

Background of the Essay Competition

Solidarity, broadly, mean emotional and normative willingness for mutual support as seen in the phrase *one for all and all for one*. Solidarity also means a normative order and social integration in communities that is opposed to chaos and conflict, and opposed to order based on coercion or maximization of self-interest. The collective goods produced by the society are considered as the basis for individual adaptive advantage from living in groups. In addition to this, solidarity is also a response to problems created by development. One dichotomy of development is its contribution in innately making us naturally capable of moral and solidarity stances and cooperation, while the same capacities and abilities also enable selfish behaviour. These abilities may be the ability to put oneself in other's shoes, the development of an inclusive language, the cognitive and motivational processes that steer our behaviour, cognitive and affective mentalizing. These processes allows individuals and groups to imbibe certain solidarity norms such as sharing, helping, cooperation, trustworthiness, considerateness, efforts at understanding and being understood. Further, for solidarity norms to remain important, they need to be constantly supported by institutional and social arrangement. Further, solidarity may be also define as prosocial norm-oriented behaviour that contribute to the common good, fair distribution of cost and benefits, helping others in need, refraining from hurting others at a cost of oneself, and mitigating unintended or unavoidable harms to others. Moreover, it helps to understand the different responses to the suffering of others including the ethical perspective that leads us to felt imperative to act to alleviate the person's suffering. If solidarity is a feature of effective cooperative relationships, if it is above all in work that the concrete meaning of cooperation becomes manifest to us, then work should not be marginal, rather must take a central consideration. This is an overview of the concept of solidarity by scholars.

At the backdrop of conceptualising solidarity, we also witness an emerging realisation that the younger population need to foster reciprocal intergenerational relations and partnerships; solidarity across generations, as a key for social development. In this kind of a context, we need to cultivate a new approach in the workforce, in education, and in socio-economic development. Further, the report *Our Common Future* recognises sustainable development as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the

ability of future generation. Sustainable Development also depends on upholding human rights and ensuring peace and security; reducing inequalities within and among countries, reaching those most at risk, and strengthening our resolve to prevent conflict and sustain peace as underlined by UN secretary-general Antonio Guterres. Increasingly, ILO recognises cooperatives as sustainable enterprise are means of implementation for 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) along with other private sector enterprises. In this scenario, closer home in our Northeast of India, often the potential of Northeast India in the field of agriculture, horticulture, floriculture, tourism, indigenous knowledge and practices etc. are highlighted. Further, mineral wealth such as coal, petroleum products lime stone, manganese, uranium, etc are abundantly available, and the financial sector is still in its initial stage of development in many parts of the region. Even its geo-political location can leverage opportunities for this region. Thus, these contexts provide ample opportunities not only to socio-economic growth but also in the approach to strike a balance between ecology and human society so that repetition of the extractive model of growth is avoided. In this situation, social enterprises like cooperatives have significant opportunities where enterprising youth in various fields/ disciplines can harness them by coming together and creating more opportunities for others. Based on this concept, the ADBU Cooperative Society Ltd. of Assam Don Bosco University is organising an essay competition title as:

***Youth Solidarity for Sustainable Development in Northeast India:
Opportunities and Challenges***