

**"India and the World
at the Dawn of 2009"
Report of a Listening Post
held in January**



Encouraging The Reflective Citizen

Part 1. THE SHARING OF PREOCCUPATIONS AND EXPERIENCES

In this part of the Listening Post participants were invited to identify, contribute, and explore their experience in their various social roles, be those in work, unemployed, or retired; as members of religious, political, neighbourhood or voluntary or leisure organisations, or as members of families and communities. This part was largely concerned with what might be called, 'the stuff of people's everyday lives', that relating to the 'socio' or 'external' world of participants.

- Nourishing, Risk factors, Satyam issue, Recession, Taking loan to tide over the bankruptcy, Negotiate with Goldman-Sachs, Negotiate, Support our work, Situation—more insight—Personal, Work, Feelings, Disasters—will happen
- Politically, economically forces are there to occur—new energy; Use experience & wisdom to help reduce mistakes; Try new things in life; Work with people whom I am close to than for others; Decide with whom I want to work with; More clear more focus
- Enough linkages enough connections enough credibility; More excitement; Bury painful experiences of past; Not feeling the pain; Painful experiences are sources of learning
- Unpredictable world; Live in uncertain times; Meetings—changes perspectives
- Learning by doing mistakes; Stock taking—take away from mistakes; Everything is possible if we put our minds together; Stay together think alike explore; Work with multiple ideological groups; Continuing; Part of society—isolated from others; Indifferent—health—plugging on; Dreams bigger not disciplining; Truckers strike—more crime on roads; Inner polarity

Part 2. IDENTIFICATION OF MAJOR THEMES

In Part 2 the aim was to collectively identify the major themes emerging from Part 1. We have identified the following themes:

- Need for Hope
- Positive feelings
- Learning
- Need for risk taking
- Gloomy envy
- Fear of violence
- Resilience

- Resolve the painful experience
- Acceptance of pressure of violence
- Helpless
- Confusion
- Ambivalence
- Continuity
- Need for consolidation of resources
- Growth/ expansion

Part 3. ANALYSIS AND HYPOTHESIS FORMATION

In this part of the Listening Post the members were working with the information resulting from Parts One and Two, with a view to collectively identifying the underlying dynamics both conscious and unconscious that may be predominant at the time; and developing hypotheses as to why they might be occurring at that moment. Here the members were working more with what might be called their 'psycho' or 'internal' world. Their collective ideas and ways of thinking that both determine how they perceive the external realities and shape their actions towards them.

Hypothesis: Hope and Hopelessness

Gloomy envy—growth & expansion; There seems to be an oscillation happening (see-saw) between hopelessness & hope; Task v/s intellectual debate; Pressure in the system for maintaining time boundaries; —part of see-saw; Push & pull; Are we listening to new paradigms in LP?; Hopelessness—old paradigm; Hope—new paradigm.

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