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Cell : 9595 359 435, Ph No: 02172372010 Email: ayisrj@yahoo.in Website: www.isrj.org

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MULTI-DIMENSIONAL SOCIO POLITICAL THINKER



Mehrdad Darvishpour

ABSTRACT

In the era of globalisation exchange of thoughts has pivotal significance. As communication technology is advancing the entire world is becoming a global village where there is a need to come together for common interest leading to social development. In this view a team of professors and social scientists of Malardalen University Sweden visited Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed University in 2014 to assess the possibility of academic exchange in the field of professional social work. Intensive discussions were taken place between the faculty of Social Sciences, University authorities and the team of professors which was on an official visit to India. The Welfare Lab which is a crucial aspect of professional social work was the common area of interest where academic exchange programs could be planned. Accordingly the academic exchange program took shape for mutual academic benefit.

According to WHO it is the approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing the problems associated with life-threatening illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification and impeccable assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, physical, psychosocial, and spiritual." The purpose of palliative care is, therefore, to improve the quality of life of both patients and families by responding to pain and other distressing physical symptoms, as well as to provide nursing care and psycho-social and spiritual support.



INTRODUCTION:

Dr Usha Verghese Associate Professor ,Social Science Centre visited Malardalen University, School of Health, Care and Social Welfare, Sweden in October 2015 for a three weeks period as a part of faculty exchange program. She delivered lectures to social work students, social work faculty and Ph.D. scholars of Malardalen University. She has also visited various social work organisations in Sweden. As

a counter part Dr. Mehrdad Darvishpour who is working as an Associate Professor in Social Work at Malardalen University is currently on an official visit to India under this academic exchange program between 7th to 28th February 2016. The main object of his visit is to interact with the faculty of Social Science Centre of Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed University and to visit various Social work organisations such as SOS Balgram, Alochana, All India Institute of local Self-Government etc. While interacting with Mehrdad it was observed that, though he is working in social work department his thinking has several edges of sociological thoughts, political thoughts, poverty, gender analysis, women empowerment, migration and immigration, ethnicity, minority, etc. The following text gives the brief account of his academic background and his contribution in various fields. Having in-depth discussions on various issues of social problems in developed and developing countries and understanding his approach for analysing social conditions one can say that he is a multi dimensional thinker of socio-political sciences.

He was born and brought up in Iran in a non religious family which was a strong believer human values. He was highly impressed by his mother Simin Darvishpour for her simplicity, diverse thinking and commitment for social causes. For his career, character and scientific contribution his mother has given substantial inputs. Mehrdad owes credit to his mother who cared and reared Mehrdad by crossing several hurdles in her life. From his childhood he was very keen to know unknown things. It was a part of childhood curiosity which laid the sound foundation of his thinking process. During his school age he used to ask such questions to his teachers for which they did not have any answer. He was punished several times for asking such questions. As a part of his thirst for knowledge he read, History, Philosophy, Political and other Social Sciences which was not a part of the study. He read almost all literature written by Jawaharlal Nehru and was highly impressed by his book entitled 'History of the World' and 'Discovery of India'. Along with this literature he has also studied the various theories of Emil Durkheim, Charles Darwin and Karl Marx etc.

During his adolescent period he developed various groups of students who were interested in History, Philosophy, Physical Science and Social Sciences and then he become a leader of these groups. During this period the political movements were at the peak stage in Iran. He took active part in political movement as a profession. In the meanwhile he developed his writing skills, leadership qualities and widened his horizon of thoughts on political issues, social issues, democracy etc. At the age of Twenty years he became one of the leaders of a Left party having large no of active members and sympathisers. During this period he had written an article entitled 'Critical Issue of Theory of Dependency'. This paper attracted the attention of a part of political and intellectual elite. This was the beginning of his leadership activities and active involvement in the political movement. During this period he was highly influenced by Communist Manifesto of Karl Marx. Which laid the foundation of his Political Movement. In those days the political movement against well established power structure was the major threat. Knowing the risk involved in active involvement in political movement he took several social action by organising and mobilising different communities to fight for injustice and to establish the Democratic system based on human values for which he got active support from his mother. The same was instrumental making him socio political thinker of his present stature.

He started his academic career in Stockholm University as a research scholar of Sociology in 1989. He studied Sociology, Political Science and History of Ideas. He continued his academic development in Sociology and obtained the Doctoral degree in Sociology. The subject for Doctoral study was 'Power Conflict And High Divorce Rate Among The Immigrant Families'. He wrote several articles, research papers, government reports, books, chapters in various books, monographs in English, Swedish or Persian language. His core area of writing is women empowerment, family relations, social conflict, ethnicity, masculinity, migration, immigration and integration, powers

structure and unequal relations. He has edited a book entitled 'Ethnicity and Migration: Perspectives to a Multicultural Sweden'. This book is being taught in more than ten Universities of Sweden and even in Finland.

At present he has settled in Sweden and is a Swedish citizen of Sweden. Over a period of years Mehrdad changed his political thinking from Radical Left to New Left and more Social Democrat issues. He criticised left movement on the ground of late acceptance of democracy and further he focused on anti-imperialist discourse. In 1986 he wrote the first article on feminist issue. In this article he focused on women's power as more important issue for democracy and progress. A few years later he developed his thinking on anti racist discourse and focused more on ethnic relations and discrimination. He is the strong believer of four dimensions of the social development i.e. democratic values and social justice, feminist issues and the role of women in development, antiracist and antidiscrimination issues of the society and the ecological issues which has created the conducive environment for the development of humanity and human values.

He is one of the expert and national speakers in Sweden on the subject of ethnic minorities and honour related violence. He has been invited by several countries to deliver speeches on issues like family conflict, gender issues, inter-generational issues, ethnic relations, social discrimination and intersectionality. In his writings he is very keen to analyse the power structure and social conflict in view of human values and social relations. His views on intersectionality perspectives is considered as one of the new dimensions for sociological thoughts as indicated by the several speeches he has delivered on various platforms in various countries. He is one of the authorities to talk on intersectionality and discrimination under various political and power structures of developed and underdeveloped nations in the world.



Mehrdad Darvishpour

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