

APPROACHES TO COMMUNITY PLANNING

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A regional community, organised on firm foundations, can easily evolve along democratic lines under the initiative and authority of its own leadership. In the following paper, which was submitted to the Asian Relations Conference, Dr. Mehta presents a plan which if worked successfully will enable the community to reach gradually the goal of complete democracy.

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The *social* background.—Asia contains the largest concentration of population in the whole world. These populations belong to many racial stocks, and the long process of social assimilation brought about by economic and social intercourse has woven them into closely knit communities occupying well-defined areas.

It is essential that when we use the word 'community,' and when we suggest that it should become the basis of Asian regeneration, we should define its meaning, as the word, through usage, may have come to bear different interpretations in different countries. In India, especially, the word community has close association with religious groupings.

When we speak of community welfare services, we mean closely knit communities containing a manageable number of families, living in close proximity, in well defined areas. Such communities are bound to have common interests, though they may not be too well defined. These communities may be made up of different social groups with different historical backgrounds and religious beliefs, but having evolved to a settled state of existence, they have a common destiny and must be brought up as democratic units, organised on the basic principles of co-operation and toleration, moving towards a common goal of human happiness and welfare.

Because of the vastness of the physical region and the heavy burden of population, the unity of Asia is only vaguely realised.

Forms of co-operation, especially economic co-operation, are not adequately evolved. Goodwill and understanding exist as a natural subconscious urge, but they have to be cemented by knowledge acquired through closer and more direct association.

Asia's people reached in the past high levels of culture and possessed social organisations which did not lack strength or homogeneity. But they have been considerably weakened by conquest, foreign domination, a long era of feudal stagnation, and a somewhat delayed acceptance of the industrial revolution. These factors have brought about extensive poverty, a low standard of living, devitalised health, high birth rates, and a standard of education that does not enable us to keep pace with world progress.

The weakness and poverty of the individual is further reflected in the society to which he belongs. Social organisation has disintegrated and political development has been retarded by the lack of freedom, and the organisational strength to achieve it.

Western progress has taught us that political emancipation will bring about the desired result. It is through freedom alone that we can develop initiative to put our house in order, to achieve efficiency of organisation, and to restore health and strength to the millions. But the days of political subjection are almost over, and freedom can no longer be delayed. Already the majority of Asian countries possess sufficient freedom to begin the onward

march of progress through industrial development and science. This period of transition may mean bitter conflicts and further social disintegration but these are mere birth pangs which will usher in the New Asian Order.

Whilst it is right that the weapons of progress must be forged on a national and, if possible, on an Asian scale, it is most vital that immediate action should be taken to repair our foundation, to restore health and education, and above all, to create an attitude of co-operation and consciousness of Asian solidarity in the vast masses.

To achieve this end, the most efficient unit of approach is the regional community, be it a village, a section of a town, or a well-defined area in the city. In India we are trying to achieve human well-being through what is known as labour welfare. This may be necessary to repair some of the damage caused by the unplanned and profit-motivated economic development. But to deal with the labour in the factory, is to approach the human group through its most important member in a circumscribed and more or less non-co-operative environment. Moreover, the approach must be through an employer whose interest in human labour is only secondary to his interest in production and profit.

This does not mean, however, that labour welfare programmes are undesirable. They have their place, and are excellently suited to supplement community welfare. But real, far-sighted and extensive measures for human reconstruction should begin through communities organised by the State, by local self-government, and by democratic public initiative.

The aims of a community welfare plan should be to create democratic communities living together according to the four basic principles of co-operation, de-

mocracy, social action and self-help, achieving a high standard of living and happiness, and contributing creatively to the culture of the nation, the continent and humanity at large.

The objectives of community welfare should be (1) to provide a healthy environment and adequate housing; (2) to provide adequate opportunities for the preservation of health and the prevention of disease; (3) to provide proper education including early training, education of the body, emotions and mind, education for work, marriage, recreation and effective social participation; (4) to provide for the education of the handicapped adult; (5) to take measures for the preservation of family health and unity; (6) to achieve an effective organisation of the economic life of the community; (7) to make adequate provision for maternity and child welfare; (8) to provide adequate facilities and opportunities for the recreation of the child and adult; (9) to organise social life in such a way as to promote active participation in local, national and international affairs; (10) to plan methods and programmes for the development of national consciousness and international co-operation; and finally (11) to undertake programmes for the development of local culture in harmony with national and world patterns.

Collectively taken, the aims and objects are to promote the early attainment of world objectives, as laid down in the Atlantic Charter and as expressed by the UNO, in well-defined geographical units inhabited by manageable social groups. It is thus an effective organisational approach towards the achievement of fundamental results. It has been historically proved that when true understanding between nations is absent, any attempt to bring about international co-operation only leads eventually to conflicts and misunderstanding promoted by

selfish minority groups and vested interests. The community plan should help to create a new unity above all social, religious, sectional and local differences; for true unity is possible fundamentally as a geographical concept. If Asian solidarity is, for the time being, our objective, the unit of this Asian solidarity must be found in regional societies within which the aims and objects of the community plan can be realised.

Town planning.—Asia has not yet completely emerged out of the feudal age during which the masses depended upon land and lived in intolerable conditions of chronic poverty, want and disease in their insanitary and humble hutments clustered in the rural areas. The seeds of the industrial revolution have been scattered on feudal soils, creating chaotic growths of factories and towns that are littered with slums containing millions of human beings. The social structure created and built in such environments cannot acquire the qualities of health, vitality and beauty.

Since the physical environment is the basis of social structure, the success of community social services can only be assured if town planning precedes the community approach to social life. It is essential that each country in Asia should have its own national housing and town planning act. If such acts are forged after careful deliberation in Asian conferences, organised on the lines of International Housing Conferences held in the past in Paris and other places, a common approach could be made to a most vital problem. In any case, it is essential that measures for town planning should operate in seven fundamental directions. Firstly, slum clearance must be taken in hand in earnest; secondly, areas cleared should be rehabilitated wherever possible; thirdly, a network of quick and cheap communications should

be created for the benefit of the masses; fourthly, congested areas must be opened up by providing 'lungs' in the shape of playgrounds, parks and gardens; fifthly, social amenities for areas containing market-places, shops, post and telegraph services, medical services, fire brigades, police centres, etc., should be properly planned in terms of needs; sixthly, administrative divisions of towns should be well-planned and efficiently organised, and carefully determined civic functions allocated; lastly, entirely new areas should be taken over for the creation of new towns where an ideal physical structure could be created for the occupation of well-organised and disciplined communities, with clearly defined areas for residences, civic amenities, commercial functions, and industrial development.

The housing problem.—The housing problem in Asia demands radical solution. Asian concepts of housing are medieval, and no attention is paid to the natural needs of human life, so complex in pattern in the modern industrial age. Houses must be so built that they may become foundations of happy homes. The architecture of the structures, the strength and durability of materials, the quality of workmanship and the provision of at least the minimum of amenities and comforts deserve the consideration of every civilised State.

The one-room tenements in cities and the hutments in rural areas, where human beings and animals are huddled together, are ideal neither for the functioning of human life nor for the organisation of family life nor for the maintenance of health. Community centres can only function after standards of at least minimum housing are laid down. The human habitation, in order of importance, must provide for adequate and well laid out places for a bed room of at least 1,500 cubic feet for every two inhabitants, a kitchen, a dining

room, and a parlour for the family. Adequate and clean water supply, lighting, provision for the disposal of garbage, bathrooms, urinals and lavatories are imperative for each home.

The house is a structure built by the human being for the performance of imperative natural functions like sleeping, cooking, eating, sex life, play, work, rest and social intercourse. The structure must meet the needs of these functions in such a way as to yield maximum satisfaction that can become the basis of human happiness.

The sanitation of the buildings and grounds require organisation and supervision. The buildings require maintenance and care. The community centre of social service should, therefore, provide scientific housing administration. This should be entrusted to specially trained and qualified social workers who would work in co-operation with the health, education and case work officers. Scientific housing management must fulfil the two-fold purpose of (1) education and care of the human beings who must live in obedience to the law of good neighbourliness, and (2) care of housing which must always maintain ideal standards of efficiency and comfort. These two objectives can be achieved through a blending of duties of superintendent, manager and administrator.

Well organised communities, inhabiting well-defined areas, organised with predetermined social objectives, must live, to some extent, under controlled conditions. But this friendly and co-operating authority should exact obedience to minimum rules, maintain close and direct contact with tenants. Further, it should also expect co-operation and participation of members of the community in social amenities and activities that are provided

for the happiness, health, efficiency, and ordered evolution of group life.

Modern housing administration" implies the maintenance of vital statistics and other statistical data showing the growth chart of well-being and welfare of the members of the community in every aspect of life.

The foundations of community life are well-laid when carefully planned and erected buildings come into existence in healthy and planned areas, and are under the management and supervision of properly organised housing authorities.

Health.—It is possible to promote the care of health in the regional community with a thoroughness and efficiency which is not possible in any other manner. Health of millions in Asia is not what it ought to be on account of uncongenial climatic condition, and unhealthy and insanitary physical environment in the urban and village slums. Further, it is also due to grinding poverty and a low standard of life with consequent chronic malnutrition, and a high birth rate. The conditions of ill-health have been aggravated by centuries of neglect, insufficient medical relief, inadequate trained personnel, and lack of resources.

It is imperative that an Asia-wide drive for physical regeneration should be made by Asian organisations for the promotion of athletics, physical culture, and the playground movements. Health care programmes should be undertaken by maternity and child welfare agencies, schools, and villages. Quick and effective medical aid should be provided and it should reach every family and home.

The community centre provides an ideal field for the organisation of a complete health unit organisation. But it should receive general directions and help from

the Ministry of Health, and be managed by the regional community centre authorities. As health is directly dependent upon sanitary and healthy surroundings and adequate housing, the health unit should work in closest co-operation with the housing authority. The housing authority should look after the care of buildings, grounds and gardens, water supply, sanitary and conservancy organisation under the supervision of the health unit authority.

The health unit should be in charge of a medical officer and a staff of nurses and assistants. These should look after a large number of services provided for the promotion of the members of the community. The most important service in the community is the care of the mother and the child provided through the birth control and the maternity and child welfare clinic. The programme of this section of the health unit should include :—

- (1) Birth control and family planning.
- (2) Complete ante-natal care including feeding of the expectant mother for five months before delivery.
- (3) Health visitors' service.
- (4) Post-natal care of the mother for at least one year after the birth of the child.
- (5) Infant and child care including feeding during the first two to five years.

Family planning.—Asia, with its teeming population, has to decide about the policies and objectives of birth control in terms of social condition prevailing in different regions. There is an imperative need of a rational and scientific attitude with regard to this matter. Decisions have to be made irrespective of beliefs, customs

and traditions, in the larger interest of people living under modern industrial and social conditions.

Wherever the practice of birth control is found imperative or desirable, it must be accompanied by systematic education about objectives, theories, methods and apparatus. The objectives of social health should never be forgotten, and the community must be saved from an unintelligent practice which may undermine sex and social morale.

Ante-natal, maternity and post-natal care.—Methods of ante-natal care are by now too well-known to deserve any special mention. A persistent and careful follow-up of the mother, four months after conception, will not only give her a feeling of security but also ensure the birth of the child under conditions which are congenial to its health and growth.

The main handicap in the way of developing extensive health visitors' services for the benefit of many regional communities is the absence of trained personnel. It is the duty of the State to take effective measures for the creation of special institutions for this purpose. Working under the direction of the medical officer of the community centre, the health visitors should supplement the work of the family case worker, and give advice and practical help to families for the maintenance of health. They should see that the families derive the maximum benefit of the clinical and medical services provided in the community centre. The health visitor is invaluable for supervising the sanitation of homes, prescribing home remedies for minor ailments, and for rendering effective assistance to the mother in carrying out the advice and treatment prescribed by the medical authorities in case of illness.

Post-natal care will help to restore the mother's health and efficiency for normal

duties and work after the hoards of child-bearing. The mother should be given guidance and help regarding not only her health, but also the care and feeding of her child. Even medical aid and nourishment should be provided, if necessary.

Child welfare.—The care of the child in its early years by the community, with the help of the State, is the most effective guarantee for the health and efficiency of future citizens. Childhood, the period of dependency, is the longest and the most difficult period of life. Human organism is complex. It is born in a complex environment and needs all the care one can give for its growth and development. But in Asia communities are considerably handicapped to give complete aid to the child in order to enable it to survive. The alarming death rate amongst children in Asian countries is enough justification for laying great stress on the problem of the care of the child.

Pre-schools in Asia must develop on the lines found suitable for Asian conditions. In a friendly and homely atmosphere, the child, together with other children, should receive care and assistance of young and capable women. The pre-school, run according to the principle of activity, should provide play and planned activity, food and rest to the children. The child's early physical and mental growth and its emotional security and development should receive special attention of the pre-school staff. The health unit authorities should look after the child's health and plan its nourishment.

The pre-school, properly housed, well-equipped for play, work and training, manned by young and trained women must guarantee the child's maximum growth and prepare it to receive a properly planned education from the age of five onwards.

The care of the child in the community centre must be complete and generous. But it should be provided on the basis of an Asian children's charter, guaranteeing equal opportunities to all children who must be regarded as assets of the State. The preparation of such a charter is an imperative duty of the Asian Conference.

The community infant and child welfare centre may include a nursery where children may be looked after and fed, unless they are taken to creches in factories, offices and institutions where the mothers work. Care of health, the provision of protection and security, and adequate opportunities for an all round growth are the primary functions of the community centre. In Asia the proper feeding of the child, especially in countries where the standard of life is low, is imperative.

The pre-school of the community centre should function under the joint care of the health unit and the education director. All children in the community should enter the pre-school at the age of two and a half or three.

Physical welfare.—The best insurance against disease is the *maintenance of good health*. Carefully planned programmes of physical recreation for children, youths and adults of both sexes are firm foundations for the edifice of a healthy society. A Community centre which provides good housing is not complete without extensive open places converted into playgrounds of various kinds for the physical recreation of the entire community.

Playgrounds do not provide mere physical recreation, for, on the playgrounds the foundations of the social structure are laid. Engaged in physical activities consisting of well organised play, human beings develop emotions, learn co-operation, and receive training for leadership and organised effort,

Playgrounds for children, open grounds for youths, special playgrounds for special games, and the sports arena are organised separately to answer the needs of different age and sex groups in the community. Civilisation demands the existence of a rich game-lore for every nation and community. Asian countries possess a wealth of games that require to be studied and exchanged for the mutual benefit of all countries. The West has developed some unique physical welfare movements and their group games are useful for educational purposes. National games, group games and team games provide opportunities for organised physical recreation for at least one hour a day for every member of the community. The playground has always invited maximum participation according to the personal interest of each individual.

Over and above the playground, the national physical environment should provide opportunities for most healthy physical recreations like swimming, cycling, and mountaineering that add to the zeal for a well-organised outdoor life, especially for the young. As Asia is becoming industrialised and urbanised, the need of outdoor life increases to keep the individual in touch with the health, beauty and orderliness of nature. Community physical welfare programmes must include frequent excursions, recreational and training camps, hiking, and even lone camps for the maintenance of health, and the preparation and training of leadership.

International athletics invite a continuous participation in field of sports. The annual community athletic meet should be a preparation and training for enthusiastic participation in national and international sports. Athletics should prepare the human body for efficient functioning in work-life and healthy parenthood.

Gymnasium attracts some young people, but the playground attracts a larger number. Physical culture planned on sound educational lines should appeal to various sections of the population.

Education for health.—The preservation of health requires the education of the individual in matters physical. Educational systems in the East have not given adequate attention for the training of the individual in ordinary matters like diet, rest and care of health. The authorities of the health unit, in co-operation with the director of education should organise programmes for the spread of health knowledge. The cinema, radio, wall newspapers, leaflets, lectures, demonstrations and exhibitions must keep the community health-minded. Ceaseless propaganda and publicity are required in Asian countries where both the birth rate and the death rate are considerably high, pointing to an alarming prevalence of health and disease.

Health insurance.—It is but natural that the community, in spite of its good and well looked after housing, its extensive programme for physical recreation, and continuous physical education will require an efficient though not very elaborate medical service. A well-conceived health insurance scheme, subsidised, if necessary, can provide an efficient medical service for the local community. The timely treatment of minor ailments and timely diagnosis of disease have saved many human lives. The masses in Asia are young, ignorant and, therefore, local medical service, organised by the health unit should provide extensive facilities to save not only health, but also expenditure. The health unit authorities should make, with the co-operation of municipal and other health authorities, proper arrangements for hospitalisation and sanatorium treatment.

Education.—The regional community is organised for the purpose of education—education for life, for the efficient performance of life's functions. In a highly civilised community the process of education should never end. The countries of Asia are alarmingly backward in education. There are millions who are yet illiterate. In certain countries mere academic or classical education has failed to prepare the individual for the fundamental functions of life, like work and marriage. In the community centre education should (1) prepare the individual for the efficient performance of life's major functions, (2) aid the individual in the day-to-day functions of life, and (3) enable him to understand the complex world mechanism in which he lives, and adjust his life to the larger national and social pattern around him.

The education of child should be the primary function of the regional community. We have already dealt with the pre-school which deals with the child between 3 and 5 years. The process of education begins with the completion of 5 years, when the child enters the primary school. The primary school is the only part of the State educational system which should exist within the regional community. This-education should become the foundation of the individual's educational career. The aims of primary education, the principles on which it functions, the methods of teaching and the quality of teachers, and finally the curriculum depend upon the municipal and State education boards and their efficiency.

The primary school should be organised within the regional community, and administered by it with the aid and supervision of the municipality and the State.

On the completion of primary education, the boys and girls of the community

go out to learn in schools and educational institutions in the town or the city. However, the director of education of the community should maintain a permanent contact with the education of each individual in the community. It is the function of the community to inspire, encourage and aid its children to receive education according to their talents and needs.

The community's department of education should pay special attention to the difficulties and handicaps, both mental and physical, of the school population. Countries in Asia have not yet adequately provided for those who are unable to complete their schooling. In the absence of bifurcation courses, the community centre should provide opportunity for vocational training in elementary arts, crafts and clerical services so that those who fail to complete their school education may not be handicapped in life later on.

The education programme of the community falls mainly within the scope of the following :—

- (1) Reading rooms and libraries.
- (2) Education as a part of youth activities including the organisation of study circles, discussion groups, debating unions, art circles, hobby clubs, etc.
- (3) Literacy classes for grown-ups.
- (4) Adult education for men and women through organised adult recreation groups.
- (5) Community education programmes through community newspapers, lectures, cinema, radio, education travels, exhibitions and celebrations.

The reading room and library in the community should become the centre

of intellectual activities. Newspapers should be carefully selected to give information and news that are local, national and international. Books also should be carefully selected to give a high cultural level to the community and satisfy all the different mental tastes that are found in a highly evolved society. The library circle in the community should not only make special plans for stimulating reading, but also encourage those with an aptitude for writing to contribute articles, book reviews, etc., to the community newspapers, wall newspapers and the local press.

Youth activities in a healthy society include a wise blend of physical, mental, creative and cultural pursuits. Young people of today are interested in national and world problems. They demand freedom of thought, and opportunities to express their fresh outlook on life. Study circles may, therefore, be organised on the basis of interest, and discussion groups, debating societies and forums may also be organised for fostering interest and developing knowledge on the basic problems of life.

Youth is interested in art, especially folklore, music, painting, drama and handicraft. A revival of artistic activities in regional communities will raise the cultural level of the whole nation and create a new generation of cultured citizens.

Progress of science in the world today has made it necessary to provide libraries, laboratories and workshops for the benefit of every community group. Western nations have stolen a march over Asian countries through the application of science for the conquest of nature. However, some countries in Asia have already made stupendous progress in the world of science and industry. We must democratise science and provide opportunities for technical and scientific experiments on a vast scale

to the rank and file of the people. This can be done easily through the organisation of hobby clubs and workshops for the benefit of both sexes.

Asia ought to determine and solve the problem of illiteracy, wherever "it exists, within the next ten years. Vast masses of people yet exist, even in large cities and towns, who are unable to read and write. The 'each-one-teach-one' campaign can achieve unique results, as actual experiments have shown, because literacy groups can be organised by the student population in each country aided by the community centre authorities and the national adult education institute.

A more ambitious programme of adult education can be carried out through well-organised community women's clubs and men's recreation clubs. These clubs should function during leisure hours.

The women's clubs should provide opportunity for recreation and education in fundamental subjects of interest to women like mother-craft, domestic economy, home-crafts, etc., organised programmes for training in birth-control, child care, cooking, tailoring, etc. Fancy work of all kinds not only provides recreation and education but also helps to supplement the income of families and stimulate a healthy social life for women. Likewise, the working man's recreation clubs can organise programmes of outdoor and indoor games, excursions and educational visits and further help to organise co-operative efforts of various kinds. Activities to aid the economic life of the community may be organised through the initiative of clubs' for men and women.

Modern media of publicity and propaganda should be utilised for the purpose of raising up quickly the intellectual level of well-organised community groups.

Amongst these the 16 mm. film, and radio must play the most effective part. Weekly programmes of educational films will provide knowledge with amusement, and blend recreation with education. The radio should bring to the community, through the air, information and knowledge from all over the world, whilst the various stations in each country should give special programmes for the benefit of community centres.

Each well-organised community group should own its own printing press and publish its own community newspaper. A good deal of further educational propaganda must be done through specially prepared pamphlets and leaflets.

An intensive programme may also include specially organised lecture series, visits to places of historical, economic and cultural interest, and organised celebrations of community and national holidays. An active social life must thus be made the basis of community happiness and cultural development.

Economic life.—Economic life in the community is related to the work life of men and women in fields and factories. The regional may live outside the areas of work, and attend work places taking advantage of public conveyances; or they may live near the place of work and walk to the place of employment; but where workshops exist together within the residential area, it is possible to organise regional industrial communities. This can be done only if no factory of industry proves an obstacle to the welfare of the community.

Social services to aid the economic life of a community should have the following objectives:—

- (1) To enable the community to take advantage of its maximum available earning capacity.

- (2) To create maximum earnings through right employment, treatment of unemployment, and organising activities to supplement existing incomes.
- (3) To reduce family expenditure.
- (4) To devise ways to adjust expenditure to income, and to meet any possible shortage which may lower the minimum standard of living.

The problem of economic poverty is extensive in many countries of Asia. Whilst national measures should be taken to bring science to the aid of production, the small community must devise its own ways to maintain the firmness of the foundations of economic life without which the real prosperity of the human group, and the maintenance of a reasonable standard of life become impossible.

The regional community should aim at "full employment." This will mean the employment of men and women after their completion of the preparation for work life through education and training. The community should maintain a statistical and historical record of the work life of its members. Further, it should organise:—

- (1) Vocational guidance service to enable young men and women to select proper vocations according to their talents and abilities.
- (2) Vocational training groups in arts, crafts and business services.
- (3) Community employment service to find work for the able-bodied persons who are unemployed.

Vocational guidance includes elementary instructions to young people about the nature of work life that prevails in the

social environment to which the individual belongs. They are informed about the available fields of employment, the preparation necessary for each one of them, and the likely rewards and prospects in the various vocations. Further, through a series of intelligence and performance tests, specific work tests and temperament tests, the natural inclinations, aptitudes and talents of the individual are determined, and guidance is given regarding the suitability of vocations for each individual. The duty of providing vocational guidance should be performed by the director of education of the community only in case this is not done through proper vocational guidance bureau organised departmentally or in the high schools.

Vocational training of an elementary kind, sufficient to provide small income to the unemployed or to handicapped individuals, or to supplement the income of families should be given through organised vocational groups functioning under qualified instructors. The vocations should be selected to utilise raw materials easily available in the country, to supply the needs of the community and the local market, and to produce such articles that will utilise any special talent that exists in the community.

A well organised employment bureau is an asset in a regional community. It may function independently, or it may work in co-operation with larger employment exchanges. Through the employment bureau the community should make the maximum effort to find employment and to keep unemployment at its lowest level. The work of the bureau must include registration of the unemployed, contacting sources providing employment, studying employment trends, contacting would-be employers on behalf of the unemployed, systematic canvassing of jobs, and follow-up

work of cases where the newly employed person has to be adjusted to his new work environment.

To overcome tragic consequences of poverty of millions of people all over Asia, it is imperative that organised regional groups should be given every encouragement and aid to become economically independent. Three main types of economic activities suggest themselves for improving the earning capacity of families :—

- (1) The organisation of home industries and industrial co-operatives with a view to retain the dignity of labour and the freedom of the producer.
- (2) The creation of handicrafts, industrial homes and work-houses in the community centre.
- (3) The provision of work to women and subsidiary earners to supplement the income of the family.

Germany and Japan, and many small countries of Europe have shown the value and progress of small scale industries, worked by electric power, for manufacturing whole articles, or parts of articles for which there is a local demand. A large number of articles can be manufactured in small workshops using small power-driven machinery. But there are many lines of manufacture which do not require even a power-drive.

Home industries require planned organisation and co-operative effort, so that labour within an entire family can be employed for the manufacture of specific parts which can be collected centrally in workshops for the purpose of assembling, finishing, packing and marketing.

Handicrafts in Asia have reached a high level of quality production in the course of centuries, Mahatma Gandhi

has made the spinning wheel the pivot of economic recovery. There are a large number of other handicrafts which are suitable for village and town life to create self-sufficiency for local communities. In cases of acute poverty, it is possible for the State, municipal authorities, public charity, or even local community initiative to organise small workhouses to find and provide work, especially to the handicapped sections of a community. Such workhouses are needed for women who cannot work the whole day, for the partially disabled and the mentally deficient, and for the aged who have enough vitality left to work according to their interest and ability.

In all cases where it is not possible to create special institutions for providing work, light work which can bring in a small income, can be found for families. This may include part-time work for women and partially employed persons. Work may be secured even for the student population to earn their way to higher education. But this particular type of work will only be suitable for ill-organised and backward communities.

It is not enough that organised communities should take measures to find employment and increase the income of families. It is equally important to spread the knowledge of domestic science even to the lowest economic group so that by education and proper cultivation of habits, they may learn to maintain a decent standard of life within their income. The proper distribution of family income in chawls contribute most to family welfare. The prevention of wasteful expenditure and indebtedness, and the cultivation of thrift and saving habits are necessary in order to maintain the economic equilibrium of families.

The two main measures for the achievement of this object are: (1) education and

(2) co-operative consumers and credit societies.

Education of groups of adults, men and women, in the art and science of living is necessary to make family life intelligent and creative. This should especially refer to food, clothing and the expenditure relating to the daily routine of life. In Eastern countries the uneconomic expenditure over marriages, births, deaths, religious practices, etc., require a determined and effective handling so that new and more rational traditions which will not upset the economic foundations of family life, may be created. The next fundamental practice that requires consideration is that of 'booming' which creates most serious problem to private and indigenous banking to the greatest detriment of working classes. The problem can only be solved by eradicating the causes of indebtedness, eliminating the booming habit, and removing the unorganised class of money-lenders.

Thus co-operative consumers' societies, and co-operative credit societies need to be organised for the benefit of every regional community, functioning with the aid of a democratic State and operating under its supervision and control.

Social authority and social organisation.—A regional community, organised on firm economic foundations, can easily evolve along democratic lines under the initiative and authority of its own leadership and organisation. It may not be possible to achieve this goal in the initial stage, as the plan has to develop under State and municipal auspices and finance, and be carried out under a trained executive consisting of the housing superintendent, the medical officer, the director of physical welfare, the director of education, etc. But if the plan is worked successfully for a number of years and if special encouragement is given to local initiative, talent and organisation, the

community will be able to reach gradually the goal of complete democracy.

It is presumed that large scale application of the plan of regional communal development may not be feasible immediately because of the lack of resources and trained leadership; but it will prove useful to organise experimental social groups in

carefully selected and developed areas. These experiments will, no doubt, reveal difficulties and handicaps, but they will, at the same time, indicate the lines on which secure foundation can be laid not only for the new era in Asian renaissance but also for the steady and prosperous growth of large human communities.