

# India's Look East Policy with Reference to Ethical Value: A Critical Evaluation

DR.HITESH CHANDRA KALITA  
HOD & Associate Professor in Philosophy  
MNC BalikaMahavidyalaya, Nalbari, Assam, India

## ABSTRACT

The paper proposes to present and elaborate and critically analyze the main concepts and pragmatic value of India's Look East Policy with an ethical evaluation. Indian Government started Look East Policy in 1992 as an attempt to relate with Asian economies specially neighboring eastern economies. Actually the paper tries to find out that India's Look East Policy for its total development including economic and political development must be based on ethics such as good conduct, faith, behave and inner realization to the other countries.

**Keywords:** Look East Policy, Ethical Value, India and Evaluation.

## INTRODUCTI

India's look east policy with reference to ethics may be accepted as very important subject in all times for the including countries. India's look east policy is simply a policy for its economic and political development to keep in brotherhood relation with the Asian countries. It is generally said as the end of the cold war following the collapse of the Soviet Union. Prime Minister Narasimha Rao in India took a decision to relate with ASIAN. At the fourth ASEAN Summit held in Singapore in January, 1992 ASEAN Heads of Government agreed to establish sectoral dialogue on trade, investment and tourism with India. "Even when India's approach to development was inward looking and state controlled some smaller countries to its east had emerged as strong economies and came to be known as the 'Asian Tigers'. The Performance of these economies finally compelled policy makers in India to look eastward for inspiration for rapid economic development. The Look East Policy is one of the important strategies of India's development".<sup>1</sup>

## METHODOLOGY

It has been mainly used by empirical and rational as well as descriptive and analytical method. The conclusion is to be tried to deduce through the help of induction after observation of particular agreement and relation with the neighboring countries of India. Moreover, following philosophical studies it is mainly helped by television, news paper, book, journal, research paper, internet (web resources) and discussion of the people related to the issue.

## OBJECTIVE

The main objectives are to be stated as following:

- (1) To study the main intention of India's look east policy.
- (2) Ethical need to implement the policy.
- (3) To develop India following brotherhood relationship with neighboring countries.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION: LOOK EAST POLICY AND ETHICS

Ethics is the only way for getting ultimate salvation by performance of voluntary action. It is mainly accompanied by the sense of duty, moral obligation, virtue and ultimate development of human race. Even knowledge is also a condition of virtue. The right solution of economics, politics etc. actually depends upon the correct notions of right and wrong attitude. That is why ethics should be based to implement India's look east policy.

The implementation of the look east policy has inevitable implications for India. It is intended to start mainly economic development in an industrially weak place, unemployment generation. It is with trade and market establishment with the potential of India. There is an important announcement that one market between India and Bangladesh at the zero line of border inaugurated by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sekh Hasina on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 as well as some other economic and political agreements between two countries made. Nodal agency of the Hatt Shyamal Dev said, "Business in the Hatt would take place once a week among people living within 5 km radius of the border who would sell and buy locally produced goods and crops. No local taxes would be imposed on the items to be sold in the hats and currencies of both the countries would prevail."<sup>2</sup>

There are various scopes for the Northeast of India to develop trade by enhancing certain aspects like hospitality, tourism, communication and insurance which are essential subjects to develop people from the basic point. Man as social and ethical being it is our duty for keeping good relation with neighbors. In view of it relation with the same should be virtuous in place of diplomacy. Soul-based action is only permanent where appearance-based diplomacy is impermanent. In this reference

Kant's ethical statement, "A good will is good not because of what performs or effects, not by its aptness for the attainment of some proposed end, but simply by virtue of the volition"<sup>3</sup>

Officials of Russia, India and China (RIC) met on 29.5.2015 in New Delhi for second round consultations on efforts to promote peace, economic reconstruction and stability in Afganistan.<sup>4</sup> It is very important achievement for look east policy.

If we look at Asiatic countries particularly India and China we come across Great moral personalities like Confucius, Lao-tzu, Mahavir, Buddha and many others. Confucius and Lao-tzu like Mahavir and Buddha were semi-literate but they were great men in the sense that they show good path to human kind.<sup>5</sup>

The main intention of the policy is free and ethical economic development of India with the relation of neighboring countries. So the government of India formulated this policy interacting with the eastern neighbors of the Southeast Asian countries as new potential partners in international trade, thereby reducing its dependency on the west. The Southeast Asia countries and India are no strangers to one another. Their civilization links stretch thousands of years evident in culture, tradition, heritage, monuments, religion and linguistic influences. Today the time is ripe for India to put behind the cold war divisions of Asia and to set the tone for weaving a regional economic fabric with these countries on the lines of an "Asian Union".<sup>6</sup> It is actually spontaneous as well as continuous evolving. This policy is also a border security of a non-military nature.

For this policy Meghalaya may develop by using their potentiality to produce high quality and quantity tea. Similarly, Manipur has also high quality to produce fruit and oranges. There is a question, can the State produce the exportable and tradable surpluses required to be credible suppliers to the international trade market? This is also lack of getting ethical or total development of the people of the same regions. This type of problem may be well solved by proper using look east policy. In this reference, "The famous scientist Albert Einstein had appropriately remarked that it is easier to split an atom than to split a prejudice. For the development of the Northeast India and for the proper implementation of the Look East Policy, the prejudices both internal (those that exist within the region amongst the various ethnic groups, amongst the various components of society) and prejudices about this region that prevail in New Delhi and other parts of the country have to be broken down effectively. Napoleon Bonaparte had once said that there was no ability without opportunity".<sup>7</sup>

It is very important to see more that India may face security problem from the free and liberal trade relations with the eastern countries. Moreover, the China factor and insurgency, roads across Myanmar may be used to bring drugs, illegal migrants, infectious disease and small arms more than before implementing look east policy which is unethical.

The Informal component of border trade between India and Bangladesh is substantial. Informal or illegal trade takes place not only through legal and conventional routs but through other routs which subsequently escape the notice of the BSF and customs personal. It is said that illegal imports and exports are as large as their formal counterpart.<sup>8</sup>

Tourism has also an important ethical outlook. Tourism should never be looked an alternative but rather, is an important way of life. Tourism is simple term is the activity of understanding a journey for recreation. The term "Tourism" is related to 'tour' which has been derived from the Latin word "Tornos" (turner's wheel), it also means a 'round tour'<sup>9</sup>. Tourism is both external and internal articulation of human willing to travel, to experience, to meet and discuss with others including specially development of education and real happiness. It should simultaneously reconcile the pressing need for environment conservation with the urgent demand for economic and total development. Without a good environment no one can think up for a good life. Moreover, it should maintain a respect for ethical values of the host class showcased then such class should accustom to a new climate with the needs and expectations of the visitor.

## CONCLUSION

Though there may be some negative implications of the policy, yet the policy itself is not negative as well as it helps to rebuild India. India has already a tradition for keeping in good relation with neighboring countries.

In Europe all the policy measures are researched by the universities. Indian new government policy like America should be announced with the help of university campus. Actual education system has a co-relation between national policy and virtue.

The Look East Policy should be behaved as look east duty which should come out from our soul of nation. Then we can realize that this duty is within our soul. The necessary soul-based duty for using good look east policy is ethical duty. All other policies are created by human being. It will be meaningless if it leads us to the ultimate destruction of human value.

**REFERENCES**

1. Lyngdoh Charles R. & Rani M., Look Est Policy- Impact on N E India, p.3, Akansha Publishing House, New Delhi-110002 (India).
2. The Assam Tribune, Guwahati, on 29.5.2015.
3. Sinha Jadunath, A Manual Of Ethics, p.4, New Central Book Agency 8/1, Chintamoni Das Lane, Calcutta 700009).
4. The Assam Tribune, Guwahati, on 30.5.2015.
5. Edited by Bora Shakuntala, Jijnasa, Vo., v.2018, Pranjal Kumar Mahanta, Six mile, Khanapara, Guwahati-781022. Mob. Num:+919854519488. Email; pranjalkrmahanta@gmail.com.
6. Lyngdoh Charles R. & Rani M., Look Est Policy- Impact on N E India, p.3, Akansha Publishing House, New Delhi-110002 (India).
  7. Ibid, p.24
  8. Rahman, Atier: "Bangladesh-India Economic Relations: Potentials and Imperatives",  
Artha Beekshan, Journal of Bagiya Arthaniti Parishad (Bengal Economic Association),  
Vol. 13, No. 3, December, 2004.
9. Rai. Harish Chandra: Hill Tourism: Planning and Development, Kanishka Publishers, New Delhi, 1998.

