



विकास प्रबंधन संस्थान Development Management Institute

First Foundation Day International Symposium

Development Management Pathways towards Good Society

13-14 February 2015

Rajgir International Convention Centre, Rajgir, Bihar, India

Business enterprises whose prime focus is maximisation of their shareholders' wealth generally achieve extractive growth in the short term either by exploitation of resources or by borrowing from future generations. After all, "God declared dead, the communist paradise disenchanted and the state impotent, all hopes were put into the market." (The Economy of Tomorrow, Marc Saxer December 2013, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung)

However, the twin forces of market fundamentalism and financial capitalism are largely geared to serve myopic ends by ignoring and violating ecological, social, economic and fiscal limits; these, in turn, lead to larger societal crisis of the polity (nation state) and the political regime (democracy). With faith in the mystical powers of the market shaken, what remains is the sobering reality of crushing debt, climate change, social turmoil and global decline in many regions of the world. The three-fold global crises of (i) widening inequality accompanied by mass poverty, (ii) environmental destruction and (iii) social disintegration are but symptoms of the malfunctioning of our institutions and deterioration in our regard for values. The more we focus our attention on symptoms, rather than on the transformation of institutions and adherence to established values, the more certain we can be that the crises will deepen.

Contemporary economic, ecological and equity challenges demand a paradigm shift away from the current *Development Management Perspectives*, to enable us to overcome the crises and establish Good Society on a firm foundation wherein production systems operate well within the ecological limits; distribution of income, wealth and opportunities amongst people is just, fair and inclusive; consumption patterns are based on responsible behaviour; and peace and harmony prevail in the relations between and among all beings and nature.

DMI invites eminent scholars and distinguished practitioners to present and share their views on the pathways to wriggle out of the crises; enlighten about the ideal of Good Society and enumerate institutional and policy changes required to support community-based management of resources, enterprises and institutions and provide direction to march towards realizing the ideal of Good Society, at its First Foundation Day International Symposium scheduled at Rajgir during February 13-14, 2015. The goal is to

develop and invigorate a critical mass of independent, decentralised initiatives in support of a social vision of Good Society by co-creating innovative pathways to address the triple crises that are plaguing the present and threatening the future of human societies. All those who wish to traverse the 'road less travelled' are warmly called upon to collaborate in the joint efforts with mindfulness and integrity for moving towards the establishment of the firm foundations of Good Society.

Themes

The First Foundation Day Symposium on **Development Management Pathways towards Good Society** is organised around the following three themes:

- * **Sustainable Livelihoods, central concern of any Good Society**
- * **Commons and Collectives, firm foundations of any Good Society**
- * **Governance and Leadership, practices resonant with the ideal of Good Society**

○ Sustainable Livelihoods

Sustainable Livelihoods, especially of the poor and marginalised, are increasingly becoming central to the debates and discourses on sustainable development. Increasing inequalities in distribution of incomes, wealth and opportunities are threatening the harmony and peaceful co-existence in several societies. Inappropriate production systems and consumption patterns are contributing to ecological degradation and adverse changes in climate. In this context of destabilisation of livelihoods both by social and ecological factors, a steady search for alternate pathways to sustainable livelihoods is not only important but imperative, and the Symposium invites thoughtful and provocative contributions for a balanced and holistic understanding of sustainable livelihoods in Good Society.

○ Commons and Collectives

Inadequacies of both public and private enterprises and interests in the pursuit of mindless accumulation of wealth and inequitable and unjust distribution are giving rise to search for alternate bases for organising economic activities in Good Society. The significance of Commons and Collectives is well recognised in this context, especially in provisioning of public and common goods. The Symposium invites contributions that provide insights into the role of participatory governance and management in their effective functioning and for scaling up their contributions towards Good Society.

○ Governance and Leadership

Good governance and leadership that value citizenship participation are identified as key contributors to sustainable livelihoods development. It is time that a comprehensive critique is attempted at reviewing the current governance and leadership paradigms and practices to identify the deficiencies and boldly offer alternate ways to improve their effectiveness significantly. The Symposium invites critical and innovative contributions to address and counter the all-pervasive phenomenon of misgovernance of institutions and appropriation of leadership positions by self-centered individuals. Pathways to steer the behaviour of citizens and leaders towards enlightened self-interest and to facilitate the ushering in of Good Society, that transcend myopic concerns, need to be illuminated.

About Development Management Institute (DMI)

Development Management Institute (DMI) was set up in 2014 with the active support of the Government of Bihar and other prominent development support agencies with a mission *to empower and usher in participatory governance and management of institutions, enterprises and resources for enhancing livelihoods and generating sustainable development*. DMI endeavours to empower people at the grassroots through:

- Creating a cadre of Development Management Professionals through its academic learning programmes
- Enhancing Competencies for Development Management Praxis
- Orienting Vision, Values and Leadership Practices towards Good Governance
- Engaging in networked trans-disciplinary Action Research and Policy Advocacy.



The geometric approach signifies the rigour and discipline essential for any kind of development and growth.

At the centre is a solid square which portrays the institute and its strong inter-linkages with the external world, as seen by the four connecting routes to the outer octagonal shape. Four Honeycombed shapes surrounding the solid square represent the key stakeholders - State, Civil Society, Markets and the Community.

The leaf-like structures on all four corners signify an open book, strengthening the perception of an academic institution. The circles along with the leaves represent the blossoming of empowered graduates with an integrated learning of perspectives, operational competencies, and contextual understanding. The sharp yet dynamic form represents discipline, excellence, and mindful alertness.

Set in an earthly terracotta color, the symbol portrays rootedness and humility with commitment to impart good education, that applied right, ushers in progressive well-being for all.