

Bishnu Rimal

President, General Federation of Nepalese Trade Unions (GEFONT)

Five things that have impacted my work and life

1 My ideology

There are two types of people in our world- one who have nothing, their lives disintegrating in the absence of basic things. These are the people who have a larger presence in our society and are often ignored. And then there are some who have it all; thus are destroying themselves by consuming too much, more than is required. This phenomenon has made our entire society sick. In economic terms it is called inequality, and in socio political terms, it is injustice! Provoked by this thought, I find myself in a fight to make society healthier, more equal. And this is my ideology. Every incidence of prejudice and injustice that I have observed since my childhood makes me challenge the norms created by the disparity in society.

2 My Fight Against Inequality

At the age of 16, I joined the Institute of Engineering with a burning fire inside me to create change. Unknowingly, I became a part of the ongoing chaos inside the campuses. With little knowledge but growing understanding and fired by the passion of my seniors, I challenged the regime. The words – Inequality and Fight against Inequality became my mantra. At that time I understood our world to be divided into the Haves and the Haves Not! I was yet to learn about unequal equality, absolute equality and relative equality. I lived in the fallacy that everything could be put into a pot and could be redistributed equally. Later I learnt that in absolute equality only contributes to poverty not to prosperity. And unequal equality paves the way for the rich to be richer and the poor to be poorer. But the works of Karl Marx and his saying, each according to his/her work taught me about relative equality. The rich and the poor both pay to the state, but the rich contributes more, while the state compensates the poor. This was my departure point. And this became my world. And this is what I have committed my life work to.

3 The People's Movement

The world of work introduced me to working with the poor. Besides, sycophants of the then regime, there was no institution allowed to raise collective voice of the commoner- the working people. I had learnt that transformation of society is a one-point task to end all 'evils' of our time. Workers are the dynamic force whereas work is the manifestation of economic activities where economy is the foundation. Politics is the driving engine and freedom of an organisation is the means. A means to develop productive forces, and to build up workers power! I was enthused to launch a trade union movement which was materialised before the 1990 movement. "*Get involved, organised, educate and agitate*" became a daily routine. Having a common cause, not in hundreds but in many thousands of

toiling masses come together, be it at work inside the country or overseas fighting for our rights and lending solidarity – this became my life's message.

4- **Teamwork**

Many people have the misconception that once you entrust someone with the top job, work will go on as usual. S/he will direct subordinates and goals will be achieved. This is inaccurate. My experience tells me that if you fail to drive a team collectively, there will be none or nominal result. Each and every institution is based on team work, and team work comes from mutual understanding. Throughout my career in my organisation, it is the team that has facilitated our every success.

5 **My Dream**

I have a Dream - This famous statement of *Martin Luther King* was the vision for many. I have a dream too. My dream is to create a transformed Nepali society.

"Long years ago, we made a tryst with destiny, and now the time comes when we shall redeem our pledge, not wholly or in full measure, but very substantially... A moment comes, which comes but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends, and when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance."

I am still waiting such a wonderful moment as described by Indian Prime Minister *Jawaharlal Nehru* in his famous address- **Tryst with Destiny**.

To bid farewell to the injustice, inequality, and state of underdevelopment of the country, I have participated in three major political movements in my short life time. Each time, I had jumped into the movement accepting all repression without regret, cultivating within a dream of a shiny destiny. In 1979, I followed my father and my uncles into the movement. In 1990, I was in the middle of the movement with my comrades, which ended absolute monarchy and established liberal democracy. In 2006, my father and uncles watched closely as we were driven a fierce movement. This movement fulfilled twin responsibilities - ending many centuries long hereditary system of rule and bringing violent force to peaceful reconciliation. In my capacity as Member of the Constituent Assembly, I personally am proud of the day when I got to say that Nepal was finally declared a Republic! However it is yet an incomplete victory! I am still waiting and working towards a true democracy where the rights of each and every Nepali are equal.

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