



MY VISION FOR INDIA

By Samiksha Mallick

Before I begin to tell my readers my vision for India, I would like to bring under limelight the things I see in India at present. India has grown in the past decades and is still growing economically, socially and culturally. It still holds the title of being the land of diversities; diverse cultures, religions, languages, clothing and ideas. It is a country where moral values and principles are given utmost importance. From birth, children are taught the good habits and moral values of hospitality, generosity and values of 'Atithi Devo Bhava' and 'Vasudheva Kutumbakam'. Schools in India give a lot of importance to discipline and values. India has successfully established itself as one of the largest democracies in the world. It is rich in art, history, heritage and culture and has a glorious past.

Though India has progressed a lot since independence, increasing population has opened several challenges for India beginning from eradication of poverty and ensuring food security to employment generation and education for all. India, being a developing country is trying its best to become one of the developed countries of the world and achieve all the targets aimed by it. It is facing the challenge of promoting equality and at the same time accommodating social and cultural diversity. At this stage, India as a whole needs a big change and improvement so that it can become the utopia that our national leaders wanted it to be.

Observing the present condition of India, there is a lot that has to be done to make it a better place. There is a need of an idea; a perspective or a VISION that will shape India's future. India was able to gain independence from Britain because of the vision

that our national leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Swami Vivekananda had. Today we are in need of a similar vision that will lead India to the next level.

Ever since I was a child, I have always attached a lot of hopes to India. From the president of India to a local shopkeeper, everyone enjoys the same rights and the same fate on violating them. I want it to be a country for everyone where everyone can live with the **freedom, safety and happiness** they desire irrespective of their caste, creed, religion, race, colour, gender and even their nationality. I want India to be a country where all Indians treat every person on this earth with the same respect and dignity as they treats their own fellow kin. I want India to get rid of its caste based discriminatory past and attain India freedom from the social problems like poverty, illiteracy and unemployment. One evil that all Indians want to get rid of is corruption. These days it has metamorphosed into a malignant disease that has permeated through all spheres. It appears that parties do not work for the welfare of the people but for filling their own lockers and for gaining power. The need of the hour is the conscious overhauling of the entire system as well as the people inside it.

Above were some basic expectations that I have from my country. I may want my country to be **a perfectly developed country** but I definitely don't want my country to be an 'Asiatic America' or any other Asiatic version of any western developed nation. But these days, the increasing influence is making India more westernized than modernised. There is no wrong in appreciating and imbibing the good from the developed civilisations, taking ideas from their political and educational system and learning about their latest sciences and technology and using them in our country. But I don't want Indians to blindly follow an alien culture without being familiar with our own culture and roots. I want my country to retain those past traditions and knowledge which will help us walk on the path of development. India's strength and uniqueness lies in the diversity of its cultures and inclusive traditions and therefore shouldn't be forgotten.

My next vision is to **make Indians better citizens** of this country. By this statement I not only mean literate and aware citizens of India but wise and patriotic citizens of India. If we aspire for a better future for our country then we need to first

bring a change among the citizens as it will play a pivotal role in the shaping of our nation. An aware and conscious citizen will always be an asset for the nation. A sense of ownership among the people will help us to progress. When we own something, we take good care of it and ensure that it's not harmed in any way. Unless and until people don't believe that it is their own country, a change won't come. When people will have a sense of ownership, they will not criticize the country which they often tend to do. We are always busy finding flaws in every policy which the government proposes. Sometimes we need to be supportive of the things our government does for us. We often find the grass on the other side greener than our own. We all want to settle in U.K., Canada and U.S. but we forget about the peace and beauty that lies in our own country. My vision not only consists of making India a better place but also to enhance Indians as better citizens. I see an India inhabited by satisfied and patriotic Indians.

My next vision is **a perfect education system** which is affordable and accessible to all. Deeply inspired by Finland's education system, I want a system where all students are taught together efficiently and at the same time it is taken care that there is hardly any pressure on the students. I visualize an India where education is not about theoretical concepts but about practical knowledge and enhancing the thinking skills of the students. I want a system where students can freely select the subject they are interested in. Teaching should not be limited to the four walls of the classroom but should also involve expeditions, excursions and nature walks. Education should not be about completing the syllabus and pressurising the need of scoring well, rather it should be a learning process which is indelible. I know that these developments need a lot of time but they are worth it. Many rural and remote areas of the country don't get the benefits of education. The Indian Government, instead of spending crores of money on constructing bullet trains, should invest its money to build schools in such areas because I believe that human resource development is more important than infrastructural development. I don't want skyscrapers but instead I dream for a literate India. However, mere building of schools won't solve the problem. It should be well equipped with well trained and passionate teachers. It should be affordable for even the

poorest of poor. It should provide certain incentives to encourage parents to send their child to school. We must provide the parents who send their child regularly to school in rural areas some job in the school itself or some free fertilizers or tools if they are into farming. Schools should be accessible in remote areas as well.

Another vision of mine is to see **men and women being equally represented** in all spheres of life. I neither support a patriarchal society nor a matriarchal one. Both of them are define a society wherein one is more important than other. I visualize a situation where both the genders are equally respected and both of them grow together. Both are equally important for a society. None of them is weaker and both of them, if given a chance can excel in any field. For development of this country, we need to move on from our discriminatory practices and prejudices that consider women to be weaker than men. I visualize India to be a place where men don't mind being a school teacher or a house keeper and women are given a chance to be in the country's army. I want women to be given a political platform to fulfil their needs and demands. Their increased representation in society will encourage other rural girls and women to participate in politics and decision making and fight to break the social barriers to get educated.

My next vision is about development in all spheres. By development I not only mean **infrastructural development** but also development in the remote and tribal areas of the country. India should develop by taking all the people along with it irrespective of their caste, creed, gender and colour. These days the gap between the rich and the poor has increased. With development, I want this gap to reduce. Some regions in our country are well developed economically but some regions are not. We should not forget about those economically backward states and help them to rise with the pace with which the country is rising. North eastern states are economically backward and often forgotten about. In future, I want them to be as much developed as other states. Each state should be given the same importance and attention so that development is not uneven in the country.

Next, I want peace in my country. These days relationship between Hindus and Muslims have gotten worse than before. Every day there are fights between the two to

prove the superiority of one over the other. This is definitely not the country that I imagine it to be. India is a peace loving country and it would be great to have **religious harmony**. Different religions are different ways to connect with the almighty. They can't be superior or inferior. They are a way to attain peace but these days they are used as a means to fight with each other. If we want to sustain India's diversity in religions we will have to learn to respect all religions, otherwise India will get divided into different countries on religious lines. All Indians should identify themselves as Indians rather than Hindu, Muslims or Buddhist.

In the end, I want to say that if we want to change India, we need to start from changing the people first followed by education, political system and others. It's not important to have tall buildings, bullet trains and skyscrapers but rather it's important to have educated and equal citizens in the country. It's important for India to hold everybody's hand and rise together. We can't leave a community, state or group behind. It's important that all communities develop together and are given equal importance. If we focus on these things, then by 2030 or 2035 we will have India in the list of the developed countries in the world. India's diversity and vast population should act as a strength rather than a liability.

