

GLOBAL JOURNAL

OF HUMAN SOCIAL SCIENCES: C

Sociology & Culture

Hegemony of Women

Women's Empowerment

Highlights

A New Perspective

Challenges and Prospects

Discovering Thoughts, Inventing Future

VOLUME 13

ISSUE 6

VERSION 1.0



GLOBAL JOURNAL OF HUMAN SOCIAL SCIENCE : C
SOCIOLOGY & CULTURE



GLOBAL JOURNAL OF HUMAN SOCIAL SCIENCES : C
SOCIOLOGY & CULTURE

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 6 (VER. 1.0)

OPEN ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH SOCIETY

© Global Journal of Human Social Sciences. 2013.

All rights reserved.

This is a special issue published in version 1.0 of "Global Journal of Human Social Sciences." By Global Journals Inc.

All articles are open access articles distributed under "Global Journal of Human Social Sciences"

Reading License, which permits restricted use. Entire contents are copyright by of "Global Journal of Human Social Sciences" unless otherwise noted on specific articles.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without written permission.

The opinions and statements made in this book are those of the authors concerned. Ultraculture has not verified and neither confirms nor denies any of the foregoing and no warranty or fitness is implied.

Engage with the contents herein at your own risk.

The use of this journal, and the terms and conditions for our providing information, is governed by our Disclaimer, Terms and Conditions and Privacy Policy given on our website <http://globaljournals.us/terms-and-condition/menu-id-1463/>

By referring / using / reading / any type of association / referencing this journal, this signifies and you acknowledge that you have read them and that you accept and will be bound by the terms thereof.

All information, journals, this journal, activities undertaken, materials, services and our website, terms and conditions, privacy policy, and this journal is subject to change anytime without any prior notice.

Incorporation No.: 0423089
License No.: 42125/022010/1186
Registration No.: 430374
Import-Export Code: 1109007027
Employer Identification Number (EIN):
USA Tax ID: 98-0673427

Global Journals Inc.

(A Delaware USA Incorporation with "Good Standing"; **Reg. Number: 0423089**)

Sponsors: *Open Association of Research Society*
Open Scientific Standards

Publisher's Headquarters office

Global Journals Headquarters
301st Edgewater Place Suite, 100 Edgewater Dr.-Pl,
Wakefield MASSACHUSETTS, Pin: 0188
United States of America

USA Toll Free: +001-888-839-7392

USA Toll Free Fax: +001-888-839-7392

Offset Typesetting

Global Journals Incorporated
2nd, Lansdowne, Lansdowne Rd., Croydon-Surrey,
Pin: CR9 2ER, United Kingdom

Packaging & Continental Dispatching

Global Journals
E-3130 Sudama Nagar, Near Gopur Square,
Indore, M.P., Pin:452009, India

Find a correspondence nodal officer near you

To find nodal officer of your country, please
email us at local@globaljournals.org

eContacts

Press Inquiries: press@globaljournals.org
Investor Inquiries: investers@globaljournals.org
Technical Support: technology@globaljournals.org
Media & Releases: media@globaljournals.org

Pricing (Including by Air Parcel Charges):

For Authors:

22 USD (B/W) & 50 USD (Color)

Yearly Subscription (Personal & Institutional):

200 USD (B/W) & 250 USD (Color)

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS (HON.)

John A. Hamilton, "Drew" Jr.,
Ph.D., Professor, Management
Computer Science and Software
Engineering
Director, Information Assurance
Laboratory
Auburn University

Dr. Henry Hexmoor
IEEE senior member since 2004
Ph.D. Computer Science, University at
Buffalo
Department of Computer Science
Southern Illinois University at Carbondale

Dr. Osman Balci, Professor
Department of Computer Science
Virginia Tech, Virginia University
Ph.D. and M.S. Syracuse University,
Syracuse, New York
M.S. and B.S. Bogazici University,
Istanbul, Turkey

Yogita Bajpai
M.Sc. (Computer Science), FICCT
U.S.A. Email:
yogita@computerresearch.org

Dr. T. David A. Forbes
Associate Professor and Range
Nutritionist
Ph.D. Edinburgh University - Animal
Nutrition
M.S. Aberdeen University - Animal
Nutrition
B.A. University of Dublin- Zoology

Dr. Wenying Feng
Professor, Department of Computing &
Information Systems
Department of Mathematics
Trent University, Peterborough,
ON Canada K9J 7B8

Dr. Thomas Wischgoll
Computer Science and Engineering,
Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio
B.S., M.S., Ph.D.
(University of Kaiserslautern)

Dr. Abdurrahman Arslanyilmaz
Computer Science & Information Systems
Department
Youngstown State University
Ph.D., Texas A&M University
University of Missouri, Columbia
Gazi University, Turkey

Dr. Xiaohong He
Professor of International Business
University of Quinipiac
BS, Jilin Institute of Technology; MA, MS,
PhD, (University of Texas-Dallas)

Burcin Becerik-Gerber
University of Southern California
Ph.D. in Civil Engineering
DDes from Harvard University
M.S. from University of California, Berkeley
& Istanbul University

Dr. Bart Lambrecht

Director of Research in Accounting and Finance
Professor of Finance
Lancaster University Management School
BA (Antwerp); MPhil, MA, PhD
(Cambridge)

Dr. Carlos García Pont

Associate Professor of Marketing
IESE Business School, University of Navarra
Doctor of Philosophy (Management),
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
Master in Business Administration, IESE,
University of Navarra
Degree in Industrial Engineering,
Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya

Dr. Fotini Labropulu

Mathematics - Luther College
University of Regina
Ph.D., M.Sc. in Mathematics
B.A. (Honors) in Mathematics
University of Windsor

Dr. Lynn Lim

Reader in Business and Marketing
Roehampton University, London
BCom, PGDip, MBA (Distinction), PhD,
FHEA

Dr. Mihaly Mezei

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
Department of Structural and Chemical
Biology, Mount Sinai School of Medical
Center
Ph.D., Eötvös Loránd University
Postdoctoral Training,
New York University

Dr. Söhnke M. Bartram

Department of Accounting and Finance
Lancaster University Management School
Ph.D. (WHU Koblenz)
MBA/BBA (University of Saarbrücken)

Dr. Miguel Angel Ariño

Professor of Decision Sciences
IESE Business School
Barcelona, Spain (Universidad de Navarra)
CEIBS (China Europe International Business School).
Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen
Ph.D. in Mathematics
University of Barcelona
BA in Mathematics (Licenciatura)
University of Barcelona

Philip G. Moscoso

Technology and Operations Management
IESE Business School, University of Navarra
Ph.D in Industrial Engineering and
Management, ETH Zurich
M.Sc. in Chemical Engineering, ETH Zurich

Dr. Sanjay Dixit, M.D.

Director, EP Laboratories, Philadelphia VA
Medical Center
Cardiovascular Medicine - Cardiac
Arrhythmia
Univ of Penn School of Medicine

Dr. Han-Xiang Deng

MD., Ph.D
Associate Professor and Research
Department Division of Neuromuscular
Medicine
Davee Department of Neurology and Clinical
Neuroscience
Northwestern University
Feinberg School of Medicine

Dr. Pina C. Sanelli

Associate Professor of Public Health
Weill Cornell Medical College
Associate Attending Radiologist
NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital
MRI, MRA, CT, and CTA
Neuroradiology and Diagnostic
Radiology
M.D., State University of New York at
Buffalo, School of Medicine and
Biomedical Sciences

Dr. Roberto Sanchez

Associate Professor
Department of Structural and Chemical
Biology
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
Ph.D., The Rockefeller University

Dr. Wen-Yih Sun

Professor of Earth and Atmospheric
SciencesPurdue University Director
National Center for Typhoon and
Flooding Research, Taiwan
University Chair Professor
Department of Atmospheric Sciences,
National Central University, Chung-Li,
TaiwanUniversity Chair Professor
Institute of Environmental Engineering,
National Chiao Tung University, Hsin-
chu, Taiwan.Ph.D., MS The University of
Chicago, Geophysical Sciences
BS National Taiwan University,
Atmospheric Sciences
Associate Professor of Radiology

Dr. Michael R. Rudnick

M.D., FACP
Associate Professor of Medicine
Chief, Renal Electrolyte and
Hypertension Division (PMC)
Penn Medicine, University of
Pennsylvania
Presbyterian Medical Center,
Philadelphia
Nephrology and Internal Medicine
Certified by the American Board of
Internal Medicine

Dr. Bassey Benjamin Esu

B.Sc. Marketing; MBA Marketing; Ph.D
Marketing
Lecturer, Department of Marketing,
University of Calabar
Tourism Consultant, Cross River State
Tourism Development Department
Co-ordinator , Sustainable Tourism
Initiative, Calabar, Nigeria

Dr. Aziz M. Barbar, Ph.D.

IEEE Senior Member
Chairperson, Department of Computer
Science
AUST - American University of Science &
Technology
Alfred Naccash Avenue – Ashrafieh

PRESIDENT EDITOR (HON.)

Dr. George Perry, (Neuroscientist)

Dean and Professor, College of Sciences

Denham Harman Research Award (American Aging Association)

ISI Highly Cited Researcher, Iberoamerican Molecular Biology Organization

AAAS Fellow, Correspondent Member of Spanish Royal Academy of Sciences

University of Texas at San Antonio

Postdoctoral Fellow (Department of Cell Biology)

Baylor College of Medicine

Houston, Texas, United States

CHIEF AUTHOR (HON.)

Dr. R.K. Dixit

M.Sc., Ph.D., FICCT

Chief Author, India

Email: authorind@computerresearch.org

DEAN & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (HON.)

Vivek Dubey(HON.)

MS (Industrial Engineering),

MS (Mechanical Engineering)

University of Wisconsin, FICCT

Editor-in-Chief, USA

editorusa@computerresearch.org

Sangita Dixit

M.Sc., FICCT

Dean & Chancellor (Asia Pacific)

deanind@computerresearch.org

Suyash Dixit

(B.E., Computer Science Engineering), FICCTT

President, Web Administration and

Development , CEO at IOSRD

COO at GAOR & OSS

Er. Suyog Dixit

(M. Tech), BE (HONS. in CSE), FICCT

SAP Certified Consultant

CEO at IOSRD, GAOR & OSS

Technical Dean, Global Journals Inc. (US)

Website: www.suyogdixit.com

Email: suyog@suyogdixit.com

Pritesh Rajvaidya

(MS) Computer Science Department

California State University

BE (Computer Science), FICCT

Technical Dean, USA

Email: pritesh@computerresearch.org

Luis Galárraga

J!Research Project Leader

Saarbrücken, Germany

Contents of the Volume

- i. Copyright Notice
- ii. Editorial Board Members
- iii. Chief Author and Dean
- iv. Table of Contents
- v. From the Chief Editor's Desk
- vi. Research and Review Papers

- 1. Hegemony of Women: A Myth or Pragmatic Reality. *1-8*
- 2. Women's Empowerment: Concept and Beyond. *9-13*
- 3. Secularization and Development in Africa: A Terrific Façade. *15-19*
- 4. Toward a Sociology of Public Intellectual Action: The Challenge of the Molecular Intellectuals. *21-28*
- 5. Two Theoretical Approaches to Power: Coloniality and Cosmopolitanism. *29-35*
- 6. Development: Socio-Cultural Dimensions. *37-49*
- 7. Gender and Information Communication Technologies (ICTS) in Nigeria: Challenges and Prospects. *51-58*
- 8. A New Perspective Regard the Information System for Social Services. *59-66*

- vii. Auxiliary Memberships
- viii. Process of Submission of Research Paper
- ix. Preferred Author Guidelines
- x. Index



GLOBAL JOURNAL OF HUMAN SOCIAL SCIENCE
SOCIOLOGY & CULTURE

Volume 13 Issue 6 Version 1.0 Year 2013

Type: Double Blind Peer Reviewed International Research Journal

Publisher: Global Journals Inc. (USA)

Online ISSN: 2249-460X & Print ISSN: 0975-587X

Hegemony of Women: A Myth or Pragmatic Reality

By Dr. Sribas Goswami

Serampore College, India

Abstract- Analysis of the status of women in self help group depends on an understanding of gender relations in a specific context. Examining gender relations as power relations makes clear that these are sustained by the institutions within which gender relations occur. For women in rural area, absence of power results in the lack of access to and control over resources, coercive gender division of labour, devaluation of their work, and a lack of control over their own labour and mobility. Here the study tries to show the real position of women working in Self Help Groups in surrounding places of Raniganj coal field. An attempt has been made to see the access and control over private assets and resources, access to public resources, control over their labour and income, control over their bodies control over physical mobility. The entry of women into political spaces has the potential to reorder gender power relations in the public arena. Women's access to knowledge, information and skills have to be made central not just to promote their 'participation in development, but so that they become tools to challenge subordination. Moreover, sustainable changes require women's entry not only to formal economic spaces but also community-level spaces, which means eliminating obstacles that impede their effective participation. In order to make the rural women more effective in decision making process unnecessary interference in their matter need to be minimized. Empowerment of women, requiring conditions that enable women to exercise their autonomy; it also envisages a process of self-empowerment, in which women begin to re-examine their lives critically and collectively. While the former involves the facilitation of women's access to and control over resources, the latter emphasizes women's agency in seeking greater access and control. There is a need to support of capacity building initiatives by highlighting women entrepreneurs' successes and profiling role models. All SHG's require facilitating linkages between government departments as purchasers and women entrepreneurs.

Keywords: *hegemony entrepreneurship, empowerment, self-help group, micro finance, decision making, poverty alleviation, entrepreneurship.*

GJHSS-C Classification : *FOR Code : 920507*



Strictly as per the compliance and regulations of:



Hegemony of Women: A Myth or Pragmatic Reality

Dr. Sribas Goswami

Abstract - Analysis of the status of women in self help group depends on an understanding of gender relations in a specific context. Examining gender relations as power relations makes clear that these are sustained by the institutions within which gender relations occur. For women in rural area, absence of power results in the lack of access to and control over resources, coercive gender division of labour, devaluation of their work, and a lack of control over their own labour and mobility. Here the study tries to show the real position of women working in Self Help Groups in surrounding places of Raniganj coal field. An attempt has been made to see the access and control over private assets and resources, access to public resources, control over their labour and income, control over their bodies control over physical mobility. The entry of women into political spaces has the potential to reorder gender power relations in the public arena. Women's access to knowledge, information and skills have to be made central not just to promote their 'participation in development, but so that they become tools to challenge subordination. Moreover, sustainable changes require women's entry not only to formal economic spaces but also community-level spaces, which means eliminating obstacles that impede their effective participation. In order to make the rural women more effective in decision making process unnecessary interference in their matter need to be minimized. Empowerment of women, requiring conditions that enable women to exercise their autonomy; it also envisages a process of self-empowerment, in which women begin to re-examine their lives critically and collectively. While the former involves the facilitation of women's access to and control over resources, the latter emphasizes women's agency in seeking greater access and control. There is a need to support of capacity building initiatives by highlighting women entrepreneurs' successes and profiling role models. All SHG's require facilitating linkages between government departments as purchasers and women entrepreneurs.

Keywords : *hegemony entrepreneurship, empowerment, self-help group, micro finance, decision making, poverty alleviation, entrepreneurship.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Women being half the world populations contribute enormously in economic development of any nation, yet unequal access to control on resources by men and women are serious hampering the process of gender equalization in nearly every part of the country. The situation in rural areas is worst where women, in large numbers, participate in economic activities in informal and

unorganized sector. Present paper is an attempt to reveal the actual situation of women as entrepreneurs in the form of self-help group in surrounding villages of Raniganj where the coalmines are domain industries. Most of the areas find it extremely difficult to inculcate entrepreneurial qualities and skills among women to develop them as entrepreneurs. Socio-cultural values and attitudes are some of the factors attached with women entrepreneurs that create hindrances in promoting entrepreneurial inclinations among them. In many places, women are dependent upon others for these basic human requirements. By actively promoting economic empowerment of women, governments not only support economic growth, but intellectual and social progress. Economic empowerment of women changes the balance of power because it allows half the world's population to contemplate higher goals than basic survival. In most SGHs there is little attempt to link micro-finance with wider social and political activity. This paper puts forward how self-help groups have received extensive recognition as a strategy for economic empowerment of women.

In Raniganj surroundings we have several categories of Women entrepreneurs. Like women in organized & unorganized sector, women in traditional & modern industries, women in suburban & rural areas, women in large scale and small scale industries, single women and joint venture. But for present context only the SGHs leaders are taken as entrepreneurs.

The Government of India had formally influenced by the Platform of Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women at Beijing in 1995, identified the eradication of the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women emphasizing the importance of strengthening women's access to credit and capital on appropriate terms equal to those of men requiring special attention and action by the international community, governments and civil society. To alleviate poverty the major efforts taken in India was to launch Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) by the socio-economic development of rural people, especially, of women, those who are deprived from the benefit of the mainstream of society. Swarna Jayanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojana Scheme (SGSY), the amended and merged version of the erstwhile Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Integrated Rural Development program (IRDP) and Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment

Author : Assistant Professor in Sociology, Serampore College, W.B. India. E-mail : sribasgoswami@rediffmail.com

(TRYSEM) etc. was launched in April 1999, emphasizing the development of the rural people who belonged to below poverty line. Main goal of this programme was to make group oriented entrepreneurial income generating activities through the formation of Self Help Groups (SHG). It is a holistic credit-cum-subsidy program, covering all aspects of self-employment to alleviate poverty.

India has won global recognition for innovation of the idea of micro-credit under SGSY. SGSY is being implemented through the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) with active involvement of Panchayati Raj Institution, banks and NGOs. It is financed on 75:25 cost sharing basis between the centre and states. Since the inception of the programme 22.52 lakh, SHGs have been formed covering 66.97 lakh Swarogaris. During 2006-2007 the Central allocation for the scheme was 1200 crore which was an increased amount of Rs. 200 crore of the budget years, 2005-2006. Emphasis has been laid on different components such as capacity building of the poor, training on skill development; credit disbursing, marketing and infrastructure. The subsidy allowed under SGSY is 30% of the total project cost, subject to the ceiling of Rs. 7500. For SHGs subsidy would be 50% of the project cost subject to a ceiling of Rs. 1.25 lakh per capita subsidy Rs. 10,000, whichever is less. The SGSY has a special focus on the vulnerable groups among the rural poor. Women account for at least 40% swarogaris. The SGSY seeks to promote multiple credits rather than a onetime credit injection. (Source: Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govt. of India, 2008).

Poverty is multi-dimensional. It is a violation of human rights to education, health and nutrition, adequate housing, a safe and healthy living environment, social security, employment and development. So, it covers all ranges of socio-economic aspects. Poverty hits hardest mainly at the female as half of humankind. In the world, 70% women are belonging to extensive poverty (Source: Human Development Report for Asia and International Labour Organisation, 2000). Woman living at rural areas of a developing country are poor, more vulnerable, having no land, less educated, in non-availability of gainful employment, in poorer knowledge, and in poorer health and nutrition. Discrimination in education is the beginner of the vicious spiral of poverty. Due to less education they don't get any employment opportunity, which accelerates poverty in cash economy. To overcome poverty, making credit available to low-income women is one of the most effective ways of raising their standard of living and increasing their opportunities for advancement. But with little income or collateral, these poor people are seldom able to obtain loans from banks and other formal financial institutions. Easy access to credit by women has been a major constraint. Micro credit through SHG gives them a platform to climb out

of poverty. It is a solution to help them by extending their horizon and offers them social recognition and empowerment which is essential for the well being of their families, and in turn, their communities. Also, women across cultures and take primary responsibility for nourishing children; they are the children's first and most important teachers. Knowledge given to women is likely to pass on to future generations, multiplying opportunities for their children and grandchildren.

Underlying philosophy of providing Credit under SGSY through the self help group approach is to help the poor women in these ways: -

- Providing easy access to credit without any collateral security,
- providing independent sources of income at homely atmosphere through engagement in micro entrepreneurial activities utilizing the credit,
- providing substitute of informal credit,
- assisting them to meet emergency needs and demands,
- encouraging to take risk of loan and other socio-economic activities by the group support,
- reducing economic dependency of the women and thus enhance autonomy,
- by the exposure to new sets of ideas, values and social supports through market linkages, trainings, seminars and meetings,
- making these women more assertive of their rights by increasing their knowledge and awareness level,
- providing control over material resources - should raise women's prestige and status in the eyes of community and thereby promote participation in decision making in every sphere of survival,
- encouraging them to take leading role in political and other community activities,
- empowering them economically, politically and socially in order to alleviate poverty.

The credit is only accessible for rural women through the formation of Self Help Group under the programme of SGSY. Self-Help Group (SHG) is a small voluntary association of poor people, preferably from the same socio-economic background. They come together for the purpose of solving their common problems through self-help and mutual co-operation. The SHG promotes small savings among its members. The savings are kept in a bank. This common fund is in the name of the SHG. Usually, the number of members in one SHG does not exceed more than twenty. The uniqueness of these groups lies in the fact that to a large extent they are self-supporting, self-governing organizations free from bureaucratization and politicization.

Credit through formation and promotion of SHG under SGSY is an effective intervention strategy for poverty alleviation at healthy, choosy and homely environment which is easily accessible to the rural poor

women, reduces transaction cost and where repayment are designed to fit cash flow for the borrowers.

II. OBJECTIVES

This study was persuaded with the following objectives:

1. To understand development of necessary skills on gender dimension of the enterprise.
2. To understand the process of mainstreaming gender in SHGs across all levels and tools and techniques they could employ and practice.
3. To focus on Participatory training techniques to provide inputs on training needs assessment, modules, experience sharing, exchange of model and best practices.
4. To know the problems and constraints of women entrepreneurs in a self help group.

III. METHOD OF STUDY

This research paper is mainly based on primary data, which has been collected from 5 main samples (head of each group) on the basis of interview schedule from 5 different villages namely Bansra, Ikra, Tpsi, Searsole and Bijpur in Burdwan District of West Bengal, India during 2013. Every member of the groups are taken as samples. Purposive sampling has been used to choose the samples. However secondary sources are also used for data collection.

a) *Constraints of Women Entrepreneurs in SHGs in These Villages*

- Dual role to play at workplace & at home place.
- Subordinate to men.
- Just that her being women.
- Non-awareness of facilities provided by government.
- Competition with large-scale units.
- Problems related to marketing.
- Exploitative conditions – middlemen eating away the profit.

b) *Following Factors Identified in Different Villages of Women to Take-Up Employments*

From the field situation it is realized that major reasons to take-up jobs by the women are sudden fall in family income, permanent inadequacy in income of the family, their desire to evaluate their talent, to utilize their free time or education, need and perception of their Liberation and Equity etc, to gain recognition, importance and social status and lastly to get economic independence.

In the surrounding villages of Raniganj coalfield many self-help groups have formed. They are engaged in several productive jobs. Here five groups are taken for data collection from five villages.

c) *Nature of Job Performed by the Members of Five Different Shgs*

- Fishnet weaving and fishing.
- Wood craft
- Bamboo craft
- Mat making
- Sewing (Cloth stitching) and embroidery.

In the eighties, the emphasis shifted to enabling women to become active agents of their empowerment. The vision of development broadened to include physical, moral, intellectual and cultural growth of every individual. This necessitated, as well as, established the vital link between the development of society and the advancement of women. These are two inseparable sides of a coin. However instead of homogeneity, there are multiplicity of strategies for change, which are specific to the needs of women, belonging to different sections of a given society, region or nation. Basic to this concept is the creation of individual as well as collective self-reliance. It is felt mere economic empowerment would be insufficient, unless accompanied by the social power of agency over the spending of that money and over other facets of one's life. The self-help groups are fruitful in this regard. The capacity to earn one's livelihood and the resultant self-confidence was necessarily the first step in the ladder to empowerment. The grassroots movements initiated by women in India in the latter half of the 20th century were economic, social, political or cultural in their content, depending on the section of society to which the women belonged and their specific needs. In true sense in early time of independence the women in this area used to perform their routine indoor jobs but now they have started working for their upliftment however biased they are. By forming SHGs many poor women are getting economical support. Few of them contribute a major part of their family expenses, as their husbands don't work regularly. This paper puts forward how micro finance has received extensive recognition as a strategy for economic empowerment of women. This paper also seeks to examine the impact of Micro finance with respect to poverty alleviation and socioeconomic empowerment of rural women in general and surrounding villages of Raniganj coalfield in specific. An effort is also made to suggest the ways to increase women empowerment through entrepreneurship. Empowerment is a multi-dimensional social process that helps people to gain control over their own lives communities and in their society, by acting on issues that they define as important. Empowerment occurs within sociological, psychological, economic, spheres and at various levels, such as individual, group and community and challenges our assumptions about status quo, asymmetrical power relationship and social dynamics. Hegemony of woman as an entrepreneur puts the spotlight on decision-making and freedom of

potential thinking, which are essential elements to sustainable development of entrepreneurship in self-help groups.

The self-help groups in this area are not very much familiar with the people. Due to alternative sources of income the existence of self-help group is very rare in these areas. All five groups taken as sample are consisting of 10 to 12 members including their leader. Women entrepreneurs who are working with self help groups have taken positive steps however small it is towards women empowerment. The general awareness level is not standard among the women entrepreneurs and need adequate training for their development of skills to get better output. From the study it is clear that the women from all five villages belong to destitute class and economically lagging from the mainstream of society. They are compelled by their familial situation for giving financial support to their family. On the other hand government's attitude is not remarkable and not much attentive for women empowerment. In these groups one head women use to exercise the power over other and these leaders enjoy comparatively better privilege than others. The major decisions are being taken by the male from behind the curtain. Chief Lady of every group collects very small amount from each member to keep the money in bank and take loan according to their requirement out of their savings. Banks use to provide inadequate loan to open a trade to these groups. The character of work belonged to the traditional model of woman's work. This was a double-edged sword since it reinforced the traditional role of women working from their home, with kitchen as the center of operations. Public acceptance of social groups products is lower than branded produce flooding in the market. In the opinion of leaders of SHGs many-branded produce not qualitatively superior, some are duplicated. Social group members feel that they maintain reasonable prices. They think of poor consumer and keep very low margins. Despite their sincerity there is low acceptance in local market and people not enthusiastic while purchasing SHGs produce.

During fieldwork it is observed that women are interfered in all deferent cases by their male surroundings. Even it was felt that leaders of these self-help groups were not sufficiently free to express their spontaneous opinions during interrogation. Another remarkable aspect is found that all women leaders belong to comparatively higher strata of the society than other members of the group. Education level is not up to the mark among the women entrepreneurs. It is common belief among the women entrepreneurs in this region that if they hold such type of position (Leader in SHG) it would benefit them in holding a social status. Women leaders confessed during interrogation that they are much closer to the Panchayet management. These groups are to some extent politically biased. From prima

facie it seems that they formed these groups to get political mileage rather to get economical support. The empowerment of women may be multidimensional but fruit of development is getting very few of them. Especially the decision making process is largely controlled by male domains. In this regard the primary need is a spontaneous grassroots movement by women that, however small in its origin, is capable of self-sustaining and self-propelling growth. Moreover, it was important that these women belong to the disadvantaged section of the society, so that the driving force comes not from above, but from below.

Based on participatory principles to build up incremental knowledge of SHGs and enable women entrepreneurs to develop their strategies for change (Chen, 1996). Economic empowerment of women entrepreneurs are however defined in more than individualist terms to include issues such as property rights, changes intra-household relations and transformation of the macro-economic context as it is observed during fieldwork. Micro Finance is emerging as a powerful instrument for poverty alleviation in the new economy. In these villages, micro finance scene is dominated by Self Help Groups (SHGs) – Bank Linkage Programme, aimed at providing a cost effective mechanism for providing financial services to the “un reached poor”. Based on the philosophy of peer pressure and group savings as collateral substitute, the SHGs have been successful not only in meeting peculiar needs of the rural poor women, but also in strengthening collective self-help capacities of the poor women at the local level, leading to their empowerment. Although in some contexts women entrepreneurs may be seeking to increase their influence within joint decision-making processes rather than independent control over income (Kabeer 1998), neither of these outcomes can be assumed. Women's perceptions of value and self-worth are not necessarily translated into actual well-being benefits or change in gender relations in the household (Sen 1990, Kandiyoti 1999). But in true sense the hegemony of women entrepreneurs of these SHGs doesn't actually exist.

With proper guidance, encouragement and financial support, the self-help groups can improve their situation in this region. If some training facility is provided for skill-based livelihoods related to wooden carpentry work, bamboo handicraft work, food processing, and paper work then that could help them to upgrade their skills and produce quality items. Cottage industries and handicrafts need encouragement at all levels. As they said that no formal training has been given yet to upgrade their skills. Government has to focus its attention adequately to improve the situation of rural women in this industrial belt. In fact Government is giving its attention to the industrial development of Raniganj and its surroundings but these micro level SGHs are neglected in rural

sector. Theoretical framework for the promotion of SHGs is adequately given but implementation doesn't seem to be successful in these areas. But through Micro-finance if such type of self-help groups is formed the rural industry can create a boom in economic development of women as well as the villages. Training should be provided to increase the quality of items produced such as incense sticks and also for attractive packaging. Regular training centers for SHGs are required to be built at the Block level.

The study shows that there are a huge variety of handiwork-related activities in different locations, which act as major sources of livelihoods for the poor and the disadvantaged households. Such types of handi-work relate to non-farm activities, off –farm activities and on-farm activities including agro-processing activities etc. With fall in agricultural returns/productivity and high risk the role played by handiwork as sources of gainful employment for the poor women and the disadvantaged is crucial and holds great promise as pathway out of poverty. Hence work shed –plus initiative is being recommended. SHGs should be linked up with other development programmes. There should be discussion amongst local people for starting more self-help groups and the cooperative should be made active. The SHG members suggested that the advertisement is urgently needed for convincing the authenticity of the produce. Advertisement is an expensive affair and there are no funds meant for this activity. If the government supports advertisement by wall writing/painting, television, radio, it will enhance the market. The emphasis obviously is on earning one's bread through daily work, all through one's life. Rather a hard decision, but given the circumstances of its origin, it reflects the philosophy as well as the hard-core reality of life of its members.

d) Process of accessing credit through group formation and promotion

Women from homogeneous class form the group in an integrative and cohesive manner. At first stage, they give the name of the group and elect one president, one secretary, and one treasurer from group members. All these groups in this block have been formed around 10 members. All are formed and promoted by local Gram Panchayet initiation. These SHGs are formed by the deposited amount of each member of Rs. 30 per month and loan is given from the group at 2% rate of interest. After 6 months group opens an account in the bank in the name of self and then time-to-time credit process through bank is going by maintenance of banking rules and regulations and by proper evaluation of group members' entrepreneurial economic performances. There is a bank linkage programme established to SHGs on commercial basis. These SHG members opened their accounts at different commercial banks. Members of SHGs are getting loans under the security of SHG. Each SHG get loan of Rs.25,

000 as first dose. But, the striking is that uniformity is not maintained by the bank to lend the amount of credit at the 2nd dose and the gap between the two doses. It is observed that the amount of credit varies from minimum Rs.60,000 to maximum Rs.1,00,000 as 2nd dose loan and the gap between the two installments of lending the credit is becoming one, two, three or four years. In recovery of loan, they get subsidy from District Rural Development Cell (DRDC) from minimum Rs. 5000 to maximum Rs. 15,000 according to the basis of their amount of loan and overall performances. Regarding their loan repayment status, results are appreciative by their regular interest payment. For successful promotion of the groups different training programmes are organized from Block Development Office (BDO), District Rural Development Cell (DRDC), NGOs and different welfare organizations. These groups get the opportunity to exhibit and advertise their products through different seminars, fairs. BDO and DRDC visit and evaluate the groups' performances periodically in order to help and encourage the successful performances of group members.

e) Building of Economic Enterprise

Women in economic entrepreneurial efforts utilizing the credit are vital factors in developing their indigenous inherent productive capacity. They are involved at production of domestic goods like animal husbandry, making spices, paper bags, cloths and garments, agriculture, small business of vegetables, grocery, fast food etc. They have started their efforts at their homely atmosphere linking with easy to handle low cost appropriate technology application, utilizing of low cost natural resources and raw materials available in their local environment with an assured linkages to obtain a justifiable price for their products. Besides it is advantageous for them that they get help and support in production from other family members without wages which decrease their production cost.

f) Getting Additional Employment

In rural areas women don't get opportunity to educate them properly due to early marriage, social constraints, willingness to prepare them for household services and overall poverty. So, they remain at far away from employment opportunities. But the credit through SHG formation and promotion provides the platform of social recognition. They now are participating at different village level awareness and welfare campaign like, literacy, polio awareness, other health awareness for pregnant mother and new born child, sanitary distribution, making cleanliness in feeding and other services at household etc., promoting by State, Central Govt. and other national and international voluntary agencies by some consolidated remuneration. The SHG approach offers to involve at earning activities like mid day meal cooking at schools, motivating women to form

SHG and other awareness generating programmes initiated by panchayet and other voluntary agencies.

g) *Self Dependency*

Traditionally women were not any kind of asset owner. Their assets were mediated by parents, husband, children and other related members. They have to perform services for the nurturing, care and betterment of family members. So they have no material assets. But the credit facility gives them opportunity to make some property and assets in their own name and right to handling of all economic affairs related to credit oriented business activities. So, they now claim that these material assets are their own creation and always want to improve their own creations by earning activities. So they now self dependent due to their personal income in cash economy. They have not to be dependent on other family members to meet own needs and desires.

h) *Removing from exploitation of Informal Sources of Credit*

Women, lacking in social position and legal rights and traditionally earning less than men, are particularly vulnerable. A lack of collateral and an ability to borrow only small amounts at a time render women ineligible for loans from major national and private banks. In desperation to get out of poverty and to get little opportunity they turn to village "Mahajans" (unofficial money lenders), who offer loans at exorbitant interest rates. Even if they receive such loans, people with low levels of literacy, skills, and knowledge run a high risk of failing at their business and defaulting on their loans. They often lose the collateral they provided, which might be, for example, any utensils of precious metal, the jewelry etc. pushing them deeper into poverty. In this context, micro-credit has allowed women to overcome these obstacles and improve their lives.

i) *Linkage with the Banking Institution*

Traditionally women are far away from any banking transaction due to lack of any assets and awareness of themselves. As soon as the SHG is formed and a couple of group meetings are held, an SHG must open a Savings Bank account with the nearest Commercial or Regional Rural Bank or a Cooperative Bank. This is essential to keep the thrift and other sums of money of the SHG safely and also to improve the transparency levels of SHG's transactions. Opening of SB account, in fact, is the beginning of relationship between the bank and the SHG. Because the credit process with the group is only maintained through bank under SGSY. They make all transactions to the bank collectively in the name of the group. Later individual women have started to open an account in self name in the goal of saving money. This opportunity inculcates the saving habits and makes knowledge about monetary transaction among them.

j) *Linkage With the Markets*

Markets were mostly taboo area of women. They don't have any market experience individually. In any market linkages men were their passive partners, because it was recognized that women are kept aside from any public transaction due to age old identity of women as protective entity. But now their engagements in business activities make themselves of targeting their business more profitable, so they have to establish the link with the markets to gain knowledge about recent products and price. This linkage improves their bargaining power in transaction of price and exchanging of products. It also provides more exposure and mobility by communicating with persons of different nature, character and opinions, sharing their ideas, opinions, constraints and problems. This interaction in turn diminishes poverty of knowledge among women.

k) *Participating at Different Village and Community Services*

Women members in the group participate actively in different village and community services escaping from the private domain of the home. They directly have participated at literacy campaign, standing against violence faced by any women in the family, distribution of sanitary in the rural family and giving a lesson about the maintenance of health and hygiene, the companionship to provide health services of pregnant mother and new born child by govt. health centers, solving households' internal conflict and clash among members in family, forming Mahila Samiti for their open discussion on any matters, standing at Panchayet election, creating awareness among women in order to receive proper rights and privileges from the society, different community and village level meetings etc.

l) *Networking*

The networking is vital in women poverty alleviation process as it provides the windows for facilitating access the data and information about the ongoing activities related to market, technology implementation and procurement of raw materials, service providers, price fixing and sustainability of all the other related activities enhancing their efforts in achieving profits in production. Hence networking within the group of women is very important in taking risk of developing women collective and individual enterprises and also provides the relief from mental agony, sorrow by common sharings. Also networking with outside the group members like panchayet members, bank officials, block and district officials make them knowledge about group's successful dynamics and the surrounding socio-economic reality.

A conclusion that emerges from this account is that micro finance by forming SGHs can contribute to solving the problems of inadequate income of women and rural services as an integral part of poverty

m) Meeting of Day-To-Day Household Needs and Demands

Income is the major determinant of the standard of living of the people. Now women have started to earn money after joining the SHGs. Hence women members of the groups are independent to meet their personal expenditures, and they contribute their income at their household budgets. Many women members independently involve in the economic activities like production of domestic goods, which have the necessity to meet required household day to day needs and demands. So their economic involvement meets required enterprise needs and also household needs. Their contribution to the family budgets make prestigious to themselves and family.

n) Fulfillment of Emergency Needs

Earlier, women meet their urgent needs by lending the credit from informal sources with exorbitant rate of interest. But, now access to credit through SHG gives relief from exploitation of these sources and makes saving habits through banking transaction among women. This habit protects them from sudden emergent emergency crises. Besides, the group support in this stage by providing credit at reasonable rate of interest. They may overcome easily these crises by the successful promotion of the group which works as survivor of themselves.

o) Increasing Awareness Level

Women participating in this group through collective activities are aware of their rights and privileges. Their mobility and networking make them aware about their socio-economic reality. They now claim their rights and privileges accorded to the Indian constitution. Most women have received housing facility from the Govt. scheme of Indira Awas Yojana. They interact and communicate different officials of block level and district level for getting maximum opportunity of SGSY and their own entrepreneurial efforts, from where they may know different welfare schemes for themselves and they provide maximum effort to capture these benefits without any male support. Therefore, group collectivity makes them confident. Their exposures do them more aware, prompt and dynamic to get proper rights and privileges from patriarchal system of the society. Their community service relate with education, health care make them aware about their family health and nutrition. They follow the entire immunization schedule for health protection and take adequate birth control technique to hold small family.

p) Building Capacity to Take Leadership

Women at group level activity must take the leading role to get proper benefit of SGSY. Members in the group elect president, treasurer, and secretary on rotation basis for smooth functioning of the group. So these elected members gain the power to motivate,

influence, and promote the group members in maintaining solidarity, cohesion and friendship among themselves. Besides, they have to contact with other officials to maintain group functioning, disbursement of adequate credit, recovery of loan and gaining maximum subsidy. This ability of networking and leadership make them more confident and fearless to take leading role in broad level activities, like developing infrastructure in the village, protesting against any injustice faced by women, solving family violence, and filling nomination at *Panchayat* (Local self Government) election etc.

q) Empowerment of Women

In engaging at credit oriented business enterprise, women have socially, economically and politically empowered. Women are now more confident, assertive and aware of their rights. The women in the SHGs are also respected by the others in the family, because their independent earnings are contributing to household income, expenditure and savings. Therefore after joining in the SHGs, the family wealth has been increased. They are recognized by their performances at the community also. They are socially empowered by greater mobility, networking with others at meeting, opportunity to learn new customs and habits, opportunity for self development and family welfare, inspiring to take up business, fight against conservative attitudes and taboos, confidence to hold leadership positions. Their economic empowerment includes knowledge about borrowing funds from the bank, ability to go progressive borrowing, increased income, and sense of economic independence. They are also politically empowered to protest against injustice and capability to take leading role in community services etc. Their empowerment is expressed in their attitudes regarding education, health, nutrition, women in difficult circumstances, violence against women and rights to girl child etc.

r) Platform to Protest Against Violation of Human Rights

Women are now vociferous to gain their rights from the society. They now get the platform to protest against any type of violence faced by women. Their collectivity makes themselves more bold, prompt and active. They now protest against any type of discrimination, male superiority and domination faced by women traditionally.

IV. CONCLUSION

A conclusion that emerges from this account is that micro finance by forming SGHs can contribute to solving the problems of inadequate income of women and rural services as an integral part of poverty alleviation programmes. Very little attention has been given to empowerment questions or ways in which both empowerment and sustainability aims may be

accommodated. Due to alternative sources of income the existence of self-help group is very rare in these areas. Women entrepreneurs who are working with self help groups have taken positive steps however small they are towards women empowerment. The general awareness level is not standard among the women entrepreneurs and need training for their development to get better output. In many SGHs and contexts it is only in a minority of cases that women can develop lucrative activities of their own through credit and savings alone. Lack of capital, lack of knowledge of the market, high interest rates etc are the main problems among the women workers. Access to credit has made a lasting impact on the lives of the women particularly on women in the rural areas. Their quality of life has improved a lot. There is an increase in their income, savings and consumption expenditure. It enables the poor women to save, improve their confidence and household security. Consumption credit leads to increased level of food security and enhanced access to health and education. Production credit enables the entrepreneurial women to undertake income generation activities. Credit oriented income, livelihood activities enable women to have access to income, enhanced decision making on health, education and consumption within the family. SHGs have also given women a greater role in household decision-making. This shows an improvement in their standard of living. The women have gained self-reliance. They got an opportunity to improve their hidden talents after joining the SHGs. They can speak freely in front of large groups of people. They got recognition in the family and society.

By controlling the resources they can gradually establish the real hegemony in the process of production.

REFERENCES RÉFÉRENCES REFERENCIAS

1. Ackerley, B. (1995). Testing the Tools of Development: Credit Programmes, Loan Involvement and Women's Empowerment. World Development, 26(3), 56-68.
2. Kabeer N (2001), "Conflicts Over Credit: Re-evaluation the Empowerment Potential of Loans to Women in Rural Bangladesh": World Development, Vol.29, No.1.
3. Mukherjee, Amitava, (ed.) (2004), Participatory Rural Appraisal, Methods & Applications in Rural Planning, Concept Publishing Company, Delhi.
4. Mukherjee, Neela (2002), Participatory Learning and Action with 100 Field Methods, Concept Publishing Company, New Delhi.
5. Dr. Rangarajan, C., 2005. – Microfinance – Road Ahead, Conference on Microfinance India, New Delhi.
6. India 2008. - Publications Divisions, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govt. of India.



GLOBAL JOURNAL OF HUMAN SOCIAL SCIENCE
SOCIOLOGY & CULTURE

Volume 13 Issue 6 Version 1.0 Year 2013

Type: Double Blind Peer Reviewed International Research Journal

Publisher: Global Journals Inc. (USA)

Online ISSN: 2249-460X & Print ISSN: 0975-587X

Women's Empowerment: Concept and Beyond

By Md. Aminur Rahman

Development Frontiers, Bangladesh

Abstract- Long before the word 'empowerment' became popular, women were speaking about gaining control over their lives, and participating in making the decisions that affect them in home and community, in government and international development policies. But problem is, very few have clear conception on empowerment. This is very easy to say but difficult to understand what is empowerment? This article takes an initiative to clarify the concept based on several scholar's views. And finally, make a conclusion with alternative analysis of women's empowerment.

Keywords: *empowerment, women, power, gender, selfreliance, decision-making, control over.*

GJHSS-C Classification : *FOR Code : 160899*



Strictly as per the compliance and regulations of:



Women's Empowerment: Concept and Beyond

Md. Aminur Rahman

Abstract - Long before the word 'empowerment' became popular, women were speaking about gaining control over their lives, and participating in making the decisions that affect them in home and community, in government and international development policies. But problem is, very few have clear conception on empowerment. This is very easy to say but difficult to understand what is empowerment? This article takes an initiative to clarify the concept based on several scholar's views. And finally, make a conclusion with alternative analysis of women's empowerment.

Keywords : *empowerment, women, power, gender, self-reliance, decision-making, control over.*

I. INTRODUCTION

The rise of gender sensitivity is one of the distinguishing features of our times. It has taken hold human imagination like never before. For all practical purposes, the concern of gender equity has graduated to the level of a policy objectives (Sharma : 2000). Two perspectives have emerged in the contemporary discourse on the modalities of gender equity; women's development and women's empowerment. It is Ester Boserup's (1970) pioneering work, *Women's Role in Economic Development* that paved way to the rise of women's development perspective. According to Sharma (2000:21), the development strategy, however, has come under severe interrogation not only for its failure to deliver its promise but also for working against the interest of womankind. Consequently, the decade of 90s has witnessed the rise of women's empowerment perspective which shot into prominence at Beijing Conference.

As our experience, Paulo Freire (1996) in his book *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* has discussed 'empowerment' in a formal way for the first time in 1970s. And after him, many scholars discussed it as human potential especially for women empowerment. Caroline Moser (1993), at first, discussed it as redistribution of power. But as a concept, 'empowerment' is widely used, but seldom defined. The often-uncritical use of the term "empowerment" in development thinking and practice disguises a problematic concept. There is a room for greater clarity about the concept and its application. Confusion arises with the concept empowerment because the root concept 'power' is itself disputed. Power has been the subject of debate in social science. Some definitions focus, with varying degree of subtlety, on the availability

of one person to get another person or group to do something against their will. Such power is located in decision-making processes, conflict, and force, and could be described as zero-sum; or the 'power to create such relationship as love, respect friendship, legitimacy and so on. To try to come closer to an understanding of empowerment we need to look at the actual meaning of the term that has been variously used by writers and researchers, in a variety of context' (Rowland, 1997). And let me attempt to discuss few concepts here on empowerment to understand the concept.

Rawland's (1997) view : According to Rawland, in order to understand the process of empowerment, there is a need to be aware that power can take many different forms. Rawland explains :

- Power over*: Controlling power, this may be responded to with compliance, resistance (which weakens processes of victimization) or manipulation.
- Power to*: Generative or productive power (sometimes incorporating or manifesting as forms of resistance or manipulation) which creates new possibilities and actions without domination.
- Power with*: 'a sense of the whole being greater than the sum of the individuals, especially when a group tackles problems together'.
- Power from within*: 'the spiritual strength and uniqueness that resides in each one of us and makes true human. Its basis is self-acceptance and self-respect, which extend, in turn, to respect for and acceptance of others as equals.

Rawland have considered some of the different manifestations of power, we can return to the question of what is meant by empowerment. Using the conventional definition, of "power over" empowerment means bringing people who are outside the decision-making process into it. This puts a strong emphasis on participation in political structures and formal decision-making and, in the economic sphere, on the ability to obtain an income that enables participation in economic decision-making. Individuals are empowered when they are able to maximize the opportunities available to them without constraints.

Within the generative, 'power to' and "power with" interpretation of power, empowerment is concern with the processes by which people become aware of their own interests how those relate to the interest of others in order both to participate from a position of a greater strength in decision-making and actually to influence such decisions.

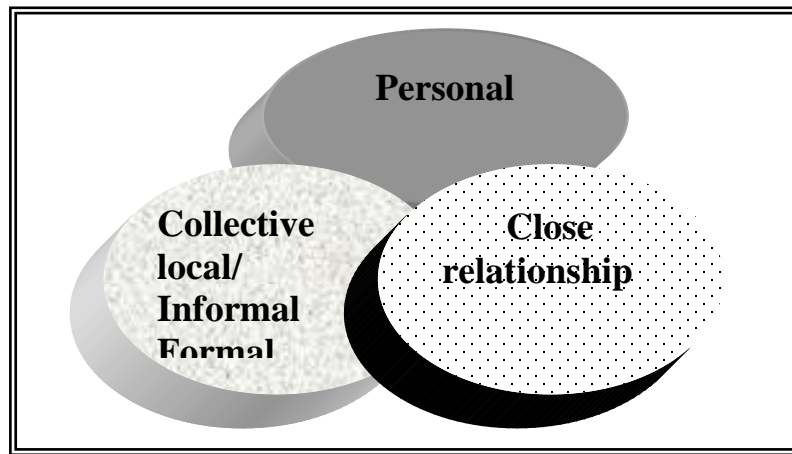
Author : Research Fellow, Development Frontiers, Bangladesh.
E-mail : dr.aminur65@gmail.com

From a feminist perspective, interpreting 'power over' entails understanding the dynamics of oppression and internalized oppressing. Empowerment is thus more than participation in decision-making; it must also include the processes that lead people to perceive themselves as able and entitled to make decisions. As feminist and other social theorist have shown, societies ascribe a particular set of abilities to social categories of people. Empowerment must involve undoing negative social construction, so that people come to see themselves as having the capacity and the right to act and influence decisions [Rowland, (1997).

According to Rawland, empowerment to be operating within three dimensions:

- a. *Personal* : development a sense of self and individual confidence and capacity, and undoing the defects of internalized oppression.
- b. *Rational* : developing the ability to negotiate and influence the nature of a relationship and decisions made within it.
- c. *Collective* : This includes involvement in political structures, but might also cover collective action based co-operation rather than competition.

II. THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF EMPOWERMENT



(Rowlands, Jo (1997) Questioning Empowerment, Oxford: Oxfam.)

Naila Kabeer's (1989) interpretation : Kabeer interprets it as a redial transformation of power relations between women and men 'so that women have greater power over their own lives and men have less power over women's lives'. Kabeer (1994) has provided another dynamic account of empowerment. She regards empowerment as a concept with theoretical and practical potential that merits being more than an empty slogan.

She found it necessary to deconstruct the notion of power in order to consider empowerment. She explained: 'the multi-dimensional nature of power suggest that empowerment strategies for women must build on 'the power within' as a necessary adjunct to improving their ability to control resources, to determine agendas and make decisions. Power from within needs 'experiential recognition and analysis' of issues to do with women's own subordination and how it is maintained. 'Such power cannot be given; it has to be self-generated (Kabeer: 1994). She emphasizes the importance of such elements as self-respect, and the sense of agency. Careful analysis and insightful reflections are necessary preconditions for creation of new form of consciousness. This idea is based on Paulo Freire's conception of 'critical consciousness' where the process of empowerment is bound up

with an educational process (Naz :2006).

In addition, Kabeer (1994) belief's that 'self esteem and feeling of being as active agent' are the fundamental principles of empowerment and she expends her thought by saying that 'empowerment should be considered aspect of perceiving oneself as an active agent capable of making decisions' (Naz;2006).

Thus, it is not simply an act of decision making but encompasses more. Kabeer does not ignore the value of collective action but considers it useful in achieving social as well as political empowerment. In her opinion, the empowerment process should have its effect in policy changes at the state and market institutions level that ultimately mould and limit women's live(Naz :2006).

John Friedman's (1992) view : Friedman's (1992: 32-34) theory of 'alternative development' is derived from the concept of empowerment that arises from indigenous, political and social cultures of society. According to Friedman, There are three kinds of power, social, political and psychological. Social power consists in processing knowledge, information and skills. Political power is a mechanism that influences policy changes both at the micro and macro level. It's the result of the power of voice and collective action.

Finally, psychological power is expressed as an individual sense of potency demonstrated in self-confidence behaviour, self-reliance and increased self-esteem. Friedman explains empowerment as social power, which can be translated into political power. Social networking enhances their position and power, which consequently expedites and strengthens the process of psychological, social and political empowerment.

According to Kate Young (1993), empowerment enables women to take control of their own lives, set their own agenda, organize to help each other and make demands on the state for support and on the society itself for change.

As Young, empowerment is a complete change of the processes and structures responsible for women's inferior status in the society. It is based on a 'transformatory potential' related to the 'need to transform women's position in such a way that the advancement will be sustained. Finally, she summarizes the concept of empowerment from individual to wider political perspectives and she puts sufficient importance to collective action, as it is a sure means to individual empowerment.

In true sense, this term is discussed as feminist perspective, and Marilee Karl (1995) says, 'The word 'Empowerment' captures this sense of gaining control, of participation in decision-making. More recently, the word has entered the vocabulary of development agencies, including international organizations and the United Nations'. And Vanessa Griffen (1987) explains it also through gender lens, as her, empowerment means.

- having control, or gaining further control;
- having a say and being listened to;
- being able to define and create from a women's perspective; being able to influence social choices and decisions affecting the whole society (not just areas of society accepted as women's place)
- being recognized and respected as equal citizens and human beings with a contribution to make.

And again Beteille (1999:591), discusses it as power distribution without having clear power. According to Beteille, 'the main point behind empowerment is that it seeks to change society through a rearrangement of power'.

It reflects the Kabeer's opinion. But, Dandekar (1986:26) has described empowerment as a multifaceted process, which involves four parallel aspects. These are:

- The women's economic/resource base;
- The public/political arena allowed to her by society;
- Her family structure, and the strength and limitations it imposes on her; and
- Perhaps most important, the psychological / ideological "sense" about women in her society, which in turn shapes her own perception of herself and the options she allows herself to consider.

When we observe S. Batliwala (1993) observation, where she says the word "power" is contained within the term empowerment implying that empowerment is about changing the balance of power in a given society, power being defined as control over resources and ideology. The resources may be categorized into physical, human, intellectual, financial, and self, including self-esteem, confidence, and creativity. Ideology refers to beliefs, values, attitudes, and ways of thinking and perceiving situations. She points out that empowerment is a process that involves a redistribution of power, particularly within the household.

So power, power redistribution and power relationship are emphasized by the modern scholars when they have made clarification.

Regarding empowerment, Hashemi et al (1993) have clarified it in a study 'Targeted Credit Programs and the Empowerment of Women in Rural Bangladesh' and emphasized on women control over her lives. They have identified six general domains in which, traditionally subordination of women is played out and in which empowerment of women is believed to be taking place. The six domains are: 1. Sense of self and vision of a future. 2. Mobility and visibility. 3. Ability to earn a living. 4. Decision-making power within the household. 5. Ability to interact effectively in the public sphere. 5. Participation in non-family groups. In another study of 'Rural Credit Programs and Women's Empowerment in Bangladesh' Syed Hashemi et al (1996) have developed eight empowerment indicators to measure women's empowerment especially for Bangladesh context as a developing country. And his conceptualisation is highly praised in women development area. The eight indicators are: a. Mobility b. Economic security c. Ability to make small purchases d. Ability to make larger purchases e. Involvement in major decisions f. Relative freedom from domination by the family g. Political and legal awareness h. Participation in public protests and political campaigning.

And once it has found, scholars have analysed empowerment through gender lens and established it for judging women development. Though it is very difficult to differentiate real border line between development and empowerment. It has also found in Chen and Mahmud's (1995) clarification when they have conceptualized also empowerment as women's advancement. As Chen and Mahmud (1995)

Empowerment is a process of positive change that improves women's fallback position and bargaining power within a patriarchal structure, and identifies different causal pathways of change; material, cognitive, perceptual and relational.

In short, empowerment is a process of awareness and capacity building leading to greater participation, to greater decision-making power and control, and to transformative action. In addition, empowerment is a process that is both individual and

collective. Sometimes it involve people as groups that most often begin to develop their awareness and the ability to organize to take action and bring about change.

III. ALTERNATIVE THOUGHT AS BEYOND

Today, when empowerment approach is reigning supreme, there is need for a cool and dispassionate scrutiny of some of its infirmities. In the interest of systematic scrutiny, I explain it through liberal, structural and cultural perspectives.

Viewed from liberal perspective, women's empowerment approach suffers from three fallacies: exclusionary bias, adversarial orientation and subversive logic (Sharma: 2000:21). It suffers from an exclusionary bias in that it excludes man from the feminist discourse, organisation and movement. It is noticed, it isolates women from men. This is evident from the fact that, by and large most of the women study centres are headed by women and all the seminars and conferences on women are monopolised by women. Even, most of women mobilisations are led by women. Not only that; women academicians invariably claim, gender studies as one of their field of specialisation. As a result, the academic discourse on the gender question seems to have gained an activist impulse. Within the academic discourse again the women question is being viewed in isolation from the gender relations context. A disconnecting consequence of it, all the alienation of men from the gender discourse. As if this were not enough, it also evinces an adversarial orientation. Simply, it tends to project man as an adversary of woman (Sharma;2000:25).

In its present discourse, women's empowerment perspective could also be a threat to domestic peace as it may drive a wedge between man and woman. That is the reason why many women do not favour this perspective; because they feel they are well adjusted and find nothing wrong with gender relations.

From structural view point, women's empowerment approach is intrinsically psychologistic, structural and elitist (Sharma: 2000-26). It is psychologistic in that sense; it places over optimism on the efficacy of conscientization as a key to women's empowerment. Even as the importance of 'awareness generation' among women for their empowerment cannot be overemphasised, conscientization of women alone, to the exclusion of man is as important, perhaps even more than change in the attitude of woman, for setting gender relations on an even keel. Above all, while attitudinal change among both women and men is a necessary condition for gender equality, it is, however, not a sufficient condition. From Marxist angle, women's empowerment framework suffers from a sort of non-structuralist conditions. That is so because it ignores the importance of existential conditions, including the fact of economic dependency of woman on man. The

economic dependency of woman is built into the structure of property relations which are dominated by man. For sure, developmental approach has failed to make a dent into the structure of gender-based property relations.

From structural viewpoint, another problem with women's empowerment is that it treats women as a homogeneous category, an undifferentiated mass. This, however, is not true. The fact of the matter is that there is internal differentiation among women and it is as telling as between man and woman (Sharma: *ibid*). These women differ significantly not only in their backgrounds but also in their needs and interests. The question, then, is; whose empowerment are we talking about? Empowerment of women of which section or class? It is no secret that movement for women's empowerment has been hijacked by women of higher strata, particularly upper class/middle class and power elites (Caplan: 1985).

From cultural perspectives, women's empowerment approach can be criticised for its marked Western ethnocentrism (Sharma: *ibid*). It has incapability to relate to the cultural ethos of the countries of the East, including Indian Subcontinent. Its most severe limitation is its Western ethnocentric bias. So mired it is in the Western feminist discourse that it fails to capture the cultural reality of gender relations in the non-western part of the world.

In view of the above delineated limitations of women's empowerment approach it needs gender empowerment. Where it fails also to identify male's empowerment because most male of Third World Countries have no power and they are also exploited by the existing power-structure in the society. So it needs also to define empowerment as a gender-neutral concept. At this point, it is necessary to clarify the concept of 'gender empowerment'. Gender empowerment should not be mistaken for empowerment of man vis-a-vis woman or the vice versa. It signifies transformation of gender relations from hierarchal to egalitarian plan rather than just tinkering with women's power position. It aims at reworking of gender relations in a complimentary framework rather than a conflictual framework. Gender empowerment is a broad category which includes empowerment of women without creating a misgiving of emasculation of men. It stands for fostering a balance in gender relations as against the one-sided women empowerment approach. Furthermore, empowerment is not just a question of rearrangement of power both economic and political; it is also a matter of change of values. In my view, men need gender sensitisation as much as women do. In fact men need it even more, for they still are in a position of domination on account of the perpetuation of patriarchy.

REFERENCES RÉFÉRENCES REFERENCIAS

1. Beteille, Andre. (1999). Empowerment, *Economic and Political Weekly*, March 6-13:589-97.
2. Boserup, Ester (1970). *Women's Role in Economic Development*, New York, St. Martin's Press.
3. Batliwala, Srilatha. (1993), Empowerment of Women in South Asia, Concepts and Practices, New Delhi, FAO.
4. Caplan, Pat. (1985). *Class and India: Women and their organisations in a South Indian city*. London. Tavistock.
5. Dandekar, Hemalata.(1986). Indian Women's Development: Four Lenses. South Asia Bulletin,VI (1), 2-10. Delhi.
6. Friedmann, John.(1992). Empowerment : the Politics of Alternative Development, Oxford, Basil Blackwell.
7. Freire, Paulo (1996). *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, Penguin Books, London, 1996.
8. Griffen, Venessa. (ed) (1989). Women, development and empowerment: A pacific feminist Perspectives. Kuala Lumpur; Asia and Pacific Development Center.
9. Hashemi, Syed. Md, Sidney Ruth and Ann P. Riley (1995): 'Rural Credit Programs and Women's Empowerment in Bangladesh' World Development, vol.24 No.4, Pergamon, Great Britain
10. Kabeer, Naila. (2003), *Reversed Realities: Gender Hierarchies in Development Thought*. London, Verso, Pp-69-79, 130-136.
11. Karl, Marilee. (1995). *Empowerment and Women*: Zed Books, London.
12. Moser, Carolin. (1993) *Gender Planning and Development : Theory, Practice and training*. London, Routledge.
13. Naz, Farzana. (2006), *Pathways To Women's Empowerment in Bangladesh*, A H development Publishing House. Dhaka, Bangladesh.
14. Rowland, Jo. (1997), *Questioning Empowerment*, Oxford : Oxfam.
15. Schuler, Sidney Ruth and Hashemi, Syed.Md. (1993). *Defining and Studying Empowerment of Women : A Research Note from Bangladesh*. JSI Working Paper No. 3, Arlington, Virginia, USA.
16. Sharma, S.L. (2000). Empowerment without Antagonism ; A Case for reformulation of Women's Empowerment Approach, Journal of Indian Sociological Society, Vol.49, No.1, Delhi, India.
17. Sinha, Kalpana (ed.) (2000), RR Prasad, Shushama Sahay, "Models for Empowering Women", *Empowerment of Women in South Asia*, AMDISA.





This page is intentionally left blank



GLOBAL JOURNAL OF HUMAN SOCIAL SCIENCE
SOCIOLOGY & CULTURE

Volume 13 Issue 6 Version 1.0 Year 2013

Type: Double Blind Peer Reviewed International Research Journal

Publisher: Global Journals Inc. (USA)

Online ISSN: 2249-460X & Print ISSN: 0975-587X

Secularization and Development in Africa: A Terrific Façade

By Mustapha Hashim Kurfi

Boston University, Massachusetts, United States

Abstract- This article highlights secularization debate; identifying its major variants; critiquing the idea with particular reference to Peter Berger's rendition; and presenting his recent position on the debate. The paper then provides a snapshot of development from the Western perspective, examining the relationship between religion and development, showing how it differs from an African perspective. The paper argues that the Western models of development are not compatible with Africa because they are alien, incompatible with the norms and values of most Africans, and notably, neglect or relegate several important aspects of the people's culture, including the role of religion in development. Thus, when African leaders embrace and applaud the Western-based idea of secularized development at the expense of the subalterns, who do not feel the impacts of these superficial developments, it becomes a terrific façade. The article concludes by proposing a bottom-up approach to development conception and implementation in non-Western society, notably Africa, asserting that it has to be considered as a process compatible with the people's realities, reflecting their values, including religion and culture generally.

Keywords: *religion, development, secularization, peter berger, façade, ideas, practices.*

GJHSS-C Classification : *FOR Code : 220499*



Strictly as per the compliance and regulations of:



Secularization and Development in Africa: A Terrific Façade

Mustapha Hashim Kurfi

Abstract - This article highlights secularization debate; identifying its major variants; critiquing the idea with particular reference to Peter Berger's rendition; and presenting his recent position on the debate. The paper then provides a snapshot of development from the Western perspective, examining the relationship between religion and development, showing how it differs from an African perspective. The paper argues that, the Western models of development are not compatible with Africa because they are alien, incompatible with the norms and values of most Africans, and notably, neglect or relegate several important aspects of the people's culture, including the role of religion in development. Thus, when African leaders embrace and applaud the Western-based idea of secularized development at the expense of the subalterns, who do not feel the impacts of these superficial developments, it becomes a terrific façade. The article concludes by proposing a bottom-up approach to development conception and implementation in non-Western society, notably Africa, asserting that it has to be considered as a process compatible with the people's realities, reflecting their values, including religion and culture generally.

Keywords : religion, development, secularization, peter berger, façade, ideas, practices.

I. INTRODUCTION

This essay is divided into two main sections. The first section presents arguments on European¹ sociologists' conviction about the increasing secularization of "modern" society, drawing from the ideas of Peter Berger and Max Weber. The paper then reviews and critiques some of the contemporary postulates on the debate. The second section of the paper presents discussion on the nature of religion and economic development, examining how Western development models fail to work in Africa², and proposing a bottom-up approach that is compatible with the realities of the people, reflecting their values.

Author : Department of Sociology, Boston University, Massachusetts - U.S.A. E-mail : mustapha@bu.edu

¹ The roots of the secularization idea can be traced to European scholars, but the later proponents are not necessarily Europeans.

² It is worthy to acknowledge that Africa is a huge continent with diversities and differences even within sub-regions and individual countries. This is not to generalize and say that all African societies are the same or should follow the same patterns of development.

II. INCREASING SECULARIZATION OF "MODERN" SOCIETY

Secularization is one of the main themes in sociology of religion. The terms of the current anthropological literature on secularism are set in relation to both classic and recent developments in secularization theory (Cannell, 2010:86). As with most concepts in the social sciences, there is no single or widely accepted definition of secularization. There is, first of all, disagreement about its locus. Some definitions³ emphasize individual beliefs and practices, others the influence of religious norms, and elites, and still others the differentiation of religious and nonreligious spheres or institutions (Gorski and Altinordu, 2008:57). In *The Sacred Canopy* (1967) Berger first deals with his theory or conception on the nature of religion. He argues that humans are biologically fated to "exteriorize" and fill their world with meaning, that is create a culture, which is then "interiorized" by a process of socialization. Often, this leads to "alienation"⁴, since humans start to regard products of their own activity as natural, unchanging and external objects that are "out there" (1967:2). Berger introduces the notion of "plausibility," structure- a conversation by which this particular reality⁵ works, asserting that whenever the conversation stops, the world starts to shake.

Culture⁶ and society are rooted in man's biological nature. Society structures, distributes, coordinates, and provides the infrastructure for the world-building activities of man. Society is a necessary condition for culture because "only in society can the products of those activities persist over time" (p.7). Berger asserts that religion itself has been probably the most powerful agency of alienation because religion has been a very important form of false consciousness (1967:87). It is worthy to note that Berger's ideas on secularization stem from Weber, and is therefore an

³ Berger subscribes to the modernization definition. He defines the term as a process in which religion diminishes in importance both in society and in the consciousness of individual secularization is the direct result of modernization (2001: 443).

⁴ He borrows the idea from Marx

⁵ Social construction (externalization, objectivation, internalization)

⁶ Berger refers culture to the totality of man's externalized products and the term "society" to refer to the specific social arrangements upon which culture rests (1967: 6).

extension of Weber's analysis of the "secularizing"⁷ function of Protestantism. Let me briefly recount Weber's idea on secularization.

When Max Weber designates as secularization the process whereby the concept of "calling" moves or is relocated from the religious to the secular sphere to signify, now for the first time, the exercise of secular activities⁸ in the world, he is using as analogy the canonical meaning of the concept (Casanova, 1994:13). Similarly, Hughey (1979) argues that, with reference to Max Weber's work, secularization⁹ may refer to very different phenomena in different situations, depending on the content and specific sociohistorical context which it occurs (90). Rationalization, with particular reference to religious intellectuals can be used to illustrate that. The process of intellectual rationalization results in a systematization of religious values in terms of their own autonomous and internal logic. At the same time, secular sphere of value (political, economic, kinship, military, aesthetic, intellectual, etc.) undergo the same process of intellectual rationalization and how they are organized into logical systems based on their own immanent laws. The further the rationalization and sublimation of the external and internal possessions of- in the widest sense- 'things worldly' has progressed, the stronger has the tension on the part of religion become (Weber 2011). Thus, the more intellectual rationalization proceeds toward systematizing each institutional order in terms of its logic and values, the more the internal logic of each sphere can be seen to conflict with that of every other sphere.

Peter Berger in his *The Sacred Canopy* (1967) defines secularization as "the process by which sectors of the society and culture are removed from the domination of religious institutions and symbols". Additionally, he sees secularization as empirically available "processes" of great importance in "modern Western"¹⁰ history" (1967:107). To explain modernity, Berger contends that secularization operates in dialectical tension with "pluralism."¹¹ Berger uses pluralism as a key part of his discussion of how religion has changed from its previous roles in human culture. The plausibility of all religious systems become undermined when encountered with competing belief systems, consequently producing a "crisis of legitimation" for organized religion. Along with this crisis is competition among religious groups with "the same legal status" but pits these groups against "non-religious rivals in the business of defining the world"

(1967:137). Against this background, Berger concludes that Pluralism is particularly detrimental to "religious ex-monopolies" (1967:137). On the effect of secular society on religion, Berger asserts that it represents a severe rupture of the traditional task of religion, which was precisely the establishment of an integrated set of definitions of reality that could serve as a common universe of meaning for the members of society (1967; 134). Couple of decades later, Berger changed his mind and debunked his theory. The next section reviews some critiques of the secularization theory.

III. SECULARIZATION: A CRITIQUE

In *The Desecularization of the World*, Peter Berger (1999) identified mistakes in his theory and refuted his claims that "modern" society would become increasingly secularized. "My point is that the assumption that we live in a secularized world is false" (1999: 2) he declared. The world today, he further argues, "with some exceptions to which I will come presently, is as furiously religious as it ever was, and in some places more so than ever" (1999:2). But even before that, his ideas and theory were challenged. On decline of religious beliefs, Berger (1999) surveys the contemporary world scene and found little evidence of religious decline, except on some American university campuses and perhaps in Western Europe. Again, it was apparent to him that modernization has had some secularizing effects, more in some places than others. But it has also provoked powerful movements of "counter-secularization" (1999:3). In fact, secularization operates at different levels- for instance societal level secularization is not necessarily linked to secularization on the level of individual consciousness. James Beckford (2003) provides a detailed analysis of clusters of ideas about secularization. These are: *differentiation, rationalization, modernization, metamorphoses, continuing vitality, and universality of religion*.

Stark (1999) argued that secularization certainly seemed to have slowed or even stopped, asserting that it had never happened, urging for expunging the term from the sociological lexicon. He based his arguments on a number of events that disproved the secularization apologists' claims. These include the Iranian Revolution, the rapid spread of Pentecostalism in the global South, communal violence in Southern Asia, the collapse of communism qua secular religion, etc. Another dimension of attack on the secularization thesis is looking at it from the privatization of religion angle. Jose Casanova (1994) questioned this, utilizing empirical data within the United States and other continents including Africa. He concludes that we are witnessing the "deprivatization"¹² of religion in the modern world,

⁷ Weber did not seem to use the term secularization but instead disenchantment, which could mean secularization

⁸ Secularization of religious motives

⁹ Disenchantment of the world

¹⁰ He justifies modern Western based on its roots in the religious tradition (Berger, 1967:124).

¹¹ A social-structural correlate of the secularization of consciousness (Berger 1967:127)

¹² By deprivatization I mean the fact that religious traditions throughout the world are refusing to accept the marginal and privatized role which theories of modernity as well as theories of secularization reserved for them (Casanova 1994:5)

citing examples with social movements that have appeared which were either religious in nature or challenging in the name of religion for legitimacy and autonomy of the primary secular spheres, the state and the market economy. More so, "religious institutions and organizations refused to restrict themselves to the pastoral care of individual souls" and continue to raise questions about the interconnections of private and public morality and "to challenge the claims of the subsystems, particularly states and markets, to be exempt from extraneous normative considerations" (Casanova 1994:5).

Chaves (1994) puts forward another puzzle by shifting emphasis on the secularization debate from a supraindividual level to the power of ecclesiastical elites and institutions. He argues that secularization is most productively understood not as declining religion, but as the declining scope of religious authority. Strikingly, Warner (2002) came up with some data that proved particular social and institutional conditions in the U.S.A. which made its religious scene distinctively different from Europe's. Thus, secularization theories based on the European canon are no particularly useful for understanding religion here. This point further validates the fallacy of Berger (1967) that makes bolder claims that his model applies to all religions. Another important stride in critiquing the secularization debate is Berger's (2001) reflection that he was wrong when he had thought that, modernization necessarily meant secularization. He further traces the source of his idea to an interpretation that was eloquently expressed in Weber's phrase of "the disenchantment of the world" (2001:443).

James Beckford (2003) considers the idea of secularization with reference to the metamorphoses¹³ idea as "deceptive" (2003:52). He then cites David Lyon who asserts that 'the idea of secularization, if taken to refer beyond institutional religiosity to the attenuation of all forms of faith, spirituality, and belief, is plainly mistaken' (2000:x). To buttress this point, David Lyon refers to Robert Bellah's works since the 1960s, insisting that it is no longer possible to divide mankind into a binary of believers and non-believers. Rather, all believe something.

From the above, we can appreciate the role of religion and religious ideas in "modern" society. If Berger's secularization idea was extending the works of Weber and perhaps Durkheim, one needs to ask if the *Sacred Canopy* ever existed in the first place because we have to be critical of the contexts – the times and processes (events). What led to Weber and Durkheim's

mode of thoughts? Both of these classical scholars were noticing industrialization and modernization happening in their own societies at those periods. It was an established fact that there was "disenchantment of the world" in Weber's case, which was linked to the idea of economic development, although, he was not saying in explicit terms that there was secularization. If Berger missed the point¹⁴, then what was he not noticing?

There are many variants of secularization with emphasis on various aspects. I have highlighted six: differentiation, rationalization, modernization, metamorphoses, continuing vitality, and universality of religion. Peter Berger's "favorite" was the modernization, which assumes that modernization means the decline of religion and the institutional order and then the consciousness of individual. These ideas have been challenged by scholars including Berger himself, a leading proponent of the theory. As Casanova (1994) asserts, and he is right, there are two take-homes: religion has come to stay, thus putting to rest one of the cherished dreams of the Enlightenment. Second, religion shall continue to play important public roles in the ongoing construction of the modern world. Empirical data across continents and the U.S. dispute the secularization idea. Modernity does not necessarily lead to secularization, but pluralism. Although the debate on secularization seems to focus around Europe and or "modern" society, students of sociology of religion in Africa have many things to learn from and explore in their study¹⁵ including observing the continuous importance of secularization debate as an important theme in sociology of religion. The next section of the essay is devoted to the idea of religion vis-à-vis development. It first briefly gives an overview of the notion of development in Africa, highlighting how it is conceived, challenging the Western models, and advocating for a bottom-up approach that considers the felt-needs and realities of the target recipients.

IV. RELIGION AND DEVELOPMENT – AN AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE

The secularization paradigm, based on European history and the modernist model of the progressive exclusion of religion from the public sphere, has seen religion as an obstacle to progress, to be sidestepped, ignored or eliminated (Barbara Bompani and Maria Frahm-Arp 2010). From the outset, modern ideas about development generally overlooked the role of religion in Africa, or assumed that it would be relegated to a matter of private belief as secular states gained strength and confidence, or even represented

¹³ With variants though, a popular point for recent argument about the metamorphosis is the decline in the number of young people who regularly participate in mainstream Christian churches (Beckford 2003:53).

¹⁴ May be Berger did not realize that the Calvinists' work, which was inspired by the "calling," a religious motivation, was not differentiated or divided into sacred and secular

¹⁵ There are several studies conducted in Africa on the subject matter, Ann Swidler's (2010) "The Return of the Sacred..." is a good example.

religion as an obstacle to development. As was indicated in the introductory notes, development process in Africa should consider religion. Strikingly, Gerrie Ter Haar (2010) observes that it is now apparent that religion is a growing force in public life in Africa, as in many other parts of the world. She further asserts that development schemes designed without due reference to local cultures are bound to run into difficulty, and cultures – however interesting they may be from folkloric viewpoint are bound to change. How are the Western models of development viewed, especially in relation to Africa?

Building on the debate on secularization, Dorothea (2010) observes that development in the twentieth century Western European model was seen as progress from a deeply religious, irrational and non-bureaucratic world, to a modern space where material advancement was achieved that led to secularization and loss of the spiritual. This trajectory has not been universal and the United States of America is a good example of a developed nation-state that has not lost all sense of the spiritual and religious discourse in the public sphere. It is worthy to understand the shift from progress to process in understanding development. Progress is about material increase while process tries to bring about the advancement of the whole person and their society. Development should be about helping people realize their potential- what they are, what they can do for themselves, and who they could be. By implication therefore, students of African religion should not be imposing or creating meanings or defining for their subjects what development is. Rather, the subjects should not be objectified or made “other” since they know better what their situations are.

In line with the above, Elizabeth (2010) identifies a difficulty among the Westerners in comprehending how, in African culture a continuum exists between visible and invisible worlds. It is also a surprise to some that religion reaches all sectors of public life, and how religious ideas come to have a bearing on the way political power is actually perceived and exercised. Studying aspects of religion in Africa therefore requires the researcher to appreciate the nature and relationship between the visible and the invisible to the subjects. In other words, isolating or treating religious aspects alone without bringing into cognizance other aspects of the society will not help. Several good examples exist- Linda Thomas' *Under the Canopy* (1999) is a good case, where she considered not only the health but equally social, economic, political, symbolic, etc. aspects of the Saint John's Church in South Africa.

V. CONCLUSION

This essay briefly highlighted Peter Berger's idea on secularization as well as Max Weber's and providing a critique, and discussing the relationship between religion and development from an Africa

perspective. It argues that, the Western models of development are not compatible with Africa for many reasons: they are alien, as well usually attached with conditionalities- just like many African countries experienced with the IMF/World Banks' structural adjustment programs in the 1980s and 90s. In addition, the Western models of development as we have illustrated, are not compatible with the norms and values of the people. This means that it neglects or relegates several important aspects of the people's culture, including the role of religion in development. Over the past decade there has been growing interest in engaging with religion, both as a means to achieving established development goals and as it is increasingly recognized that religion is central to the lives and values of most people in developing countries, thereby also paying a potential role in shaping development programs (Ter Haar and Ellis, 2006). As demonstrated, several empirical studies proved that the contraposition between modernity and religion rooted in Western interpretations of secularism does not ring true in non-Western societies. This relationship needs to be rearticulated in theoretical and interpretive manner. Religion remains the most important means by which Africans secure access to the invisible world. They can achieve their development through utilizing religious ideas and resources¹⁶. Development, when referred to Africa, should not be considered only in a unilineal, Western, top-down. Instead, it should be from bottom-up, allowing people from the grassroots to identify their problems and prioritize their needs. Failure to appreciate this and apply it to non-Western, mostly African societies, where the leaders embrace and applaud the secularized development idea at the expense of the citizens who do not benefit from the artificial development, it becomes a terrific façade.

REFERENCES RÉFÉRENCES REFERENCIAS

1. Ann, Swidler. 2010. "The Return of the Sacred: What African Chiefs Teach Us about Secularization" in *Sociology of Religion*. Vol. 72, No.2, 157-171.
2. Beckford, James. 2003. *Social Theory and Religion*. Cambridge, U.K.: University Press.
3. Berger, L. Peter. 1967. *The Sacred Canopy: Elements of a Sociological Theory of Religion*. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday.
4. Berger, L. Peter. 1999. *The Desecularization of the World: Resurgent, Religion and World Politics*. Washington, D.C.: Ethics and Policy Center.

¹⁶ Gerrie Tar Haar's The "Mbulili Principle..." (2010) has demonstrated how religious leaders utilize local resources to fight poverty. Also, several faith-related agencies have done creditably well in the fight against many social ills including poverty, violence against women, illiteracy, etc. Certainly, this is related to increase in foreign aid, failure of many African states, etc.

5. Berger, L. Peter. 2001. "Reflections on the Sociology of Religion Today," in *Sociology of Religion*, Vol. 62:4, 443-454.
6. Barbara, Bompani and Maria Frahm-Arp. 2010. *Development and Politics From Below: Exploring Religious Spaces in the African State*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
7. Casanova, José. 1994. *Public Religions in the Modern World*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
8. Chaves, M. 1994. "Secularization as Declining Religious Authority" In *Social Forces*, Vol. 72: 749-74
9. Cannell, Fenella. 2010. "The Anthropology of Secularization." In *Annual Review Anthropology*, Vol. 39: 85-100.
10. Dorothea, Schutz. 2010. "Remaking Society from Within: Extraversion and the Social Forms of Female Muslim Activism in Urban Mali." In *Development and Politics from Below: Exploring Religious Spaces in the African State*. Edited by Barbara Bompani, and Maria Frahm-Arp. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
11. Elizabeth, Graveling. 2010. "Marshalling the Powers: The Challenge of Everyday Religion for Development" in *Development and Politics from Below: Exploring Religious Spaces in the African State*. Edited by Barbara Bompani, and Maria Frahm-Arp. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
12. Emile, Durkheim. 1982. *The Rules of Sociological Method*, edited by Steven Lukes. New York: Free Press.
13. Gerrie, Ter Haar. 2010. "The Mbuliuli Principle: What is in a Name?" in *Development and Politics from Below: Exploring Religious Spaces in the African State*. Edited by Barbara Bompani, and Maria Frahm-Arp. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
14. Gorski, Phillip and Altinordu Ates. 2008. "After Secularization?" in *Annual Review Sociology*. Vol. 34:55-85.
15. Hughey, Michael. 1979. "The Idea of Secularization in the Works of Max Weber: A Theoretical Outline." In *Qualitative Sociology*, Vol.2(1), pp.85-111.
16. Marx, Karl, 1957. *Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels On Religion*. Moscow: Foreign Languages Publishing House.
17. Riesebrodt, Martin. 2010. *The Promise of Salvation: A Theory of Religion*. Chicago: University Press.
18. Stark, R. 1999. "Bringing Theory Back In." *Rational Choice Theory and Religion*, edited by Young, L. New York: Routledge.
19. Weber, Max. 2009. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism: with Other Writings on the Rise of the West*, edited by Stephen Kalberg. New York: University Press.
20. Weber, Max, 2011. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, edited by Stephen Kalberg. Oxford: University Press.
21. Warner, R. S. 1993. "Work in Progress: Towards a New Paradigm for the Sociological Study of Religion in the United States," in *American Journal of Sociology*. Vol. 98:1044-93.





This page is intentionally left blank



GLOBAL JOURNAL OF HUMAN SOCIAL SCIENCE
SOCIOLOGY & CULTURE

Volume 13 Issue 6 Version 1.0 Year 2013

Type: Double Blind Peer Reviewed International Research Journal

Publisher: Global Journals Inc. (USA)

Online ISSN: 2249-460X & Print ISSN: 0975-587X

Toward a Sociology of Public Intellectual Action: The Challenge of the Molecular Intellectuals

By Francesco Antonelli

Università degli studi, Italy

Abstract - The present essay aims to give both a contribution to rethinking sociology of intellectuals and to the study of transition from the hierarchical order of modernity (idea of Society) to a social pattern based on persons and subjects. In particular, we will try to paint a sketch of the transformations of the intellectual function. Exerted by big bureaucratic machines, today the intellectual action partially detaches itself from the intellectual function carried out by big bureaucratic machines of the modern era. New typologies of intellectuals were born as well as a new, deeply ambivalent public space. The Internet and networked individualism are the main carriers of these transformations.

Keywords: *intellectuals, agency, networking society, molecularization.*

GJHSS-C Classification : FOR Code : 160899



Strictly as per the compliance and regulations of:



Toward a Sociology of Public Intellectual Action: The Challenge of the Molecular Intellectuals

Francesco Antonelli

Abstract - The present essay aims to give both a contribution to rethinking sociology of intellectuals and to the study of transition from the hierarchical order of modernity (idea of Society) to a social pattern based on persons and subjects. In particular, we will try to paint a sketch of the transformations of the intellectual function. Exerted by big bureaucratic machines, today the intellectual action partially detaches itself from the intellectual function carried out by big bureaucratic machines of the modern era. New typologies of intellectuals were born as well as a new, deeply ambivalent public space. The Internet and networked individualism are the main carriers of these transformations.

Keywords : *intellectuals, agency, networking society, molecularization.*

I. INTRODUCTION

The term “intellectual” comes from late Latin *intellectualis*, adjective that, in philosophy, refers to what deals with the theoretical activity separated from the perceptible experience/world. So we can give the word intellectual two different meanings. The first meaning refers to: «the social stratum composed by all the people who perform an activity that can be classified as intellectual – implying a use of signs and symbols instead of a use of materials, together with a precise and effective mental effort – being the latter of technical, administrative, scientific, medical or artistic nature» (Gallino 2004:386). We can define this first group, to whom Antonio Gramsci (1996) refers with particularly deep thought, intellectual workers. They were one of the most important groups into middle classes during the Twentieth Century. Using a second meaning, the term intellectual does not imply a precise social group, but a specific public role: public intellectual or *engagé*¹. Public intellectuals may or may not be part of intellectual workers. They, by making public actions, exploit their cultural reputation in order to influence public opinion and political élites about specific “events” (such as

international crises, a social movement mobilization and so forth) or cultural issues. During the first modernity, public intellectuals thought themselves as well as a spiritual and cultural élite on the straight of a strong sense of ontological True and ideological seduction (Antonelli 2012; Aron 1957; Dahrendorf 2006). This *avantgarde* was part of the hierarchical order of modernity because of exerting a cultural power on non-intellectuals people – the majority of population was illiterate or non-educated people during the Nineteenth and until the mid-Twentieth Century in Europe. At the same time, a lot of critical and nationalist thinkers built a strong stigma on intellectual workers – whom were in relentless social rise as part of new middle classes: they were judged a share of the commercialization of culture and mankind, cause either through Capitalism or world **bureaucratization** (Adorno, Horkheimer 1972; Burnham 1941). After Sixty's – the “Golden Age” of the public intellectuals – during post-industrial society rising, the consciousness of crisis struck themselves and they lose social, political and cultural influence.

Nonetheless, it has been finding since the end of Seventy's either analysis on the role of intellectuals inspired by a sense of “homesick” for the “Golden Age” or reproposing of the same old-fashioned model to explain political-cultural processes, both in Public speech and scientific literature: a couple of examples of the first kind, it is Italian book by Alberto Asor Rosa titled *The Great Silence. Interview on Intellectuals (Il grande silenzio. Intervista sugli intellettuali)*, (2009) and the book by Frank Furedi *Where Have All the Intellectuals Gone?* (2004). An example of the second type is the recent Volume 25, Issue 4 of the Review *Terrorism and Political Violence*, focuses on the relationship between terrorism and intellectual engagement.

Most of this analysis strongly undervalues contemporary transformation of public intellectual subjectivities due to new cultural and economic mode of production mainly based on networking way – also called *informationalism* (Castells 2003). The findings of that are, on one hand, the conclusive decline of avantgarde model – that survival just like a symbolic simulacrum (Baudrillard 1981) – and, in the other, the rise of a new one: *molecular intellectual*. It is based on the new public and political role of the latest version of

Author : Università degli studi, Italy. E-mail : fantonelli@uniroma3.it

¹ The above suggested differentiation partially follows the one gave by Mannheim in relation to the distinction between “mobile” elements (meaning not rooted in a specific cultural context) and “local” elements (on the contrary, expression of a well determined community) of a historically identified intellectual élites. See Mannheim, Shils 1980.

intellectual workers: *knowledge workers* whom break previous split between public intellectuals and intellectual workers as well as political-cultural function and productive processes.

In the first and second paragraphs it is explained our theoretical and methodological approach: it is based on a rethinking of post-marxist perspective through the contribution of the sociology of agency (Antonelli 2009; Giddens 1984, 1990; Ritzer 2003; Touraine 2007a). In followings they are analyzed the avantgarde model (industrial society), the factors of its crisis (transition to post-industrial society) and, finally, the model of molecular intellectuals (global networking society).

II. ANALYZING INTELLECTUALS: CLASSICAL AND POST-CLASSICAL PERSPECTIVES

Classically, roles, missions and subjectivities of the intellectuals were mainly studied through two different kind of perspectives: on one hand, intellectuals are seen as actors oriented by an universalistic pattern of True, as legacy the age of Enlightenment; thus, they would be dis-embedded both social stratification and class interests. In a deeply divided world, as modern society certainly is, this means intellectuals are the only ones would be able to rule *beyond* social struggles and *over* partisan points of view. In turn, this Platonic" perspective have had two different versions since the Nineteenth Century: the oldest one is based on mainstream identity of intellectual and the supremacy of humanistic knowledge. The most recent is the *technocratic* one, a point of view focuses on scientific background of "new intellectuals" – a theory has been developed since Saint-Simone and Comte age (Antonelli 2012). Finally, we could consider Karl Mannheim's sociology one of the most representative on the whole Platonic point of view so long as his work is a sort of synthesis of humanistic and technocratic theories, as Chiara Canta argues (2006).

In the other hand, we can find a *Marxism inspired perspective*: on the contrary of Platonic theory, according to neo-marxist, intellectuals always involved in economic structures and they are "agencies" of different social classes and different ideologies. Most of seminal authors in this point of view did not know Marx and Engels important book on intellectuals and ideology *The German Ideology* (1845): in fact, it was rediscovered and published only in 1932. Surprisingly, neo-marxism authors considered their theory about the world as the only scientific one as well as arguing by Karl Marx in his book: the others point of view would be either partisan – that is bourgeois – or outdated by History. Thus, intellectual world is divided between who works for proletariat and who for bourgeois. In neo-marxism, politics and culture are fundamental in order to make Revolution and building socialism: a "good" socialist and revolutionary politician must be an intellectual. In a

way, a "good" philosopher, writer, artist or poet supports the proletariat by his cultural opera. Nevertheless, in this construction the supremacy is accorded to the political-intellectual pattern. So, beginning from a common perspective based on this specific avantgarde idea, they may be divided in two groups: the first one (Leninist) argues the most important mission of intellectuals is lead proletariat and building their political awareness through the Party. This point of view sounds more suitable in not-industrial society rather than in an industrial context. On the contrary, the second one (Gramsci and Italian School) seems longer valid for industrial societies. In fact, according to it the mission of the Party is involving both public intellectuals and intellectual workers - that is middle classes - into itself in order to develop a political and cultural hegemony. In particular, Antonio Gramsci argues modern intellectuals not as talkers, but as practically-minded directors and organizers (in our words as intellectual workers) who produced hegemony both by means of ideological apparatuses - such as education or media - and through performing their tasks in modern workplace - for example, bureaucracy. Furthermore, he distinguished between a "traditional" *intelligentsia* which sees itself (wrongly) as a class apart from society, and the thinking groups which every class produces from its own ranks "organically". Such "organic" intellectuals do not simply describe social life in accordance with scientific rules, but instead articulate, through the language of culture, the feelings and experiences which the masses could not express for themselves. Finally, relationship and membership to the Party are both fundamental to realize the transition from "unaffected" intellectuals to an "organic" one: specialized, technical or humanistic knowledge are not enough without a collective and political experience in the Party - that Gramsci called "Modern Prince", inspired by Niccolò Machiavelli thought (Gramsci 1992).

Despite to a shallow looking at them, Platonism and Neo-marxism theories seem deeply different, they share actually two common *general theoretic* assumptions:

1. *An image of the modern society based on a hierarchy idea*: both of them share the social (status) and instrumentally (function) distinction between intellectuals and non-intellectual people due to both different political-social functions performing and their linked ranking; at the same time, public intellectuals - that are intellectuals who perform political-culture tasks - have got the preeminence on the intellectual workers themselves.
2. *Every actors - included the intellectuals - are dominated by a general false consciousness*: on one hand non-intellectual people cannot act to achieve emancipation for themselves and society at whole without to be leading by intellectuals. At the same time, each social action of the intellectuals never work to own advantage or interest. They

would (or *should*) always be driven by some superior Standard (such as Rationality for technocratic platonism), Value (such as the Universal True for humanistic Platonism) or Subject (the Political Party for neo-marxist, of course).

Structuralism, Post-structuralism and, afterwards, Post-modernism movements have *partially* destroyed the first assumption since Seventy's, *mainly* on theoretical side. They showed supremacy of the (public)-intellectuals is only a historical and social construction, rather than a "natural doom", orienting toward power relationships: the idea of "prophet" intellectual was rejected. At the same time, Pierre Bourdieu pointed out judgments of taste and cultural behaviors are themselves acts of social positioning, included intellectual actions: according to Bourdieu, intellectuals are "dominated share of ruling class" and preserve their social privileges across generation (Bourdieu 1979; 1990; 1992). On the other hand, Zygmunt Bauman's analysis, in particular through his famous book *Legislators and Interpreters* (1987) underlines the "death of strong ontological True" in order to explain and change human History, in contemporary societies: today, the intellectuals survival just as "cultural hubs" and "intermediaries" among different social worlds. Nevertheless, in my opinion all these analysis are strongly disappointing for a couple of reasons: at first, about practice issues. In fact, while post-structuralist authors - such as Foucault or Bourdieu himself - were struggling against classical intellectual idea, they were as very important public-intellectuals as the other ones - for example Jean-Paul Sartre. The old idea refused on theoretical side were reproduced throughout everyday political life. The outcomes are been the powerlessness, the homesick and losing their legitimacy.

III. RETHINKING THE POINT OF VIEW: THE SOCIOLOGY OF INTELLECTUAL ACTION

A very serious theoretical reason is on the basis of that: a determinism view about social world linked by the false consciousness assumption. According to them social actions are conditioned by impersonal forces and this situation is reproduced in space and time during the centuries: superficially everything changes and than nothing happens. Human consciousness is always imprisoned. So, all these authors do not keep in touch with a social, political and economic world more and more complex - like our time is. They do not catch the linked between systemic transformation and human agency, each other influences. In particular, the role of the subject, its irreducibility freedom to the structure - the first reason to social changes - is too in the shade.

Differently, we embrace Giddens' position: social structures are both constituted by human agency, and yet at the same time are the very medium of this constitution (Giddens 1984). Thus, as Alain Touraine

argues: «sociology was the study of social systems; it must now be defined in different terms as the study of the struggles of social actors who are fighting for their freedom and their rights insofar as they are subjects» (Touraine 2009b: 214). Translated to our discussion, it means we have to begin again from a fundamental question: *who is a public intellectual?* Sociologically, we can define an intellectual as a social actor, making public actions, exploit its cultural or artistic or scientific reputation in order to influence public opinion and political élites about specific "events" (such as an international crises, a social movement mobilization and so forth) or political issues. Intellectual is *embedded in* and *mobilized* specific social and power relationships: *it need to move from a sociology on intellectuals to a sociology on intellectual action*. Cultural and knowledge field, its history, networks and institutions are the source of intellectuals themselves; nevertheless, a scientist, a writer or a researcher become a public intellectual when he/she just approaches his/her knowledge to a public issue and he/she introduces himself/herself into public sphere - such as Burawoy explains about specific and, at the same time, general case of the public sociology (Burawoy 2005). In add, *it must be oriented by a situated engagement for human emancipation*. That action becomes an intellectual one and its structuration concerns three worlds: economy, communication and politics. About the first, modern society has always been charactering for a very important process: capitalism has tried to embed knowledge, science and culture in Itself for ages. Intellectual workers partially are a finding of that trend. Thus, the first kind of relationships mobilizing are those between public intellectuals missions and intellectual workers, and, in add, between public intellectuals, economic actors and social classes. About the second (communication), it is important to remember the impact of the means of cultural and opinion production on public intellectual identities: for example, "Gutenbergian" means, such as journals or books, are linked with a particular idea of Public sphere - analyzing by Habermas (1989), among others (Cubitt 2005). Changing of these produces fundamental transformations both in possibility of intellectual actions and in audience. So, another remarkable kinds of relationships and actors are between public intellectuals, their audience and cultural gatekeepers.

Finally, politics forms are very important too because, on one hand, politics is the last goal of public intellectual activity and, on other side, it is the general environment of that. Thus, last but not least, we have to consider the relationships between public intellectuals and political actors - such as parties, political élite and so forth.

On the straight of this theoretical frame - that entails to accept the challenge of a new intellectual presence in a global world - we can make three hypothesis about contemporary public intellectual social action:

- The decline both avantgarde model and intellectual hierarchy order based on bureaucratic mass organizations. We call this process *disintermediation*.
- Transformations into knowledge and culture field have produced the centrality of *knowledge worker* for almost ten fifty years. Thus intellectual worker is substituted for knowledge worker as the findings of the contemporary relationship between knowledge, new technologies (web 2.0) and capitalism. Most of public intellectual actions are going to arise from knowledge worker.
- By action of: a) higher education level among population than in the past b) rising web 2.0, number of persons whom are involving in public intellectual actions are going to increase. Nevertheless, status of these subjects is not equal: there are actors more influential than others. At the same time, the difference between intellectuals and non-intellectuals people is more and more undefined. We call the whole described process *molecularization*.

IV. THE INTELLECTUAL IN THE HIERARCHICAL ORDER OF MODERNITY AND ITS CLASH

During XIX and XX Century, the intellectual workers, and above all, public intellectuals, were part of the hierarchical order of modernity because they exerted a cultural power on non- intellectuals. From this point of view, in the modern era, intellectuals aspire to be:

1. Interpreters of the true needs of masses (*action of social mediation*).
2. Keepers of the knowledge about the development of history and nature (*cognitive action*).
3. Supreme legislators of the way human beings should organize their actions, their society and their ways of life (*normative action*).

Each of these three actions has its roots in a universal concept of Truth which gives the intellectuals a moral superiority and a (presumed) superior mission: to lead and educate the masses. Between centuries XIX and XX the hierarchical order expanded: in order to lead and discipline wider and wider masses, bureaucratic machines were created in order to organize and exploit cultural power; they used intellectual workers as the main labor force: the intellectual actions became complex social functions. Particularly, as functions, all the intellectual actions put into action in the society are performed by bureaucracies of knowledge (mass schooling that educates new generations), by the information system and by the cultural industry (mass media that inform and influence the audience), by politics (mass parties that politically educate and lead their members), by the administration (a factory administration that scientifically organizes the workers; public administration that regulates the life of citizens/users).

The intellectual workers grew in number, their work started being hierarchically organized, their skills

put at service for a general purpose. In the first half of century XX, the organic intellectual analyzed by Antonio Gramsci is a bureaucratized intellectual. He organizes the masses and the social work. He himself is organized and so socially detached: there are "executive/leader" intellectuals and "directed" intellectuals in such a hierarchy.

During the 60's and the 70's the shift from industrial to post-industrial mode of production led to the establishment of a programmed society. In Alain Touraine's seminal analysis – Post-industrial society in 1970- that society links the effort for an indefinite material growth to forms of total dominion (of the single persons and the society). Knowledge – meant as capacity of generating new creativity – is the *trait d'union* between these two elements. Bureaucratic machines are its main social structure. The dominant social class in programmed societies is defined on a knowledge basis; meaning specific knowledge which can be managerial, administrative or technical. The working class, that is subjected to the action performed by machineries in different ways, is composed either by those who claim a rise in their own consumption or by those whose private life resists to the changes; so: «the principal opposition between these two great classes or groups of classes [...] Comes about because the dominant classes disposes of knowledge and control of information» (Touraine 1970: 61). Considering the first two levels of power in a programmed society:

1. Political-strategic level: at this level the ruling class is composed by technocrats, who believe in the submission of politics to the imperative of defence, of science, or economic concentration. Among the various subdued social groups there are "professionals" meaning members of "professions", two of which have a particular importance in our society: education and public health. Professors, researchers and physicians, who are not wage earner directors, nor, in the great majority of cases, members of professions. On one hand, their activity requires rationalized organizations; on the other hand, it aims to maintain and empower the capacity of productions of people and students;
2. Administrative level: at this level the ruling class is represented by high level bureaucrats.

Among the member of the working class there are employees and technicians who work in bureaucratic machines; experts engineers, accountants, jurists, psychologists.

Alienation and submission cases to which the different subdued categories are subjected don't lead to class movements and struggles automatically: they simply lay the basis for them. Re-interpreting *The Post-Industrial Society* by Touraine today shows, therefore, a core aspect: conflicts in a programmed society, seen at their beginning by the French sociologist, were struggles between different groups of intellectual workers: on one side professionals,

experts and students and the other side technocrats and high level bureaucrats (the ruling class).

New social movements in the 70's (ecologism, localism and so forth) were put into action by the first group against the second one. A struggle that arose from the heart of intellectual bureaucracies, between "executive/leader" intellectuals and "directed" intellectuals, in a growing number (Antonelli 2012). The hierarchical order of modernity was so questioned by those who most had contributed to its development. In a society dominated by the service industry, the directed intellectual workers, besides being producers, they also are a significant portion of consumers and citizens; they refused to be directed and represented in an authoritative fashion by the top sectors of bureaucratic machines: so the social mediation function and the normative function started experiencing a crisis. A crisis that is based on the decline of the authority (Inglehart 1998) and on strong Idea of Truth (Vattimo, Rovatti 1985). The intellectual subject - in first place in his role of public citizen, user and costumer - demands autonomy, in order to use and spread knowledge and information in a more democratic fashion. The intellectual action, that starts spreading in the society through the expansion of intellectual workers, begins its riot against the intellectual function, which is institutionalized and bureaucratic.

V. NETWORKED SOCIETIES AND THE NEW MOLECULAR INTELLECTUALS

During the 70's and 80's of century XX, therefore, the boost to the expansion of the intellectual actions and its separation from the function, was shown by the new social movements and by the loss of credibility and influence exerted by "organized intellectuals". During the 90's, this process reached its acme through the new ITC (Blogs, Social Networks, Web 2.0 and so forth). This process is currently redefining in a completely new fashion the public space as part of the definitive overcoming of the (hierarchical) concept of society. The exclusive and centralized use of the intellectual actions (organizational function) is being undermined (but it won't disappear); groups of intellectuals produce and broadcast knowledge and information autonomously. As a matter of fact, as demonstrated by Manuel Castells, the convergence (highly unlikely) between the end of the fordist system, the innovations brought by the new social movements, mass schooling, the expansion of communication and the more and more growing role of creativity and of the innovation in the economic field, will lead not only to an exponential quantitative growth of intellectual workers, but also to their social and cultural and economic change (Castells 2003): born *molecular intellectuals*². There is a wide number of workers and consumers who can handle knowledge, culture and technology; they won't merge into social classes but will be spread in the

social stratification and in relations of production: a part of them will become a part of the social élites, others will merge in a new middle class, others will, at the bottom of the social pyramid, form a new and precarious intellectual proletariat (Berardi 2004; Castrucci 2006; De Biase 2007). The high education rate, the use of cultural, symbolic and cognitive instruments while working, the search for cultural goods of consumption, individualism, are the common sides of this magmatic subjectivity. Today the intellectual worker does not merely reproduce knowledge and information, in the new networked economy he is urged, above all, to produce and innovate knowledge (*creative class*) (Florida 2002). Each subject part of this new and complex group of intellectuals has (or thinks he has) cultural and cognitive means to self-representation, to produce values and projects and put them into use in the society³.

Through technology he has the actual chance to put into practice his will.

In other words, not only produces he immaterial goods linked to the production, he directly produces, through blogs, social networks, web tv's, opinions and knowledge as a citizen and consumer (Levy 1994; Tapscott, Williams 2008). Therefore, each of these new intellectuals feels and can represent himself as a public intellectual: public intellectuals who operate in great mediatic and institutional circuits keep being there but they are more and more participating in a great rumor and, therefore, less and less capable to influence the audience and the cultural classes.

In a very similar way, the monopoly – and therefore their credibility – of organized intellectuals (mass media, school, administrations) is going down, in favor of more complex paths. Therefore we can see the silhouette of a new public space. The public space, as shown by Richard Sennett, is the location (social and symbolic) where a series of social actors share a language, a way of expression and matters on which they share opinions (Sennett 1977). According to the American thinker, the fall of public man, visible already at the beginning of century XIX, lies in the progressive disappearance of shared public behaviors in favor of the private dimension. Actually, it has been just a decade since the analysis of Sennett became visible in reality, following a redefinition of the public space which links polarization (meaning a vertical differentiation process on a structural basis) and fragmentation (meaning a

² This concept has been formulated and stated by Francesco Antonelli and Robert Castrucci during the Italian Congress of Political Sociology (2009). See Antonelli, Castrucci, 2009.

³ For a summary of the different analysis carried out about the redefinition of the concept of intellectuality as a productive force and of the intellectual as a knowledge worker in contemporary societies, in relation to the process of democratization see in particular Formenti 2008; Castrucci 2009.

horizontal process of differentiation on a cultural basis). Simplifying analytically, on one hand, as a matter of fact, a layer of population, mainly old and/or with a limited cultural capital, lives (almost) exclusively inside the public space created by mass media, by other collective intellectuals and by the most important public intellectuals. On the other hand, following the prompt coming from new intellectuals that operate through the Net, there is a multiplication of niches of consumption, of ways of living, of political opinions (fig. 1):

The emergence of networking societies lead to the molecularization both intellectuals (salaried producers of cultural and symbolic goods) and audiences (consumers of cultural and symbolic goods); at the same time, these social figures tend to merge with one another.

Another way to represent previous scheme is the *Long Tail Model* by Chris Anderson. In his book – *The Long Tail* (2006) – Chris Anderson explains how the

paretian distribution known as the 80/20 rule looses much of it's grip on media distribution (Anderson 2005). Online business such as *Amazon.com* or *iTunes*, obtain more than half of their income from titles outside the 20% of the profitable selling books in a bricks-and-mortar bookshop or cd's in a cd-store (Brynjolfsson, Hu, Smith 2006). So, in these markets there is a molecularization both cultural goods – with their *intellectuals-producers* (authors of books, journalists, scriptwriters and so forth) – and audiences; simultaneously, it is developed a dual processes based on the social polarization and fragmentation: in fact, the importance and the success of the cultural goods or intellectuals are different. In a Cartesian system the most important goods\intellectuals constitute the “Head” of the distribution; the sum of least important forming the “real” long tail (fig. 2; 3):

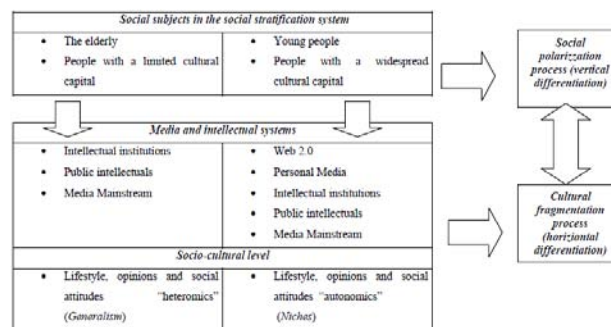


Fig.1 : Public and Social Space is a Networked Society

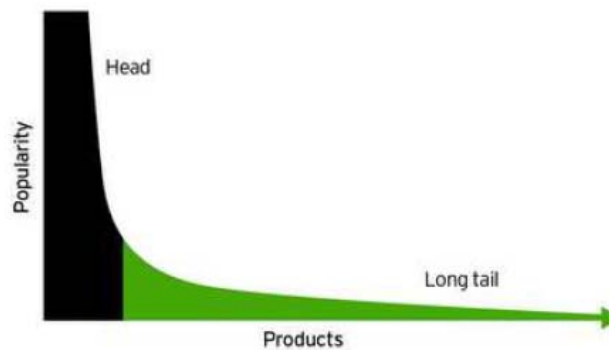


Fig. 2 : The model of Anderson's Long Tail

VI. CONCLUSION

Let us summarize the brief analysis carried out so far. Starting from the 60's and the 70's a first expansion of the intellectual class lead, at first, to the explosion of internal struggles in the institutions that exerted intellectual functions: on one hand the "executive/leader" intellectuals (technocrats, top bureaucrats), on the other the intellectual workers (students, professionals, experts); the prize was represented by the production and by the use of knowledge and information. Later on, starting from the 90's to today, a second expansion of the intellectual workers - more and more involved in creative tasks (creative class) - together with the spread of the Internet, lead to: 1) the spread of intellectual actions in the society; 2) the shaping of a wide decentralized area of intellectual production (in terms of critical knowledge and information); 3) the progressive separation between intellectual functions- exerted by the great bureaucratic machines we inherited from the early modern era- and intellectual actions; 4) the loss of credibility and influence of the great public intellectuals and of institutions which keep on performing intellectual functions.

The creation of a new public space was the outcome of this process, in which social polarization is linked to cultural fragmentation. About polarization: social strata that own a scarce cultural capital and belong to the oldest layers of age of the population, they keep being dependent on information and knowledge produced and spread by those institutions which exert intellectual functions and by public intellectuals. The social stratum with the widest cultural capital and the young ones (new intellectual classes) tend to self-produce and spread cultural objects autonomously. With regard to fragmentation: there is a multiplication of channels and cultural offers; the public space tends to look like an amount of cultural niches only partially independent.

This process is characterized by a strong ambivalence (Bauman 1991). On one hand, on the opportunities side:

1. There are new chances for people to be successful and establish themselves (Touraine 2007).
2. The civil society become stronger and able to exert a wider control on power.
3. Wider knowledge and information will be able to be spread: the cultural basis of global society will be increased, the risk of manipulation exerted by the power will be diminished.

On the other hand, the risks side

1. A growing lack of communication between social classes and groups in the society (a common ground of meanings and comparison will disappear).

2. It will become more and more difficult to tell apart reliable and non-reliable information and knowledge.
3. More and more frequently waves of populism will arise from the bottom layers of the society, they will undermine the authority of institutions, leading to a generalized lack of trust.

REFERENCES RÉFÉRENCES REFERENCIAS

1. Adorno, T.W., Horkheimer, M. (1972). *The dialectic of Enlightenment*. Stanford: Stanford UP [Original work published in 1947].
2. Anderson, C. (2005). *The Long Tail: Why the Future of Business is Selling Less of More*. New York: Hyperion.
3. Antonelli, F. (2009). *La modernità in transito. Movimenti sociali, élites e trasformazioni collettive nella sociologia di Alain Touraine*. Milano: Franco Angeli.
4. Antonelli, F. (2012). *Da élite a sciame. Gli intellettuali-pubblici dalla società industriale al mondo globale*. Firenze: Le lettere.
5. Antonelli, F., & Castrucci, R. (2009). *La lunga coda della transizione italiana: pubblici molecolari e trasformazioni delle élites*, Paper presented at Italian Congress of Political Sociology, Roma.
6. Aron, R. (1957). *The Oppium of the intellectuals*. London: Secker & Warburg [Original work published in 1955].
7. Asor Rosa, A. (2009) *Il grande silenzio. Intervista sugli intellettuali*. Roma-Bari: Laterza.
8. Bauman, Z. (1987). *Legislators and Interpreters. On Modernity, Post-Modernity, Intellectuals*. New York: Ithaca.
9. Bauman, Z. (1991). *Modernity and Ambivalence*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
10. Bone, J.D. (2005). The Social Map & The Problem of Order: A Re-evaluation of "Homo Sociologicus", *Theory & Science*, 6,1.
11. Bourdieu, P. (1979). *The Inheritors: French Students and Their Relations to Culture*. Chicago: Chicago University Press [Original work published in 1964].
12. Bourdieu, P. (1990). *Home Academicus*. Cambridge: Polity Press [Original work published in 1984].
13. Bourdieu, P. (1991). *Language and Symbolic Power*. Harvard: Harvard University Press.
14. Berardi, F. (2004). *Il sapiente, il mercante e il guerriero: dal rifiuto del lavoro all'emergere del cognitariato*, Roma: DeriveApprodi.
15. Böhme, G., & Stehr, N. (eds.) (1986). *The Knowledge Society*. Dordrecht: Reidel Publishing Company.
16. Brynjolfsson, E., Hu, J.Y., & Smith M.D. (2006). From Niches to Riches: the Anatomy of the Long Tail, *Sloan Management Review*, 47, 4.

17. Burawoy, M. (2005). For Public Sociology, *American Sociological Review*, 70,1.
18. Burnham, J. (1941). *The Managerial Revolution: What is Happening in the World*. New York: John Day Co.
19. Canta, C. (2006). *Ricostruire la società. Teoria del mutamento sociale in Karl Mannheim*. Milano: Franco Angeli.
20. Castells, M. (2003). *The Internet Galaxy: Reflections on the Internet, Business and Society*. New York: Oxford University Press.
21. Castells, M. (2008). *The Rise of the Network Society*. London: Blackwell Publishing.
22. Castrucci, R. (2006). Il lavoro immateriale e la produzione di merci, *Innovazioni*, 7.
23. Castrucci, R. (2009). Il paradosso della classe creativa. In Medaglia, R. (ed.), *I confini della sfera pubblica. Orizzonti ed emergenze*. Napoli: Liguori.
24. Cubitt, S. (2005). *Ecomedia*. Amsterdam: Rodopi.
25. Dahrendorf, R. (2006). *Versuchungen der Unfreiheit. Die Intellektuellen in Zeiten der Prüfung*. München: Beck.
26. De Biase, L. (2007). *Economia della felicità*. Milano: Feltrinelli.
27. Dijk, van J. (2006). *The Network Society: Social Aspects of New Media*. London: Sage Publications.
28. Florida, R. (2002). *The Rise of the Creative Class: and how it's Transforming Work, Leisure, Community and Everyday Life*. New York: Basic Books.
29. Formenti, C. (2008). *Cybersoviet. Utopie post-democratiche e nuovi media*, Raffaello Cortina, Torino.
30. Fuchs, C. (2008), *Internet and Society: Social Theory in the Information Age*. New York: Routledge.
31. Furedi, F. (2004) *Where Have All the Intellectuals Gone?* London: MPG Books.
32. Giddens, A. (1984). *The Constitution of Society. Outline of the Theory of Structuration*. Cambridge: Polity.
33. Giddens, A. (1990). *The Consequences of Modernity*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
34. Gramsci, A. (1992). *Quaderni del carcere. Gli intellettuali e l'organizzazione della cultura*. Roma: Editori Riuniti [1930's original manuscripts].
35. Habermas, J. (1989). *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere: An Inquiry into a category of Bourgeois Society*. Cambridge: Polity Press [Original work published in 1962].
36. Inglehart, R. (1998). *Modernization and Postmodernization: Cultural, Economic and Political Change in 43 Society*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
37. Lévy, P. (1994). *L'intelligence collective*. Paris : Éditions La Découverte.
38. Mannheim, K., & Shils, E. (1980). *Men and Society in an Age of Reconstruction: Studies in Modern Social Structure*. London: Routledge & K. Paul.
39. Marx, K. (1998). *"The German Ideology". Literary Theory: An Anthology*. Oxford: Blackwell [Original work published in 1845].
40. Rifkin, J. (2000). *The Age of Access: the New Culture of Hypercapitalism, where all of Life is a Paid-for Experience*. New York: J.P. Tarcher/Putnam.
41. Rifkin, J. (1995). *The End of Work: the Decline of the Global Labor Force and the Dawn of the Post-Market Era*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons.
42. Rimon, H., & Schleifer, R. (eds.) (2013). The Intellectuals and Terror. Special Issue, *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 4,24.
43. Ritzer, G. (ed.) (2003). *The Blackwell Companion to Major Contemporary Social Theorists*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.
44. Sennett, R. (1977). *The Fall of Public Man*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
45. Sther, N., & Meja, V. (2005). *Society and Knowledge: Contemporary Perspectives in the Sociology of Knowledge and Science*. New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers.
46. Tapscott, D., & Williams, A. D. (2008). *Wikinomics. How Mass Collaboration Changes Everything*. Penguin USA: Portfolio.
47. Touraine, A. (1970). *The Post-Industrial Society – Tomorrow's Social History: Classes, Conflicts and Culture in the Programmed Society*. New York: Random House [Original work published in 1969].
48. Touraine, A. (2007a). *New Paradigm for Understanding Today's World*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
49. Touraine, A. (2007b). *Penser autrement*. Paris : Fayard.
50. Vattimo, G., & Rovatti, P.A. (1985). *Il pensiero debole*. Milano: Feltrinelli.



GLOBAL JOURNAL OF HUMAN SOCIAL SCIENCE
SOCIOLOGY & CULTURE

Volume 13 Issue 6 Version 1.0 Year 2013

Type: Double Blind Peer Reviewed International Research Journal

Publisher: Global Journals Inc. (USA)

Online ISSN: 2249-460X & Print ISSN: 0975-587X

Two Theoretical Approaches to Power: Coloniality and Cosmopolitanism

By Willy Soto Acosta

Universidad Nacional, Costa Rica

Abstract - The article compares two approaches that attempt to explain the socio-economic events and policy within states and global society: the Coloniality of Power and Cosmopolitanism. The article reconstructs the discourse of both of these theoretical perspectives to continue next with an assessment of their strengths and weaknesses. In a third stage, the article compares the commonalities and disagreements between the two. We conclude that the two paradigms make significant contributions, and that the social researcher has the important challenge of articulating both of them coherently in order to account for a concrete reality.

Keywords: *coloniality of power, cosmopolitanism, globalization, inequality, human rights.*

GJHSS-C Classification : *FOR Code : 370199*



Strictly as per the compliance and regulations of:



Two Theoretical Approaches to Power: Coloniality and Cosmopolitism

Willy Soto Acosta

Bachelor and Master in Sociology and a "Licenciatura" in Political Science from the Universidad de Costa Rica, Doctor in Political Science from the Université de Droit, d'Economie et des Sciences d'Aix-Marseille (France).

Senior Professor at the School of International Relations and at the Doctoral School of Social Sciences from the Universidad Nacional (UNA). Coordinator of the research programme: Regional, Transboundary and Processes of Regional Integration Studies. Member of the task groups: "Families and Gender in Transnational and Local Dynamics" and "Subjetivations, Critical Citizenships and Social Transformations", both from the Latin American Council of Social Sciences (Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales- CLACSO).

Summary - The article compares two approaches that attempt to explain the socio-economic events and policy within states and global society: the Coloniality of Power and Cosmopolitanism. The article reconstructs the discourse of both of these theoretical perspectives to continue next with an assessment of their strengths and weaknesses. In a third stage, the article compares the commonalities and disagreements between the two. We conclude that the two paradigms make significant contributions, and that the social researcher has the important challenge of articulating both of them coherently in order to account for a concrete reality.

Keywords : coloniality of power, cosmopolitanism, globalization, inequality, humanrights.

I. Introduction

This article compares two theoretical perspectives. One has its origins in the "South", specifically in Latin America, and it is called "the Coloniality of the Power" (Anibal Quijano and other authors). The other one has European/American origins, and it is called the Cosmopolitanism (Ulrich Bech Martha Nussbaum, Jurgen Habermas, among others).

Is global society inevitably heading towards the heartless realm of the savage capitalism, guided by an uncontrolled power machine? Or towards a world where this (or any other economic system) will be ruled by the recognition of the "other's otherness"?

Are the world dynamics characterized by the Coloniality of Power or, on the contrary, are international regimes, regional integration processes and International Law taking us, gradually, to a

sense of cosmopolitanism based on the right and respect of "the other"?

Are these two perspectives contradictory or is it possible to articulate them?

II. The Paradigm of the Coloniality of Power: Lights and Shadows in its Explanatory Capacity

1.1. What Does The Paradigm State?

I will try to summarize this theory's position based on its most important axes:

a) Power as a Social Pivot

The core idea in social relations is power; power is an omnipresence element:

"...the phenomenon of power is characterized as a type of social relation constituted by the permanent co-presence of three elements: domination, exploitation and conflict, which affect the four basic areas of social existence, and which is the result and expression of the fight over their control: 1) labour, its resources and its products; 2) sex, its resources and its products; 3) collective (or public) authority, its resources and its products; 4) the subjectivity/inter-subjectivity, its resources and its products" (Quijano, 2000 b:1).

According to this approach, power is understood as a "...world pattern of global domination inherent to the modern/capitalist world-system originated from the European colonialism" (Quintero, 2010 b: 3)

b) It All Began with the Colonization of America

This world pattern of domination arises and becomes global with the European colonization of Latin America in the XVI century. It operates on all social existence's dimensions, permeating the daily life (Quijano, 2000 a:342).

c) The Coloniality Emerged After The Colonization

Latin American countries went through a process of decolonization but not through one of decoloniality:

"Coloniality refers to the continuity of domination and exploitation forms after the end of the colonial administrations, produced by the structures and the hegemonic cultures of the capitalist-patriarchal/colonial/ modern world-system" (Grosfoguel, s.f.:14).

Author : Universidad Nacional, Costa Rica.

E-mails : altivohaciaadelante@gmail.com, willy.soto.acosta@una.cr

d) *Eurocentrism as a (Racial) Ideology of Perceiving Reality*

Its core idea is the notion of superiority: Europeans are racially superior to the colonized peoples and have a thinking structure equally superior. Coloniality nurtures from the ideology of Eurocentrism which is "...characterized by a social imaginary, a historical memory and a knowledge perspective, subject to not only the demands of capitalism but also to the colonizers' need to perpetuate and naturalize their domination (Quintero, 2010: 10).

Within this perspective, not only those who dominate are a part of it but also the group of those who are being socialized under this hegemony.

Eurocentrism is a cognitive perspective that was moulded by the hegemonic powers (not only the Europeans, the United States of America is also included in this group). This perspective makes non-Europeans or the dominated groups perceive the asymmetric power relations that began with the colonizing processes as natural; and therefore, today, numerous decades after formal independency, the domination continues in the economic and commercial areas.

e) *Articulation of the Social Whole Over Power and Domination*

The Coloniality's discourse presents the social as a complete architectonic construction based on power and domination:

"....the current world pattern of power consists in the articulation of: 1) Coloniality of power, this refers to the idea of "race" as basis of the universal pattern of basic social classification and social domination; 2) Capitalism, as the universal pattern of social exploitation; 3) the state as the universal central form of collective authority control, and the modern nation-state as its hegemonic variant); 4) Eurocentrism as an hegemonic form of control of subjectivity/intersubjectivity, particularly in the mode of producing knowledge" (Quijano, 2000 b:1).

1.2. *What are some of this Paradigm's Strengths?*

The valuable characteristics of this approach are:

a) *Its Holistic Aim*

This paradigm encloses five basic aspects of social existence, such as: labour, nature, sex, collective authority and the subjective/intersubjective relations, which include, according to this approach's aim, all areas in which social relations develop (Quijano, 2000 a:345).

b) *It Undresses The Subjective/Partial Character From Which Things Are Looked At*

This theoretical approach reveals the "epistemology of the North": it notes that both the "world view", which is perceived as real or true and valid, and the theoretical perspective of many of the studies on

globalization and political economy are made from the perspective of hegemonic countries.

c) *Continuity, Under Other Formats, of the Domination Relations*

It is important to highlight the fact that "the postcolonial world" is, to a great extent a myth as it considers that with the elimination of colonial administrations a legal and political decolonization came about. However, a) trade and political power relations continue under the given formal independence and b) mental domination (coloniality) continues as well.

d) *New Dimensions of Social Reality*

The paradigm highlights gender conflict and ethnic domination, two dimensions forgotten even in the original Marxism (Marxism itself is an Eurocentric thinking according to this paradigm)

III. Weaknesses of the Paradigm

Just as any theory, the "coloniality of power" has limitations:

a) *Loss of Specificity of The Social Dimensions*

This paradigm, as it was already mentioned, encloses five basic aspects of social existence (labour, sex, nature, collective authority and subjective/intersubjective relations); thus, it includes all areas in which social relations develop.

This holistic aim is a virtue but, at the same time, it constitutes a weakness as it subsumes in a single unity aspects that have their own specificity and relative autonomy, despite being interrelated. The author tries to grant autonomy to each area but in a hierarchical way.

"...the power relations that are constituted in the fight over the control of these areas or spheres of social existence do not emerge or derive from each other, but they cannot exist, except in an untimely and precarious way, one without the others. In other words, they form a structural complex which is always historical and specific. It is always about a determined historical pattern of power" (Quijano, 2000 b: 1).

However, the mixture between the different dimensions of the social lies beneath:

Throughout the colonial world, the norms and the ideal-formal patterns of genders' sexual behaviour, and consequently, the "Europeans" ' family organization patterns were directly founded in the "racial" classification. (Quijano, 2000 a:377)

b) *Social Reality is Exclusively Reduced to Relations of Domination, Exploitation and Conflict*

This paradigm suggests that the five basic elements of social existence (labour, sex, nature, collective authority and subjective/intersubjective relations) are affected by the domination/ exploitation/ conflict triad that shape the power.

Everything is reduced to the conflict, and it does not allow to capture the coexistence between conflictive logics and cooperative logics in the capitalism itself, nor in any other dimensions (sexuality/gender, etc.).

This approach states that domination, exploitation and conflict are a constant rule of social existence. But where is the slow but constant progress on Human Rights and the power of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), civil society, and the States' role to protect those rights and, particularly, the non-discrimination on the basis of ethnicity or gender?

c) The World-System Characterized Exclusively by the Same Logic of Exploitation Which Characterizes the "National" Societies

According to this approach, in the decolonization/coloniality, the capitalist system allows the hegemonic powers to have an accumulation of wealth through commercial relations based on the domination/exploitation/conflict. But, where are, at the internal level, the Unions, and, at a global scale, the alliances between "poor" countries that fight for a fairer international trade? Where are some nongovernmental organizations from the developed countries themselves that put pressure to their governments for trade rules that protect the labour and environmental rights of poor countries?

d) The States' Autonomy is Not Stated

The planet is shown in the form of a world-system (capitalist) with a motor that moves everything and everyone: Capitalism. But it does not explain how that kind of Global Central Autonomy (capitalism) fits with the (multiple) existent States. Do the States blindly obey the orders of capitalism? Or, in some cases, can the States themselves, being immersed in the capitalism, respect (against some companies' and international corporations' will) human, labour, and environmental rights? States are often pressured to respect these rights, an initiative that does not even come from the States themselves, but from the pressure civil societies and NGOs put on them.

e) The Omnipresence Capitalist Logic

It does not explain how the capitalist global system relates to other productive and property logics: cooperativism, property of the commons, indigenous property, unless it can be said that these other logics, in the end, obey the rules of capitalism.

IV. The Paradigm of Cosmopolitanism

a) What Does this Paradigm State?

Unlike the previous paradigm that has a central exponent (Aníbal Quijano), cosmopolitanism is a theoretical approach "diluted" in a series of authors, mainly Europeans and Americans, that—I warn the reader—probably would not like to be classified together under a single category or theoretical approach.

Therefore, explaining this paradigm's main stipulations becomes a daring task, and it also demands the reconstruction of its discourse.

Having explained that situation, I can summarize this paradigm on the following points:

b) The Existence of a World Society and the Weakening of the Nation-States

Ulrich Beck uses the term "globalism" to refer to the ideology that advocates neoliberal globalization as an inevitable and convenient path for humanity. Then, he makes a distinction between "globality" and "globalization".

c) In His Words

Globality reminds us the fact that from now on nothing that happens on our planet may be considered as an isolated event, on the contrary, every discovery, victory and catastrophe affect the entire world and we all should reorient and reorganize our lives and tasks, as well as our organizations and institutions along the "local-global" axis (Beck; 1988 a: 30).

d) Globality Manifested in Eight Palpable Phenomena

- The growth of international trade and diverse exchanges at a planetary scale, the global network of financial markets and the constantly growing power of multinational corporations
- The Information technology and communication, constantly changing
- The claim to respect human rights which become universal heritage and are no longer just a national affair matter
- The establishment of cultural patterns at a global level
- A global policy that exceeds States, characterized by a variety of sources of power, where countries co-exist with a number of international, sub-national, supranational and transnational actors, public and private ones, as well as with member of civil societies.
- The phenomenon of global poverty, linked to the planetary scale production and the casualization of the workforce.
- The ecological damages and threats operating on a global scale, not confined to one or more countries (extreme events do not know States' boundaries)
- The cross-cultural conflicts that occur in specific spaces (global-localism) such as migration, ethnic strife, among others (Beck, 1988 a: 29-30).

Having clarified what constitutes Globality, "... globalization means the processes in which sovereign states mix together and overlap with transnational actors and their respective power possibilities, orientations, identities and networks" (Beck, 1988 to 29).

e) *What Characterizes Today's Society are the Risks*

The benefits of the industrial society are substituted by evil or damage:

"With the emergence of the risk society, conflicts over the distribution of 'evils' are superposed to the conflicts over the distribution of 'goods' (rent, labour, industrial safety) which constituted the basic conflict of the industrial society and that there was an attempt to solve them within the relevant institutions. These conflicts over the distribution of evils can be interpreted as conflicts over distributive responsibility. They arise around the distribution, prevention, control and legitimization of the risks associated with the production of goods (nuclear and chemical mega-technology, genetic investigation, environmental threats, super-militarization and increasing impoverishment outside Western industrial society). In the context of social theory and cultural diagnosis, the risk society concept designates a phase of modernity in which the threats that the development of industrial society has been producing begin to predominate" (Beck, 2008: 19).

But what is a risk? It is an interplay between an event that is taking place, and a potential outcome that causes concern or fright:

"...risks are somewhat unreal. In a core sense, they are at the same time real and unreal. On the one hand, numerous dangers and destructions are already real: polluted and dying water, forest destruction, new diseases, etc. On the other hand, the real social power of the argument of risk is the projection of threats for the future" (Beck, 1998 b: 39)

In this position, the ecological risks have a significant role.

f) *"World Society" does not Mean an Integrated Society*

i. *According to this Paradigm*

"The world society is not a national megasociety that contains –and solves in itself– all the national societies, instead, it means a world horizon characterized by the multiplicity and the lack of integrability, that only opens when it is produced and kept in activity and communication" (Beck, 1988 a.: 32)

Thus, globalization is an enormous building with a significant construction flaw: the absence of a world government-State (Beck, 1988 a.:32) to control the damages and environmental and social risks generated by the capitalist production that escapes nation-States and now operates worldwide.

g) *The Cosmopolitan Project*

In Beck's work is clearly stated the idea that globalization is inevitable. However, the idea that globalization is a fact, a reality, does not mean we need to sit down quietly to contemplate its damages and its ecological and social risks: it is necessary to oppose

neoliberal globalization or actually existing cosmopolitanism, the cosmopolitan project. The neoliberal globalization whose value and ultimate goal is to profit (even if to obtain that profit, nature is destroyed and human beings are exploited) needs to be opposed with a cosmopolitan project which, according to Beck, should be based on the others' otherness, that is, respect towards different cultures, environment, present and future generations, and respect towards other rationalities and ways of thinking (2004: 373)

This cosmopolitan project has two vectors:

(a) The other. Indeed, the cosmopolitanism has an otherness ethic

"What characterizes the cosmopolitan virtue is the reflexive distance of the own specificity that allows to consider the others. Therefore, it is a series of practices and moral dispositions that affirm, from a distance, an identity and value its otherness. This is an inclusive concept of the identities as opposed to the fact that these can justify exclusions. One of the main arguments of the cosmopolitan virtue is the development of the otherness's ethic..." (Pérez, 2006: 82).

(b) Proposing a form of globalization that, unlike globalism which considers profits as the only motor, this one is characterized by being integral because "...the cosmopolitanism it is a response to globalization and to the normative implications of the international order, and it works in places where alternatives to exclusively economic or security matters are explored. For instance, cosmopolitanism, unlike globalization, can be expressed through movements whose purpose is to put global forces under the control of cosmopolitan publics and cosmopolitan states (Delanty, 2008: 38).

h) *Civil Society as the Subject of Change*

Since there is not a world government-State, who will carry out the cosmopolitan project? Isn't it a utopia, a beautiful idea, but impossible to put into practice, impossible to make it operational? Beck's answer to these questions is based on the idea that this project does not belong to the classical figure of nation-states; instead, it is fostered by "new" international actors such as non- governmental organizations (2004: 391).

This project may be implemented by allNGOs, individuals, community groups and associations, and the States themselves that even though they are weakened because of globalization; they still have an important role and certain power of decision (Beck, 2004: 399).

i) *The Cosmopolitan State and the Breakdown Of Identitarian Excesses*

The idea of a "Cosmopolitan State" proposed by Beck is based on the "national indifference" principle:

"Just as how the peace of Westphalia put an end to the religious civil wars in the XVI century by separating state and religion, my thesis is that it is possible to face national (civil) world wars of the XX century by separating state and nation. The same as a non-religious State allows the worship of different religions, the Cosmopolitan State should guarantee, through the constitutional tolerance principle, the coexistence of national identities" (Beck, 2004: 141).

This leads to breaking the identitarian excesses, since "...they can lead to racism, religious or cultural fundamentalism because they build an essentialist and distorted image of the otherness, turning difference into a stigma." (Pérez, 2006: 71).

j) *Citizenship Based on The Fulfilment of Human Rights, And Not on the Sense of Belonging to a Certain State*

This leads us to examine and re-dimension the concept of citizenship. A citizen is not an inhabitant of a country or State, a citizen is, as stated by Habermas, a man or woman entitled to Human Rights. As a matter of fact, "...the citizens of the nation do not find their identity in the ethnical-cultural community but in the practice of citizens who actively exercise their democratic rights of participation and communication." (Habermas, 1998: 12).

Specifically, the "world citizen" is a) a cosmopolitan person, capable of recognising (and, above all, capable of respecting) the otherness of those who are not the same as them, even to the extent of learning and enriching themselves from those who are different; b) a person that because of their human condition (not their nationality or particular ethnicity) is entitled to the fulfilment of Human Rights.

k) *World Citizenship: the Sense of Belonging to Multiple Circles Without Denying the Primary Habitat*

i. *As Martha Nussbaum states*

"The Stoics do not stop repeating that in order to be a world citizen a person should not give up their local identifications which can be a large source of vital wealth. On the contrary, what it is suggested is that we should think about ourselves not as being devoid of local affiliations but as beings surrounded by a series of concentric circles. The first of these circles surrounds the self, the second one the immediate family, and this latter is followed by the extended family. Then, and according to the order, the neighbourhood or local groups; the concitizens and the fellow citizens (and we can easily add to this list other groups based on ethnic, linguistics, historical, professional, gender, and sexual identities). Around all these circles, we find the largest of all of them: the entire humanity" (Nussbaum, 1999).

l) *Solidarity Exercised Beyond Our Primary Circle, Applied to the "Others"*

Corollary to the above, if we belong to a series of joined circles, if we are world citizens; solidarity cannot be limited to just those included in our primary circle. It should be exercised among all of them:

"If solidarity is related to the community, it is necessary to broaden the community's limits...or to consider that the community should be working in solidarity with its otherness, the othernesses. It is not reasonable to expect an unlimited and unconditional solidarity, but in a global world is not justifiable to define the boundaries of solidarity exclusively based on a particular identity. New initiatives and new expressions should combine the moral grammar of concrete forms of solidarity beyond boundaries" (Pérez, 2006: 99).

2.2 What Are Some of the Strengths of this Paradigm?

The cosmopolitanism presents some strong elements, the most relevant ones are:

l) *Presenting a Proposal for the Neoliberal Globalization*

In the same way the Coloniality power paradigm believes possible an alternative to the European-American vision presented as the hegemonic view, Cosmopolitanism opposes and proposes globalism's project of globalization centred on "the other's otherness".

m) *The Importance of the Possibility of Change*

While in the other theoretical approach almost everything tends to the reproduction of conflict and inequality relations, which can lead to infer that the overcome of these situations would be possible only due to radical change, a revolution, in the cosmopolitanism changing the order of things starts within the individual and associations of people (NGOs): respect to the "other's otherness" can be implemented in a daily basis, with small, individual and collective actions that can cause a multiplier effect.

n) *The Emphasis On Human Rights From Different Generations*

While in the Coloniality of power the individual suffers from domination, in this paradigm individuals are entitled to Human Rights.

o) *Human Beings Are No Longer the Sole Focus and the Environment Starts Being Taken into Account*

In the Coloniality of power, just as in many other sociological theories, the environment is conceived as something given, as the setting (not changeable, but permanent) where social relations take place. It is assumed that the environment will always constitute the setting for the social.

Within the cosmopolitanism, mainly in the Global Risk Society theory, environment is being deadly threatened and; consequently, the social is being threatened as well. Social class, ethnic, and gender conflicts may come to an end, but not due to the fact that they can be solved positively but because their setting, their habitat might become extinct.

V. Weaknesses of the Paradigm

Along with its strengths, this approach also has weaknesses which include the following:

a) *Lack of a Concrete Strategy to Articulate Individual and Group Actions*

Although in this approach, NGOs play an important role as actors of the cosmopolitan project, there is a void on how to link the single, daily actions whose objective is to implement the "other's otherness" with more macro efforts, in the same sense these organizations do.

b) *The European Context of the Theory*

Even though Beck states that class differences do not disappear in the risk society, and that the lower you are in the social pyramid, the higher are the negative effects of the risks (for instance, a poor person is more vulnerable to extreme climate events) (Beck, 1998 b: 40-41), it is hard to support the idea that in Latin America the fight over the appropriation of goods, which characterizes the industrial society has been substituted by the fight over the non-appropriation of the evils and risks of the post-industrial society or the risk society (Beck, 2008: 19).

In other words, class, ethnic, and gender conflicts constitute the motor of societies such as Latin America where inequality prevails, and contrary to the European societies, for example, where the social gap has been reduced.

In this context of inequality, risks (such as the environmental ones for example) do not do anything more but to increase that condition.

c) *Partial Respect for Human Rights*

Closely linked to what was mentioned above, it is the respect for Human Rights as a guarantor of the "other's otherness". Even though the European Union has made considerable progress in this area, the Latin American reality is very different, even to a point in which in various countries of the region, life itself is simply not guaranteed by the States.

d) *Perverse Effect of Applying the Theory Out of Context*

Corollary to the two ideas above, suggesting the respect of the "other's otherness" in situations of inequality could lead to the perpetuation and even legitimization of inequality and social injustice. This, in the sense that it could be assumed that respecting

others is to accept their socio-economic situation (we need to respect the rich's wealth and the poor's poverty), considering it as something natural, and even more dangerous, as something that should not be changed.

e) *The Limitations of World Citizenship*

Although the world citizenship is a sound project to control the dreadful consequences of extreme nationalism, it is not clear how to make it feasible for people to break with the exaggerated idealization of their country and adopt a sense of belonging to a larger country: the world.

In addition, even though the European Union has been partially able to diminish the local loyalties of the citizens of its member States and to create an European identity, this situation has become a new source of exclusion towards non-Europeans, just as it is evident in the immigration controls (often in violation of Human Rights, the same ones Europe boasts so much about) imposed to immigrants coming from Africa, Latin America, and from certain other latitudes (and even against ethnicities that live in their own land, such as gypsies).

Perhaps the main challenge in the construction of a world citizenship is that we all walk together in that direction simultaneously because, otherwise, some would end up losing. As a matter of fact, if people from Latin America feel they are world citizens, if they take that step, relativizing their nationalist sense of belonging, but the Europeans continue perceiving themselves not as world citizens but just as Europeans, and US citizens increasingly strengthen their patriotism instead of considering themselves cosmopolitans, we run the risk of weakening the Latin America identity.

VI. Closure Comment: Coincidences and Differences

To conclude, it is important to consider possible encounters and clashes between these two theoretical positions.

a) *Common Elements*

First of all, the two positions break the "nationalist-state narrow view": criticism towards the coloniality of power derives from the world-system, and the cosmopolitanism from the global society, although their conclusions are different.

A second common element is that both paradigms are based on the existent asymmetries: Coloniality presents clear power and domination relations and Cosmopolitanism, regarding inequality, calls for the recognition of the "other" as equal as "the self". This recognition involves a component of solidarity towards those who are "different" ("other" communities).

The "other's otherness" is based on the "recognition of other nationalities' otherness" (Beck,

2004: 373), not only the European one, and with this, we find a third coincidence with the coloniality paradigm.

b) Opposing Aspects

However, there are also opposing elements in both paradigms, which have already been clarified in this article but that will be summarized briefly.

The first one is that in the coloniality the world is seen as a system characterized by socioeconomic, racial, and gender inequality. In the cosmopolitanism, even though the global society is not an integrated society, the universality of Human Rights of all the generations of these rights may lead to reduce inequalities (Beck, 2004:143).

A second difference has to do with the ability of moving in the direction of overcoming inequalities. In the coloniality, the individual is considered a passive subject who suffers from exploitation and inequality. In the cosmopolitanism, neoliberal globalization can be stopped by individuals who recognize the otherness of other individuals, individuals who unite with other people through NGOs and work together to promote the cosmopolitan project.

Finally, while in the Coloniality paradigm the origin of the current inequality condition is attributed to the European colonization, in the cosmopolitanism the current construction model of the European Union is perceived as a way to overcome inequalities, make Human rights prevail above all and ensure public participation (Beck, 2004: 146, 147; Habermas, 1998; Rojo, 2010:137).

Even though there are limitations as well as opposing elements in each of these paradigms, it is important to recognize that they both make very valuable contributions to understanding current events. It will depend on the theoretical-methodological ability of the social researcher to articulate both approaches coherently in order to visualize a concrete reality.

Bibliography

1. Beck, Ulrich (1988 a). *¿Qué es la globalización? Falacias del globalismo, respuestas a la globalización*. Spain: Paidós.
2. Beck, Ulrich (1988 b). *La sociedad el riesgo*. Spain: Paidós.
3. Beck, Ulrich (2000) "Retorno a la teoría de la 'sociedad del riesgo'", In: *Estudios. Boletín de la A.G.E.*, N. 30.
4. Beck, Ulrich (2004). *Poder y contra poder en la era global. La nueva economía política mundial*. Spain: Paidós.
5. Beck, Ulrich: "La reinvencción de la política: hacia una teoría de la modernización reflexiva". In: Beck, Ulrich; Giddens, Anthony; and Lash, Scott (2008). *Modernización reflexiva*. Spain: Alianza Universidad.
6. Delanty, Gerard (2008) "La imaginación cosmopolita", In: *Revista CIDOB d'Afers Internacionals*, núm. 82-83. Spain.
7. De la Torre, Verónica (s.f.). "Ciudadanía mundial sin Estado mundial: la mundialización de los movimientos sociales y la reconfiguración de su relación con los Estados". México: Universidad de Colima.
8. Grosfoguel, Ramón (s.f.). "Descolonizando los paradigmas de la economía política: transmodernidad, pensamiento fronterizo y colonialidad global". USA: University of California-Berkeley.
9. Guéhenno, Jean-Marie (1995). *El fin de la democracia. La crisis política y las nuevas reglas del juego*. Spain: Paidós.
10. Habermas, Jürgen: "Ciudadanía e identidad nacional. Reflexiones sobre el futuro europeo". In: Habermas, Jürgen (1998): *Factibilidad y validez*. Spain: Trotta.
11. Nussbaum, Martha (1999). *Los límites del patriotismo: Identidad, pertenencia y "ciudadanía mundial"*. Spain: Paidós.
12. Pérez, Oscar (2006). "Algunas estrategias para la virtud cosmopolita". In: *Derechos y Libertades*, Number 15, Época II. Spain.
13. Quijano, Anibal (2000 a). "Colonialidad del poder y clasificación social". In: *Journal of World-System Research*, Volume XI, Number 2, Summer/Fall.
14. Quijano, Anibal (2000 b). "Colonialidad del poder, globalización y democracia". In: *File Chile. Documentación de Historia Político Social y Movimiento Popular contemporáneo de Chile y América Latina* (www.archivochile.com).
15. Quintero, Pablo (2010). "Notas sobre la teoría de la colonialidad del poder del poder y la estructuración de la sociedad en América Latina". In: *Papeles de trabajo*, N. 18. Argentina: Centro de Estudios Interdisciplinarios en Etnolingüística y Antropología Socio-Cultural.
16. Rojo, Argimiro. "Globalización y crisis de la política: la necesidad de instaurar el espacio público". In: Concepción, Luis y Moctezuma, Patricia (compiladores) (2010). *Gobernanza global y democracia*. México: Universidad Autónoma de Baja California.



This page is intentionally left blank



GLOBAL JOURNAL OF HUMAN SOCIAL SCIENCE
SOCIOLOGY & CULTURE

Volume 13 Issue 6 Version 1.0 Year 2013

Type: Double Blind Peer Reviewed International Research Journal

Publisher: Global Journals Inc. (USA)

Online ISSN: 2249-460X & Print ISSN: 0975-587X

Development: Socio-Cultural Dimensions

By Dr. Sribas Goswami

Serampore College, West Bengal, India

Abstract -This paper deals with the development issues of marginalized section of population living in slums in India. The people in slums live under the most deplorable conditions, with little access to effective social and health care services, potable water, or sanitation facilities and are therefore more vulnerable to epidemics and developmental challenges. Their low socio-economic status, low level of education and high fertility and mortality- all indicate that they need special attention in terms of public health, family planning and reproductive health programs. However, unfortunately reverse is the case with such segments of slum population. Rapid slummification has caused wide spread of environmental degradation in the city. The government has conceded that despite imposition of regulatory measures, the magnitude of pollution from industrial sources in the city has not shown any appreciable decrease during the last few years. An attempt has been made to unfold several development issues needed for the slum dwellers through this study.

Keywords: *slum, illiteracy, child marriage, development.*

GJHSS-C Classification : *FOR Code : 130210, 160810*



Strictly as per the compliance and regulations of:



Development: Socio-Cultural Dimensions

Dr. Sribas Goswami

Abstract - This paper deals with the development issues of marginalized section of population living in slums in India. The people in slums live under the most deplorable conditions, with little access to effective social and health care services, potable water, or sanitation facilities and are therefore more vulnerable to epidemics and developmental challenges. Their low socio-economic status, low level of education and high fertility and mortality- all indicate that they need special attention in terms of public health, family planning and reproductive health programs. However, unfortunately reverse is the case with such segments of slum population. Rapid slummification has caused wide spread of environmental degradation in the city. The government has conceded that despite imposition of regulatory measures, the magnitude of pollution from industrial sources in the city has not shown any appreciable decrease during the last few years. An attempt has been made to unfold several development issues needed for the slum dwellers through this study.

Keywords : *slum, illiteracy, child marriage, development.*

1. Introduction

A slum is a compact area of overcrowded populations, poorly built congested dwelling condition, unhygienic environment usually with inadequate infrastructure and lacking in proper sanitary and drinking water facilities. Living conditions in slums have a direct impact on people's health. One of the major challenges that face urban planners globally is the proliferation of slums in urban areas and the host of health hazards that they bring along with their wake. However, the prolific spread of slums has been a rampant problem in urban areas worldwide. The living conditions in slums are usually unhygienic and contrary to all norms of planned urban growth. Human development and improvement in the quality of life is the ultimate objective of all planning programmes leading to higher economic and social development. There exists a very strong linkage between attaining economic prosperity and enriching the quality of life, which is reflected in the social indicators of health, longevity, literacy and environmental sustainability. These indicators serve as valuable inputs for developing suitable policy initiatives. Present study is a humble attempt to explore the environmental scenario of Raipur city- capital of Chhattisgarh. It is really a challenge for the urban planners to achieve the sustainable development. In true sense, environment development with progressive transformation of economy and society with its major objectives lie in the satisfaction of human needs and aspirations.

Author : Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Serampore College, West Bengal, India. E-mail : sribasgoswami@gmail.com

In India, economic development during the last five decades has resulted in a little increase in average per capita income. There is no hesitation that living conditions have improved everywhere, even in the most backward places. Yet a large section of people have remained poor. There is observable deterioration in the physical environment and quality of life in the urban sectors caused by widening crack between demand and supply of necessary services and infrastructural facilities. The growth of slum is a sign of urban poverty as the greater part of urban poor reside in the slums. It has become vital to raise the quality of life by creating conditions conducive to the achievement of crucial objectives in terms of shelter, medical attention, sanitation, education. This study is very much significant, especially in the light of the magnitude of the slum problems in the country. Rapid slumification due to urbanization is most crucial problem for the policy makers and urban planners. In this regards government has initiated several developmental programmes for the betterment of social ill-being¹. A descriptive approach to the study of slum settlements involves understanding the interrelationship between their constituent elements at a certain period of time. The study of the physical form and structure of slum is the study of urban sociology. Why is such a study significant? The urban way of the city influences behavioral, economic and social processes within it (Vance, 1990)². Thus, the study of slum settlements has an encompassing view of all the activities it supports.

This research is a descriptive research and aspires to contribute to basic research in sociology. The literature review shows that a specific study of slums of Raipur has not been previously documented. Therefore, this study will augment existing knowledge about social configurations of slum dwellers of this city. An interpretation of the emerging social pattern reveals something of the social character of the city. The study of urban slums also serves as a framework for further research.

Formation of Raipur as the capital of newly born state Chhattisgarh in the threshold of this century has got immense importance in the map of our country. The accelerated inward migration to the city caused unplanned slum formations which bring about far-

¹ See Satterthwaite, D. & Wratten. 1995. 'The under-estimation and misrepresentation of urban poverty: Urban poverty: Characteristics, causes and consequences' Environment and urbanization, in IIED, Vol. 7 No 1.

² See World Development Report, 1992

reaching consequences. Several developmental programmes have been started and thousands of employment opportunities have been generated skilled and unskilled both. People have started migration from the neighbor states. This caused overcrowding the city and the consequence is more development of slums. Before formation of capital city Raipur has many slums and those were neglected but now huge money is invested to renovate the slums in various ways. So the study will reveal the overall social development of slums which is taking place in recent times since its emergence as capital of Chhattisgarh. It is a natural fact that along with the economic growth slums will continue to exist.

II. Methodology

The data have been collected from secondary and primary sources.

- a. *Secondary sources:* Data is collected and compiled from the books, reports, published and unpublished papers, leaflets, booklets, Municipal records and Governmental circulars.
- b. *Primary sources:* Interviews from the field with respondents, word counselors and slum leaders have been conducted to elicit their opinions and experiences in slum life with the help of interview schedule. The field survey was carried out during 2012.

III. Sample Size

The study was conducted on slums of the capital city of Chhattisgarh, Raipur, India. Total 300 families from four slums taking 95 families from Gandhi Nagar, 88 families from Moulipara, 100 families from Kushalpur and 17 families from Kota basti have taken as sample. Total surveyed population is 1383. Head or senior most persons of the family are the respondents.

a) Social Conditions for Urban Development

Urbanization is both a resultant condition and a determinant of economic growth. Yet urbanization in India has progressed at a far slower rate than the economic growth rate generally. India has severe problems in both management and financing of cities. The Service Industry, IT industry and Manufacturing Industry are leading motivations to the economic growth. The reasons for slow urban development include policy biases against replacement of labor with industrialization, location of industries in urban areas, and urban concentrations. Other reasons for slow growth in urban areas are as follows (Mohan and Dasgupta, 2004).

- **Inadequate Increase in Rural Productivity:** India's major population is residing in rural areas with low income. A relation between urbanization and per capita income is developed by researchers. The low

productivity in agriculture except in some regions is restricting the flow of agricultural labor in rural areas.

- **Technology Choice in Industry:** Selection of appropriate technology and product could be another reason for less rural population attracted to the industries. The tariff structure favored more towards generating capital intensive industries, which were corrected after the tariff reforms in 1990's.
- **Labor Legislation and Small Industries Reservations:** On comparing the development rate and urbanization rate with other countries, India's lack of growth may be explained by slow growth in manufacturing as well as labor rigidity and policies on expansion of small scale industries.
- **Urban Infrastructure Investment:** The high cost in moving to urban areas with poor infrastructure facilities like water and sanitation facilities, lack of affordable urban transport, and expensive land development could have been another possible reason for slow urbanization (EGCIP, 1996).
- **Rigidities in Urban Land Policy:** The urban land cost grew high because of the policy introduced in mid-1970's Urban Land Ceiling Act. The act made it difficult for people to change the use of land, reducing the availability of land and increasing the prices in urban areas.

Therefore the social development that has the potential to become a tool for the self-conscious progress of the collective and its members must limit its scope to certain horizons; otherwise, it may lose its force of application. The current effort limits its inquiry to the origins, principles, powers, forces and processes of society's upward directional movement from lesser to greater levels of energy, efficiency, quality, productivity, complexity, comprehension, creativity, enjoyment and accomplishment--social development³.

IV. Socio-Economic Background of the Slum Dwellers

This chapter is mainly concerned with the study of the following socio-economic characteristics of the respondents: namely age, sex, caste, religion, language, education, marital status, occupational status and monthly income of the respondents. The first part of the chapter consists of the general information of the respondents and second part consists of family background and their socio-economic status. The

³See the report on 'Social development: Challenges faced in an unequal and plural society' by Gore (2003) has focused on the several aspects of development in Indian context. He has examined the broader philosophy of the social development and its linkage with the concept of human rights and the fundamental rights as enshrined in the Indian constitution. Another emphasis has given on relevance to social work practice. The study further has discussed and elaborated the concepts of development in a liberal society.

sample size for the present study is three hundred (300) slum dwellers of Raipur city. From the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents a comprehensive picture can be drawn on their slum life. Details of the analysis are presented bellow. The socio-economic status is an indicator of social class. Each profession has certain prestige and forms a group of social class. Variables such as income and education are closely correlated, and act as the socio-economic indicators. Here an attempt is made to understand the slum life in general.

a) General Information Of Respondents

According to the information collected from three hundred respondents about their age, four persons belong to 14 years group, 290 persons belong to 15 - 59 years age category and six persons are found to lay the category of 60 years and above.

The sex composition of the respondents is almost same in which male is 52.33% and female is 47.66%.

The caste as a social stratification plays predominant role in our social life; it helps us to understand the social fabric. In the present study 41.33% people belong to general caste where as 34% belong to SC (Schedule Caste) and 11.66% ST (Schedule Tribe) and 13% belong to OBC (Other Backward Class). Most of the ST people are dwelling here for a long time. Another important aspect of our social life is religion. It has been observed that 63.33% people belong to Hindu religion. 18.66% are the followers of Muslim religion and 8% respondents are Christian. During the field work it is noticed that 8% people have been converted to Christianity from other religion. Rest 10% people belong to other religion such as Sikhism, Jainism etc.

All respondents can speak Hindi fluently and at the same time they know their mother tongue also. 68.33% respondents' mother tongue is Hindi, and 21.66% speak Oriya at home. While communicating within their own community 3.33% respondents speak Telegu. Remaining persons speak other languages like Bengali, Marathi, and Tamil etc. Here one remarkable phenomenon is noted that maximum people other than Hindi speaking are residing in these slums from 2nd or 3rd generations. It is very encouraging that 92% people are literate. They can read and write. In the present study it has been observed that 98% respondents are married and 2% respondents are widow. Present study also shows that 65.66% respondents are working or acting as money earner. But 34.34% respondents are not working because their family member earns. 1.66% respondents' monthly income is up to Rs.1000. But 28% respondents earn money in between Rs.1001-Rs. 2000, 17.33% respondents monthly income lie in between Rs.2001-Rs. 5000, where as 19.66% earn more than Rs. 5000.

The paper also consists of the information related to family background of the respondents, size of the family, age of the family members, and marital status of the family members, age of marriage, educational level, occupation and income of the family members.

Children's food habit and health status are directed by household's socio-economic condition. Also, children are susceptible to environmental sanitation while they are found most of the time playing around or spending outside environment which is very unhygienic. Socio-economic factors like income, expenditure and education are analyzed to depict households' ability and knowledge about dietary practice and prevalence of disease occurrence among children.

Table 1 : Population Growth in Raipur City

Description	2011	2001
Actual Population	4,062,160	3,016,930
Male	2,048,856	1,523,925
Female	2,013,304	1,493,005
Population Growth	34.65%	19.29%
Density/km ²	310	231
Proportion to Chhattisgarh Population	15.90%	14.48%
Sex Ratio (Per 1000)	983	980
Child Sex Ratio (0-6 Age)	965	965
Average Literacy	76.43	68.51
Male Literacy	86.50	81.97
Female Literacy	66.21	54.81
Total Child Population (0-6 Age)	569,447	515,582
Male Population (0-6 Age)	289,815	262,406
Female Population (0-6 Age)	279,632	253,176
Literates	2,669,362	1,713,653
Male Literates	1,521,582	1,034,063
Female Literates	1,147,780	679,590
Child Proportion (0-6 Age)	14.02%	17.09%
Boys Proportion (0-6 Age)	14.15%	17.22%
Girls Proportion (0-6 Age)	13.89%	16.96%

Source : www.census2011.co.in/census/district/495/raipur.html

Table 2 : Sex and Age Composition of the Respondents and Their Family Members

Name of Slum	Sex and Age composition												Total Male	Total Female	Total Population
	Up to 14 years				15 years to 59 years				60 years and above						
	M	%	F	%	M	%	F	%	M	%	F	%			
Kota Basti	13	16.88	12	15.58	26	33.77	24	31.17	1	1.30	1	1.30	40 (51.94)	37 (48.06)	77 (100%)
Kushalpur	53	12.27	61	14.12	159	36.80	150	34.72	4	.93	5	1.16	216 (50)	216 (50)	432 (100%)
Gandhinagar	95	20.09	67	14.17	153	32.34	140	29.60	10	2.11	8	1.69	258 (54.54)	215 (45.45)	473 (100%)
Moulipara	75	18.70	69	17.21	130	32.42	116	28.93	6	1.50	5	1.24	211 (52.61)	190 (47.38)	401 (100%)
Total	236	17.07	209	15.11	468	33.84	430	31.09	21	1.52	19	1.37	725 (52.42)	658 (47.58)	1383 (100%)

Table 2 clearly shows the sex and age composition of the respondents and their family members. Within these four slums 52.58% respondents are male and 47.58% respondents are female. Slum wise sex composition reveals that almost all the slums are exhibiting the more or less the same picture as reflected in Census report. Remarkable information is

coming out while analyzing the table that only 1.37% people have attended 60 years and above age. The number of young people dominates in the studied slum areas. As the young slum dwellers are residing in slums for earning money and the young age group is most effective for work. 32.17% population of the slums belongs to 14 years of age group and bellow.

Table 3 : Caste Composition in Slums of Raipur

Name of Slum	General		S.C		S.T		OBC		Total Sample population
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	
Kota Basti	8	47.06	6	35.29	1	5.88	2	11.77	17 (100%)
Kushalpur	36	36.00	40	40	9	9.00	15	15.00	100 (100%)
Gandhinagar	45	47.37	20	21.05	15	15.79	15	15.79	95 (100%)
Moulipara	35	39.77	36	40.91	10	11.36	7	7.96	88 (100%)
Total	124	41.33	102	34	35	11.67	39	13.00	300 (100%)

Source : Personal Survey-2012

From the above table 3 it is seen that 41.33% people belong to the general category. The SC and ST population are respectively 34% and 11.67%. This state is dominated by ST population but the urban population of the ST is 8.4% (2011 Census). The OBC population is 13%.

Almost one third respondents belong to Scheduled Tribes and about 11.6 percent of the

population is listed as Scheduled Castes in Chhattisgarh. Other communities including a large number of people belonging to the Backward Classes constitute the rest of the population. The bulk of its people are concentrated in the central region, while the northern and the southern regions have a considerably lower density of population. Kushalpur and Moulipara slums have almost same SC population distribution

whereas Kota Basti has the lowest ST population. All four slums are projecting the high percentage of general category population. Kushalpur and Moulipara have almost equal SC population. In Raipur a large number

OBC people also resides. In Kushalpur and Gandhinagar both slums have comparatively high OBC population than others.

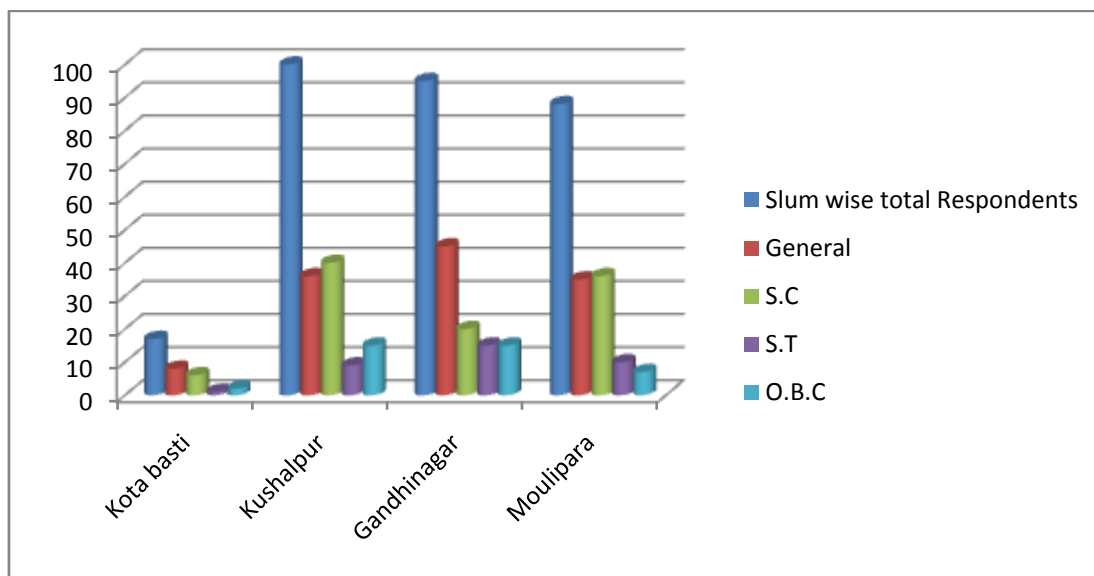


Figure 1 : Caste Composition in Slums of Raipur

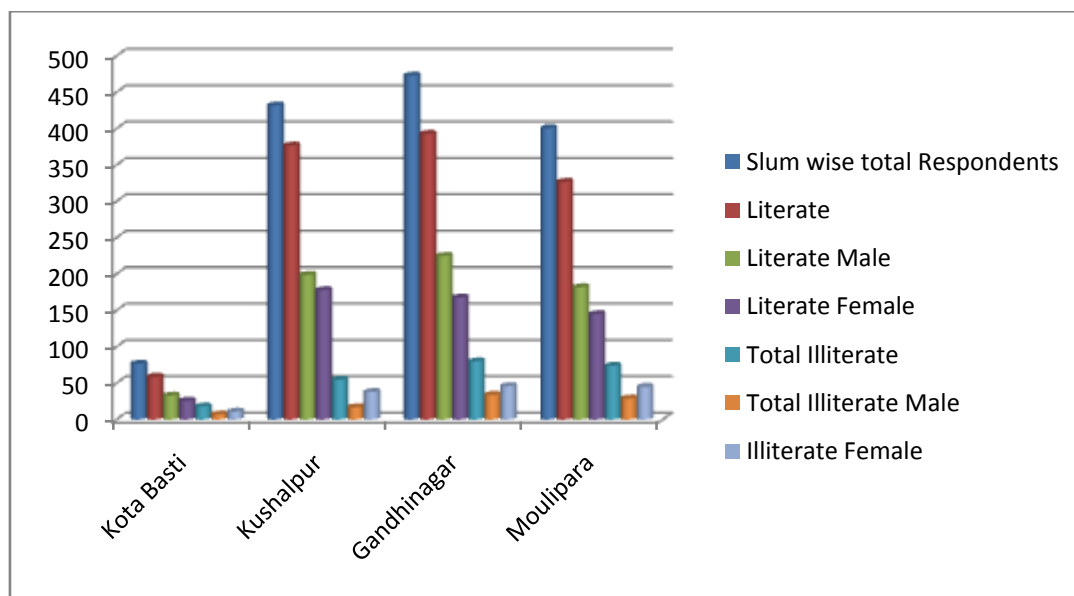


Figure 2 : Educational Statuses of the Slum Dwellers

Table 4: Educational Status of the Respondents and Their Family Members

Name of Slum	Educational Status										Total population
	Literate					Illiterate					
	M	%	F	%	Total	M	%	F	%	Total	
Kota Basti	33	42.86	26	33.77	59	7	9.22	11	14.58	18	77 (100%)
Kushalpur	199	46.06	178	41.20	377	17	3.94	38	8.80	55	432 (100%)
Gandhinagar	225	47.57	168	35.52	393	34	7.18	46	9.73	80	473 (100%)
Moulipara	182	45.38	145	36.16	327	29	7.23	45	11.23	74	401 (100%)
Total	639	46.20	517	37.38	1156	87	6.30	140	10.12	227	1383 (100%)

Source : Personal Survey-2012

Education is an important indicator of social development, since higher level of growth is generally believed to be driven by innovation. Education is the backbone of social and economic development. It acts as the catalyst for Human Resource Development (HRD), which encompasses better health, nutrition and improved socioeconomic opportunities. Education imparts knowledge and skills, and shapes values and attitudes. It is vital for the progress of society and is universally recognized as an important investment in building human capital, which holds the key to persistent high growth in per capita income.

Majority of slums dwellers are first generation learners. From the table 4 educational statuses are observed at a glance. The table shows that 83.58% surveyed population is literate. The city literacy rate is also very close to these figures. It is seen from the illiterate part of the table 10.12% females and 6.30% males are illiterate. As Kota Basti is largely migrated people dominated (basically from Orissa) the illiteracy ratio is higher in compare to other slums. So far literacy is concern Kushalpur has the top position in this regard. While comparing all slums regarding literacy it is clear that male literacy rate is dominating.

Table 5 : Educational Qualifications of Literate Persons

Name of Slum	Educational Levels															Total literate population					
	Primary					Middle					9 th to HS						UG/PG				
	Total	M	%	F	%	Total	M	%	F	%	Total	M	%	F	%		Total	M	%	F	%
Kota Basti	20	9	15.25	11	18.64	27	15	25.42	12	20.34	9	6	10.17	3	5.09	3	2	3.39	1	1.70	59 (100%)
Kushalpur	90	40	10.61	50	13.26	146	63	16.71	83	22.02	104	66	17.51	38	10.08	37	28	7.42	9	2.39	377 (100%)
Gandhinagar	125	72	18.32	53	13.49	152	83	21.12	69	17.56	89	46	11.70	43	10.94	27	24	6.11	3	0.76	393 (100%)
Moulipara	88	45	13.76	43	13.15	149	76	23.24	73	22.32	83	55	16.82	28	8.56	7	6	1.84	1	0.31	327 (100%)
Total	323	166	14.36	157	13.58	474	237	20.50	237	20.50	285	173	14.97	112	9.69	74	60	5.19	14	1.21	1156 (100%)

Source : Personal Survey-2012

From the table 5 it is clear that 1156 persons are literate and have formal education. 27.95% population has primary level education (up to IV standard), 41% population has middle standard (class V to VIII), 24.66% population has class IX to XII standard and 6.40% respondents have either completed graduation or post graduation. Most of the primary level educated persons are affected by the drop out cases who couldn't continue their education because of familial problems. Here the trend of perusing study up to class VIII is very high. In most cases girl students are deprived for higher studies. However Kushalpur is the only slum where overall educational qualification is better than other slums. This slum has been encouraging population with graduates and post graduates.

Table 6 : Marital Status of Respondents and Their Family Members

Name of Slum	Unmarried				Married				Widow		Divorced				Total Population		
	M	%	F	%	M	%	F	%	Total	%	M	%	F	%	Male	Female	Total
Kota Basti	19	24.68	10	12.99	21	27.27	20	25.97	7	9.09	-	-	-	-	40 (51.94%)	37 (48.05%)	77 (100%)
Kushalpur	100	23.15	104	24.07	116	26.85	108	25	4	0.93	-	-	-	-	216 (50%)	216 (50%)	432 (100%)
Gandhinagar	140	29.60	97	20.51	118	24.95	109	23.04	9	1.90	-	-	-	-	258 (54.54%)	215 (45.45%)	473 (100%)
Moulipara	110	27.43	85	21.19	101	25.19	98	24.44	7	1.75	-	-	-	-	211 (52.61%)	190 (47.38%)	401 (100%)
Total	369	26.68	296	21.40	356	25.74	335	24.23	27	1.95	-	-	-	-	723 (52.27%)	660 (47.72%)	1383 (100%)

From the table 5 it has been observed that 48.08% population is unmarried. 49.97% population is married with 1.95% widows. Divorce or separated cases has not been found. The widows generally stay with their married daughter and with the family of sons. Majority of

the families stay in nuclear family as has been observed from the field. In comparison with tables 5.4 and 5.5 it is clear that 37.37% females are educated and 24.23% females are married.

Table . 7: Age of Marriage of Slum Dwellers

Name of Slum	Age of marriage										Total Married Population		
	Bellow 18 years					19 years to 21							
	Total	M	%	F	%	Total	M	%	F	%	Total	Male	Female
Kota Basti	10	-	-	10	24.39	12	3	7.32	9	21.95	19	21 (51.21%)	20 (48.78%)
Kushalpur	66	-	-	66	29.46	39	-	-	39	17.41	119	116 (51.78%)	108 (48.21%)
Gandhinagar	48	-	-	48	21.15	71	8	3.52	63	27.75	108	118 (51.98%)	109 (48.01%)
Moulipara	52	19	9.55	33	16.58	59	17	8.54	42	21.11	88	101 (50.75%)	98 (49.24%)
												199 (100%)	

Total	176	19	2.74	157	22.72	181	28	4.05	153	22.15	334	299	43.27	35	5.07	356 (51.51%)	335 (48.48%)	691 (100%)
-------	-----	----	------	-----	-------	-----	----	------	-----	-------	-----	-----	-------	----	------	-----------------	-----------------	---------------

Source : Personal Survey-2012

Table 7 shows that 22.72% females are married under 18 years where as 2.74% males married underage. In between age of 19-21 years 26.21% people are married. But notable subject is that 43.27% males are married beyond 22 years and percentage of female is 5.07. Through analysis of the above table it is seen that till date the slum people use to practice child marriage. It is also seen from this table that very few married males are found under age because the parents don't encourage marriage before employment. Although 4.05% male in the age group of 19-21 years are married. Maximum males go for marriage after 22 years of age and only few females are noted in this regard. Most of the persons answered that they don't want to keep young daughter unmarried because of many societal

and economical reasons. They think keeping unmarried daughter at home is risky due to many reasons now a day. The society of slum is conservative more often preservative. As average the income of the family is not high some of the girls are forced to marry. Till now in slum areas male children are more acceptable than daughter and they are considered as lucky to the family. Sometimes early marriage leads to innumerable health problems in brides, including the increase in unwanted and terminated pregnancies, early sterilizations, miscarriages, stillbirths, high infant mortality and these are interrelated issues with the age of marriage which has been discussed in through the following tables. All four slums reflects more or less same picture in this regard.

Table 8 : Monthly Family Income of the Respondents

Name of Slum		Family income(Monthly) in Rs.							Total Respondents	
		< 1000		1001-2000		2001-5000		5000>		
		No of earning member	%	No of earning member	%	No of earning member	%	No of earning member		%
Kota Basti		1	5.88	6	35.30	9	52.94	1	5.88	17 (100%)
Kushalpur		-	-	33	33.00	56	56.00	11	11.00	100 (100%)
Gandhinagar		3	3.16	20	21.05	39	41.05	33	34.74	95 (100%)
Moulipara		1	1.14	25	28.41	48	54.54	14	15.91	88 (100%)
Total		5	1.66	84	28.00	152	50.67	59	19.67	300 (100%)

Source : Personal Survey-2012

The present research reveals the monthly income of the respondents or his/her family members which is closely connected with their quality of the life. High income creates better standard of living. From the above table (8) it is seen that 1.66% family earns up to Rs.1000 per month. 28% family earns in between Rs.1001-2000 per month. Maximum family (50.67%) earns 2001-5000 per month. And 19.67% earns above Rs.5000 in a month. In the present study, it is seen that only few business persons earn above highest category. Maximum people involve in small informal service sectors they can't earn much money as in the market

cheap labour is available. So it can be seen that having with uncertainty in life in respect to income sometime with lack of skilled knowledge the slum dwellers are forced to take low wage jobs. Here a vicious cycle of poverty can be seen grabbing destitute people. Males in slums have inadequate earning skills leading to low incomes and an inability to provide adequate resources for household expenses. This leads to frustration, which is often expressed through escapism in addiction of various types. The youth are frustrated, as they do not have the opportunities that their better-off peers have. This results in a cynical and diffident attitude, which

becomes a handicap during adulthood. A major portion of households' income is spent on food items following expenditure on nonfood items and house rent. Survey data reveal that a major share of their income is spent on food. Here through present study the relationship between socio-economic status and nutritional status can be understood. Some of these queries show a strong relationship between nutritional status and several measures of income. Relationships among income, age and food consumption have also been widely demonstrated. Facts relating to income, age and food pattern on the slum population are lacking, especially on low socio-economic groups. The present

investigation through this table examines income pattern of slum dwellers from four slums. Those families earn more than Rs.5000 a month it must be noted that many cases found where more than one person is money earner. Gandhinagar slum has the highest number people with high income whereas Kota Basti has the lowest position in this regard. Actually immediate after inception of Raipur as a capital city, commercial and industrial activities needed cheap labor in the city. Jobs created by the economic growth, attracted many people for their livelihood. Diverse job with diverse wage rate created wide range income groups.

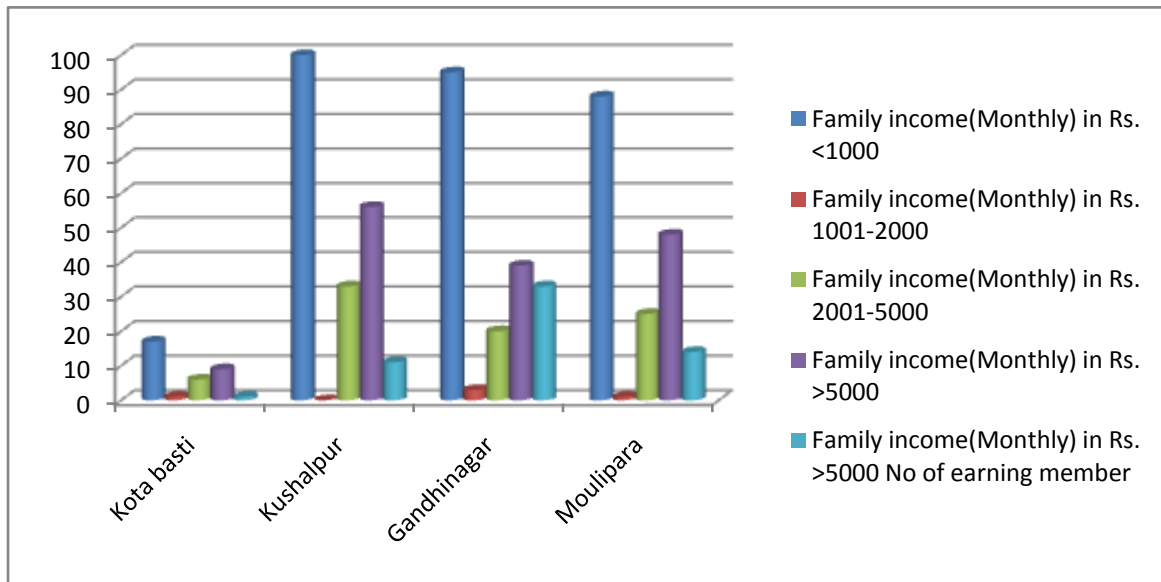


Figure 3 : Monthly Income of the Slum Dwellers

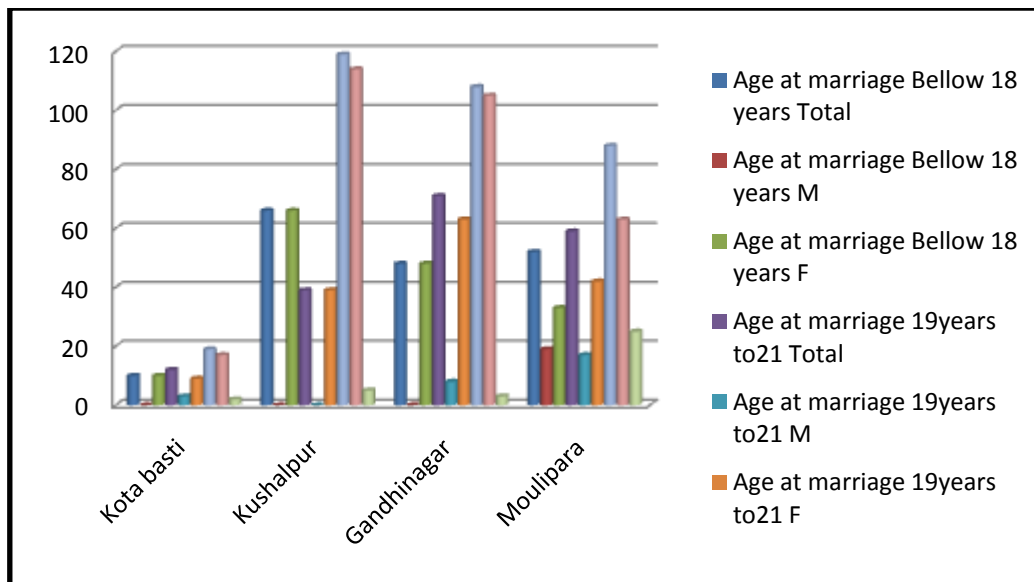


Figure 4 : Age at Marriage of Slum Dwellers

Table 8: Occupational Positions of Slum Area In Raipur.

Name of Slum	Working population		Child labour (<14 years)	%	-	-	-	-	-		
				F	-	-	-	-	-		
				%	-	0.69	0.85	-	0.51		
				M	-	3	4	-	7		
				T	-	3	4	-	7		
			Others	%	2.60	4.17	4.23	2.99	3.76		
				F	2	18	20	12	52		
				%	2.60	6.94	5.50	9.48	6.94		
				M	2	30	26	38	96		
				T	4	48	46	50	148		
			Labour	%	3.90	0.93	4.44	4.49	3.33		
				F	3	4	21	18	46		
				%	9.09	4.63	8.03	6.73	6.65		
				M	7	20	38	27	92		
				T	10	24	59	45	138		
			Business	%	1.30	3.24	0.85	3.74	2.45		
				F	1	14	4	15	34		
				%	9.09	14.82	8.46	10.72	11.14		
				M	7	64	40	43	154		
				T	8	78	44	58	188		
			Service	%	1.29	1.85	2.33	-	1.45		
				F	1	8	11	0	20		
				%	7.79	6.48	8.03	2.00	5.78		
				M	6	28	38	8	80		
				T	7	36	49	8	100		
			Non working population			%	38.96	38.66	32.98	38.90	36.80
						F	30	167	156	156	509
%	23.38	17.59				24.30	20.95	21.19			
M	18	76				115	84	293			
T	48	243				271	240	802			
			Kota Basti	Kushalpur	Gandhinagar	Moulipara	Total				

Majority of the slum dwellers lack required skills for the skilled jobs. They possess skills that do not have any significant market in the city. Unscrupulous companies taking advantages of the ignorance of slum residents and often cheat them. The banking in the formal sector does not welcome disbursement of small loan amounts to the slum residents, as that is quite expensive for these organizations. Hence, the slum residents are forced to borrow loan from moneylenders. Table no 8 shows that 57.99% respondents are nonworking population. Among the working people 7.23% involves in service, 13.59% respondents do business, 9.98% respondents are labourer, 10.7% people involve in other activities such as housekeeping or home servant etc. Only .51% child labour can be seen. Raipur's slums are basically traditional slum that's why the child labour cases are very little. Almost 20% jobs are done by unskilled persons. They involve in house related jobs, rickshaw pulling, driving etc. Through this study it is felt that the slum dwellers require learning new skills, which require long-term investment of time and resources, which they do not have. Their only option remains is getting engaged in occupations that are unskilled and menial, and where the incomes are low. These are also casual jobs. Irregularity of employment and no address of employment disqualify most of them from accessing credit for small businesses.

V. Concluding Remarks

From the above discussion comprehensive information is noted about the respondents and their family members. Slum communities as a smaller part of socio-economic activities of Raipur have direct impact of it on their social life. In the beginning information about the respondents in details is received. In the second part a brief account of family background is noted. The study shows that how slum life is influencing to the dweller's daily life. Good numbers of literacy are noted among the young generation and encouraging sex ratio can easily be seen. While noting the caste composition in slum areas, general caste is dominating followed by Scheduled Caste. Few cases of early marriage are noted. The slum dwellers' economic condition is not sufficiently improved. Somehow they are being exploited overtly or covertly. The people of the slum have diversified nature of occupations, such as business, service in informal sectors, driving, home service etc.

In the present study it is seen that 41.33% people belong to general caste where as 34% people belong to SC and 11.66% ST and 13% belong to OBC. Most of the ST people are dwelling here for a long time. It has been observed that 63.33% people belong to Hindu religion. 18.66% people are Muslim and 8% respondents are Christian. Rest 10% people belong to other religions such as Sikhism, Jainism etc.

The study shows very balanced sex composition of the respondents and their family members. Within these four slums 52.58% respondents are male and 47.58% respondents are female. In Chhattisgarh the sex ratio of urban population is 938 as per the 2011 Census report. Slum wise sex composition also reveals that almost all the slums are exhibiting the more or less the same picture. Remarkable information is coming out while analyzing the data that only 1.37% people have attended 60 years and above age. The trend of urbanization is clearly reflected in this study.

Majority of slums dwellers are first generation learners. Children from slums are generally looked down upon. The data show that 83.58% surveyed population is literate. The city literacy rate is very close to this figure. It can be seen from the data available that 10.12% female are illiterate and 6.30% males are illiterate. Kota Basti is largely migrated people dominated (basically from Orissa) the illiteracy ratio is higher in compare to other slums.

It is clear from the analysis that majority of the workers are engaged in the informal sector or informal employment, which are accessed through various informal channels or networks of information flow designated as 'social capital.' In fact, the existence of these informal networks facilitates the slum based. However, the limitation of the social capital is that the job of the new entrant and that of the contact person tend to be the same, implying overcrowding and prevalence of low wages in certain activities. The livelihood of urban poor are determined by informal employment which has absolute no place for social security programmes. The initiatives and administrative approach for formulating the social security plans separately for the urban poor, in fact, requires stupendous policy planning with pan-city approach. To foster inclusive growth so as to cover urban poor too, some interventions are required to make urban livelihood qualitative.

References Références Referencias

1. Ambroise, Y (1992): "Models of Development, Social development Perspective", Himanshu Publications, Udaipur.
2. Bhanumurthy, N.R (2004): "Economic Growth, Poverty, and Inequality in Indian States in the Pre-reform and Reform Periods", Asian Development Review, Asian Development Bank, vol. 21, no. 2, Manila.
3. Baker, J. (1995), 'Survival and accumulation strategies at the rural-urban interface in north-west Tanzania: Urban poverty: Characteristics, causes and consequences', Environment and Urbanization, IIED Vol. 7 No 1.
4. Beall, J. (1995). 'Participation in the city: where do women fit in?'. Gender and Development, Routledge: London, Vol. 4.

5. Desai, A.R & Pillai S.D, (1970):" Slums and Urbanization", Popular Prakashan, Bombay.
6. Dupont, V and Mitra, A. (1995): "Population Distribution, Growth and Socio-Economic Spatial Patterns in Delhi: Findings from the 1991 Census Data", Demography India, Vol.24, No1.
7. Goswami, S and Manna, S, (2010): "Social aspects of environment: A study of slums of Raipur city", Man and Life, January-June Vol-36 1&2, Bidisha, India.
8. Khan, M. H and Kraemer, A. (2008): "Socio-economic factors explain differences in public health-related variables among women in Bangladesh: A cross-sectional study" (BMC Public Health. 2008; 8: 254. Published online 2008 July 23.
9. Lewis, O. (1966). 'La Vida'. Random House, New York, Vol-421.
10. Mitra, A. (1994). "Urbanization, Slums, Informal Sector Employment and Poverty: An Exploratory Study", B. R. Publishing Corporation, Delhi.
11. Ramachandra, P (1970). "The slums: A note on facts and solution in slums cities of Madhya Pradesh". Popular Prakashan, Bombay.
12. Saxena, M.H (1987). "The problem of slums in small towns: A case study of Shrirangapur", Concept Publishing Company, New Delhi.
13. Tooley, J. and P. Dixon (2007): "Private Schooling for Low-Income Families: A Census and Comparative Survey in East Delhi, India", International Journal of Educational Development, 27 pp. 205-217, Elsevier.
14. Wasserman, S and Faust, K (1994). "Social Network Analysis", Cambridge", U.K.





This page is intentionally left blank



GLOBAL JOURNAL OF HUMAN SOCIAL SCIENCE
SOCIOLOGY & CULTURE

Volume 13 Issue 6 Version 1.0 Year 2013

Type: Double Blind Peer Reviewed International Research Journal

Publisher: Global Journals Inc. (USA)

Online ISSN: 2249-460X & Print ISSN: 0975-587X

Gender and Information Communication Technologies (ICTS) in Nigeria: Challenges and Prospects

By Hajara Umar Sanda & Mustapha Hashim Kurfi

Bayero University, Kano - Nigeria

Abstract - In contemporary civilized Nigeria, the Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) has become a household name used in offices and at homes to access, receive and retrieve information. Many innovations in the world today are as a result of the exposure and access to the world of the ICTs and people all over the world can access any other parts of the world to receive information about anything that borders on their interest in life. Women in their quest for empowerment and societal recognition have adopted and accepted ICT as an instrument for their advancement and empowerment. This is manifested in their previous two world conferences in Nairobi, 1985 and Beijing, 1995, where among several areas of concern, the role of the media in subordinating women featured prominently. But unfortunately, despite the much emphasis placed on the use of ICTs in Nigeria, women are often underrepresented in terms of access and use. It is against this background that this paper examines the challenges and prospects of ICT utilization among women in Nigeria. These challenges include lack of infrastructure, education and skills; urban-bias; and sociocultural and economic challenges. The study concludes that to address these gender gaps in ICTs in Nigeria, all hands must be on deck to change women's attitudes towards ICT use by overcoming technophobia; women should be provided with educational and economic empowerment; government ICT policies and programs must address the needs of women; and the civil society should be part and parcel of this crusade for the betterment of women and the society at large.

Keywords : *ict, gender, nigeria, discrimination, empowerment, technophobia, nana asma'u.*

GJHSS-C Classification : *FOR Code : 169901, 370199p*



Strictly as per the compliance and regulations of:



© 2013. Hajara Umar Sanda & Mustapha Hashim Kurfi. This is a research/review paper, distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial 3.0 Unported License <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/>, permitting all non-commercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

Gender and Information Communication Technologies (ICTS) in Nigeria: Challenges and Prospects

Hajara Umar Sanda ^α & Mustapha Hashim Kurfi ^σ

Abstract - In contemporary civilized Nigeria, the Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) has become a household name used in offices and at homes to access, receive and retrieve information. Many innovations in the world today are as a result of the exposure and access to the world of the ICTs and people all over the world can access any other parts of the world to receive information about anything that borders on their interest in life. Women in their quest for empowerment and societal recognition have adopted and accepted ICT as an instrument for their advancement and empowerment. This is manifested in their previous two world conferences in Nairobi, 1985 and Beijing, 1995, where among several areas of concern, the role of the media in subordinating women featured prominently. But unfortunately, despite the much emphasis placed on the use of ICTs in Nigeria, women are often underrepresented in terms of access and use. It is against this background that this paper examines the challenges and prospects of ICT utilization among women in Nigeria. These challenges include lack of infrastructure, education and skills; urban-bias; and sociocultural and economic challenges. The study concludes that to address these gender gaps in ICTs in Nigeria, all hands must be on deck to change women's attitudes towards ICT use by overcoming technophobia; women should be provided with educational and economic empowerment; government ICT policies and programs must address the needs of women; and the civil society should be part and parcel of this crusade for the betterment of women and the society at large.

Keywords : *ict, gender, nigeria, discrimination, empowerment, technophobia, nana asma'u.*

I. INTRODUCTION

The concept of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) is an emerging field in the world of communication, which is wielding an unimaginable influence on global activities. It restructures politics/governance, economy, culture, health etc. in many countries and regions around the world. The ICT provides a great development opportunity by contributing to information dissemination, providing an array of communication capabilities, increasing access to technology and knowledge among others. Individuals and groups have accepted it globally as a tool for enhancing their varied interest. According to

Tiamiyu (2003) the ICTs are the electronic technologies for creating, acquiring, storing, processing, communication and using information. This involves the process whereby computers and other related machines are used in the dissemination and retrieval of information. This is a new technology from what is originally known in the traditional mass media of the print and broadcast.

In contemporary Nigeria, the ICT has become a household name, used in offices and at home to access, receive and retrieve information. Emphasis is being placed in the use of the ICTs to access the world at large. Similarly, many innovations in the world today are as a result of the exposure and access to the world of the ICTs, and people all over the world can access any part of the world to receive information about whatever that borders their interests in life. Women in their quest for empowerment and societal recognition have adopted and accepted ICTs as instrument for advancement and empowerment. It is also a tool for speedy global mobilization and dissemination of information among women. Women have long been aware of the power of information and knowledge sharing as a strategy for mobilization, advancement and empowerment.

The importance attached to information and knowledge sharing by women in pursuing their course is manifested in their previous two world conferences in Nairobi, 1985 and Beijing, 1995, where among several areas of concern, the role of the media in subordinating women featured prominently. The fourth world conference on women in Beijing in 1995 recommended that women equal access to economic resources, including land, credit, science and technology, vocational training, information, communication, and markets, as a means to further the advancement and empowerment of women and girls including the enhancement of their capacities to enjoy the benefits of equal access to these resources by means of international cooperation. In addition, the conference highlighted in its platform for action on women and the media, diagnosis: strategic objectives which include; to increase the participation and access of women to expression and decision making in and through the media and information communication technologies as

Author α : Department of Mass Communications, Bayero University, Kano – Nigeria. E-mail : husanda2003@yahoo.com

Author σ : Department of Sociology, Boston University, Massachusetts-U.S.A. E-mail : mustapha@bu.edu

well as to promote a balanced and non-stereotyped portrayal of women in the media.

These declarations and strategies are clear indication that the women recognize and appreciate the place of information in driving home their points. Unfortunately, despite the much emphasis placed on the use of ICTs in Nigeria, women are often underrepresented in terms of access and use. In spite of the fact that women make up the majority of the population as well as their workforce of any society and women also play a pivotal role in the development of their societies but still their impact has not been felt or has been silenced in this new technology due to lack of access and the necessary skills for the operation amongst other several obstacles. Notwithstanding, ICT if given the enabling environment can be used to empower women not only through access, but also through control over the kind of information women access, receive, obtain and collect. Furthermore, women can also use the ICT to adopt and to create collected information into new and localized knowledge for further sharing with others in the community, thus contributing towards their empowered, self-determination and well-being. The thrust of this paper therefore, is to examine the challenges and prospects of ICT utilization among women in Nigeria. Prior to that, it is pertinent to clarify certain key concepts such as Gender and Information Communication Technologies (ICTs).

II. OPERATIONALIZATION OF SOME CONCEPTS

a) Gender

Gender is a socio-economic variable for analyzing roles, responsibilities, constraints, and needs of men and women in a given context. It refers to the social and cultural constructs that each society assigns to behaviors, characteristics and values attributed to men and women. The basis of the construct lies behind the idea that they are natural or intrinsic, and therefore, unalterable. These gender constructs are shaped by ideological, historical, religious, ethnic, economic and cultural determinants. These are usually translated into social, economic and political inequalities, where men's activities and their gender attributes are perceived as essentially superior to women's. Buttressing this notion, Okunna (2000) opines that gender relations in Nigeria are characterized by a lot of imbalance, to the disadvantage of women, by keeping women in subordinate positions to their men counterparts. The larger society and the male subculture still see women and their aspirations as subordinate, resulting in a situation in which the marginalization, trivialization and the stereotyping of women becoming glaring aspects of Nigerian life.

According to Civil Resource Development and Documentation Centre (CIRDDOC, 2001) gender could

be described as "a system of roles and relationships between men and women that are determined not biologically but by social, political and economic context" (p.1). Gender also involves the process by which individuals who are born into social categories of male and female become the social categories of men and women through the acquisition of locally defined attributes of masculinity and femininity which is beyond biological differences, all other differences between men and women are socially constructed and have no logical relationships with their biological composition. Burgos-Bebray (2010) asserts that though gender roles are distinctively different and important in every existing human society, they are nevertheless not unequal and that during struggles, they are irrelevant. As if invoking Burgos-Bebray (2010), Boserup (2007) argues that colonization came with gender inequality as an instrument to strategize the perpetuation of women subordination, subjugation and exploitation.

In the developing nations like Nigeria, where people are raised in a culture highly dominated by role differentiations, the women are often reminded of their natural roles as wives and mothers and that these are the only places where they can fit in and perform. The effect therefore, is that women especially in Nigeria tend to shy away from other roles they can comfortably fit into. This stereotype thereby strengthens the patriarchal worldview amongst most African that women are not expected to participate in decision-making process. By implication therefore, women should be seen not heard.

The concept of gender is used to understand the social and political relations between men and women as well as how the concepts of femininity and masculinity are constructed. Gender attributions are therefore often justified on the basis of sexual or biological differences. For instance, women are perceived to be "naturally" nurturing, a characteristic linked to their reproductive capacity as child bearers. This gender attribution has permeated the field of science and technology globally. This is because it is often categorized as "hard" and therefore "masculine", a field traditionally considered suited for men not women. For instance, the perception that women fare poorly in science and technology relative to men is often attributed to biological limitations of women, rather than to gender stereotypes in educational materials, teaching approaches, study opportunities and technological designs that contribute to gender gap in ICT use.

Encapsulating the above situation, Okunna (2000) argues that the Nigerian woman is characterized by low self-esteem because the society has continued to regard her as unimportant and inferior to her male counterpart. Right from the time immemorial, society prefers the boy child to the girl child. All through her growing-up years, the girl child is socialized to accept her subordinate position even when it is well known that Liberal Feminist theory is correct in its argument that

boys and girls are born with equivalent potentials that could be fully realized, given the proper and conducive environment. Consequently, men are assumed to be better equipped to pursue science and technology compared to women, creating greater obstacles for women from entering the field.

b) Information Communication Technologies (ICTs)

Information and communication technologies are often synonymously used with New Media or New Communication Technologies. They are simply communication gadgets or equipment that have modernized, improved and eased exchange of ideas and information of various kinds between and among people within or across distant boundaries/frontiers. ICTs extend and change the entire spectrum of technological possibilities for public communication.

Tiamiyu (2003) describes ICTs as a generic name used to refer to a number of communication hardware adopted in ensuring instantaneous dissemination of information and social values across the globe. It is also a disparate set of communication technology that shares that digitization made possible and is widely being made available for personal use as communication device. The essential features of the ICTs lie in their interconnectedness, their accessibility to individual users as senders and/or receivers, their interactivity, their multiplicity of use and open ended character and their ubiquity and delocatedness. These features essentially describe a computer-mediated medium – the internet.

According to Biagi and Foxworth (1997) the internet is a combination of thousands of computer networks sending and receiving data from all over the world – competing interests joined together by a common purpose, but without common owner. It is used mainly as a communication channel for electronic messages (such as e-mail), but it also holds an enormous amount of useful information (much of it consisting of multimedia) stored by individuals, governments, educational and research establishments and by commercial establishments. The Internet brings the cost of communication to a level where many can afford it. Thus, this affordability makes a person an instant publisher with access to an audience of millions of Internet users, creating a whole new class of mass communicators (Dominick, 2002).

With the emergence of the ICTs, the traditional mass media i.e. print and broadcast, which was believed to have brought the age of the media to a 'zenith', began to dwindle. The technology was being replaced by an age of personal or participatory media – the ICTs. With the ICT culture, people no longer passively 'consume' media but actively participate in them. Thus, the boundary between audiences and creators is blurred and often invisible. Some of the ICTs, which upset the traditional mass media, include:

- a. Wikipedia – These are web pages that allow anybody who is allowed to log into them to change them. It is similar to an encyclopedia. Among the ICTs, the Wikipedia is perfect compliments of blogs. The success of Wikipedia is hinged on mutual trust whereby accuracy evolves as more and more eyeballs examine an item. According to Weinberger cited in The Economist (2006), it is the purest form of participatory creativity and intellectual sharing and represents a socialization of expertise. Wikis allow groups of people to get on the same page.
- b. Blogging – A blog is an online journal. It has to do with a web page to which the owner regularly adds new entries or posts which tend to be short and often containing hyperlinks to other blog or web page (The Economist, 2006). Blogs usually have a raw unpolished authenticity and individuality that makes it participatory in nature. A blog provides commentary or news, functioning as more personal online diaries. A typical blog combines texts, merges and links to other blogs, web pages and other media related to its topic. The ability of readers to leave comments in any interactive format is an important part of many blogs.
- c. Metaverse- This stands for "metaphysical universe" as created by Linden Lab, San Francisco Internet Company. Metaverse means a second life. Something that is happening not in the real life. Second life according to The Economist (2006) is not a video game, but a place where people make things. People who log on to second life create an "avatar", an online extension of themselves. As avatars, they mingle, go to parties, create what they wear and drive in, build houses where they live, paint pictures and compose music. Avatars are futuristic in nature as a lot of things created in the second life are exported into real life as fashion, music etc.
- d. Pod casting – The word is derived from a combination of pod from Apple's iPod – a fashionable portable music player, and casting from broadcasting. It is all about Internet broadcasting. It involves sending a radio signal to an entire population in a particular geographic area at a particular time. Pod casting involves recording of anything from music to philosophical ramblings, professional news or snorting noises – into a computer with the aid of a microphone, then posting the audio file onto the Internet. There, people can listen to it and more importantly, subscribe to a "feed" from the same pod caster, so that all new audio files from the source are automatically pulled down as soon as they are published. Pod casts are different from blogs and Wikis in that they cannot link directly to other pod casts. This makes pod casting a less social and probably less revolutionary medium.

III. GENDER DIFFERENCES IN ICT USE IN NIGERIA

In Nigeria, gender differences in ICT use is linked to patterns of discrimination in the society at large as well as with patterns of power relations within the home. According to Jensen (1997) only 10 percent of the people riding the information superhighway via the internet are women. In the same line of thought, Okunna (2000) posits that this is the twenty-first century, but yet tradition, culture, religion and other factors have continued to widen the disparity between Nigerian men and women at the expense of women. Furthermore, in many parts of the world, high female illiteracy rates mean that women have little access to the print media. As for television and radio, women may not always be able to watch or listen to their preferred programmes due to so many obstacles, including spending most of their times caring for children.

Recognizing the vital role of women in the development of less industrialized societies, Scanlan (2004) argues that, it is undoubtedly a fact that regardless economic development level, population pressure, democratization, globalization, or region, women are in the fore front of development. Where then is the problem? Part of it is in colonization as Boserup (2007) argues. But there are still many other factors, including the way and manner women's narratives are written. For example, Women in Nigeria have taken an active role as partners in nationalist struggles, and at times spear-heading the movement to declare war against many forms of colonial impositions even prior to decolonization periods. The early stages of nationalist revolt against entrenched British rule in West Africa took the form of localized skirmishes like the Aba Women's fight against colonial tyranny of 1929. The Igbo women of eastern Nigeria feared that the head-count being carried out by the British was a prelude to women being taxed. Yet, the Perham's (1937) negative connotation The Aba Market Women's Riot in Nigeria, 1929 presents the women and their actions as violent and unlawful, ignoring the fact that about 25,000 of these women faced colonial repression and over a two-month period of insurrection, during which 50 of them were killed. These silences, stereotypes, prejudices and negative narrations against women further "justify" discrimination and bracketing of their immense contributions to sustainable development.

It is in line with the above that Guha (2002) argues "Self-consciousness exists in and for itself when, and by the fact that, it so exists for another: that is it exists in being acknowledged" (p.18). This kind of self-consciousness is what Nigerian women need, and the best way to achieve this in the contemporary state is through the ICT. If the Aba women in the early 20th century succeeded in mobilizing fellow women against the colonial tyranny without the use of any

advanced technology as available today, what would they achieve by the year 2020, when effectively and efficiently utilizing the ICTs? As Gallagher (1995) notes, issues relating to policy making in technological fields often ignore the needs, requirements, and aspirations of women unless gender analysis is involved.

A sociologically relevant observation at this juncture is that, the post-colonial policies that we have are an extension of the British colonial strategies of inequality. To this end therefore, it is worthy to note that, the benefits of favorable policies do not accrue only to women but to both men and women with very positive impacts on the economy and society at large. With the current situation, it is inevitable that the women are left out. Jorge (2001) described the fate of the women as vastly under-represented in government, business, political and social institutions and men still hold most of the management and control positions in telecommunication companies and regulatory or policy making bodies; regulatory decisions are made without any impact analysis; service licenses are attributed to companies without equal opportunity policies and controlled mostly by men.

Women's marginalization from ICT stems from the assumption that women benefit less from new educational and employment opportunities. Gender differences also exist with regard to access to information, access to ICTs, developing skills to search for information, and the very use of these technologies. In an entrenched patriarchal society like Nigeria, women were much less likely to use media especially computer-based media. This is partly because women lack the necessary skills to make use of the ICTs and had many negative attitudes about these media. Notwithstanding, in recent years there are some changes in women's use of the ICTs whereby they are now developing skills needed to operate this new technology effectively. The potential of the ICTs for the advancement of women is considerable. Networking, research, training, sharing of ideas and information— all these could be infinitely easier through relatively affordable computer-mediated communications such as E-mail, Internet hypertext and hypermedia (Steffen, 1995).

IV. THE CHALLENGES OF ICTS USE FOR WOMEN

The challenges or obstacles to ICT utilization for women's development are a global phenomenon but it is more obvious in developing countries. As a result of Africa's numerous problems such as poverty, high level of illiteracy among others, it is the worst hit. Just as in many areas of development (e.g. agriculture, health, and education), women face enormous challenges in ICT for their own development. Using and benefiting from ICT requires learning, training, affordable access to the technology, availability of information relevant to

them and a great amount of collaborative efforts to create an enabling environment. Several obstacles have resulted in the differential access and impact of the ICTs on men and women. The following is a highlight of some:

a) Infrastructure

The success for the utilization of any ICT rests in the availability of the infrastructure that is set up in the environment. ICT infrastructure in most developing countries and costs are exceedingly high. The little infrastructure available is even concentrated in the urban areas, and the bulk of women live in the rural areas. This tends to pose a huge gender gap in access to communication. It affects the majority of women, who in most African countries including Nigeria are poor and are living in rural areas. They lack access to these infrastructures in terms of access to computers, electricity, phone lines, computer hard and soft wares, servers etc. The infrastructure deficit of the rural areas coincides with gender demographics –more women live in rural areas than men. Therefore, majority of the population in rural areas, women have a smaller chance than men to access new technologies. As the UNDP Report (2000) noted, women with their special responsibilities for children and the elderly, find it less easy than men to migrate to towns and cities. The urban bias in connectivity thus deprives women more than men, of the universal right to communicate. Findings of George (2005) show that economic mobility as well as professional achievements mostly conceal certain underlying conditions of social upheavals among immigrant families and communities. This does not imply that women need to be encouraged to migrate to the cities as bread winners, rather, to show the trickle-down effects of their engagements, and to whistle-blow the dangers associated with urban-bias.

b) Education and Skills

Gender imbalances in education access still persist in most developing countries, despite the fact that education of women has been shown repeatedly to effect improvements in health and economic welfare. Education involves literacy, language, computer skills and information literacy. In each case, women in developing countries are less likely than men to have the requisite education and knowledge. According to the United Nations Report (2000), two-thirds of the world's 876 million illiterates are women who reside mostly in developing countries. Similarly, women are also less likely to know the international languages that dominate the web. Therefore, given their limited access to schooling, women especially those living in the rural areas, are also much less likely than men to have computer skills. This results to limited exposure and isolation of many women in developing countries particularly those in rural areas to have access to

education and other skills, which will enhance the utilization of these infrastructures.

The case of Nana Asma'u, the daughter of Sheikh Usman Dan Fodio is a good example for reference at this point. Mack and Boyd (2000) have done a terrific job by writing about the historical, spiritual, and literary portraits of this remarkable Muslim woman, who at age 20, was a warrior, a teacher, a poet, and a key adviser to her father in his struggle to bring about a revolution (1804). It was in recognition of Nana Asma'u's intellectual contributions to the revolution that made Mack and Boyd to give the title of their work *One Woman's Jihad: Nana Asma'u, Scholar and Scribe* (2000). One major take-home from her case is if Nana Asma'u (1793 - 1864), was able to utilize her educational skills and assist in making a successful revolution at a time when cell phones were not invented, what can the current women of the 21st Century achieve, utilizing the powers of ICTs?

c) Socio-Cultural and Economic Problems

There are several issues related to the above factor as it affects women. This leads to various discriminations which extend to the realm of ICTs. Women generally tend to have more limited direct access than men to information and they are even restricted to accessing the Internet in some countries including Nigeria due to culture and religion. The African Gender Institute (2003) stated that in some societies there is disapproval of women's request to overnight browsing in a public cyber café especially married women. In addition, rural information centers are located in areas that women may not be comfortable frequenting. Although, there is recently a transformation in the access to internet through cellphones, it nevertheless has its own limitations including the lack of resources to constantly buy recharge cards for the phones; the power failure to charge the phones; and role conflict with the women's expectations as wives, as mothers, and as workers or full-time housewives. In other words, women have problems of time given their multiple roles and heavy domestic responsibilities. Their leisure hours are few and the centers may not be open when women can visit them. To yield positive results therefore, every meaningful policies should therefore reflect women's moral, spiritual, and cultural values.

Traditional cultural attitudes in most societies discriminate against women, depriving them access to education and technology. Girls are encouraged to take any job or encouraged to get married rather than seek higher education. There is also the issue of gender bias in attitudes towards women studying or using information technology. Many people hold outmoded views that girls cannot think or work scientifically and that science is too mechanical and technical for girls, thus discouraging female students. Phobia is also another obstacle in that most women have developed it

for ICT especially considering the negative perception of the ICT tool as a tool for domination and oppression of NGOs to disabuse the minds of women on ICT as a negative tool.

Lack of financial resources can hinder women to participate fully in ICT community. This is because almost all communication facilities cost money and majority of women are afflicted by poverty. Poverty is rooted in gender imbalances, which are in turn rooted in gender inequality dynamics that stem from issues which cut across race, religion, status, culture and geographical location among others. Thus in comparison to men, women are worst hit as a result of their very limited involvement in economic activities in relation to their male counterparts. Okunna (2000) stressing on this maintains that the major cause of poverty among women especially in Nigeria is their low access to credit and income-earning opportunities, as well as marginalization from major economic activities. Since most women in Africa are full housewives without paid employment, they cannot fully participate in information technology. The ICT has its financial implication for every user requires money. To use cell phones, it must be recharged and to browse the internet and design web sites require money. Most women do not make much money as men, so they cannot afford the necessary computers, hardware and online services cost. More so, those that have the money believe to spend it on something else than ICT.

V. ICT PROSPECTS FOR WOMEN

Equal rights and full participation of women in all spheres of life is a sine-qua-non for full and complete development of any modern civilized nation. Women constitute majority of the population of many nations, and therefore need to be incorporated in the activities and affairs of those societies. In the area of information technology, for women's access and use of the media to be addressed it is necessary to consider, appreciate, and utilize their potentials, which could accrue from their full access and equal participation in the ICTs. To this end, certain measures must be put in place to address gender discrimination in information and communication technology. What are some of these measures?

a) *Educational Empowerment*

Education and information are central to building human capabilities. Education builds cognitive skills for processing information. Women's empowerment educationally will help them strengthen their individual and collective capacity as women. It will also enable them to advance their status as women in the society as well as give them the opportunities that ICT offers. Women should be encouraged in the area of education. Educational empowerment for the women can only be realized through universal access to and completion of basic education with resources adequate

to ensure that the functional literacy and numeracy are instilled in a sustainable sense. This will enable them to understand the language of information technology and be in a position to use it efficiently. Hafkins (2001) maintains that women need to educate themselves on technical areas, so that they can translate the technical terms into reality. Similarly, the level of literacy must be addressed by way of providing training for women to learn the use of ICT facilities. As mentioned earlier, this task is not only a government's responsibility, but equally that of the civil society.

As Arimah (2001) posits, the informal sector in Nigeria needs value-based reforms that can be achieved through government's exploration of new ways of engaging the viability of the sector, and through public private partnership (PPP). Thus, the private sector should accrue part of whatever profit it makes to the community in the form of Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) and the education sector needs the largest share from that. Additionally, such policies and sharing formulae should be favourable to the girl-child and women, as educating them is as good as educating the community as a whole.

b) *Economic Empowerment*

Poverty and illiteracy remain the primary obstacles to internet growth in developing countries like Nigeria. Women and children are still the majority of those living in poverty. Reducing the gender gap in education will invariably increase the opportunity for women's economic empowerment. There is also the need to reduce job discrimination at their work places to financially empower women. In addition, creating cooperative societies for women will enable them have access to small scale loans that would help start small scale businesses. In the long run, it will increase women's finances and make them less dependent on men, and eventually increase their financial access to ICT facilities.

c) *Provision of Infrastructural Facilities*

To achieve the right to communicate as a basic human right for women in Nigeria, women have to take on themselves the difficult task of gaining access to the necessary infrastructures that will enable them use the ICTs. This entails the provision of more infrastructures that will take care of the majority of women who reside in rural areas as well as making available the latest infrastructure for users' needs. This means an understanding of the system of access and use of the ICTs by majority of the people in the society. Similarly, women must be involved in the technical complexities of information technology in order to reflect gender issues. The Nigerian government and NGOs therefore, should work towards actively devising creative solutions to provide access to ICT. Access to communications and ICT through community access points should be looked into by government and NGOs. They should also look

into concerns related to consumers' ability to pay for services, particularly in rural and poor areas. Universal access policies aim at developing solutions that provide community access at affordable prices. New technologies have made these efforts promising and many developing countries are investing in such policies. For instance, Nigeria has adopted the rural telephoning policies and with the collaboration of some international agencies that are working towards realizing this goal. Expansion of public telephones and ICT access point's example, in post offices, community viewing centers etc. are some of the efforts.

d) *Attitudinal Change Towards the Use of Icts*

For women and girls to enter the information age for ICT use to be engendered, women must transcend some attitudinal barriers. Since science and technology disciplines are domains that are historically ascribed to males, women and girls find it intimidating and alienating. They therefore tend to see the ICT sector as a realm that is unfriendly and dominated by men. Thus they assume that technology and its production, application and maintenance as areas that fall more easily into the male domain. Women therefore need to overcome this technophobia; they need to be encouraged to change such attitudes that act as 'internal' barriers to their participating in the ICT sector; and they should be encouraged to take up the challenges of the new information and communication technology in order to excel in it as they have done in other fields of endeavor in Nigeria.

The northern part of Nigeria is known to be the most educationally backward region in Nigeria as Hajiya Aishatu Jibril, the Minister of State for Education estimated the number of child beggars in the region at more than 10 million, and the menace is on the increase. Undoubtedly, the girl-child is the worst hit. Now, the from the Nana Asma'u's case, we can understand that, the Nigerian women, notably the northerners, have a role model that can inspire them in changing their attitudes in favor of seeking for the both religious and secular knowledge including the ICTs' for the betterment of their lives and sustainable development.

VI. CONCLUSION

It is obvious that women have embraced ICT as a way forward in their quest for empowerment. Notwithstanding, they are caught in a web of numerous challenges some of which have been highlighted earlier on. To wriggle out of these problems in Nigeria, ICT policy and programmes must address the needs of women. Similarly, using and benefitting from ICT requires learning, training, affordable access to the technology, availability of information relevant to the user and a great amount of support for enabling environments. Solving ICT problems and enhancing the position of women in access and utilization would indeed facilitate development in the various areas of

women endeavours. In addition, sensitizing women's organization and civil society in general to the gender impact of ICT issues in Nigeria would yield greater dividends for women. There is an urgent need to improve the representatives of women in the use of the new technology to enhance their status. This will increase their visibility as women in the society as well as eliminate discriminative tendencies against them. Women in Nigeria need to be committed in the use and access to ICT in order to demystify the general notion that ICT is a field exclusively reserved for men. Furthermore, engendering ICT policies in Nigeria will secure the benefits of the information age for girls and women. This will make them reap the benefits of the information age. Finally, the Nigerian woman needs all the help she can get to free herself from the forces that subjugate her in the wider society and in the world of the ICTs, which are powerful instruments for creating and reinforcing herself-image.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Arimah, B. C. (2001). "Nature and Determinants of the Linkages between Informal and Formal Sector Enterprises in Nigeria." African Development Bank. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers.
2. African Gender Institute (2003) Gender and the Media, African Gender Institute, News Letter: University of Cape Town, 2.
3. Aman, V., Broege, S., and Steinmetz, R. (2006). "Gender Differences in New Media Use: New Zealand, Germany, and the U.S." A Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Communication Association, International Congress Centre, Dresden, Germany. Available online via: http://www.Allacademic.com/metal/p91953_index.html.
4. Boserup, E. (2007). Woman's Role in Economic Development (2007). Earthscan Publications.
5. Burgos-Bebray, E. (Ed.) (2010). I, Rigoberta Menchu: An Indian Woman in Guatemala (2010). Verso Publishers, Second Edition.
6. Biagi, S. and Kern Foxworth, M. (1997) (ed). Facing Differences: Race, Gender and Mass Media, California: PineForge Press
7. Dominick, J. (2002) The Dynamics of Mass communication: Media in the Digital Age, Boston: McGraw Hill.
8. Gallagher, M. (1995). An Unfinished Story: Gender Patterns in Media Employment, Paris: UNESCO.
9. George, S. (2005). When Women Come First: Gender and Class in Transnational Migration. California: University Press.
10. Guha, R. (2002). History at the Limit of World-History, New York: Columbia University Press.
11. Hafkins, N. (2001) "Gender, Information Technology and Developing Countries," Washington, D.C., Academy for Educational Development.

12. Jensen, K. (1997) "A Woman's Place in Cyberspace" in Biagi, S. and Kern Foxworth, M.(eds.). Facing Differences: Race, Gender and Mass Media, California: Pine Forge Press.
13. Jorge, S. (2001). Empowerment: Paper presented at the Meeting on "Information and Communication Technologies and Their Impact on and Use as an Instrument for the Advancement and Empowerment of Women" Seoul, Korea, PP. 11-14, December.
14. Mack, B. B. and Boyd, J. (2000). One Woman's Jihad: Nana Asma'u, Scholar and Scribe. Indiana: University Press.
15. Okunna, S. (2000) "Gender and Communication in Nigeria: Is this the Twenty First Century?" A Paper presented at the 2000 Summit, Barcelona, Youth, Children and women.
16. Perham, M. (1970). "The Aba Market Women's Riot in Nigeria, 1929" inBibliography. New York: Random House.
17. Steffen, H. (1995) "New Information and Communication Technologies: Their Role in Research and Training for Advancement of Women." A Paper presented at the INSTRAW Panel Media and Communications for the Advancement of Women: Models for a Global Reach. NGO Forum on Women, Beijing, 30 August 8 September.
18. Scanlan, S. (2004). Women, Food Security, and Development in Less-industrialized Societies: Contributions and Challenges for the New Century. In World Development Vol.32, No.11, pp. 1807-1829. Britain: Elsevier Limited.
19. The Leadership Newspaper, Tuesday 24th November, (2009), "Minister on Northern Nigeria's Educational Backwardness."
20. Tiarniyu, M. (2003) "Information and Communication Technology for Social Development: Issues, Options and Strategies", in Soola, E.O (Ed).Communication for Development Purposes, Ibadan: Kraft Books Ltd.
21. The United Nations Development Project (UNDP) Human Development Report (2000). New York: USA.
22. The Civil Resource Development and Documentation Centre (CIRDDOC) (2001).Gender and Politics in Nigeria. CIRDDOC Public Education Series. Enugu: Fourth Dimension Publishers.
23. The Economist (2006)SURVEYS: A New Media among the Audience. London: Kogan Page Publishers.



GLOBAL JOURNAL OF HUMAN SOCIAL SCIENCE
SOCIOLOGY & CULTURE

Volume 13 Issue 6 Version 1.0 Year 2013

Type: Double Blind Peer Reviewed International Research Journal

Publisher: Global Journals Inc. (USA)

Online ISSN: 2249-460X & Print ISSN: 0975-587X

A New Perspective Regard the Information System for Social Services

By Anna Zenarolla

University of Padova And Trieste, Italy

Abstract -The article aims at contributing to the debate about the introduction of ICT in social services with a reflection that, on the basis of the development of the ISSS of the Italian Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia , shows that it is possible to set up an information system fill to the particular nature of social work and, in particular, to its methodology of work and to the complexity of social needs and of the relationship between social services' user and social worker. It points out that to get this result is important to give up the deterministic approach to technology as well as the centralized and top down approach to ISSS, and to adopt a relational approach to both these issues.

Keywords : *information system, social work, new technology, community of practice, your keyword here.*

GJHSS-C Classification : *FOR Code : 370299*



Strictly as per the compliance and regulations of:



© 2013. Anna Zenarolla. This is a research/review paper, distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial 3.0 Unported License <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/>), permitting all non-commercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

A New Perspective Regard the Information System for Social Services

Anna Zenarolla

Abstract - The article aims at contributing to the debate about the introduction of ICT in social services with a reflection that, on the basis of the development of the ISSS of the Italian Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia, shows that it is possible to set up an information system fill to the particular nature of social work and, in particular, to its methodology of work and to the complexity of social needs and of the relationship between social services' user and social worker. It points out that to get this result is important to give up the deterministic approach to technology as well as the centralized and top down approach to ISSS, and to adopt a relational approach to both these issues.

Keywords : information system, social work, new technology, community of practice, your keyword here.

I. Introduction

Recently, Recently, in Italy there has been a widespread increased interest about the informatization of cartella sociale and the development of the Information System for Social Services (ISSS). Cartella sociale (CS) is the main professional instrument used by social workers to register the interventions they plan and intend implementing to take care of people with social needs. The ISSS is the informational system aimed at collecting data and information about the users and the activities of social services in order to plan social policies.

In Italy, up to the present ISSS and CS have been thought of as two autonomous instruments, the first related to directional objectives and the second related to managing objectives. The theoretical reflection and the empirical application have also carried out these issues separately. But this is a great mistake and misunderstanding because ISSS and CS are both tied very strictly at the theoretical and at the empirical level.

The Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia (FVG) tried to overcome this separation, by experimenting a regional ISSS routed on a peculiar kind of CS, that is, a CS that focuses on the social services user instead of on the social worker activity. From 2005 to 2012, I supported the Department for Health and Assistance of the Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia (FVG) to build this new kind of CS and to set up the regional ISSS. In order to overcome the abovementioned limits and to set up an ISSS useful for local and national levels and suited to collect data

produced by information systems of different sectors (in primis from the health sector), I adopted a bottom-up approach. Moving from the consideration of the great importance of social workers' activity in order to collect up-to-date data about social services users and activities, I set up a new CS that differs totally from the traditional one and represents the core of ISSS.

The aim of the article is to present the distinctiveness of this perspective on ISSS and the methodological approach assumed to set it up in the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region.

II. The Development of Isss in Italy

Although in Italy the debate on ISSS dates back to 1978, at present there is no national ISSS, but only some regional ISSS which differ from each other even within the same region. This depends on many reasons, but two of the principle ones are: the institutional context - in particular the multilevel governance of social policies, so there are three decisional levels: national, regional and local - and the approach to ISSS development, considered to be a substantially technological issue.

With regard to the first reason, it is possible to see that the debate on ISSS dates back to 1978 when the national law L.N. 833 that set up the National Health System, established to build a national informational system for the National Health System. Since that moment, the interest for a national informational system for social services begun to increase in the social services sector as well. In the 80s, a special national Commission was founded in order to constitute the ISSS. The National Commission failed in its objective. In the absence of a national law for the whole social services sector, it was impossible to regulate this field in order to collect data that represented the same services and interventions. Every region, in fact, organized its social services in an autonomous way. As a consequence, at national level there were many different services and interventions called by the same name. There was neither a common vocabulary to indicate the social services, nor was there a common organization thereof. The failure of the National Commission did not stifle the interest in the settlement of the national ISSS that remained one of the most important issues at national and regional level. The central government as well as the regional governments, in fact, needed more and more data in order to plan and to manage a sector

Author : Researcher In Social Policy And Social Services At Istituto Di Ricerche Economiche E Sociali Del Friuli Venezia Giulia, And University of Padova And Trieste. E-mail : Anna.Zenarolla@Gmail.Com

characterized by ever growing complex social needs and by more and more numerous actors from non profit and private sectors. In that period, in fact, the non profit and private organizations started to have a central role in delivering public social services and became one of the most relevant partners of the regional and local authorities in planning social policies. Hence, ISSS was considered the most useful instrument to plan social services on the basis of a wide and close analysis of the current state of these services and social needs. ISSS, moreover, is considered as an important instrument to co-ordinate all public and non profit actors involved in delivering social services.

For these reasons, some regions went on by themselves and tried to set up a regional ISSS. But they found the same difficulties at this level too, as there are many different ways to organize social services because each municipality is allowed to organize social assistance in its own way. Hence, the regions have also found it very difficult to set up a regional ISSS.

The national law L. N. 328/2000, regarding the reform of social services sector, brought the attention once more on the ISSS and Art. 21 established that every region must constitute a regional ISSS useful to both the national and regional social services planning. L328/2000 was seen as being the real opportunity of building a national ISSS. But the reforming of the fifth title of the Constitution (L. N. 7/2001), which assigns to the Regions the authority to make laws in matters of social assistance, bereaved the L. N. 328/2000 of its power.

For all these reasons, in Italy at the moment, there is no national ISSS but only regional ISSS which differs each other and also within of the same Region there are a lot of different local ISSS set up by individual municipalities. In addition, these local ISSS are not integrated with information systems of other sectors, such as health, labour market and education, with which it is important for social policies to be integrated. These local ISSS collect administrative data, functional to meet national requirements but not the needs of local municipalities in the planning of local social policies. Integration and information sharing among local municipalities and national agencies is one of the highest priorities of national and regional decision makers in order to plan social policies.

With regard to the second main reason mentioned above, it is possible to recognize that in Italy the reflection about ISSS considers its development as a mere technological question and shows a lack of awareness in the fact that there is a wide range of more complex organisational and people-related factors to be taken into consideration. This shortcoming, very serious in itself, becomes more dangerous in the social services sector. In this case, in fact, the nature of the intervention and of the social services users are so specific that ICT rouses suspicion and fears in social workers. In Italy the

social workers' perception of ICT hasn't been explored yet, but a lot of international literature have analyzed this issue and have pointed out that social workers are reluctant to accept the fact that information and the technology that supports the management of information may be useful for them as well. Steyaert and Gould [2009, 2011], for example, reconstruct the current thinking about information technology in social work and categorize social work commentators' critiques under two headings: the humanist and the anti-humanist approaches. «The humanist case is an objection to technology as representing an intrusion into the person-centered project of social work, displacing the authenticity of the encounter between worker and service user and replacing it with pre-occupations with accountability and bureaucratic efficiency (Burton and van den Broek, 2008). A corollary of this is the argument that human reasoning and the heuristics of human problem solving cannot be reduced to algorithms and depend on tacit knowledge (Sapey, 1997). The latter position overlaps with the anti-humanist case, [...] focuses on the role of technology in regulating the subjectivity of the person, extending the capillaries of power between actors. This line of critique returned recently in the social work literature in Parton's (2008) assertion that social work is being transformed from the "social" to the "informational". His argument is that there has been "a shift from a narrative to a database way of thinking and operating (Parton, 2008, p. 253) within which the close relationship with individuals is replaced by a more distant concert with subjects reconstituted as the aggregation of the data held about them» [Steyaert and Gould, 2011 p. 58-59]. These considerations about ICT in social services highlight the importance to involve social workers in designing and constructing ISSS. On the contrary, social workers and their intervention have usually been forgotten in the ISSS development. Social workers, in fact, are still stereotyped as technophobic, also there is evidence of their increasingly involvement with technology to enrich professional practice [Rafferty, Steyaert 2007].

In Italy ICT has been introduced in social services under the pressure of the new managerialism and its emphasis on the use of performance monitoring, performance indicators, the evaluation of the end result and transparency. Hence, they have been considered dangerous for the integrity of social work and for the user-social worker relationship. Another reason for the Italian social workers' opposition to ITC and ISSS is related to their limited abilities in using a pc. In many cases, in fact, social workers were not able to use the pc or had only the basic abilities for using it. So they have found many difficulties in using the technologies and programs adopted by the ISSS, that require higher skills. For this reason, the ISSS has often remained an instrument for managers and for a limited number of social workers who are keen on technology or who

recognize in this a useful instrument for their professional career.

In addition, ISSS development has been carried out following three main approaches: the accountable approach, the encyclopedic approach and the strategic approach. The accountable approach considers the ISSS as an instrument to collect and analyze a limited set of data referred to social services' expenditure, users and workers in order to plan social policies. The encyclopedic approach considers the ISSS as an instrument aimed at monitoring all the social services by the collection of a wider set of data extended to social services' structural and organizational dimension, and to the number and typology of the users and of the workers in the social services. The strategic approach finally considers the ISSS as an instrument to account the input and output of the social services' activities, by the collection of data and indicators referred to supply and demand, quality, efficacy and efficiency. These three approaches have developed three models of ISSS: the top down model, the feedback or bottom up model and the interactive model [Mauri 2007: 32]. These three models, moreover, have been carried out with a centralized method, moving from the national level to the local one. The result of these approaches and method is: the absence of a national ISSS and the presence of some regional ISSS that differ each other and sometimes also within the same region; and the necessity to get data by the expensive collection of data carried out by ISTAT (the National Institute of Statistics) which often contain many errors, missing data and delays.

With the aim to overcome these limits and to set up a regional ISSS useful for the managers of social services as well as for the social workers and for both the national and the regional level of social services system, my colleagues and I have proposed a new approach to ISSS and a new method to set it up.

III. A New Perspective on the ISSS

Our approach regarding the ISSS can be defined relational and operative. In fact it focuses on the relationships between individuals inside an organization and between organizations, and on the social workers' activity.

In our approach the ISSS, before being a data flow, is a relational flow, that is a flow of relationships between individuals inside an organization and between individuals of different organizations that cooperate. This means that the first attention in ISSS development concerns the roles and the positions inside an organization and their interactions. This aspect is particularly important in social services' organizations that are not bureaucratic but adhocratic ones. Social workers, in fact, are semi-professionals, they have a professional autonomy based on the competences

obtained by a specific curriculum of studies and training. Hence, they are more dependent on their profession than on organizational hierarchy [Collins 1992]. Moreover, social services' organizations are loosely coupled ones [Weick 1988] that means that relationships between individuals inside the organization have weak ties. Therefore, they are not predefined nor predictable. In this type of organization it may be difficult to define roles and processes with the evidence requested by the ISSS. But, at the same time, flexibility must be allowed by the ISSS. Social work, furthermore, is multi-disciplinary and based on working groups and equipés. ISSS has to reflect all the interactions related to this peculiarity of social work. That means that ISSS cannot only be a data base or a data warehouse that collects data gathered from a lot of different data bases. If it were like this, it would only remain an instrument to archive data with a high probability of making mistakes in registering the data itself, of not recording up-to-date data and of not having data ready available when needed. In our approach, the ISSS is not aimed at collecting data by transferring it from one data base to another, but to build an informational system which puts in relation different informational flows inside the organization itself and between different organizations. ISSS does not transfer data, but connects data flows. That means that the data remains in the flow where it is produced and is the property of its producer. In this way every data producer remains the owner of the data and the person responsible for its validity and reliability. This is a fundamental dimension. The experimentations of ISSS have not paid attention to data producer and have considered the latter as a mere executive who must only provide data, often without any knowledge about its use, and without any utility for his/her own activities. Hence, data producers have no concern for ISSS and consider its implementation a mere obligation or an activity functional to managers or to regional or national authorities. In our approach, on the contrary, ISSS must be useful for data producers as well as for their managers and for other authorities. For this reason it is necessary that data producers know for whom and for what reason they are requested to provide data, and how the data will be analyzed and elaborated. It is also important that data elaboration reflects the original meaning of the data so the producers are able to recognize it in the elaboration. Moving from this conviction, in our approach ISSS must be operative, that is, it should be based on social workers' activity. This, in fact, must be one of the main ISSS's informational flows and ISSS must reflect the process of social work practice. Far too often, in fact, social workers have resisted ISSS because it doesn't reflect their activity and in particular the process of assistance on the whole. In many cases, in fact, ISSS requests from the social workers only single data, extrapolated from

the context of the assistance project regarding the person they are taking care of.

For these reasons, in our approach CS is considered not only an instrument to document social workers' activity, but also an instrument to implement ISSS. Documentation has always had a fundamental role in social work, in order to support social assessment and planning, to monitor interventions, to involve users in their assistance project, to evaluate how users react to assistance projects and to make the necessary changes. Documentation is also important to account their activity to their managers, but especially to promote reflectivity on the practice. Nevertheless, social workers often consider documentation as a bureaucratic activity only aimed at controlling their interventions by managers or as a personal activity functional only to their practice and not to the whole organization as well [Sapey 1997; Fazzi 2006; Humpreys, Kertesz 2013]. They often don't fill it in completely or register data and information in a subjective way thereby making it difficult to understand it and impossible to use it for organizational objectives and in particular for organizational improvement. The use of technological applications to document the social workers' activities could cause this tendency to grow. If applications are rigid, based on the logic of the data base (Parton 2009), built without paying attention to social work rationale [Rafferty, Steyaert 2007], no other result is possible. On the contrary, if new technologies are adapted to social work methodology, social workers can find in them a real support for their intervention. For this reason, in our approach we used new technologies to support not only the documentation but the whole assistance process and in particular the definition and implementation of the user's assistance project. This has meant the reviewing of the CS in order to make it reflect the user's assistance project in accordance with what is currently happening in the health system with the Electronic Patient Dossier. In fact, the CS may support the social worker's activity only if it does not remain a monitoring instrument but becomes an instrument for planning and evaluation. In other words, it is efficacious only if it is an instrument focused on social services users and not on the social workers themselves. The social services user and the assistance project built for him/her, in fact, is the focal point of the social worker's activity and consequently of social workers' documentation, as well as the focal point of the informational flow from the social work to the ISSS. So, we restructured the CS as a dossier for the social services user.

This passage has entailed the realization of three passages: from the logic of the procedure to the logic of the project, from the logic of categories to the logic of the person, from the logic of automatism to the logic of reflectivity.

The first passage, in fact, concerns the user's dossier which reflects the logic of social planning so it

articulates in sections coinciding with social planning sequences that are: assessment, individuation of objectives and expected results, definition of activities, individuation of resources, and evaluation. This characteristic is fundamental to make the user's dossier an instrument useful to support the social worker's activity and not only to account it to managers or to place it in the archives. Social work is aimed at producing a change in social services users by the special relationship built between the user and the social worker. This implies that social work must accompany the development of the relationship and of the changes that the assistance project can make in the users. Hence, the social work needs to be supported by instruments that are flexible, personalized and useful not only to register this subjective dimension but also to promote the reflection about the practice thereof in order to guide the user to attain the objectives of his/her project. For this reason our user dossier reserves special attention in the defining of the objectives of the assistance project. Far too often, in fact, social workers confuse the objectives with activities, or define the activities without indicating the objectives to which the former are addressed. In this way, it is impossible for the social workers to support the user in his/her process of change and to recognize if there has been any change. Without a project, the social worker's activity remains a mere delivery of assistance interventions, defined on the basis of the availability of supply. In addition the user is considered on the basis of the available interventions and with regard to predefined criteria established for access by the users instead of on the basis of his/her real needs.

In the second passage, user's dossier is built with regard to a single person with specific needs and resources, so it reserves special attention for recognizing his/her situation by the assessment procedure and it also defines a personal assistance project by identifying specific objectives and interventions. With regard to these dimensions, our effort has been to avoid the risk of reducing the «assessment to a linear, "tick box" process rejecting any notion of the exchange model of assessment which acknowledges the person's expertise in their situation and gives scope for a sharing of information between client and worker» [Postle 2002 p. 343]. So we tried to find a balance between the logic of the check list, functional to obtain standard information and data useful for statistical elaborations and the «narrative» [Parton 2008] logic aimed at presenting a picture of the social services users which is both subjective and social, and constructed on the basis of the relationship between users and social workers. For this reason the user dossier, in the section reserved for the assessment, offers a check list with a classification of ten macro categories of social problems, each of which articulates in further micro categories, as well as a free field in

which the social worker can describe in more detail every micro category he/she has selected.

The third passage set up to build the user dossier consists in moving from the logic of automatism to the logic of reflectivity. It is a consequence of the logic of the project that entails the reflection on the development of the project in order to understand whether it proceeds as expected, whether the interventions activated obtain the foreseen results or others and, if so, whether they imply that changes be made or not to the project itself. For this reason, it is important that the user dossier stimulates the social workers to questions themselves and the users about their situation and the development thereof, instead of proving the answers. Asking in-depth questions is necessary not only to reach a better and more complete knowledge but also to produce hypothesis about the causes and the possible solutions of users' problems and difficulties, and also to find innovative ways of tackling them [Bini 2003]. In order to support this kind of mental process, the fulfilling of our user dossier is not an automatic passage from one section to another. Social workers, in fact, are allowed to proceed only if data recorded is coherent with the other data registered in their section as well as in the others. Some problems, for example, can be only tackled with some kind of interventions and the programme identifies whether all the data registered is compatible.

IV. The Role of the Community of Practice

As abovementioned, our approach regarding the ISSS is not only operative but also relational, that is, based on the conviction that unless social workers do become involved in the ways in which ISSS is designed and set up, it will fail to collect constantly up-to-date data and to be used by social workers. In order to set up the FVG Region ISSS we adopted a method based on the social workers' participation and we identified in the community of practice, the instrument to reach it. In particular, we conceptualized the setting up of the ISSS as a process of developing and linking communities of practice. The notion of community of practice was developed by Jean Lave and Etienne Wenger ([Lave and Wenger 1991; Wenger 1998] as the basis of a social theory of learning. The basic affirmation made by Lave and Wenger is that communities of practice are everywhere and that we are generally involved in many communities, including families, employee groups, professional organization, sport and leisure groups. We are constantly engaged in the pursuit of enterprises of all kinds. As we define these enterprises and engage in their pursuit together, we interact with each other and with the world and we interweave our relations with each other and with the world accordingly. In other words we learn. In time, this

collective learning results in practices that reflect both the pursuit of our enterprises and the expected social relations. These practices are thus the property of a kind of community created over a period of time by the sustained pursuit of shared enterprises. It makes sense, therefore, to call these kinds of communities «communities of practice» [Wenger 1998: 45] a community of practice can be defined as a collection of people who engage on an ongoing basis in some common endeavor. Communities of practice emerge in response to common interest or position, and play an important role in forming their members' participation in, and orientation to, the world around them. Members are brought together by joining in common activities and by "what they have learned through their mutual engagement in these activities" [Wenger 1998]. Every community of practice has its own routines and rituals, artefacts and symbols, stories and histories. In this respect, a community of practice is different from a community of interest in that it involves a shared practice.

We considered particularly useful for the ISSS development the three main characteristics of the community of practice identified by Wenger [1998]: what it is about - its joint enterprise as understood and continually renegotiated by its members; how it functions - mutual engagement that binds members together as a social entity; what capability it has produced - the shared repertoire of common resources (routines, sensibilities, artefacts, vocabulary, styles, etc.) that members have developed over time.

We considered these three aspects very important in order to set up an ISSS perceived by all the social workers as their own and as an instrument rooted in their practice, working methodology and experience and as a consequence, fit to support their daily activity. A community of practice, in fact, involves much more than the technical knowledge or skill associated with undertaking some task. Members are involved in a set of relationships over time [Lave and Wenger 1991: 98] and communities develop around things that matter to people [Wenger 1998]. The community of practice organizes some particular area of knowledge and activity which gives members a sense of joint enterprise and identity.

We considered the community of practice, moreover, very important in promoting imagination and in solving problems in particular, by developing new and alternative ideas and solutions. A community of practice, in fact, includes ways of doing and approaching things shared to some significant extent among members.

For these reasons, our efforts have been to transform the professional community of FVG social workers into a community of practice aimed at developing the FVG ISSS.

First of all, we involved all the social workers in the building of a common vocabulary and in particular a

common set of categories to describe social needs and social services. According to Marradi [1980, 1988], we assumed that data is not something available in nature and ready to use, but something that needs to be built through specific conceptual operations and agreements. Between the reality and the language used to describe it there is no univocal correspondence. One word can refer to different concepts used to talk about the reality. Hence, it is necessary to define and to share the meaning of the words used to describe the various aspects of the reality. In our case, it was necessary to set the FVG social workers to share the meaning of the terms used to describe social needs and social services intervention, in order to be sure that the data registered would refer to the same aspects as the reality. Since that moment, in fact, every social worker described the social needs of his/her users in a subjective way and every social services organization gave different names to services and interventions that are exactly alike. With the collaboration of all the FVG social workers, through focus groups and meetings, we collected all the classification of social services used by singular organizations and reviewed them in order to elaborate a common classification shared by all the social workers. We also took special care in building a correct classification. Far too often, in fact, classifications in use are not correct because they do not respect the three essential criteria of classification that are, as Marradi emphasizes [1980, 1988]: there is one, and only one, criterion of division – only one fundamentum divisionis; one category excludes all the others – mutual exclusivity of categories; and the categories on the whole are exhaustive. We identified a set of a hundred interventions that cover all the interventions used by the FVG social services. All these interventions are homogeneous and on the same level of generality, but refer to different areas of interventions that are: social work, access to services, housing, work and employment, residential care, semi-residential care and community care. Hence, we identified two distinct levels of intervention: a general level composed of eight macro-categories and a less general level composed of one hundred of micro-categories of intervention. Some of these micro-categories moreover can be further detailed into more specific sub-interventions. In this way, it is possible to describe the social work activity in depth by considering three different and homogeneous levels of complex interventions: the macro-, micro- and sub-micro interventions, which can subsequently be aggregated. We did an analogous procedure to set up a classification of social needs to use for assessment. In particular, we identified ten areas of problems each of which is composed of a set of macro-problems that can be detailed still further in micro-problems. Our effort was to avoid the risk of reducing assessment to a mere check list. In fact, we did not identify a set of micro-problems but left this level to be filled in by every social

worker. Hence, after choosing a macro-problem from a set of predefined options, every social worker can describe in a subjective way and in more detail the problem he/she has to tackle.

The participation of the social workers, moreover, allowed us to set up a social services user's dossier that is also an instrument for evaluation. In fact, it was possible to introduce a specific section in which the social worker evaluates the skills of the user and of his/her personal and social network to manage the difficult situation in which he/she is. In this way, it is easier to identify the interventions which better fit him/her and so further empower his/her potentiality. The social workers' collaboration was fundamental in sharing the criteria of evaluation and the scoring.

As you can see, the identification of a set of categories of interventions and of problems and the definition of a set of evaluation criteria are methodological issues that can be handled only with the involvement of social workers and confirm our efforts to adapt the new technology to the specific nature of social work. The social workers, in fact, contribute in avoiding the risk of reducing the assessment to a deterministic, linear process, increasingly far from the complexity of social needs and of the relationship between social services users and social workers. They also contribute to keep the technology used for the documentation of their activities coherent to the nature of social work and to the social workers' day-to-day activity. Moreover, the social workers contribute to the promotion of their reflectivity, the empowerment of their narrative and communicative thinking and the safeguarding of their holistic approach to assessment.

V. The Role of the Web

The ISSS experimented in FVG would not be possible without the New Internet. The New Internet, in fact, is completely different from the data base and its logic feared by Parton [2008]. It has enormously exploded global interconnection and made singular networks more inter-active and inter-operative. While the First Internet, that is the Web 1.0, was characterized by static websites, that made it possible only to send emails and to use research engines but did not allow users to interact, the New Internet, that is the Web 2.0 or 3.0, is characterized by social networks and bidirectional communication [Moruzzi 2012]. By the numerous available technological applications, in fact, users are allowed to participate directly and actively in the communication, not only by reading and answering but also by building on its contents. The New Internet has involved every dimension of life. Hence, we are living in a completely new society called the «web-society» where «action and communication are tied together so strongly that one influences the other and vice versa» and their connection has enormous consequences on

individuals and on organizations [Cipolla 2013]. On the one hand, individuals connected to Internet may receive at any moment and everywhere an enormous amount of data referred to them and if they want to, and declare their agreement, they can share this data with other people and other organizations. In this way they can be more relational and stronger in the relations with the organizations they are interested in. Individuals become «Citizen Environment» a new organizational entity characterized by a great techno-communication culture, so that they may establish connections with organizations in a more qualified manner, not only as receivers of information but also as producers of more and more personalized communications [Moruzzi 2005]. On the other hand, organizations are involved in a permanent exchange of communication with clients, partners, citizens and other public and private organizations; their traditional boundaries become mobile and can be moved, so organizations extend themselves less along the vertical line and more along the horizontal one [Moruzzi 2005]. In this way, the New Internet develops a new environment characterized by a high level of shared and circulating information that produces a singular synergy between information located in individuals, in organizations and in Internet. So, information may be returned to its producer who is allowed to take possession of it once again and to re-use it for his/her own objectives.

The New Internet offered us the right technological environment to build a relational ISSS and a CS focused on the social services user as described above. In fact, the New Internet not only allows the managing of a huge amount of data but also offers unprecedented opportunities for interaction, interconnection and inter-operability. This enabled us to overcome many limitations and difficulties of an organizational and inter-organizational nature, and to develop highly customized and relational information systems which are not only informative but also communicative. The New Internet allowed us to set up a very flexible user dossier, made up of sections which reflect the process of assistance realized by the social worker together with the user. This process is not linear but goes backwards and forwards, stops and then proceeds and finally joins rationality and irrationality. The user dossier we built with the New Internet reflects all these movements.

In the New Internet, moreover, social work can find a helpful tool with which to effectively address some of the key challenges that are testing it: to get legitimacy by increasingly large groups of people that contest its existence; to respond, in a personalized and equitable way, to needs more and more difficult to detect and that are too complex to be tackled; to guide and accompany the building of social policies in accordance with models of governance that involve a large number of levels and actors.

VI. Conclusion

The aim of the article was to contribute to the debate regarding the introduction of ICT in social services with a reflection based on the development of the ISSS of the Autonomous Region of FVG, that shows that it is possible to set up an information system suitable for the particular nature of the social work and coherent to its methodology of work, to the complexity of social needs and to the relationship between social services user and the social worker. We pointed out that to achieve this result it is important to give up the deterministic approach to technology as well as the centralized and top down approach to ISSS, and to adopt a relational approach to both these issues. On the one hand, this means paying attention to the relational nature of technology and to the relations involved in applying it in organizations. On the other hand, it is important to consider ISSS not only as an instrument to collect data describing the reality but, most of all, as an instrument to develop the knowledge of its users and to promote relationships among them. For this reason, we proposed focusing the ISSS on the day-to-day activity of social workers and building it with their direct and constant involvement. In order to do this, we found the notion of community of practice particularly helpful. The community of practice is a very useful instrument in developing the kind of involvement and mutual commitment as well as the repertory of tools and knowledge that are fundamental to setting up the ISSS. In our experience, in fact, the community of practice among all the FVG social workers allowed to compile a common vocabulary and a set of operative procedures shared by all the social services of the region. As a consequence, the ISSS that we have built reflects the real activity of the social services and collects data which has the same and unambiguous meaning for all those who use it.

References Références Referencias

1. Akbulut-Bailey A.Y. (2011), Information sharing between local and state governments in Journal of Computer Information Systems, pp. 53-63
2. Bini L. (2003), La documentazione di servizio sociale, Carocci, Roma
3. Bradt L., et al. (2011), Data Recording and Social Work: From the Relational to the Social in British Journal of Social Work, 41, 1372-1382.
4. Burton J., Van den Broek D. (2009), Accountable and Countable: Information Management Systems and the bureaucratization of Social Work in British Journal of Social Work, 39, pp. 1326-1342.
5. Cipolla C. (2013), Perché non possiamo non essere eclettici, Franco Angeli, Milano.
6. Fazzi L. (2006), La cartella informativa per il servizio sociale, in Rassegna di Servizio Sociale, n. 2.

7. Garrett P. M. (2005), Social work's "electronic turn": notes on the deployment of information and communication technologies in social work with children and families in *Critical Social Policy*, Vol. 25 (4), pp. 529-553.
8. Harlow E., Webb S.A. (2003), *Information and Communication Technologies in the Welfare Services*, Jessica Kingsley Publisher, London.
9. Humpreys C., Kertesz M. (2013), La documentazione nella tutela del minore, *Lavoro Sociale*, 13, 1, pp. 15-34.
10. Lave J., Wenger E. (1991), *Situated learning: legitimate peripheral participation*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
11. Marradi A. (1980), *Concetti e metodo per la ricerca sociale*, Giuntina, Firenze.
12. Marradi A. (1988), *Costruire il dato*, FrancoAngeli, Milano.
13. Mauri L. (ed.) (2007), *Il sistema informativo sociale*, Carocci, Roma.
14. Moruzzi M. (2005), *Reti del nuovo welfare*, Franco Angeli, Milano.
15. Moruzzi M. (2012), *Alta comunicazione*, FrancoAngeli, Milano.
16. Parton N. (2008), Changes in the Form of Knowledge in Social Work: From the "Social" to the "Informational"? in *British Journal of Social Work*, 38, 253-269.
17. Postle K. (2002), Working "Between the Idea and the Reality". Ambiguities and Tensions in Care Managers' Work in *British Journal of Social Work*, 32, 335-351.
18. Rafferty J., Steyaert J. (2007), Social work in a digital society, in Lymbery M., Postle K., *Social Work. A companion to learning*, SAGE, Los Angeles, London, New Delhi, Singapore, pp. 165-175.
19. Regan S. (2003), Technology and Systems of Referral Taking in Social Services: From Narrative to Code, in Harlow E., Webb S.A., op. cit., pp. 83-111.
20. Sapey B. (1997), Social work tomorrow: towards a critical understanding of technology in social work, *British Journal of Social Work*, 27 (6), pp. 803-814.
21. Wenger E. (1998), *Communities of practice: Learning, meaning and identity*, Cambridge, UK, Cambridge University Press.

GLOBAL JOURNALS INC. (US) GUIDELINES HANDBOOK 2013

WWW.GLOBALJOURNALS.ORG

FELLOWS

FELLOW OF ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH SOCIETY IN HUMAN SCIENCE (FARSHS)

Global Journals Incorporate (USA) is accredited by Open Association of Research Society (OARS), U.S.A and in turn, awards “FARSHS” title to individuals. The 'FARSHS' title is accorded to a selected professional after the approval of the Editor-in-Chief/Editorial Board Members/Dean.



- The “FARSHS” is a dignified title which is accorded to a person’s name viz. Dr. John E. Hall Ph.D., FARSS or William Walldroff, M.S., FARSHS.

FARSHS accrediting is an honor. It authenticates your research activities. After recognition as FARSHS, you can add 'FARSHS' title with your name as you use this recognition as additional suffix to your status. This will definitely enhance and add more value and repute to your name. You may use it on your professional Counseling Materials such as CV, Resume, and Visiting Card etc.

The following benefits can be availed by you only for next three years from the date of certification:



FARSHS designated members are entitled to avail a 40% discount while publishing their research papers (of a single author) with Global Journals Incorporation (USA), if the same is accepted by Editorial Board/Peer Reviewers. If you are a main author or co-author in case of multiple authors, you will be entitled to avail discount of 10%.

Once FARSHS title is accorded, the Fellow is authorized to organize symposium/seminar/conference on behalf of Global Journal Incorporation (USA). The Fellow can also participate in conference/seminar/symposium organized by another institution as representative of Global Journal. In both the cases, it is mandatory for him to discuss with us and obtain our consent.



You may join as member of the Editorial Board of Global Journals Incorporation (USA) after successful completion of three years as Fellow and as Peer Reviewer. In addition, it is also desirable that you should organize seminar/symposium/conference at least once.

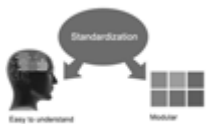
We shall provide you intimation regarding launching of e-version of journal of your stream time to time. This may be utilized in your library for the enrichment of knowledge of your students as well as it can also be helpful for the concerned faculty members.





The FARSHS can go through standards of OARS. You can also play vital role if you have any suggestions so that proper amendment can take place to improve the same for the benefit of entire research community.

As FARSHS, you will be given a renowned, secure and free professional email address with 100 GB of space e.g. johnhall@globaljournals.org. This will include Webmail, Spam Assassin, Email Forwarders, Auto-Responders, Email Delivery Route tracing, etc.



The FARSHS will be eligible for a free application of standardization of their researches. Standardization of research will be subject to acceptability within stipulated norms as the next step after publishing in a journal. We shall depute a team of specialized research professionals who will render their services for elevating your researches to next higher level, which is worldwide open standardization.

The FARSHS member can apply for grading and certification of standards of the educational and Institutional Degrees to Open Association of Research, Society U.S.A. Once you are designated as FARSHS, you may send us a scanned copy of all of your credentials. OARS will verify, grade and certify them. This will be based on your academic records, quality of research papers published by you, and some more criteria. After certification of all your credentials by OARS, they will be published on your Fellow Profile link on website <https://associationofresearch.org> which will be helpful to upgrade the dignity.



The FARSHS members can avail the benefits of free research podcasting in Global Research Radio with their research documents. After publishing the work, (including published elsewhere worldwide with proper authorization) you can upload your research paper with your recorded voice or you can utilize chargeable services of our professional RJs to record your paper in their voice on request.



The FARSHS member also entitled to get the benefits of free research podcasting of their research documents through video clips. We can also streamline your conference videos and display your slides/ online slides and online research video clips at reasonable charges, on request.





The FARSHS is eligible to earn from sales proceeds of his/her researches/reference/review Books or literature, while publishing with Global Journals. The FARSHS can decide whether he/she would like to publish his/her research in a closed manner. In this case, whenever readers purchase that individual research paper for reading, maximum 60% of its profit earned as royalty by Global Journals, will be credited to his/her bank account. The entire entitled amount will be credited to his/her bank account exceeding limit of minimum fixed balance. There is no minimum time limit for collection. The FARSS member can decide its price and we can help in making the right decision.

The FARSHS member is eligible to join as a paid peer reviewer at Global Journals Incorporation (USA) and can get remuneration of 15% of author fees, taken from the author of a respective paper. After reviewing 5 or more papers you can request to transfer the amount to your bank account.



MEMBER OF ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH SOCIETY IN HUMAN SCIENCE (MARSHS)

The ' MARSHS ' title is accorded to a selected professional after the approval of the Editor-in-Chief / Editorial Board Members/Dean.

The “MARSHS” is a dignified ornament which is accorded to a person’s name viz. Dr John E. Hall, Ph.D., MARSHS or William Walldroff, M.S., MARSHS.



MARSHS accrediting is an honor. It authenticates your research activities. After becoming MARSHS, you can add 'MARSHS' title with your name as you use this recognition as additional suffix to your status. This will definitely enhance and add more value and repute to your name. You may use it on your professional Counseling Materials such as CV, Resume, Visiting Card and Name Plate etc.

The following benefits can be availed by you only for next three years from the date of certification.



MARSHS designated members are entitled to avail a 25% discount while publishing their research papers (of a single author) in Global Journals Inc., if the same is accepted by our Editorial Board and Peer Reviewers. If you are a main author or co-author of a group of authors, you will get discount of 10%.

As MARSHS, you will be given a renowned, secure and free professional email address with 30 GB of space e.g. johnhall@globaljournals.org. This will include Webmail, Spam Assassin, Email Forwarders, Auto-Responders, Email Delivery Route tracing, etc.





We shall provide you intimation regarding launching of e-version of journal of your stream time to time. This may be utilized in your library for the enrichment of knowledge of your students as well as it can also be helpful for the concerned faculty members.

The MARSHS member can apply for approval, grading and certification of standards of their educational and Institutional Degrees to Open Association of Research, Society U.S.A.



Once you are designated as MARSHS, you may send us a scanned copy of all of your credentials. OARS will verify, grade and certify them. This will be based on your academic records, quality of research papers published by you, and some more criteria.

It is mandatory to read all terms and conditions carefully.



AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIPS

Institutional Fellow of Open Association of Research Society (USA) - OARS (USA)

Global Journals Incorporation (USA) is accredited by Open Association of Research Society, U.S.A (OARS) and in turn, affiliates research institutions as “Institutional Fellow of Open Association of Research Society” (IFOARS).

The “FARSC” is a dignified title which is accorded to a person’s name viz. Dr. John E. Hall, Ph.D., FARSC or William Walldroff, M.S., FARSC.



The IFOARS institution is entitled to form a Board comprised of one Chairperson and three to five board members preferably from different streams. The Board will be recognized as “Institutional Board of Open Association of Research Society”-(IBOARS).

The Institute will be entitled to following benefits:



The IBOARS can initially review research papers of their institute and recommend them to publish with respective journal of Global Journals. It can also review the papers of other institutions after obtaining our consent. The second review will be done by peer reviewer of Global Journals Incorporation (USA). The Board is at liberty to appoint a peer reviewer with the approval of chairperson after consulting us.

The author fees of such paper may be waived off up to 40%.

The Global Journals Incorporation (USA) at its discretion can also refer double blind peer reviewed paper at their end to the board for the verification and to get recommendation for final stage of acceptance of publication.



The IBOARS can organize symposium/seminar/conference in their country on behalf of Global Journals Incorporation (USA)-OARS (USA). The terms and conditions can be discussed separately.

The Board can also play vital role by exploring and giving valuable suggestions regarding the Standards of “Open Association of Research Society, U.S.A (OARS)” so that proper amendment can take place for the benefit of entire research community. We shall provide details of particular standard only on receipt of request from the Board.



Journals Research
inducing researches

The board members can also join us as Individual Fellow with 40% discount on total fees applicable to Individual Fellow. They will be entitled to avail all the benefits as declared. Please visit Individual Fellow-sub menu of GlobalJournals.org to have more relevant details.



We shall provide you intimation regarding launching of e-version of journal of your stream time to time. This may be utilized in your library for the enrichment of knowledge of your students as well as it can also be helpful for the concerned faculty members.



After nomination of your institution as “Institutional Fellow” and constantly functioning successfully for one year, we can consider giving recognition to your institute to function as Regional/Zonal office on our behalf.

The board can also take up the additional allied activities for betterment after our consultation.

The following entitlements are applicable to individual Fellows:

Open Association of Research Society, U.S.A (OARS) By-laws states that an individual Fellow may use the designations as applicable, or the corresponding initials. The Credentials of individual Fellow and Associate designations signify that the individual has gained knowledge of the fundamental concepts. One is magnanimous and proficient in an expertise course covering the professional code of conduct, and follows recognized standards of practice.



Open Association of Research Society (US)/ Global Journals Incorporation (USA), as described in Corporate Statements, are educational, research publishing and professional membership organizations. Achieving our individual Fellow or Associate status is based mainly on meeting stated educational research requirements.

Disbursement of 40% Royalty earned through Global Journals : Researcher = 50%, Peer Reviewer = 37.50%, Institution = 12.50% E.g. Out of 40%, the 20% benefit should be passed on to researcher, 15 % benefit towards remuneration should be given to a reviewer and remaining 5% is to be retained by the institution.



We shall provide print version of 12 issues of any three journals [as per your requirement] out of our 38 journals worth \$ 2376 USD.

Other:

The individual Fellow and Associate designations accredited by Open Association of Research Society (US) credentials signify guarantees following achievements:

- The professional accredited with Fellow honor, is entitled to various benefits viz. name, fame, honor, regular flow of income, secured bright future, social status etc.



- In addition to above, if one is single author, then entitled to 40% discount on publishing research paper and can get 10% discount if one is co-author or main author among group of authors.
- The Fellow can organize symposium/seminar/conference on behalf of Global Journals Incorporation (USA) and he/she can also attend the same organized by other institutes on behalf of Global Journals.
- The Fellow can become member of Editorial Board Member after completing 3yrs.
- The Fellow can earn 60% of sales proceeds from the sale of reference/review books/literature/publishing of research paper.
- Fellow can also join as paid peer reviewer and earn 15% remuneration of author charges and can also get an opportunity to join as member of the Editorial Board of Global Journals Incorporation (USA)
- • This individual has learned the basic methods of applying those concepts and techniques to common challenging situations. This individual has further demonstrated an in-depth understanding of the application of suitable techniques to a particular area of research practice.

Note :

//

- In future, if the board feels the necessity to change any board member, the same can be done with the consent of the chairperson along with anyone board member without our approval.
- In case, the chairperson needs to be replaced then consent of 2/3rd board members are required and they are also required to jointly pass the resolution copy of which should be sent to us. In such case, it will be compulsory to obtain our approval before replacement.
- In case of “Difference of Opinion [if any]” among the Board members, our decision will be final and binding to everyone.

//



PROCESS OF SUBMISSION OF RESEARCH PAPER

The Area or field of specialization may or may not be of any category as mentioned in 'Scope of Journal' menu of the GlobalJournals.org website. There are 37 Research Journal categorized with Six parental Journals GJCST, GJMR, GJRE, GJMBR, GJSFR, GJHSS. For Authors should prefer the mentioned categories. There are three widely used systems UDC, DDC and LCC. The details are available as 'Knowledge Abstract' at Home page. The major advantage of this coding is that, the research work will be exposed to and shared with all over the world as we are being abstracted and indexed worldwide.

The paper should be in proper format. The format can be downloaded from first page of 'Author Guideline' Menu. The Author is expected to follow the general rules as mentioned in this menu. The paper should be written in MS-Word Format (*.DOC,*.DOCX).

The Author can submit the paper either online or offline. The authors should prefer online submission.Online Submission: There are three ways to submit your paper:

(A) (I) First, register yourself using top right corner of Home page then Login. If you are already registered, then login using your username and password.

(II) Choose corresponding Journal.

(III) Click 'Submit Manuscript'. Fill required information and Upload the paper.

(B) If you are using Internet Explorer, then Direct Submission through Homepage is also available.

(C) If these two are not convenient, and then email the paper directly to dean@globaljournals.org.

Offline Submission: Author can send the typed form of paper by Post. However, online submission should be preferred.



PREFERRED AUTHOR GUIDELINES

MANUSCRIPT STYLE INSTRUCTION (Must be strictly followed)

Page Size: 8.27" X 11"

- Left Margin: 0.65
- Right Margin: 0.65
- Top Margin: 0.75
- Bottom Margin: 0.75
- Font type of all text should be Swis 721 Lt BT.
- Paper Title should be of Font Size 24 with one Column section.
- Author Name in Font Size of 11 with one column as of Title.
- Abstract Font size of 9 Bold, "Abstract" word in Italic Bold.
- Main Text: Font size 10 with justified two columns section
- Two Column with Equal Column with of 3.38 and Gaping of .2
- First Character must be three lines Drop capped.
- Paragraph before Spacing of 1 pt and After of 0 pt.
- Line Spacing of 1 pt
- Large Images must be in One Column
- Numbering of First Main Headings (Heading 1) must be in Roman Letters, Capital Letter, and Font Size of 10.
- Numbering of Second Main Headings (Heading 2) must be in Alphabets, Italic, and Font Size of 10.

You can use your own standard format also.

Author Guidelines:

1. General,
2. Ethical Guidelines,
3. Submission of Manuscripts,
4. Manuscript's Category,
5. Structure and Format of Manuscript,
6. After Acceptance.

1. GENERAL

Before submitting your research paper, one is advised to go through the details as mentioned in following heads. It will be beneficial, while peer reviewer justify your paper for publication.

Scope

The Global Journals Inc. (US) welcome the submission of original paper, review paper, survey article relevant to the all the streams of Philosophy and knowledge. The Global Journals Inc. (US) is parental platform for Global Journal of Computer Science and Technology, Researches in Engineering, Medical Research, Science Frontier Research, Human Social Science, Management, and Business organization. The choice of specific field can be done otherwise as following in Abstracting and Indexing Page on this Website. As the all Global

Journals Inc. (US) are being abstracted and indexed (in process) by most of the reputed organizations. Topics of only narrow interest will not be accepted unless they have wider potential or consequences.

2. ETHICAL GUIDELINES

Authors should follow the ethical guidelines as mentioned below for publication of research paper and research activities.

Papers are accepted on strict understanding that the material in whole or in part has not been, nor is being, considered for publication elsewhere. If the paper once accepted by Global Journals Inc. (US) and Editorial Board, will become the copyright of the Global Journals Inc. (US).

Authorship: The authors and coauthors should have active contribution to conception design, analysis and interpretation of findings. They should critically review the contents and drafting of the paper. All should approve the final version of the paper before submission

The Global Journals Inc. (US) follows the definition of authorship set up by the Global Academy of Research and Development. According to the Global Academy of R&D authorship, criteria must be based on:

- 1) Substantial contributions to conception and acquisition of data, analysis and interpretation of the findings.
- 2) Drafting the paper and revising it critically regarding important academic content.
- 3) Final approval of the version of the paper to be published.

All authors should have been credited according to their appropriate contribution in research activity and preparing paper. Contributors who do not match the criteria as authors may be mentioned under Acknowledgement.

Acknowledgements: Contributors to the research other than authors credited should be mentioned under acknowledgement. The specifications of the source of funding for the research if appropriate can be included. Suppliers of resources may be mentioned along with address.

Appeal of Decision: The Editorial Board's decision on publication of the paper is final and cannot be appealed elsewhere.

Permissions: It is the author's responsibility to have prior permission if all or parts of earlier published illustrations are used in this paper.

Please mention proper reference and appropriate acknowledgements wherever expected.

If all or parts of previously published illustrations are used, permission must be taken from the copyright holder concerned. It is the author's responsibility to take these in writing.

Approval for reproduction/modification of any information (including figures and tables) published elsewhere must be obtained by the authors/copyright holders before submission of the manuscript. Contributors (Authors) are responsible for any copyright fee involved.

3. SUBMISSION OF MANUSCRIPTS

Manuscripts should be uploaded via this online submission page. The online submission is most efficient method for submission of papers, as it enables rapid distribution of manuscripts and consequently speeds up the review procedure. It also enables authors to know the status of their own manuscripts by emailing us. Complete instructions for submitting a paper is available below.

Manuscript submission is a systematic procedure and little preparation is required beyond having all parts of your manuscript in a given format and a computer with an Internet connection and a Web browser. Full help and instructions are provided on-screen. As an author, you will be prompted for login and manuscript details as Field of Paper and then to upload your manuscript file(s) according to the instructions.



To avoid postal delays, all transaction is preferred by e-mail. A finished manuscript submission is confirmed by e-mail immediately and your paper enters the editorial process with no postal delays. When a conclusion is made about the publication of your paper by our Editorial Board, revisions can be submitted online with the same procedure, with an occasion to view and respond to all comments.

Complete support for both authors and co-author is provided.

4. MANUSCRIPT'S CATEGORY

Based on potential and nature, the manuscript can be categorized under the following heads:

Original research paper: Such papers are reports of high-level significant original research work.

Review papers: These are concise, significant but helpful and decisive topics for young researchers.

Research articles: These are handled with small investigation and applications

Research letters: The letters are small and concise comments on previously published matters.

5. STRUCTURE AND FORMAT OF MANUSCRIPT

The recommended size of original research paper is less than seven thousand words, review papers fewer than seven thousands words also. Preparation of research paper or how to write research paper, are major hurdle, while writing manuscript. The research articles and research letters should be fewer than three thousand words, the structure original research paper; sometime review paper should be as follows:

Papers: These are reports of significant research (typically less than 7000 words equivalent, including tables, figures, references), and comprise:

- (a) Title should be relevant and commensurate with the theme of the paper.
- (b) A brief Summary, "Abstract" (less than 150 words) containing the major results and conclusions.
- (c) Up to ten keywords, that precisely identifies the paper's subject, purpose, and focus.
- (d) An Introduction, giving necessary background excluding subheadings; objectives must be clearly declared.
- (e) Resources and techniques with sufficient complete experimental details (wherever possible by reference) to permit repetition; sources of information must be given and numerical methods must be specified by reference, unless non-standard.
- (f) Results should be presented concisely, by well-designed tables and/or figures; the same data may not be used in both; suitable statistical data should be given. All data must be obtained with attention to numerical detail in the planning stage. As reproduced design has been recognized to be important to experiments for a considerable time, the Editor has decided that any paper that appears not to have adequate numerical treatments of the data will be returned un-refereed;
- (g) Discussion should cover the implications and consequences, not just recapitulating the results; conclusions should be summarizing.
- (h) Brief Acknowledgements.
- (i) References in the proper form.

Authors should very cautiously consider the preparation of papers to ensure that they communicate efficiently. Papers are much more likely to be accepted, if they are cautiously designed and laid out, contain few or no errors, are summarizing, and be conventional to the approach and instructions. They will in addition, be published with much less delays than those that require much technical and editorial correction.



The Editorial Board reserves the right to make literary corrections and to make suggestions to improve briefness.

It is vital, that authors take care in submitting a manuscript that is written in simple language and adheres to published guidelines.

Format

Language: The language of publication is UK English. Authors, for whom English is a second language, must have their manuscript efficiently edited by an English-speaking person before submission to make sure that, the English is of high excellence. It is preferable, that manuscripts should be professionally edited.

Standard Usage, Abbreviations, and Units: Spelling and hyphenation should be conventional to The Concise Oxford English Dictionary. Statistics and measurements should at all times be given in figures, e.g. 16 min, except for when the number begins a sentence. When the number does not refer to a unit of measurement it should be spelt in full unless, it is 160 or greater.

Abbreviations supposed to be used carefully. The abbreviated name or expression is supposed to be cited in full at first usage, followed by the conventional abbreviation in parentheses.

Metric SI units are supposed to generally be used excluding where they conflict with current practice or are confusing. For illustration, 1.4 l rather than $1.4 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}^3$, or 4 mm somewhat than $4 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}$. Chemical formula and solutions must identify the form used, e.g. anhydrous or hydrated, and the concentration must be in clearly defined units. Common species names should be followed by underlines at the first mention. For following use the generic name should be constricted to a single letter, if it is clear.

Structure

All manuscripts submitted to Global Journals Inc. (US), ought to include:

Title: The title page must carry an instructive title that reflects the content, a running title (less than 45 characters together with spaces), names of the authors and co-authors, and the place(s) wherever the work was carried out. The full postal address in addition with the e-mail address of related author must be given. Up to eleven keywords or very brief phrases have to be given to help data retrieval, mining and indexing.

Abstract, used in Original Papers and Reviews:

Optimizing Abstract for Search Engines

Many researchers searching for information online will use search engines such as Google, Yahoo or similar. By optimizing your paper for search engines, you will amplify the chance of someone finding it. This in turn will make it more likely to be viewed and/or cited in a further work. Global Journals Inc. (US) have compiled these guidelines to facilitate you to maximize the web-friendliness of the most public part of your paper.

Key Words

A major linchpin in research work for the writing research paper is the keyword search, which one will employ to find both library and Internet resources.

One must be persistent and creative in using keywords. An effective keyword search requires a strategy and planning a list of possible keywords and phrases to try.

Search engines for most searches, use Boolean searching, which is somewhat different from Internet searches. The Boolean search uses "operators," words (and, or, not, and near) that enable you to expand or narrow your affords. Tips for research paper while preparing research paper are very helpful guideline of research paper.

Choice of key words is first tool of tips to write research paper. Research paper writing is an art. A few tips for deciding as strategically as possible about keyword search:



- One should start brainstorming lists of possible keywords before even begin searching. Think about the most important concepts related to research work. Ask, "What words would a source have to include to be truly valuable in research paper?" Then consider synonyms for the important words.
- It may take the discovery of only one relevant paper to let steer in the right keyword direction because in most databases, the keywords under which a research paper is abstracted are listed with the paper.
- One should avoid outdated words.

Keywords are the key that opens a door to research work sources. Keyword searching is an art in which researcher's skills are bound to improve with experience and time.

Numerical Methods: Numerical methods used should be clear and, where appropriate, supported by references.

Acknowledgements: Please make these as concise as possible.

References

References follow the Harvard scheme of referencing. References in the text should cite the authors' names followed by the time of their publication, unless there are three or more authors when simply the first author's name is quoted followed by et al. unpublished work has to only be cited where necessary, and only in the text. Copies of references in press in other journals have to be supplied with submitted typescripts. It is necessary that all citations and references be carefully checked before submission, as mistakes or omissions will cause delays.

References to information on the World Wide Web can be given, but only if the information is available without charge to readers on an official site. Wikipedia and Similar websites are not allowed where anyone can change the information. Authors will be asked to make available electronic copies of the cited information for inclusion on the Global Journals Inc. (US) homepage at the judgment of the Editorial Board.

The Editorial Board and Global Journals Inc. (US) recommend that, citation of online-published papers and other material should be done via a DOI (digital object identifier). If an author cites anything, which does not have a DOI, they run the risk of the cited material not being noticeable.

The Editorial Board and Global Journals Inc. (US) recommend the use of a tool such as Reference Manager for reference management and formatting.

Tables, Figures and Figure Legends

Tables: Tables should be few in number, cautiously designed, uncrowned, and include only essential data. Each must have an Arabic number, e.g. Table 4, a self-explanatory caption and be on a separate sheet. Vertical lines should not be used.

Figures: Figures are supposed to be submitted as separate files. Always take in a citation in the text for each figure using Arabic numbers, e.g. Fig. 4. Artwork must be submitted online in electronic form by e-mailing them.

Preparation of Electronic Figures for Publication

Even though low quality images are sufficient for review purposes, print publication requires high quality images to prevent the final product being blurred or fuzzy. Submit (or e-mail) EPS (line art) or TIFF (halftone/photographs) files only. MS PowerPoint and Word Graphics are unsuitable for printed pictures. Do not use pixel-oriented software. Scans (TIFF only) should have a resolution of at least 350 dpi (halftone) or 700 to 1100 dpi (line drawings) in relation to the imitation size. Please give the data for figures in black and white or submit a Color Work Agreement Form. EPS files must be saved with fonts embedded (and with a TIFF preview, if possible).

For scanned images, the scanning resolution (at final image size) ought to be as follows to ensure good reproduction: line art: >650 dpi; halftones (including gel photographs) : >350 dpi; figures containing both halftone and line images: >650 dpi.



Color Charges: It is the rule of the Global Journals Inc. (US) for authors to pay the full cost for the reproduction of their color artwork. Hence, please note that, if there is color artwork in your manuscript when it is accepted for publication, we would require you to complete and return a color work agreement form before your paper can be published.

Figure Legends: Self-explanatory legends of all figures should be incorporated separately under the heading 'Legends to Figures'. In the full-text online edition of the journal, figure legends may possibly be truncated in abbreviated links to the full screen version. Therefore, the first 100 characters of any legend should notify the reader, about the key aspects of the figure.

6. AFTER ACCEPTANCE

Upon approval of a paper for publication, the manuscript will be forwarded to the dean, who is responsible for the publication of the Global Journals Inc. (US).

6.1 Proof Corrections

The corresponding author will receive an e-mail alert containing a link to a website or will be attached. A working e-mail address must therefore be provided for the related author.

Acrobat Reader will be required in order to read this file. This software can be downloaded

(Free of charge) from the following website:

www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html. This will facilitate the file to be opened, read on screen, and printed out in order for any corrections to be added. Further instructions will be sent with the proof.

Proofs must be returned to the dean at dean@globaljournals.org within three days of receipt.

As changes to proofs are costly, we inquire that you only correct typesetting errors. All illustrations are retained by the publisher. Please note that the authors are responsible for all statements made in their work, including changes made by the copy editor.

6.2 Early View of Global Journals Inc. (US) (Publication Prior to Print)

The Global Journals Inc. (US) are enclosed by our publishing's Early View service. Early View articles are complete full-text articles sent in advance of their publication. Early View articles are absolute and final. They have been completely reviewed, revised and edited for publication, and the authors' final corrections have been incorporated. Because they are in final form, no changes can be made after sending them. The nature of Early View articles means that they do not yet have volume, issue or page numbers, so Early View articles cannot be cited in the conventional way.

6.3 Author Services

Online production tracking is available for your article through Author Services. Author Services enables authors to track their article - once it has been accepted - through the production process to publication online and in print. Authors can check the status of their articles online and choose to receive automated e-mails at key stages of production. The authors will receive an e-mail with a unique link that enables them to register and have their article automatically added to the system. Please ensure that a complete e-mail address is provided when submitting the manuscript.

6.4 Author Material Archive Policy

Please note that if not specifically requested, publisher will dispose off hardcopy & electronic information submitted, after the two months of publication. If you require the return of any information submitted, please inform the Editorial Board or dean as soon as possible.

6.5 Offprint and Extra Copies

A PDF offprint of the online-published article will be provided free of charge to the related author, and may be distributed according to the Publisher's terms and conditions. Additional paper offprint may be ordered by emailing us at: editor@globaljournals.org.



Before start writing a good quality Computer Science Research Paper, let us first understand what is Computer Science Research Paper? So, Computer Science Research Paper is the paper which is written by professionals or scientists who are associated to Computer Science and Information Technology, or doing research study in these areas. If you are novel to this field then you can consult about this field from your supervisor or guide.

TECHNIQUES FOR WRITING A GOOD QUALITY RESEARCH PAPER:

1. Choosing the topic: In most cases, the topic is searched by the interest of author but it can be also suggested by the guides. You can have several topics and then you can judge that in which topic or subject you are finding yourself most comfortable. This can be done by asking several questions to yourself, like Will I be able to carry our search in this area? Will I find all necessary recourses to accomplish the search? Will I be able to find all information in this field area? If the answer of these types of questions will be "Yes" then you can choose that topic. In most of the cases, you may have to conduct the surveys and have to visit several places because this field is related to Computer Science and Information Technology. Also, you may have to do a lot of work to find all rise and falls regarding the various data of that subject. Sometimes, detailed information plays a vital role, instead of short information.

2. Evaluators are human: First thing to remember that evaluators are also human being. They are not only meant for rejecting a paper. They are here to evaluate your paper. So, present your Best.

3. Think Like Evaluators: If you are in a confusion or getting demotivated that your paper will be accepted by evaluators or not, then think and try to evaluate your paper like an Evaluator. Try to understand that what an evaluator wants in your research paper and automatically you will have your answer.

4. Make blueprints of paper: The outline is the plan or framework that will help you to arrange your thoughts. It will make your paper logical. But remember that all points of your outline must be related to the topic you have chosen.

5. Ask your Guides: If you are having any difficulty in your research, then do not hesitate to share your difficulty to your guide (if you have any). They will surely help you out and resolve your doubts. If you can't clarify what exactly you require for your work then ask the supervisor to help you with the alternative. He might also provide you the list of essential readings.

6. Use of computer is recommended: As you are doing research in the field of Computer Science, then this point is quite obvious.

7. Use right software: Always use good quality software packages. If you are not capable to judge good software then you can lose quality of your paper unknowingly. There are various software programs available to help you, which you can get through Internet.

8. Use the Internet for help: An excellent start for your paper can be by using the Google. It is an excellent search engine, where you can have your doubts resolved. You may also read some answers for the frequent question how to write my research paper or find model research paper. From the internet library you can download books. If you have all required books make important reading selecting and analyzing the specified information. Then put together research paper sketch out.

9. Use and get big pictures: Always use encyclopedias, Wikipedia to get pictures so that you can go into the depth.

10. Bookmarks are useful: When you read any book or magazine, you generally use bookmarks, right! It is a good habit, which helps to not to lose your continuity. You should always use bookmarks while searching on Internet also, which will make your search easier.

11. Revise what you wrote: When you write anything, always read it, summarize it and then finalize it.



12. Make all efforts: Make all efforts to mention what you are going to write in your paper. That means always have a good start. Try to mention everything in introduction, that what is the need of a particular research paper. Polish your work by good skill of writing and always give an evaluator, what he wants.

13. Have backups: When you are going to do any important thing like making research paper, you should always have backup copies of it either in your computer or in paper. This will help you to not to lose any of your important.

14. Produce good diagrams of your own: Always try to include good charts or diagrams in your paper to improve quality. Using several and unnecessary diagrams will degrade the quality of your paper by creating "hotchpotch." So always, try to make and include those diagrams, which are made by your own to improve readability and understandability of your paper.

15. Use of direct quotes: When you do research relevant to literature, history or current affairs then use of quotes become essential but if study is relevant to science then use of quotes is not preferable.

16. Use proper verb tense: Use proper verb tenses in your paper. Use past tense, to present those events that happened. Use present tense to indicate events that are going on. Use future tense to indicate future happening events. Use of improper and wrong tenses will confuse the evaluator. Avoid the sentences that are incomplete.

17. Never use online paper: If you are getting any paper on Internet, then never use it as your research paper because it might be possible that evaluator has already seen it or maybe it is outdated version.

18. Pick a good study spot: To do your research studies always try to pick a spot, which is quiet. Every spot is not for studies. Spot that suits you choose it and proceed further.

19. Know what you know: Always try to know, what you know by making objectives. Else, you will be confused and cannot achieve your target.

20. Use good quality grammar: Always use a good quality grammar and use words that will throw positive impact on evaluator. Use of good quality grammar does not mean to use tough words, that for each word the evaluator has to go through dictionary. Do not start sentence with a conjunction. Do not fragment sentences. Eliminate one-word sentences. Ignore passive voice. Do not ever use a big word when a diminutive one would suffice. Verbs have to be in agreement with their subjects. Prepositions are not expressions to finish sentences with. It is incorrect to ever divide an infinitive. Avoid clichés like the disease. Also, always shun irritating alliteration. Use language that is simple and straight forward. put together a neat summary.

21. Arrangement of information: Each section of the main body should start with an opening sentence and there should be a changeover at the end of the section. Give only valid and powerful arguments to your topic. You may also maintain your arguments with records.

22. Never start in last minute: Always start at right time and give enough time to research work. Leaving everything to the last minute will degrade your paper and spoil your work.

23. Multitasking in research is not good: Doing several things at the same time proves bad habit in case of research activity. Research is an area, where everything has a particular time slot. Divide your research work in parts and do particular part in particular time slot.

24. Never copy others' work: Never copy others' work and give it your name because if evaluator has seen it anywhere you will be in trouble.

25. Take proper rest and food: No matter how many hours you spend for your research activity, if you are not taking care of your health then all your efforts will be in vain. For a quality research, study is must, and this can be done by taking proper rest and food.

26. Go for seminars: Attend seminars if the topic is relevant to your research area. Utilize all your resources.



27. Refresh your mind after intervals: Try to give rest to your mind by listening to soft music or by sleeping in intervals. This will also improve your memory.

28. Make colleagues: Always try to make colleagues. No matter how sharper or intelligent you are, if you make colleagues you can have several ideas, which will be helpful for your research.

29. Think technically: Always think technically. If anything happens, then search its reasons, its benefits, and demerits.

30. Think and then print: When you will go to print your paper, notice that tables are not be split, headings are not detached from their descriptions, and page sequence is maintained.

31. Adding unnecessary information: Do not add unnecessary information, like, I have used MS Excel to draw graph. Do not add irrelevant and inappropriate material. These all will create superfluous. Foreign terminology and phrases are not apropos. One should NEVER take a broad view. Analogy in script is like feathers on a snake. Not at all use a large word when a very small one would be sufficient. Use words properly, regardless of how others use them. Remove quotations. Puns are for kids, not grunt readers. Amplification is a billion times of inferior quality than sarcasm.

32. Never oversimplify everything: To add material in your research paper, never go for oversimplification. This will definitely irritate the evaluator. Be more or less specific. Also too, by no means, ever use rhythmic redundancies. Contractions aren't essential and shouldn't be there used. Comparisons are as terrible as clichés. Give up ampersands and abbreviations, and so on. Remove commas, that are, not necessary. Parenthetical words however should be together with this in commas. Understatement is all the time the complete best way to put onward earth-shaking thoughts. Give a detailed literary review.

33. Report concluded results: Use concluded results. From raw data, filter the results and then conclude your studies based on measurements and observations taken. Significant figures and appropriate number of decimal places should be used. Parenthetical remarks are prohibitive. Proofread carefully at final stage. In the end give outline to your arguments. Spot out perspectives of further study of this subject. Justify your conclusion by at the bottom of them with sufficient justifications and examples.

34. After conclusion: Once you have concluded your research, the next most important step is to present your findings. Presentation is extremely important as it is the definite medium through which your research is going to be in print to the rest of the crowd. Care should be taken to categorize your thoughts well and present them in a logical and neat manner. A good quality research paper format is essential because it serves to highlight your research paper and bring to light all necessary aspects in your research.

INFORMAL GUIDELINES OF RESEARCH PAPER WRITING

Key points to remember:

- Submit all work in its final form.
- Write your paper in the form, which is presented in the guidelines using the template.
- Please note the criterion for grading the final paper by peer-reviewers.

Final Points:

A purpose of organizing a research paper is to let people to interpret your effort selectively. The journal requires the following sections, submitted in the order listed, each section to start on a new page.

The introduction will be compiled from reference matter and will reflect the design processes or outline of basis that direct you to make study. As you will carry out the process of study, the method and process section will be constructed as like that. The result segment will show related statistics in nearly sequential order and will direct the reviewers next to the similar intellectual paths throughout the data that you took to carry out your study. The discussion section will provide understanding of the data and projections as to the implication of the results. The use of good quality references all through the paper will give the effort trustworthiness by representing an alertness of prior workings.



Writing a research paper is not an easy job no matter how trouble-free the actual research or concept. Practice, excellent preparation, and controlled record keeping are the only means to make straightforward the progression.

General style:

Specific editorial column necessities for compliance of a manuscript will always take over from directions in these general guidelines.

To make a paper clear

- Adhere to recommended page limits

Mistakes to evade

- Insertion a title at the foot of a page with the subsequent text on the next page
- Separating a table/chart or figure - impound each figure/table to a single page
- Submitting a manuscript with pages out of sequence

In every sections of your document

- Use standard writing style including articles ("a", "the," etc.)
- Keep on paying attention on the research topic of the paper
- Use paragraphs to split each significant point (excluding for the abstract)
- Align the primary line of each section
- Present your points in sound order
- Use present tense to report well accepted
- Use past tense to describe specific results
- Shun familiar wording, don't address the reviewer directly, and don't use slang, slang language, or superlatives
- Shun use of extra pictures - include only those figures essential to presenting results

Title Page:

Choose a revealing title. It should be short. It should not have non-standard acronyms or abbreviations. It should not exceed two printed lines. It should include the name(s) and address (es) of all authors.



Abstract:

The summary should be two hundred words or less. It should briefly and clearly explain the key findings reported in the manuscript-- must have precise statistics. It should not have abnormal acronyms or abbreviations. It should be logical in itself. Shun citing references at this point.

An abstract is a brief distinct paragraph summary of finished work or work in development. In a minute or less a reviewer can be taught the foundation behind the study, common approach to the problem, relevant results, and significant conclusions or new questions.

Write your summary when your paper is completed because how can you write the summary of anything which is not yet written? Wealth of terminology is very essential in abstract. Yet, use comprehensive sentences and do not let go readability for briefness. You can maintain it succinct by phrasing sentences so that they provide more than lone rationale. The author can at this moment go straight to shortening the outcome. Sum up the study, with the subsequent elements in any summary. Try to maintain the initial two items to no more than one ruling each.

- Reason of the study - theory, overall issue, purpose
- Fundamental goal
- To the point depiction of the research
- Consequences, including definite statistics - if the consequences are quantitative in nature, account quantitative data; results of any numerical analysis should be reported
- Significant conclusions or questions that track from the research(es)

Approach:

- Single section, and succinct
- As a outline of job done, it is always written in past tense
- A conceptual should situate on its own, and not submit to any other part of the paper such as a form or table
- Center on shortening results - bound background information to a verdict or two, if completely necessary
- What you account in an conceptual must be regular with what you reported in the manuscript
- Exact spelling, clearness of sentences and phrases, and appropriate reporting of quantities (proper units, important statistics) are just as significant in an abstract as they are anywhere else

Introduction:

The **Introduction** should "introduce" the manuscript. The reviewer should be presented with sufficient background information to be capable to comprehend and calculate the purpose of your study without having to submit to other works. The basis for the study should be offered. Give most important references but shun difficult to make a comprehensive appraisal of the topic. In the introduction, describe the problem visibly. If the problem is not acknowledged in a logical, reasonable way, the reviewer will have no attention in your result. Speak in common terms about techniques used to explain the problem, if needed, but do not present any particulars about the protocols here. Following approach can create a valuable beginning:

- Explain the value (significance) of the study
- Shield the model - why did you employ this particular system or method? What is its compensation? You strength remark on its appropriateness from a abstract point of vision as well as point out sensible reasons for using it.
- Present a justification. Status your particular theory (es) or aim(s), and describe the logic that led you to choose them.
- Very for a short time explain the tentative propose and how it skilled the declared objectives.

Approach:

- Use past tense except for when referring to recognized facts. After all, the manuscript will be submitted after the entire job is done.
- Sort out your thoughts; manufacture one key point with every section. If you make the four points listed above, you will need a least of four paragraphs.



- Present surroundings information only as desirable in order hold up a situation. The reviewer does not desire to read the whole thing you know about a topic.
- Shape the theory/purpose specifically - do not take a broad view.
- As always, give awareness to spelling, simplicity and correctness of sentences and phrases.

Procedures (Methods and Materials):

This part is supposed to be the easiest to carve if you have good skills. A sound written Procedures segment allows a capable scientist to replacement your results. Present precise information about your supplies. The suppliers and clarity of reagents can be helpful bits of information. Present methods in sequential order but linked methodologies can be grouped as a segment. Be concise when relating the protocols. Attempt for the least amount of information that would permit another capable scientist to spare your outcome but be cautious that vital information is integrated. The use of subheadings is suggested and ought to be synchronized with the results section. When a technique is used that has been well described in another object, mention the specific item describing a way but draw the basic principle while stating the situation. The purpose is to text all particular resources and broad procedures, so that another person may use some or all of the methods in one more study or referee the scientific value of your work. It is not to be a step by step report of the whole thing you did, nor is a methods section a set of orders.

Materials:

- Explain materials individually only if the study is so complex that it saves liberty this way.
- Embrace particular materials, and any tools or provisions that are not frequently found in laboratories.
- Do not take in frequently found.
- If use of a definite type of tools.
- Materials may be reported in a part section or else they may be recognized along with your measures.

Methods:

- Report the method (not particulars of each process that engaged the same methodology)
- Describe the method entirely
- To be succinct, present methods under headings dedicated to specific dealings or groups of measures
- Simplify - details how procedures were completed not how they were exclusively performed on a particular day.
- If well known procedures were used, account the procedure by name, possibly with reference, and that's all.

Approach:

- It is embarrassed or not possible to use vigorous voice when documenting methods with no using first person, which would focus the reviewer's interest on the researcher rather than the job. As a result when script up the methods most authors use third person passive voice.
- Use standard style in this and in every other part of the paper - avoid familiar lists, and use full sentences.

What to keep away from

- Resources and methods are not a set of information.
- Skip all descriptive information and surroundings - save it for the argument.
- Leave out information that is immaterial to a third party.

Results:

The principle of a results segment is to present and demonstrate your conclusion. Create this part a entirely objective details of the outcome, and save all understanding for the discussion.

The page length of this segment is set by the sum and types of data to be reported. Carry on to be to the point, by means of statistics and tables, if suitable, to present consequences most efficiently. You must obviously differentiate material that would usually be incorporated in a study editorial from any unprocessed data or additional appendix matter that would not be available. In fact, such matter should not be submitted at all except requested by the instructor.



Content

- Sum up your conclusion in text and demonstrate them, if suitable, with figures and tables.
- In manuscript, explain each of your consequences, point the reader to remarks that are most appropriate.
- Present a background, such as by describing the question that was addressed by creation an exacting study.
- Explain results of control experiments and comprise remarks that are not accessible in a prescribed figure or table, if appropriate.
- Examine your data, then prepare the analyzed (transformed) data in the form of a figure (graph), table, or in manuscript form.

What to stay away from

- Do not discuss or infer your outcome, report surroundings information, or try to explain anything.
- Not at all, take in raw data or intermediate calculations in a research manuscript.
- Do not present the similar data more than once.
- Manuscript should complement any figures or tables, not duplicate the identical information.
- Never confuse figures with tables - there is a difference.

Approach

- As forever, use past tense when you submit to your results, and put the whole thing in a reasonable order.
- Put figures and tables, appropriately numbered, in order at the end of the report
- If you desire, you may place your figures and tables properly within the text of your results part.

Figures and tables

- If you put figures and tables at the end of the details, make certain that they are visibly distinguished from any attach appendix materials, such as raw facts
- Despite of position, each figure must be numbered one after the other and complete with subtitle
- In spite of position, each table must be titled, numbered one after the other and complete with heading
- All figure and table must be adequately complete that it could situate on its own, divide from text

Discussion:

The Discussion is expected the trickiest segment to write and describe. A lot of papers submitted for journal are discarded based on problems with the Discussion. There is no head of state for how long a argument should be. Position your understanding of the outcome visibly to lead the reviewer through your conclusions, and then finish the paper with a summing up of the implication of the study. The purpose here is to offer an understanding of your results and hold up for all of your conclusions, using facts from your research and generally accepted information, if suitable. The implication of result should be visibly described. Infer your data in the conversation in suitable depth. This means that when you clarify an observable fact you must explain mechanisms that may account for the observation. If your results vary from your prospect, make clear why that may have happened. If your results agree, then explain the theory that the proof supported. It is never suitable to just state that the data approved with prospect, and let it drop at that.

- Make a decision if each premise is supported, discarded, or if you cannot make a conclusion with assurance. Do not just dismiss a study or part of a study as "uncertain."
- Research papers are not acknowledged if the work is imperfect. Draw what conclusions you can based upon the results that you have, and take care of the study as a finished work
- You may propose future guidelines, such as how the experiment might be personalized to accomplish a new idea.
- Give details all of your remarks as much as possible, focus on mechanisms.
- Make a decision if the tentative design sufficiently addressed the theory, and whether or not it was correctly restricted.
- Try to present substitute explanations if sensible alternatives be present.
- One research will not counter an overall question, so maintain the large picture in mind, where do you go next? The best studies unlock new avenues of study. What questions remain?
- Recommendations for detailed papers will offer supplementary suggestions.

Approach:

- When you refer to information, differentiate data generated by your own studies from available information
- Submit to work done by specific persons (including you) in past tense.
- Submit to generally acknowledged facts and main beliefs in present tense.



ADMINISTRATION RULES LISTED BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR RESEARCH PAPER TO GLOBAL JOURNALS INC. (US)

Please carefully note down following rules and regulation before submitting your Research Paper to Global Journals Inc. (US):

Segment Draft and Final Research Paper: You have to strictly follow the template of research paper. If it is not done your paper may get rejected.

- The **major constraint** is that you must independently make all content, tables, graphs, and facts that are offered in the paper. You must write each part of the paper wholly on your own. The Peer-reviewers need to identify your own perceptive of the concepts in your own terms. NEVER extract straight from any foundation, and never rephrase someone else's analysis.
- Do not give permission to anyone else to "PROOFREAD" your manuscript.
- **Methods to avoid Plagiarism is applied by us on every paper, if found guilty, you will be blacklisted by all of our collaborated research groups, your institution will be informed for this and strict legal actions will be taken immediately.)**
- To guard yourself and others from possible illegal use please do not permit anyone right to use to your paper and files.



CRITERION FOR GRADING A RESEARCH PAPER (COMPILATION)
BY GLOBAL JOURNALS INC. (US)

Please note that following table is only a Grading of "Paper Compilation" and not on "Performed/Stated Research" whose grading solely depends on Individual Assigned Peer Reviewer and Editorial Board Member. These can be available only on request and after decision of Paper. This report will be the property of Global Journals Inc. (US).

Topics	Grades		
	A-B	C-D	E-F
<i>Abstract</i>	Clear and concise with appropriate content, Correct format. 200 words or below	Unclear summary and no specific data, Incorrect form Above 200 words	No specific data with ambiguous information Above 250 words
<i>Introduction</i>	Containing all background details with clear goal and appropriate details, flow specification, no grammar and spelling mistake, well organized sentence and paragraph, reference cited	Unclear and confusing data, appropriate format, grammar and spelling errors with unorganized matter	Out of place depth and content, hazy format
<i>Methods and Procedures</i>	Clear and to the point with well arranged paragraph, precision and accuracy of facts and figures, well organized subheads	Difficult to comprehend with embarrassed text, too much explanation but completed	Incorrect and unorganized structure with hazy meaning
<i>Result</i>	Well organized, Clear and specific, Correct units with precision, correct data, well structuring of paragraph, no grammar and spelling mistake	Complete and embarrassed text, difficult to comprehend	Irregular format with wrong facts and figures
<i>Discussion</i>	Well organized, meaningful specification, sound conclusion, logical and concise explanation, highly structured paragraph reference cited	Wordy, unclear conclusion, spurious	Conclusion is not cited, unorganized, difficult to comprehend
<i>References</i>	Complete and correct format, well organized	Beside the point, Incomplete	Wrong format and structuring



INDEX

A

Altinordu · 15, 19
Ambroise · 48

B

Bereaved · 60
Bureaucratization · 2, 65
Buttressing · 52

C

Concetti · 66
Conscientization · 12
Cybersoviet · 28

D

Debunked · 16
Deprivatization · 16
Dordrecht · 27
Durkheim · 17, 19

E

Eurocentrism · 30

F

Façade · 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20
Factibilidad · 35

G

Giulia · 59
Gutenbergian · 23

L

Latinoamericano · 29
Lymbery · 66

M

Metaverse · 53
Moulipara · 38, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45

P

Pentecostalism · 16
Plausibility · 15, 16

R

Rassegna · 65
Reigning · 12
Renegotiated · 63

S

Secularization · 15, 16, 17, 18
Subtlety · 9
Supraindividual · 17

T

Tavistock · 13
Technophobia · 51, 57

U

Unhygienic · 22
Urquiola · 8

Z

Zirconium · 78



save our planet



Global Journal of Human Social Science

Visit us on the Web at www.GlobalJournals.org | www.SocialScienceResearch.org
or email us at helpdesk@globaljournals.org



ISSN 975587

© Global Journals