

PPST BULLETIN

INTRODUCTION:

Ever since independence, all our developmental efforts have been centered around adoption and establishment here of the modern science and technology (S & T) of the West. The underlying belief is that this S&T (which developed in the post-renaissance Europe) is the unique instance in human history of a systematic and viable S&T system, and the establishment of this S&T is a prerequisite for all societies in search of a happy and equitable social existence.

Historically, the expectation that the development of this S&T will lead to a better and more equalitarian social order has been belied even in the West. This is often sought to be explained as being solely due to deliberate misuse of this S&T by the ruling interests. As regards the non-Western societies, they have already paid a heavy price for the development of modern S&T during their colonial phase. Further, it is now becoming increasingly clear that the development based on modern S&T has only resulted in a further material, Intellectual and cultural deterioration in these societies in the post-colonial period. Therefore, it has become necessary to reassess the claims of modern S&T that it leads to a better and more equalitarian social order and is otherwise ethically, culturally and politically neutral.

A reassessment of the modern Western S&T has to be necessarily linked with a re-evaluation of the non-Western traditions. With the development of modern S&T and the onset of world-wide colonialism, the non-Western cultures were all dismissed as sterile (devoid of any systematic and viable S&T) and inhuman (inimical to the emergence of an egalitarian social order). Yet, while the modern S&T has limited its boons to a small minority, the vast majority of people, in the non-Western world still survive with material and intellectual sustenance from their traditions. Further, re-evaluation of the non-Western traditions could help in our present-day search for alternatives (technological & social) to the development based upon modern S&T.

It is the objective of the Bulletin to attempt a re-evaluation (from the point of view of the non-Western World) of the modern S&T and of the non-Western cultures. This re-evaluation, we hope, will raise the possibility of the development of an alternative S&T; an alternative based on more human values; an alternative that would lead to a better, self-reliant and non-exploitative social order, thereby constituting a Patriotic and People-oriented Science and Technology.