

Patterns of Communication

Communication of Modern Ideas and Knowledge In Indian Villages by Y B Damle

Indian View of China before the Communist Revolution by 'Hindi-Cheeni' In collaboration with D Maba Bai.

The Journalist In India by Krishnalal Shridharni in collaboration with Prakash C Jain,

Unemployment among the University Educated by D N Majumdar assisted by S K Anand.

"IS communication a one-way process? Is it two-way? If so, what are the factors which make it so?"—This is the vital question which Mr Damle raises at the end of his study on 'Communication of Modern Ideas And Knowledge in Indian Villages'. He claims that certain broad conclusions emerge from his study of seven villages near Poona undertaken with a view to find out how far certain modern ideas have penetrated into them. These conclusions pertain to the theory, practice and methods of communication. As for theory, Mr Damle feels that his study reveals "the necessity of analyzing the dependent, independent and interdependent variables." As regards methodology, "it has been proved that the problem of communication can be adequately tackled from the structural-functional point of view." As for the practical aspect, the study suggests that "creating motivation without corresponding effort to create the necessary conditions for the fulfilment of the same leads to frustration". Otherwise, the usual spectacle of discrepancy between subjective motivation and objective consequences will persist". These conclusions plus the fact that Merton's paradigm is validated should entirely satisfy the reader. The problem of communicating modern ideas to villages is a central one for India's development programme, and a study like this would have been of immense value had Mr Damle kept away from Professor Merton and his sociological jargon.

The problem of communication exists not only within a country but also between countries. 'The Indian View of China before The Communist Revolution' is limited both in dimension and detail. The authors had apparently little data on which they could base their study. Two entire chapters are devoted to an analysis of how 'The Hindustan Times' and 'The Hindu' viewed the Sino-Japanese War and the Civil War in China. The scarcity of

material is not surprising since there was in fact very little contact between India and pre-Communist China. The interest in China was really confined to a few members of the Indian National Congress. Nowhere except at Shantiniketan was Chinese language or Chinese history taught. The only two Indians of any repute who visited China before independence were Rabindranath Tagore and Dr. Radhakrishnan. Though the authors speak of the medical mission led by Dr Atal, no mention is made of the film "Dr Kotnis ki Amir Kahani" (The Immortal Story of Dr Kotnis) or the book about Dr Kotnis, which must have to some extent influenced the Indian image of China.

Towards the beginning of the paper the authors assert that India has always had friendly feelings towards her great neighbour, and that India's relations with China before 1949, as after, bore little relation to China's internal politics. In the Epilogue, however they say that British-educated Indians always had a slight contempt for China, and that it is because the Chinese under Communism have achieved what the Indian never thought they were capable of that the admiration for China is so great. There seems a contradiction between these two points of view.

It is a big jump from the Indian view of pre-Communist China to 'The Journalist in India'. This paper is lucidly written but one wonders how much reliance is to be placed on a report based on the experiences of two journalists and replies to the 22 copies of questionnaires (only 18 replied) which they sent out. If even 17 of these 18 read the 'New Statesman and Nation', it hardly proves that the 'New Statesman' is the most widely read foreign periodical among Indian journalists.

The authors mention the different journalists' organisations but make no attempt to find out how far these

act as media of communication between journalists.

The study of unemployment among the University educated in India was undertaken as a sort of pilot survey. A sample of 36 per cent of students from among those who completed their course for the Master's degree, in any of the Faculties of Arts, Science, Commerce and Law during the years 1949-1953 inclusive, was selected by means of random sampling. Only about 40 per cent of these replied to the questionnaires. The monograph consists mainly of tables but few useful inferences can be drawn since the method of calculation is rough and ready. For instance table 3 shows that there is a steady rise in unemployment incidence since 1948. Unemployment rose from 1 in 7 in 1949 to 1 in 3 in 1953, and those failing to achieve the minimum expected income rose from 38 per cent to 62 per cent. However, we are not given the figures of the total number of students seeking employment and the total number of jobs available in 1949 and in 1953. Also, as the authors themselves acknowledge, there is often a considerable time-lag between completing the University course and getting a suitable job; hence, while the 1949 class has had 5 years to look for employment, the 1953 class has had only a year.

All the four publications under review deal with entirely unrelated topics, and one wished there were greater co-ordination between the various projects sponsored by the Center for International Studies. This apart, however, the M I T has done a great service in setting young Indians to investigate social questions relating to their own environment. Though the first fruits of these efforts may not be very satisfying, the training and experience will no doubt be of great value.

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