price for effective democracy.

So I exhort all of you, and through you the others in the country to take up the National Value Restoration Move to the farthest nooks and corners of India and enrich the country with the power and inspiration of national values.

I wish that all of you display the necessary mutuality, collectivity and partnership to generate a national thinking and perception to achieve our immediate as well as long-term value restoration goal, with a view to build a stronger and more stable nation.

Education for Citizenship!

(Excerpt from an article by FRNV in Robinage - July 2010 issue)

Today we take it for granted that people sent for training will learn to use a new form of technology or learn how to operate a new machine or system. In fact it would be highly irregular and unsafe for a novice or an untrained hand to be entrusted with something complex, especially when mishandling it could cause damage or risk the lives of others. This is true for almost every profession. It would be considered

improper if someone is asked to fly an airplane without any training. We do not entrust our well being to such doctors who we might consider insufficiently trained. Nor do we entrust our finances to bankers who might not have the desired skills, the integrity and the competency to manage our investments.

Yet, when it comes to learning how to live in a globalized world, where the challenges, the pulls and the pressures are enormous, there seems to be precious little done to help people become better citizens who are capable of living with each other in harmony while simultaneously demonstrating the values that make for excellent citizens.

We at the Foundation for Restoration of National values genuinely believe that the time has come for every Indian-the young and old alike-to be given the relevant inputs that enable each one of us to become citizens of caliber. In this endeavour our efforts towards instilling values in the education ecosystem are a step towards creating an India where everybody works together for a common good of all with integrity, responsibility courage and openness while also upholding the spirit of innovation, sustainability and equitable growth.

Right on Track

(Excerpt from an interview with Dr. E. Sreedharan published in 'The Hindu' dated August 14, 2010)

"Ours is an effort to rekindle the love and respect in the people for their society and country by awakening them to their national and cultural values," Sreedharan gives the essence of the initiative. He calls his Swamiji "the spirit and the guide" of the organisation that started due to his prodding "to do something against non-governance and corruption."

"Also, we have got some good people as FRNV advisors," he says, naming industrialist Ratan Tata, Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah among others. While Sreedharan is its president, Bharat Wakhlu from the Tata Group is the general secretary. Once a

month the group meets, “mostly in my office,” he says.

Subjects like electoral, police and educational reform and eliminating corruption from public offices are among the Foundation's interests, and Sreedharan proudly recounts their recent intervention in Karnataka Lokayukta Santosh Hegde's resignation citing the State Government's non-cooperativeness in fighting corruption. “We wrote to Hegde not to give up the fight and also to BJP national leaders to take it up seriously with the State Government. Finally, Hegde took back his resignation.”

The Foundation is in gear now, but Sreedharan says, “When we began, we had no clear idea.” The initial meeting was held at the India International Centre in 2008. FRNV organised a seminar in Delhi that year, attended by leaders of national parties and top-level bureaucrats. Many papers were read at the seminar, which have recently been compiled in a book titled “Restoring Values” published by Sage India.

Though the common man can be a friend of the Foundation by filling in a form available on its website, Sreedharan adds, “The idea is not to start the movement at the grassroots level; we want to begin with decision makers, because they can definitely bring a change.” He, however, calls the role of today's parents and teachers “very important”.

“The other day, someone asked me if I remember my teachers. I immediately named J. Paumoni. He taught me in my school in Palakkad.” One of that school's shining stars — yet another name known for integrity — is T.N. Seshan, Sreedharan's school mate.

He recalls, “I was quite young then; my second child was just born. There was a series of tidal waves which took away one part of the bridge; maybe it was a tsunami, people didn't know then. Rameshwaram being an important pilgrimage site, it became urgent to restore it. Some said the bridge had to be abandoned.

My boss asked for six months to do it. I was assigned the job. I did it in 46 days. But the flip side of it was, after that, the Railways sent me to do all the difficult jobs!”

Feedback/Suggestions

If you have any suggestions or feedback, we would be happy to address them. Please email them to frnadmin@valuefoundation.in

For any further information about our programmes, please visit our website www.valuefoundation.in

* * *