

BOOK REVIEW: *A BETTER INDIA: A BETTER WORLD* BY N. R. NARAYANA MURTHY PUBLISHED BY PENGUIN BOOKS, 2010 PP. 290 (ISBN: 9780143068570)

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The most enchanting and noticeable point that I liked about this piece is its dedication. The author has dedicated this book to Akshata, Rohan, young Infoscions, and the youth in India and the world, with confidence that they will create a better India and a better world. This book is a guide to the students and entrepreneurs. It has a rich, interesting and inspirational Introduction of 28 pages.

The whole book is divided into X parts.

Part I: Address to Students, contains eight articles that he addressed to students at different parts of the country and abroad. All the articles are inspirational and motivational. I recommend the upcoming generation/youth/students to read it interestingly and positively. The Chapter ‘Role of Religion in Education’ is commendable.

Part II: Values, contains six articles. He very truly defines what is Value? Why it is important to follow value? What can we learn from the West? Mr. Murthy has pondered over the role of Western Values in contemporary Indian Society. He talks and discusses about discipline and what’s the role of discipline in accelerating National development.

Part III: Important National Issues, dedicated to Economic Reforms, the Lecture, i.e. Malcolm Wiener Lecture, delivered at Harvard University on 13 February, 2008. He discusses about the Eight visions that changed the face of India, namely *The Green Revolution, The White Revolution, The Economic Reforms of 1991, Independent India and Brave Journalists, The Telecom Revolution, Space Technology and Satellite Television, Atomic Energy and The Software Revolution*. One remarkable point about these is that all these programmes were led by visionaries.

Part IV: Education: It contains his lectures delivered at different schools. The crux of this section is ‘Every nation, every company or every community that has brought about a big change has had a visionary leader leading this change. For instance, in corporate world, Akio Morita of Sony and Jack Welch of General Electric (GE). The common thing about these people is ‘They took a set of average people and turned them into an extraordinary force creating a better future for their country and their companies. The only resource they had was the power of the human mind. Aspiration was the main fuel to ignite these minds. They raised the aspiration of their people and encouraged them to dream the impossible, and then to work hard and smartly to convert that dream into reality. They inspired their follower to believe in themselves’.

Part V: Leadership Challenges, this section contains the lecture delivered by him at Bloomberg Leadership Conference, New York. He says Trust, Courage, Openness and fairness, inclusive environment, the power of feedback are the attributes of leadership. I totally agree with his views.

Part VI: Corporate and Public Governance, in this section he says the objective of technology is to reduce cost, reduce cycle time, simplify work, improve productivity, improve quality of implementation and enhance customer satisfaction. Who needs these more than the poor? Hence technology is crucial in delivering basic services to the poor in India.

Part VII: Corporate Social Responsibility and Philanthropy, Mr Murthy has quoted John F. Kennedy's statement, i.e. 'If a society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich.' He says 'We have to create a climate of opinion which says respect is more important than wealth.' In one of his lectures he quoted Jewish Philosopher Maimonides who said, 'Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.'

Part VIII: Entrepreneurship, in this section, while delivering the commencement lecture at Wharton School of Business, Philadelphia, he quoted Eleanor Roosevelt, 'The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.' He said he believes that 'our passion is more important than our finances.'

Part IX: Globalisation, He says Globalisation is about sourcing capital from where it is cheapest, sourcing talent from where it is best available, producing where it is most efficient and selling where the markets are, without being constrained by national boundaries.

Part X: Infosys, Mr Murthy talks about the culture at Infosys CLIFE (Customer focus, Leadership by example, Integrity and Transparency, Fairness and Excellence in Execution. His ultimate statement is our greatest contribution to India is raising the confidence of young entrepreneurs.

Conclusion:

This book is an incomparable asset for everybody and recommended for each and every institution's library of the world.