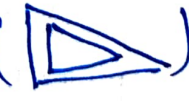


“As the family goes, so goes the nation  
and so goes the whole world in  
which we live”

The story goes like this.

One fine morning, the students of  
class IX D of humanities background  
decided to read Plato. Yes, the  
great philosopher Plato. "Good Morning  
teacher!", came the greeting through  
chorus. "sit down", said the  
teacher accepting it. "Today we will  
read Plato's idea of state. Plato  
claimed that "state is individual  
well large;" told teacher.

"what does this mean  
Ma'am?" astonished students got more  
surprised when teacher drew two  
triangle. The triangle () was  
drawn like this "This is Plato's  
state is individual well large;" told

teacher. Students enjoy faces ~~also~~  
made teacher sure that they  
did not understand. Teacher smiled  
and told them, "look the smaller  
triangle is you. and the larger  
triangle is the nation." "How ma'am?  
asked students." Thinking for  
while, Ma'am replied - what will  
happen if you all clean your class?  
"Ma'am building will clean" student.  
"What will happen when building will  
clean?" Teacher. Ma'am, the school  
will clean. And now the student  
got understand what will happen  
when school, city, state clean.

It will chain the form  
of cleanliness and this will  
improve national efforts of Swachh  
Bharat Mission.

This story tells us  
that initial efforts at family, before

that on individual, have repercussion on subsequent stages of society, state, nation. And if we add another triangle of world, the world seen individual writ large. Thus, as the family goes, so goes the nation so goes the whole world in which we live.

In upcoming essay we will understand why family is so important? Why how the percolation of familial values reflected in ~~societ~~ nation and world? We will also ponder over changing nature of family and how even in this change the ethics of family has capacity to shape cosmopolitan world.

Why family is the backbone?

The first question comes that why we need to talk about family? What is its utility. "Man is a social animal," acclaimed Aristotle when man could not fulfill all needs, he made family.

Family not only fulfill basic needs but also gives emotional support. That is why division in Indian society family (Āśāṅka) is considered taboo. State is association of families. The values and ethics family gives get trickled down in society.

This is the reason it is said that children should live with grandparents. The values and ethics comes through. The idea of community and unity gets

reflected. And family is also the basic unit of various changes that comes in the nation. How?

Now first lets take example of Jyotiba Phule. By starting teaching his wife Savitri Bai Phule, he initiated movement of equality for Dalits. That quest of equality later ran through Gandhi, Ambedkar and finally constitution of India (Art. 17). Not only this, recently US Supreme Court banned caste discrimination. It shows how idea flowed from family to world.

And when it comes to family, how can we forget women? In the time when gender gap index tells that 145 years will it take to bridge the gap, the role of family needs introspection. It is at the

of family that women get discriminated. In eating, studying, lifestyle they are put behind male. The violence in the room becomes common sense in the public. What male child sees at home, applies in whole life and thus glass ceiling is never broken.

It is about breaking the ceilings of corruption that Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam marked - "If the nation has to get rid of corruption, the three agents need powerful character. Father, mother and teacher."

It is through father, the deterrence would come against stealing. It is through mother the value of hard earned money and truth will come to child. And it is through teacher that would come

lessons of periods of corruption; and it is the story of former PM Rajiv Gandhi - ₹0.25 reaches when ₹ 1 is given.

Thus family is method of <sup>revolution</sup> change. to what Gandhi says - "Be the change you want to see in others."

Talking about charge, COVID has proved that how we need to be united. That unity comes from home. As people kept the helping of each other, so survived the nation. Hemkund foundation, a family of youngs fed poor not just in India but abroad. The Gurudwaras helped Ukraine during war.

COVID has also taught the importance of saving. Indians are very keen on saving. They save either in cash, gold or any other investment. In families, women are given money

to some. This habit of saving actually saved India during financial crisis of 2008. It has made Indian economy resilient which today caters the demand of world. Thus, as goes family so nation and so world.

Family - shifting notions

We live in such world that is in flux. As we have seen above, family provides many values, ethics and is vehicle of change. But is family constant?

No, the notion of family is changing. It is changing from joint to nuclear. It is changing from communitarianism to individualism. So what? So there is change in

values. Is it happening everywhere?  
Yes. Indian society has caught up  
western world.

Negatively, the modernisation  
is leading to differences, loneliness,  
animus dominiandi behaviour. This  
increases crime like suicides, theft,  
and lack of compassion. The urban  
world reflects this. Lack of compassion  
is <sup>nation</sup> ~~society~~ leads to violation of  
human rights in world. Drowning  
of migrant boats with 700 on board,  
in Greece is case in point.

on the positive side,  
the changing notion has given autonomy  
freedom to rationality. Working  
women are contributing to the nation  
and this zeal got seen in Anti  
Hizab movement of 92, These women

23, Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi 110005 | 1197  
Women demanded justice, equality and freedom of choice. So is family, so at the globe.

### Changing family - static values

In the above paragraph, we saw that family is changing. So what is the need of it? The need is of value. The values that family gives remains static. That is of unity, community, joint efforts and nowadays rationality and rights of individuals.

In the complexly interdependent world, the challenges of globe are complex too. They can't be tackled by any one ~~nations~~ nation. Family of nations have

to come up to fight against code  
red of humanity (Climate Change);

We have chop off the arms of  
radicalisation and terror. We have  
to provide justice to half of  
population bereft of basic needs.

We have to save the shining  
future of young refugee marked by  
national interest of big powers.

This being us to the  
values of unity, community, joint  
efforts and rights of man. And  
there comes the dictum "charity  
begins at home."

Thus the charity of  
unity needs to be begin at home.  
The individual <sup>at family</sup> has to step up to

plain society. The society has to accelerate the pace at national level. The nations have to join hand to make the globe liveable, thriving. The tangle of family, nation and world has to ~~be~~ be congruent to being change. Change of Injustice to justice, dark to light, Change of Inequality to equality, collision to cooperation, devil to humanity. Change of death to life. Then only could the world be "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" and "One Earth, one family, one future"