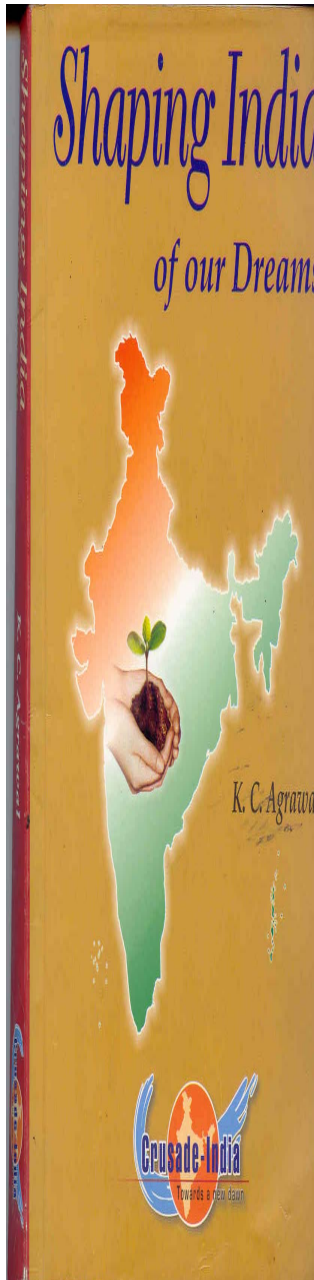


Shaping India of our dreams

- K.C. Agrawal



The book, Shaping India of our dreams is an honest attempt by the author Shri K.C. Agrawal in analysing the causes of dismal performance and progress of our country and miserable condition of its people, even all, that was essential for a national prosperous was and is available with us. He has tried to analyse the evils from different angles that have besieged our nation and the remedies to demolish the same. The book has been divided into four parts, analysing the country and our people. The parts are devoted to what we are, why we are, what can be done and how it can be done ?

The first part, what we are, has analysed four aspects of our people and country. Namely our cowardice, our basic resources, our dwindling economy and its dreadful effects and degeneration of our human values. The author has expressed that for long Indians have been searching for a logical answer to their deep-rooted cowardice and why they perpetually bear all brunts of life as wish of God but never revolt. Some of the inferences of such cowardice in the past could be due to

infighting of the Indian rulers in the past and their in fights proved fatal and rendered us vulnerable and weak. Similarly, India has remained suppressed for many centuries, plundered by many foreign rulers and later Britishers, separation due to castes etc. Old habits die-hard and we are a weak and weak race even today and suffer silently the sorrows of life and excesses by others as wish of God.

Though India has enormous basic resources but the facet of our country is scarred with melancholy and woes as we have lacked professionalism and expertise to make use of our riches. Our dwindling economy has affected the nation and as on today our population has become a liability, cities have become over populated, polluted and filthy, villagers remain villagers and so the villages, no rehabilitation of disabled, there are recurrent floods and droughts, the civic services like water, electricity, sanitation, hospital and health services have crippled, the forests are getting denuded and fast turning into wasteland and we pay for ignorant and ineffective Governance.

There is lot of degeneration in our human values such as, we notice misbehaviour by passengers with conductor or vice-versa, there is hardly any place for parking vehicles at shopping places, people hardly form queues at public bus stops, the me alone attitude of the people, littering the roads, streets, buses, trains, has become our habit, Indians have poor habit of reading, we create differences on the basis of religion, increasing crimes and terrorism, underworld and hawala transactions etc. Unlike other countries, where people believe in dignity of labour, do even a menial job with smile, and price, our bureaucrats and their petty staff do their work as if they are doing a great favour to the public.

The next part of the book is devoted to why we are like this. In this section, chapters like our Callous system of Governance, Evolution of corruption in our society and causes of our industrial failure are described. Who can forget the national shame when 67 tonnes of gold was physically carried to UK to settle a debt of \$ 600 million, the rise and fall of Panchayati Raj in India, giving supremacy to novices (bureaucrats) over the professionals, development process devised without involvement of people, corruption & incompetence, evolution of present political system, reservation policies etc. All these mis-governance lead to gross mis-use of resources, bred high level of inefficiency, reached very

high level of population, lead to poor urbanisation and making the system redundant. With proper governance, guidance and application of knowledge we can transform this ramshackled and dilapidated monolith of a country into one of the richest and most prosperous nation in the world.

In India, it is believed that Inspector raj is like the rodents in your paddy field or termites in your cupboard and Government of India runs the country on files. Corruption leads to black money, which is almost 50% of our GDP. It is also commonly known that black money is not because of tax evasion but got generated due to quotas, licenses, sanctions, MRTP, DGTD, unscrupulous laws of taxation, abusive checks and controls on industry, business houses etc. We need to fight the causes rather than its effect. Putting a bucket below a leaking roof is no solution; we need to plug the holes.

The third part appears to be a most significant part of the book. The author has suggested development of the country through Rural Development, Controlling Population, Reforming Education, Water Management, Disaster Management, Optimising Power Generation, Improving Environment, Improving Tourism Laying Emphasis on IT And R&D, Reforming Defence Services, Developing North Eastern States, Resolving Kashmir through unification and review

of rash globalisation. The last part has recommended how the development can be done. It has been recommended to install prudent and competent Governance Structure without which rigid and stable foundation cannot be laid down. Whatever reforms are needed in our governance system shall be immediately taken care of otherwise nation may face serious repercussions.

The book under review is having wonderful collection of facts about India. How its economy is working, how it is administered and what has prevented its progress since independence. A worth reading book with lot of information to remember. The author, KC Agrawal has been very honest in his analysis and thinking. The book is published by Knowledge Books Inc, Noida in 2003 and dedicated by the author to people of India.