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Dr.K.Sasi Kumar

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SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - INDIAN PERSPECTIVE

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SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - INDIAN PERSPECTIVE

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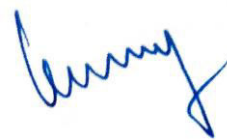
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EDITORIAL MESSAGE

We take great pleasure in welcoming you to our Edited Book. The immediacy of e-based publication makes it possible for us all to be fully connected to each other and to developments in our field and to be directly involved in ongoing knowledge construction.

With several economies gearing towards the end of lockdowns, it's time for organizations to implement Post-COVID-19 business recovery strategies. Although it will let organizations restore balance to an extent, total recovery from the crisis is going to be a long and strategic battle. With these concepts in mind, we invited with scholarly discussions to facilitate new ideas for business sectors. This book also stands as a platform for Students and research scholars to express their innovative business models and solutions.

We are thankful to all academicians, research scholars and students who have contributed for this edited book. We also acknowledge the valuable suggestions and support offered by our colleagues and students. We are delighted that you are joining us as readers and hope you will also join us as contributors.



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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMICAL GROWTH IN INDIAN PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

Science is critical to tackle complex challenges for humanity such as climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and poverty reduction, as it lays the foundation for new approaches and solutions. How can science best fulfill this commitment to society? How can we create dynamic connections between knowledge and action? These concerns have led to a new approach: sustainability science. UNESCO, with the generous support of the Government of Japan, is bringing together key stakeholders from academia, the policy-making community, specialized institutions and the United Nations in order to better define and broaden the sustainability science approach in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This 2-year project was launched during a symposium held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris earlier in April. “The 2030 Agenda is transformative, and it requires a multidisciplinary approach to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, while ensuring policy coherence across the different interventions” explained Nada Al-Nashif, UNESCO’s Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences. “This is a critical role for sustainability science - as it promotes cross-disciplinary approaches to advance the understanding of human-environment interactions and systems, and how these interactions affect the challenge of sustainability.” The sustainability science approach is essential for effective decision-making with regard to global sustainability, since social, environmental and cultural systems are closely linked. UNESCO will continue, with its partners, to continue to support efforts to educate and advocate the development of this approach. This approach is a powerful reminder of the complexity of the challenges the world is facing, and the immense responsibilities this creates for international organizations like UNESCO.

Introduction

Three Symposiums will be organized in the framework of the project, to bring together key experts and perspectives. The second symposium will take place in early 2017. The final outcome of the Project will be a set of policy guidelines defining sustainability science, setting the principles within which the approach should be undertaken, and providing guidance on its application at multiple levels.

Evolution of Science and Technology Policy in India

This chapter discusses the evaluation of science and technology policy in India along with the fundamental values that inform the strategies and decisions deriving from it. It follows the post-independence debates and the twelve five-years plans on science and technology. The values of access, inclusion and equity are identified and analyzed as the guiding principles underlying policy actions in India and explain the conceptual differences that we witness in the perception of science and technology ethics in the three regions.

This chapter focused the evolution of science and technology policy in India, its linkage with national developmental plans and the challenges ahead for India in science, technology and innovation policy. In India, as in many post-colonial countries, the state has played a major role in using science and technology for national development besides giving it a special thrust. While India succeeded in creating a sizeable science and technology infrastructure within five decades of independence, the globalization of science and technology and changes in the external economic environment necessitated a change in the orientation of policymakers.

The Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012–2017) focuses on sustainable and inclusive growth, while the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy of 2013 emphasizes new models for promoting innovation. In the global innovation discourse, India's capacity for frugal and inclusive innovation is recognized, and the National Innovation System is also bringing about change, with contributions from many quarters ranging from multinational corporations to grassroots innovators.

Science and Technology Policy in India

‘Science: The Endless Frontier’, a report by Vannevar Bush published in 1945, played an important role in setting the agenda for post-war science and technology policy in the USA. The report saw it as the task of science policy to contribute to national security, health and economic growth. It emphasised the potential economic impact of investing in science. Science policy is a tool for managing and funding the accumulation of knowledge by establishing, funding and sustaining organizations (e.g. universities and research laboratories) and directing their outputs and accumulated knowledge towards meeting national objectives, among other things—and it can be justified from an economic perspective:

A general economic rationale for STI policy is that we pursue it because we think it will lead to technological progress, and we think that technological progress is a crucial determinant of economic growth, which in turn we regard as ultimately vital to the welfare of the individuals who comprise society (Kane 2001). Given the wider impact of science policy, it can be analysed from various disciplinary perspectives (see, for example, Husbands Fealing et al. 2011). In post-colonial societies science policy became a prominent policy in national developmental agendas (Salami and Soltanzadeh 2012). Thus science policy is primarily a post-Second World War phenomenon. This is equally true of India, but the development of science policy there can be traced to the response of Indian society to modern science (Sinha 1992).

The responses to modern science in India's traditional society were of three kinds: modernists wanted India to follow the European model, critical modernists argued for a creative synthesis of European and Indian civilizations, absorbing the best from Europe, and critical traditionalists emphasized the need to give primary importance to Indian tradition and culture while drawing upon European knowledge and culture (Parekh 1989). The responses to modern science within the national movement and Indian society were varied, and so was the understanding of science. Often science was equated with modernity. By the 1930s, groups of scientists, nationalists and others were arguing that science would have to play an important role in post-independence India. The National Planning Committee constituted in 1940 had a subcommittee on science. India gained its freedom in 1947, and the first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, inspired by Fabian socialism and centralized planning in the then USSR,

envisaged centralized planning and strong support for science in India. He gained the support of scientists such as Homi Bhabha, Meghnad Saha and S.S. Bhatnagar, and the restructuring of science and technology infrastructure was started. The infrastructure left behind by the British was upgraded, and many new laboratories and universities and research centres were setup. India gave priority to research in atomic energy.

The first science policy statement was issued in 1958. In 1983 the government came out with a Technology Policy Statement, followed by a Science and Technology Policy Statement in 2003. In 2013 the Department of Science and Technology issued its Science, Technology and Innovation Policy. These statements and policies have provided the overarching frameworks for science and technology policy and its linkage with developmental goals. Since 1952 there have been 12 five-year plans. The current five year plan (2012–2017) emphasizes sustainable and inclusive growth. The key features of the five year plans are set out in Table 1.1 [Dogra (2011)].

Table 1.1 India's five year plans

Plan	Timeline	Key feature
First	1951–1956	Agriculture-led
Second	1956–1961	Socialistic industrial policy
Third	1961–1966	Self-reliance in agriculture and industry (plan affected by wars with China and Pakistan in 1962 and 1965 respectively), price stabilization
Fourth	1969–1974	Society-oriented (education, employment and family planning)
Fifth	1974–1979	Non-economic variables
Sixth	1980–1985	Infrastructure (6 % per annum growth achieved)
Seventh	1985–1989	Welfare sector, programmes such as Jawahar Rozgar Yojana
Eighth	1992–1997	Dismantling licence prerequisites and reducing trade barriers
Ninth	1997–2002	Agriculture and rural focus
Tenth	2002–2007	Globally competitive growth
Eleventh	2007–2012	Employment and social indicators
Twelfth	2012–2017	Sustainable and inclusive growth

^aIndia had three annual plans between 1966 and 1969

Science for national development and security, and self-reliance, have been at the core of India's science and technology policies. Although India had no documents similar to 'Science: The Endless Frontier', its science and technology planning was led by scientists and technocrats who shared the visions of the politicians. This alliance led to a broad consensus on applying science and technology in India and to continued support for science and technology from successive

governments. In that sense the post-colonial state in India was an ardent supporter of science and technology.

Global innovation systems tend to bypass large sections of the community. Innovation for inclusive growth implies ensuring access, availability and affordability of solutions to as large a population as possible. Innovation therefore must be inclusive. The policy goes on to list 'Linking contributions of science, research and innovation system with the inclusive economic growth agenda and combining priorities of excellence and relevance' as an important objective. The policy advocates the strengthening of linkages between the scientific and socio-economic sectors, and it states that NGOs will be accorded an important role in delivering science, technology and innovation outputs.

In India, prior to 1991, centralized planning by the state was the determining factor in setting priorities for science and technology. After 1991, economic liberalization and globalization brought new challenges and opportunities in science and technology forward. India joined the World Trade Organization and had to amend its laws and enact new ones to meet the requirements of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). Similarly, India enacted a law to comply with the Convention on Biological Diversity. Globalization helped India realize its competitiveness in information technology services and the pharmaceutical industry. India became an attractive destination for foreign direct investment in research and development (Basant and Mani 2012). In 2010 the Science Advisory Council to the Prime Minister introduced its vision document entitled 'India as a Global Leader in Science' with the following statement: In the next two decades, India is likely to become an economically prosperous nation and move significantly towards being a far more inclusive society, with the bulk of its population gaining access to facilities for education and health care and living a life with hope and security. To realize such a vision, it is essential that science is at the heart of the strategy that the next stage of national development demands (Science Advisory Council to the Prime Minister 2010).

It listed India's achievements in science and pointed out that the complex problems the country faced called for a 'proper use of science'. It argued that India itself was the most cost-effective source of research and development in India as it accounted for 0.5% of global

expenditure on science and produced 2.5 % of the global output in science. The documents suggested many measures, including more funding for science to help India become a leader in global science (Science Advisory Council to the Prime Minister 2010). To conclude, the science and technology policy in post-independence India has been shaped by concerns over socio-economic development and the need for self-reliance. In years to come, however, the policy will have to address new issues emerging on account of the globalization of science and technology, the opportunities provided by emerging technologies and the technological convergence and other changes taking place in the global science and technology landscape. At the same time, the science and technology policy will have made a substantial contribution to sustainable and inclusive growth.

Science and Technology Policy Discourses in India

Although science and technology policy in India is largely driven by the state, the debates on the role of science and technology in Indian society and modes of applying science and technology help us understand the policy discourses. For convenience, we can classify these discourses into the following categories:

- Nehruvian discourse
- Gandhian discourse
- People's science movements and their discourse on science and technology
- Other voices and discourses on science and technology

Ethics in Science and Technology Policy in India

Indian science and technology policies have been shaped by the concern that the application of science and technology should enable faster socio-economic development and that all sections should benefit from scientific and technological advances. The unstated assumption in these policies is that value-neutrality and scale-neutrality are to be addressed by appropriate interventions in favor of marginalized sections of the population.

India stands for and will be pleased to contribute on following dimensions of UNCSTD efforts vis-à-vis post-2015 Development Agenda:

- Affordable Innovations, encompassing access, availability and usable solutions to meeting basic needs;

- Accelerated Inclusive Growth for aspiring nations – developing countries with thrust on base of pyramid population (as a better replacement to the prevalent expression of bottom of the pyramid) (Relia 2014)

Thus, in our view, access, inclusion and equity can be considered ethical values in relation to science and technology policy. There are many issues that need to be addressed, including developing science, technology and innovation indicators for access, inclusion and equity, and developing methodologies for measuring policy outcomes for access, inclusion and equity, and more theoretical work needs to be done on access, inclusion and equity.

Conclusion

Indian science and technology policy has come a long way since the early 1950's. Today, as India aspires to be a global leader in science and technology, it is important for Indian policy to give attention to ethics in science and technology policy. However, this does not mean that science and technology policy has to import values from Europe or the USA. Rather, in our view, access, inclusion and equity can be considered ethical values and can be used to assess policy outcomes. This makes better sense in the Indian context, as it links societal development with science and technology policy. It also reflects the current thinking on sustainable and inclusive growth.

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