



A white touch to a refreshed green revolution

The Amul model, of a socio-economic enterprise, has immense potential to aid India's crop-growing farmers

Revolutions, varied purposes

1. The contrast between the two revolutions provides valuable insights. Their purposes were different. The purpose of the green revolution was to increase the output of agriculture to prevent shortages of food. The purpose of the white revolution was to increase the incomes of small farmers in Gujarat, not the output of milk.
2. The green revolution was largely a technocratic enterprise driven by science and the principles of efficiency. Whereas, the white revolution was a socio-economic enterprise driven by political leaders and principles of equity.
3. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Tribhuvandas Kishibhai Patel had a vision of a cooperative movement of Gujarati farmers for increasing their incomes. Dr Verghese Kurien joined the dream.

The lesson of the White revolution:

1. The first insight is: inclusion and equity in governance must be hardwired into the design of the enterprise. An increase in the incomes and wealth of the workers and small asset owners in the enterprise must be the purpose of the enterprise, rather than the production of better returns for investors.

Green Revolution	White Revolution
Introduction of new technology in Indian agriculture and its expansion programme after the Third 5-Year Plan period during 1966 was named as Green Revolution.	The rapid increase in milk production through integrated systems is called White Revolution.
The main objective of Green Revolution was to increase agricultural output through implementation of new technologies and bring India out of the food crisis faced by it at that time.	The main objective of the White Revolution was to increase milk production in the country and provide rural people with alternate means of livelihood, reducing the dependency on agriculture and improve cattle breed.
Introduced in the late 1960s.	Introduced in 1970.
Norman Borlaug is considered as the Father of Green Revolution and M.S. Swaminathan is known for his leading role in India's Green Revolution.	Dr Varghese Kurien is considered as the father of White Revolution in India.
This was a global project and adopted by several developing countries.	This was an Indian project solely concentrated in the rural areas.

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2. The second: the 'social' side of the enterprise is as important as its 'business' side.
3. The third: solutions must be 'local systems' solutions, rather than 'global (or national) scale' solutions. The resources in the local environment (including local workers) must be the principal resources of the enterprise.
4. The enterprise must be embedded in the local community from whom it gets its environmental resources, and whose well-being it must nourish by its operations.
5. The fourth: science must be practical and useable by the people on the ground rather than a science developed by experts to convince other experts.
6. The fifth: sustainable transformations are brought about by a steady process of evolution, not by drastic revolution.

Crux:

1. Large-scale farming using modern scientific methods was the approach in the Soviet Union to improve agricultural outputs, as it is in the United States, and it achieved equally spectacular results. However, it wiped out peasants in the Soviet Union and has swept off small farmers in the U.S.
2. Kurien told Premier of the USSR Aleksey Kosygin who visited him in Anand that top-down ownership of enterprises, whether by the state (in the Soviet model) or by remote investors (in the capitalist model) was the wrong solution.
3. The essence of democratic economic governance is that an enterprise must be of the people, for the people, and governed by the people too.

Births and rights

Highlights:

1. The time has indeed come for such a Bill; for government intervention to regulate the field of fertility treatments, and by seeking to establish a national registry and registration authority for all clinics and medical professionals in the segment, it will fill a vacuum.
2. The Bill has provisions to protect the rights of the donors, the commissioning couple and the children born out of ART, to grant and withdraw licences for clinics and banks depending on performance factors.

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3. It proposes to make it impossible for outlaws to operate within the system and profit from it while exploiting patients.
4. It also plans to put an end to illegal trafficking in embryos, and mistreatment of the poor coerced by their circumstances into donating eggs or sperm.

Concerns of bias and neglect:

1. It is unfathomable that a Bill, so progressive by its very nature, would glaringly exclude members of the LGBTQIA+ community and single men. As citizens, these groups too have the right to exercise reproductive rights.
2. The omission is particularly baffling considering that the legislation has made provisions for single women too, apart from a commissioning heterosexual couple.
3. Unfortunately, despite expert recommendations to include both categories, the Committee recommended 'it would not be appropriate to allow live-in couples and same-sex couples to avail the facility of ART' citing the best interest of the child born through ART.
4. It also recorded that 'given [the] Indian family structure and social milieu and norms, it will not be very easy to accept a child whose parents are together but not legally married'.
5. While the law would do well to be cognisant of the sentiments of the people, its purpose is also to nudge retrograde social norms out of their freeze-frames towards broader acceptance of differences and preferences.
6. The ball is now squarely in the court of the Upper House; legislators can still set right the omissions and introduce the spirit of justice in the letter of the law.