

-: Development or Anti-development Need for Leadership :-

In the context of nutritional deficiencies that is visible all through, particularly, among women and children, it is very crucial to evolve a leadership programme and also conduct advocacy sessions for the leaders who need to shoulder the cause of nutrition as a fight against hunger.

Such leaders may be spotted from Gram Sabhas, local NGOs and self-help groups include Government agencies working in the sectors like ICDS, Social Welfare, Health, Food who may draw upon such persons through their network to focus on issues and to put a spot light on the gaps and the dangers of malnutrition revealed through dietary review and health checking.

This should be very true of adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers in order to contain the ill-effects of intergenerational malnutrition syndrome in such persons. Alongside this march to make people aware the activity of 60s and 70s undertaken under the Block level planning has to be reinforced by compelling the schools to grow kitchen gardens and farmers in general to raise vegetable crops for their micro-nutrient needs as well as livelihood. Nodoubt, their energy requirement from protein needs to be met through a quantum jump in consumption of cereals through equitable distribution or through the network of fortified cereals being handed through the network of village level shops.

India in 2075 with its population now averaging below 40 cannot afford to take a risk with a new generation in the next 30 years which can prove costly in terms of health costs nor can it afford to ignore the challenges of nutritional gaps that may cause the population to become more morbid and vulnerable. Therefore, chronic diseases and persistent infection due to anemia, absence of immunity and low intake of protein and food-grains have to be tackled as a front line task in order to make bottom line of success persistently visible in days to come.

The country is at a critical juncture and is facing a critical choice namely of doing more growth in economy at the cost of under-nourished or to avoid economic and political destabilization by factoring these elements of nutrition, poverty and livelihood at all levels of decision-making. As a part of one point programme, we have to ensure healthy citizens and their wellness. This needs to have a coalition of leaders and this nutritional leadership as to have an agenda for action if we want the curse of malnutrition not to affect at all the course of development since all development may lead finally to anti-development through a process of silent under-development.



- SK Manda