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Written Statement from The Sant Nirankari Mandal, Delhi

Transforming Public Institutions

"Moving from commitments to results", is an encompassing item of discussion on the subject noted above. Reading the sub-items of discussion, in between the lines, the 4th one, "Strengthening the confidence of citizens in the effectiveness, validity and integrity of public administration through enhanced targeted efforts to use good governance to prevent, expose and deal with corruption", forms the bedrock for transforming public institutions. To identify the core relevance of this item, we need to understand the potential of culture.

Culture Sans Conscience

Death of the body is not such a loss as the death of conscience. The virus of this killer disease has spread all around. After afflicting the conscience, the virus spreads to the head and heart. It brings with it greed and graft which destroys all human values. Being infectious, it acquires the dimensions of an epidemic. Although the virus may not cause physical death, yet it causes the death of all that is good and virtuous.

Conscience is the light of soul and raises its voice in protest wherever anything is thought of or done contrary to righteousness. If conscience stings once, it is an admonition, if twice, it is condemnation. Why have we become deaf to its voice? Insensitive to its pricks? The answer is corruption rampant everywhere. It is painful reality that corruption has become a way of life. Flowing from the top to the bottom, corruption has affected all aspects of living.

Remember the age old question, "Which came first, the hen or the egg?" Now we ask, "Which came first, corruption in the public institutions or in the general public?" The lust for easy money gives birth to the twins: corruption and bribery.

Of the various kinds of corruption, the worst is the one that subverts the system. Public Institutions plagued with corruption face a challenge to their credibility. Can we expect any potential of such a corrupt culture for transforming public institutions or promoting sustainable development in the economic, social or environmental fields? To expose and prevent corruption, the campaign should be seen and supported as a mass movement on the lines of national campaign against small-pox or polio.

A tinge of conscience is a glimpse of God. In the present day of gloom and doom when human values are declining and morals are reclining, giving way to corruption that has impoverished the whole societal set up, solace lies in spirituality. Corruption starts where belongingness ends. The means through which we can spread belongingness is spirituality. We can make any number of laws to remove corruption but it is the spiritual stability, that provides the key to a secure and responsible society.

For politicians serving in the Public Institutions, — politics is mainly about caring for people and providing for their welfare. Politics without ethics and human values would result in chaos, crime and corruption. Politicians who shun spirituality can be detrimental even

dangerous to society. The Bhagwat Gita says, "He who abandons the commandments of the scriptures and lives as his desires prompt him, attains neither spiritual perfection, nor worldly happiness, nor liberation. Therefore, let the scriptures be the norm in determining what should be done and what is not to be done. Sometimes a spiritual journey is all it takes to find the simplest solution to the greatest problem.

Arnold Toynbee, a distinguished historian, studied the genesis and fall of 21 different civilizations spanning a period of 9000 years and found that 19 of them declined and disappeared when the religious foundations that sustained them became corrupt. He says, "Each time, the people lost faith in religion, its civilization succumbed to social disintegration. The new civilization that replaced such downfall was inspired by religion founded on actual knowledge of God.

The fundamental outcome from Rio Conference held on 12 February 2013 for Sustainable Development was the fact that we are heading towards a set of economic, social and environment crisis. People are important but equally important is the planet on which their prosperity depends. Religious terrorism, psychological attitudes and many other factors combined, we are behaving as if the planet is a business in liquidation. This calls for awareness and dramatic change, to recognise it as a spiritual issue, a challenge that goes to the core of who we are as human beings. With ever growing grip of chaos and violence in our lives, spirituality has a game-changing role to play in reminding us of our humanity.

Salient points for transforming Public Institutions

- Prosperity of Institution has a meaning when there is integrity-based common welfare built in the system. When you have integrity, nothing else matters. And if you do not have integrity, nothing else matters.
- The absolute sanctity be attached to Trust which means many things. But, first and foremost, it is a deep sense of honour, and fulfilling the commitment. Good results follow the good work done. Trust is like electricity. You cannot see it but you can see the light. Cherish it, and it grows. Neglect it and it wilts.
- Individual reputation though counts, yet more important is the reputation of the institution to which one belongs. There is no substitute for dynamic thinking, drive and hard work in whatever role one plays in Public Institutions.
- Whether a Chairman, Secretary, Director or a simple employee, all must remember that they are humans and members of human family. It is important to ensure stability, integrity, transparency and productivity in the Institution.
- In such an environment, selfishness, greed and ego give way to selflessness and care for the institution, its propriety and gaining confidence of the masses, thereby developing transformative leadership and enhancing competencies of public servants.
- It seems, materialism and spiritualism have little in common. But the common factor in both the fields is human being. Therefore, feeling of cosmic kinship is of primary and prime importance.

- Divine virtues and clean life shapes one's character and reflect in one's action. It is human factor that gives an institution its character. Divine virtues when filtered to the grass roots, evoke feelings of loyalty, unity and help to align all the interests within the institution for good governance.

Sant Nirankari Mission

The Sant Nirankari Mission is an all-embracing world-wide religious, socio-spiritual and charitable organisation, which preaches the concept of one Formless God and believes that God can be realised through the True Master. The curves and contours of this definition run harmoniously with the teachings of all the past prophets and globally acknowledged scriptures. Regarded as the present milestone in the mainstream of spirituality, Mission is not to be mistaken for a new religion. It draws upon the shared and accumulated wisdom of our common heritage.

The Mission has two registered organs:

Sant Nirankari Mandal having more than 3000 branches in India and overseas is a mass movement of God knowledge. The enlightened devotees believe that all their assets, material and mental belong to God and we, as trustees only, are ordained to use them for common good of the whole human race. The Mission removes brick by brick all kinds of walls that separate man from man. Thus rising above dogmas of caste, colour creed etc., one becomes respectful towards others' mode of dress, diet and culture. With a towering trait of tolerance, they lead a purposeful self-reliant life and maintain order in the society. Physical poverty is a curse and socio-spiritual deprivation is worse. Therefore, children and youth are not only moulded but also unfolded spiritually for their growth as a law-abiding promising citizens.

With his message, "No God, No Peace; Know God, Know Peace", Nirankari Babaji has addressed several conferences on Interfaith Harmony, Universalism, Rotarians, South East Asia Harmony Conclave, Enterprise Management, Global Convention on Climate Change, 8th International Conference on Corporate Governance in London, 27th National European Parliament in Strasbourg, Nirankari International Samagam in U.K. all on the themes 'World Without Walls', 'Harmony in Oneness', 'Equality through Spirituality', 'Peace not pieces', 'Let us work for it'. If peace based progress is the need of the day Spiritual Awakening through actual knowledge of God is the only means to achieve it.

Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation exclusively carrying out large scale socio-charitable activities of general public utility, to implement the message of Nirankari Babaji, "Life gets a meaning, if it is lived for others". The foundation regularly carries out country-wide and overseas drives on Blood Donation, Tree Plantation, Cleanliness and relief to the victims of natural calamities.

Spirituality breeds charity and

Charity sublimates spirituality.

It was this kind of religion in his mind. When William Burke claimed that religion is the foundation of Republic of Mankind the basis on which all the true civil governments rest and from which power derives its authority, laws their efficiency; and both their sanction. If it is once shaken by contempt the whole fabric cannot be stable or lasting.

(C.L. Gulati)
Secretary, Sant Nirankari Mandal (Hqrs.)
Delhi (INDIA)