



FINE BALANCE BETWEEN TECHNO-COMMERCIAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF TEXTILE INDUSTRY

During this era of Globalisation, a new opportunities of expanding this Textile business have dawned and if properly the challenges are addressed, the Indian Textile industry can improve its global market share. But if they are not addressed with the efficacy and efficiency which it demands, there is always a possibility that we may miss this bus for ever. Not only will we be then losing ground on the international front, but our over 1 billion population Domestic market may also slip off from our hands.

What are these challenges before us, which we have to meet on war footing? They include: International Quality; Proper Delivery Schedule; Eco-friendly Processing; Competitive Price; Modernisation of Industry; Good business practices, etc.

As against this, there are so many examples of our chaotic governance of this business such as : Obsolete Technology, Clusters carrying Cash Business, Excise /Tax evasion, Theft of Electricity, Managing Pollution Control Officers, Over invoicing and siphoning Money, Sub-standard quality of Dyes and Chemicals, Not maintaining the promised Product Mix, Use of Banned Dyes and Red Listed Chemicals, Non-adherence of Delivery Schedule Manufacture of dubious quality fabric using the Fake Selvages of Reputed Companies, Sectorial rivalry of Different segments seeking sops for themselves at the cost of others, Trader getting maximum share of profit with the least risks, Exploitation of Labour. As the competition at the global level increases, these so called realities ignored by all, will hound all of us as they will indeed be the cause of us losing Made in India's brand image.

How does Indian Textile Industry respond to such a situation? Look at the report of transparency international and that of S&P. India featuring in the top brass of most corrupt countries is surely not something we can afford to ignore. After careful analysis, development thinkers are coming to the realization that our development planning has been on distorted and wrong assumptions that man is material being and his productivity can be optimized by material incentives. Assumption that Technology centered development is the only solution to our problems of poverty is no more true as man has an important spiritual side which is the source of his motivation. Having best of technology, well trained skilled manpower, required finance, quality raw material in itself means nothing.....absolutely nothing. If the men behind all these components are not value based, not committed or dedicated, loyal, sincere and motivated with the spirit of service, the companies or organizations will not acquire sustainable development. They will always be shaky and as long as the man behind the operations is bought for paltry some of money, whole operations and business will collapse.

How long then we the stake holders of Textile industry –Industrialists, the Government, Technocrats and all the Research and Educational Institutions try to ignore the role of those spiritual qualities and values in our day to day business. In fact they should form our core value system. And irrespective of which religion or belief system we follow, we must accept the fact that it is these religions in true sense, which have tamed humanity and kept in them the sublime spiritual principles ablaze, motivating them to follow an ethical code of conduct in their day to day life. It is the internal driving force which is today very important for the sustainability as it has inner strength to withstand the onslaught of temptations of the outer world which is seeped in consumerism and wants to buy every thing for some price. Today's mankind is in search of that inner peace as life has become competitive and stressful and unless these realities are properly understood, the future of our next generation is also in jeopardy.

The two systems of knowledge : Science and Religion in day to day life enable one to develop physically and spiritually and thus both these systems of knowledge are to be well respected and our education system at all levels must acknowledge this need. So far all our development plans are centered around scientific contributions and thus only Technological and Commercial aspects of development are addressed. However, the spiritual reality of human being has been ignored and thus we have no means to cultivate value systems in the people with whom and for whom we work. That will come only when religion and its common universal principles are well respected which in fact nurture ethics in the individual's life and build the society which have common destiny. The balance between the two will address development of body and soul and thus technology will acquire human consciousness and will become more sensible. Hence, wherever, the performance of an individual (as a Student, workman, manager, business man, Govt. official, scientists and so on) is measured the basic virtues and social responsibility and commitment should be given due importance along with indicators of their performance. Practicing ethics should be mandatory irrespective of the level we work or strata of society we come from.

When such harmony between Science and Religion is practiced, all the above mentioned chaotic issues mainly due to bankruptcy of ethics and lust for money and power will vanish, and then one can think of true prosperity.....not only material, but spiritual where in people will live in happiness, peace and above all in contentment and will not just be mad after amassing wealth, come what may. This might sound idealistic, but is the only way to step further in the path of progress.

Recently Committee appointed by Textile Ministry for recommending National Syllabus for Textile degree course has included 150 marks paper for Ethics and Values. The Textile Association India has taken some steps towards educating the people in the Industry on this issue and truly all those who think that this is the need of the day should give it a thought and collectively work towards this goal of improving the sustainability of the development. This is the only way: to be internally driven. Only then we can increase the vitality of our Mother industry.

– Prof. (Dr.) Mangesh D.Teli
Hon. Editor