

# EDITORIAL

## Socio-Economics - repercussions on Mental Health

Anil Kumar / SRP Shukla

Our nation, in the process of economic progression, is undergoing social regression culminating in balkanization of the middle class, the harbinger of our culture. Market economy, TV, internet and impact of technology have yielded ANOMIE (Durkheim), 1897) IDENTITY CRISIS (Erickson, 1970), or IDENTITY DIFFUSION Orru, 1983) and are causing psycho-social impact expressed as transition of social man into economic man with insatiable needs, resulting in imperialistic life style, hence chase for money. These socio-economic percussions are resulting in family rubric break-down, behavioural or internet-addiction, attention and concentration deficit, poly-drug addiction, alcoholism, violence, suicide and/or personality aberration.

As a consequence of economic evolution the economic man has replaced the social man with heightened rationality, self interested behavior, entitlement for luxury, skewed reasoning to defend silly irrationality by the defense of reasoning. Self indulgence consisting of tantalus cup filling up of narcissistic void with material objects and money. Self defeating, self destructive behavior, "I will do anything for money" because money is me; without money I am nothing. I can buy everything from money, which results in over confidence because their ego – the reality appraisal system – gets involved and they are fooled by hindsight bias. [Laibson (1994) quoted in Uchitelles (2001)].

Social regression entails crisis of values. The crucible of values is family and commune. Economic progression results in family balkanization due to uber affluence or neo-richness (Rosch 2001). The combination of uber-rich or the neo-rich leads to identity malformation resulting in rudderless life style, boorish behavior, thankless selfish, non-faithful, treacherous, confused. With such aberration due to narcissistic void, a negative identity becomes less threatening than no identity and is thus plugged by poly addiction. Pro-social values being corroded, there is smugness, alienation and lackadaisicalism, violence and reality distortion. (Singh, 2008). Unable to confront the reality, they escape into the different types of addiction, behavioural aberrations and/ or embalm themselves with the chemical mother – the mind influencing agents.

The middle class families are breaking down due to economic surge, resulting in imperialistic life style. Family is the crucible for forging personality and self culture and formation of identity. Due to prevailing socio-economic turmoil, the families are undergoing fragmentation, diasporisation, nuclearization or monoparentalisation resulting in manufacturing of asocial, anti-social or narcissistically fragile youth.

### Reference:

- 1) Erickson, E.H.(1970): Reflection on the dissent of contemporary youth, International Journal of Psychoanalysis, vol.51, PP.11-22.
- 2) Durkheim, E.(1887): Suicide, wikipedia
- 3) Orru, Marco.(1983): The Ethics of Anomie: Jean Marie Guyan & Emile Durkheim, British Journal of Sociology, vol. 34, No.4, Dec. 1983, PP499-518/
- 4) Rosch Leah (2001): Raising kids in the age of affluence, March; <http://www.hyperparenting.com/child.htm>
- 5) Uchitelles.L(2001): Behavioural Science in Economics. The Hindu, Thursday, Feb.y
- 6) Singh, A.(2008): Crisis of values, the Hindu, Wednesday, 24th May.

---

Kumar Anil,MD(Psy.) CMO I/c.,Ispat Hospital Shyamali Colony, P.O.: Doranda, Ranchi-834002, Jharkhand	Shukla SRP,MD(Psy.);D.P.M. Consultant, M/61, Shyamali Colony, P.O.: Doranda, Ranchi-834002, Jharkhand
--	--