
India and Africa in South- South Cooperation

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INTRODUCTION

South -South Cooperation has a long history, initiated in Bandung Conference of 1954. In the post independence era South -South Cooperation further advanced in the Group of 77 and the Non Alignment Movement in the 1970's. It is an involvement of two or more developing countries in the political, economic, social, cultural, environmental and technical domains. This involvement can be bilateral, regional, sub-regional or interregional basis. This South -South Cooperation is a process of involvement of the developing countries with sharing knowledge, skill, expertise and resources to meet their developmental goals. It is collaboration between donor countries/ multilateral organizations and developing countries in which donors facilitates South -South initiatives through funding, training and management and technological systems as well as other forms of support is referred to as Triangular Cooperation.

MEANING OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

The United Nations Conference on Trade And Development Report (UNCTAD, 2010) report defines South-South cooperation as it is a much broader concept than either technical cooperation among developing countries or economic cooperation among developing countries. The former focuses on the cooperative exchange of knowledge, skills, resources and technical know-how and the latter refers mainly to cooperation in trade, investment and finance. There's a variety of perceptions about what South-South Cooperation actually means, either as a concept or on the ground. On one hand, it is positioned as a genuine partnership based on a common ethos and solidarity among developing countries. On the other, it is considered as a forced, ideologically driven partnership with unequal power relationships and imbalanced economic development within Southern economies (NCAER, 2014). The developing countries themselves organize and manage South-South Cooperation. 'Often governments play a lead role, with active participation from public and private sector institutions, non -governmental organizations and individuals'(UNDP). South-South Cooperation provides the bargaining power of developing countries in multilateral negotiations. It's opened the additional channels of communication among developing countries and promotes economic integration also. South-South Cooperation fosters the economic, scientific and technological self reliance. Its major part is the coordination of policies on development issues which are relevant for various developing countries. Having its two regional centers of South -South Cooperation one, in Asia and Pacific region and second, in Africa under the aegis of UNDP.

INDIA'S ROLE IN SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

India has a glorious past in building South-South Cooperation. Since the inception of ITEC (Indian Technical and Economic Assistance Programme) in 1964, over nearly five decades, India has contributed in capacity building of many countries of the world. ITEC has other sister initiatives i.e. Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme(SCAAP) and the Technical Cooperation Scheme of Colombo Plan. At the India Africa Forum Summit held in 2008 and 2011 India has committed to establish approx 100 institutions in different African countries 'to strengthen capacities at the pan-African regional and bilateral levels.'**(Keynote address by India's Foreign Secretary, Shri Ranjan Mathai, at the Conference of Southern Providers - South-South Cooperation: Issues and Emerging Challenges)** India also deputed experts abroad to share expertise in areas like information technology, auditing, pharmacology, public administration and textile research. UNDP has facilitated to establish contact between the Nigerian and Indian Election Commissions to exchange expertise and strengthen local electoral process in Nigeria. P.G. Salvi (1985) views that time has been changed whatever it was in 1984 where the Indian business community was the largest employer of local Nigerians and the joint ventures in Africa where mainly in drugs and pharmaceuticals, machine tools, engineering industries, pulp and paper, cast iron foundry, distillery and bottling plant, hotels, consultancy services, diesel generating sets for drilling, tube wells, cables and conductors, merchant banks, glass and bottles containers, polyester and nylon filament, yarn etc. while these days, India and Africa's economic relation is mounting. India is challenging China in the field of oil extracting, transportation, telecom and in information and technology, agriculture and scientific innovation etc.

Apart from various multilateral global forums on South -South Cooperation India has initiated several programmes to meet out third world problems and to enhance cooperation among the developing world. These initiatives are;

New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD):

NEPAD's headquarter is situated in South Africa and India has committed millions of dollar as a line of credit to Angola, Senegal and Mali in various projects.

TEAM-9(Techno-Economic Approach for Africa India Movement):

Boosting new relationship with Africa, India has initiated a Techno-Economic Approach for Africa India Movement or Team-9. This partnership is with West African countries whose first meeting was held in March 1, 2004 in New Delhi. Team-9 aims at the transfer of technology to West African countries namely in Burkina Faso, Chad, Cote' de Ivory, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali and Senegal. This initiative symbolizes South-South Cooperation.

IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa):

Unlike Team-9 IBSA forum extends to trilateral cooperation on trade, security, bio-fuels, social development, research and development. IBSA has a potential of South -South initiatives and these three countries motive is to work together on multilateral globally.

The Indian Ocean Rim Association of Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC)

Indian Ocean is the third largest ocean and two-third of the total world oil transportation is being held through this route. Since its inception in 1997 India has kept its key position in

this littoral organization of fourteen member countries including Africa, Asia and Australian continent.

India has also been extending support to the development of cotton sector in the Cotton-4 countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali), and since May 2010 in Nigeria and Uganda. In Second India-Africa Summit held in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia, the Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh announced a number of cooperation initiatives to help Africa. More recently India has identified four Least Developed Countries- Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi and Zambia as its focus partner countries for training and other assistance (GOI, 2011).

Initiating South -South Cooperation India has its own diplomatic aims targeting a fruitful cooperation in UN, NAM, Commonwealth, IAEA, IOR-ARC, WTO, G-77, G-20 and New Asian African Strategic Partnership (NAASP).

THE CURRENT GLOBAL SCENARIO AND SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

The global economy is now in transformative mode since the rise of China, India, Brazil and South Africa. And the gravity of the economic centre is shifting towards southern countries. This can be traced through the fact that the developing countries today hold more than US\$5 trillion foreign exchange reserves which is nearly double the amount hold by affluent countries. In 2007, no fewer than 85 developing countries recorded per capita income growth faster than the OECD countries in the present decade. Also china has surpassed the United States to become the world's largest energy consumer in 2009.

We can see a structural transformation in global scenario where developing world has scored much. Looking Asia, which has emerged as the engine of growth, new bondage like IBSA, BRICS and G-20 are now influencing the global policies whether it is derived by IMF/WB or prescribed by United Nations.

Having a special unit for South -South Cooperation in UNDP it has a wider scope out of the ambit of the UN i.e. The Nairobi Conference on South-South Cooperation in December 2009, A Special Unit in UNDP on South -South Cooperation, IBSA Trust fund for poverty and hunger alleviation and BRICS development bank. Also the stagnating economies of the developed world have made poor countries to increasingly look towards developing economies for greater trade, investment and development cooperation. At the conference of 5th BRICS summit in Durban in March, BRICS leaders announced the symbolic interaction to fund a new Development Bank aimed at “mobilizing resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other emerging economies and developing countries.” BRICS have increased their trade with low income countries (LIC's)

POLITICAL LEGACY OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

South –South Cooperation had a legacy of political bondage as Nehru was the first non-African to make the world aware of the problems and importance of the Africa continent. He was the statesman who did see the future which we have today. As he was quoted in 8th NAM Summit we are the witness of the changing scenario.

“Imperialism is weakening; colonial empires and other forms of foreign oppression.....are gradually disappearing from the stage of history” (8th NAM SUMMIT).

Hari Sharan Chhabra (1986) express his views that political independence is no doubt important but it is well recognized that economic strength is a must to safeguard that independence. Ruchita Beri (2011) opines that India's relation with this continent is a partnership that is based on fundamental principles of equality, mutual respect, mutual benefit and interdependence. Hari Sharan Chhabra (1986) does see a strong legacy of India and Africa's relations. Either it is political or social and cultural or economic.

India, as an emerging and rising power of the world (as data shows) is gradually stretching her economic field. Maya Chaddha (2015) gives data regarding GDP and compares it within a time period how India has grown up as economic tycoon. In first report of World Bank in 2006 ranked India as the 12th largest economy in terms of GDP. The second report issued in 2011 by IMF placed India 9th. Whilst India is continuous focus on achieving its economic goal, it has scored high in South Asia as a balancer in global economy and thus Shahid Javed Burki (2011) suggests for an economic South Asia through which India can play a decisive role in world affairs.

ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENTS WITHIN SOUTH

In an UN (2011) Report (OHLSS-UNLDC IV) it is opines that the new dynamism of the South has also been evidenced by increased South-South investment, transfer of technology and enterprise-level interactions. For example, flows of foreign direct investment (FDI) from developing nations hit a record 300 billion USD in 2008. South-South FDI flows peaked at 187 billion in 2008, representing 14% of the total global, up from 12 billion in 1990 (4% of the total global flow). The LDCs have been major recipients of FDI inflows from other developing countries accounting for 40 per cent of total FDI from developing-countries. Over recent years South-South co-operation has evolved significantly, with a deepening of engagement across a range of sectors, from trade to investment and technology development. It has also moved beyond traditional government-to-government co-operation to involve the private sector, civil society and other non-state actors (OECD, 2014).

In economic terms as San Bilal (2012) postulates that developing countries have become increasingly important players on the international scene. They accounted for only 30% of world GDP in 1990, now about half the world economy and are expected to reach 54% by 2017. In another OECD (2014) report it has calculated that the South-South trade grew as a share of world trade from 8% in 1980 to 27% in 2010, while North-South trade was falling. Vaes and Huyse (2013) put their views that India's policy for economic and development co-operation explicitly focuses on bilateral channels, but at the same time recognizes the role of civil society as a development actor that should be engaged by the development partner itself. In Shilpi Jain (2015) laid foundation that in the last decade or so, the range and quantum of South-South cooperation has expanded significantly. And India being a growing emerging economy has contributed in various ways towards strengthening South-South cooperation and has been an active player in development cooperation efforts with low income countries in Asia and Africa.

Dr. Nagesh Kumar of Research and Information Centre for Developing Countries (RIS, 2008) gives a glimpse of the cooperation run by India in Africa. He opines that Several programmes in ICT, is the setting up of a pan-African e-network connecting 53 African countries through a satellite link. This network will also connect academic institutions and

hospitals in African countries with their counterparts in India for providing Tele-education and telemedicine facilities. A Kofi Annan Centre for Excellence in ICT was set up in Ghana, as well as a technology centre at the Harare Institute of Technology and at Bulawayo Polytechnic in Zimbabwe, a telecom network in Benin and a cyber city in Mauritius. Indira Gandhi National Open University runs 300 study centers in 38 countries in Africa, Gulf and Central Asia. Shyam Saran (2012) explains the efforts which are doing by India on both multilateral and bilateral level. In the multilateral sphere, India has been a very active proponent of, and willing participant in programmes such as the Colombo Plan, the Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme (SCAAP), the Technical Assistance Programme of the U.N. and its Specialised Agencies and activities under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the various UN Regional Commissions. On the bilateral side, the Government of India established a new division in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to deal with the whole gamut of development cooperation, in 1961. This was known as the Economic and Coordination Division. In 1964, this was termed as Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC). Fantu Cheru and Cyril Obi (2011) argue that focusing on South-South India and Africa both have a trade compulsion as India's race is to catch up with the Chinese firms. As Andrea Goldstein (2006) opines in book "The rise of China and India, Whats in it for Africa?," the story behind the economic growth of Africa where the two prominent partners India and China have explored its oil and natural resources and controls the economy of Africa today.

Up until recently China and India have dealt with different African countries. Whilst India has favored those with which it shares a similar colonial past, or historic trade links, such as Kenya and Tanzania and other East African countries, China has historically dealt with those it has had ideological connections with. However, Tom McCarthy(2011) see a collision of Chinese and Indian interests, which is increasingly bringing them into competition with each other. Persis Taraporevala and Rani D. Mullen(2013) postulates that one of the notable activities that has grown out of the focus on economic cooperation is the Conclave of India-Africa Project Partnership, launched in 2005, as a strong business-to-business platform between the two regions.

As far as the Indian government is concerned (GOI, 2006), development assistance is a component of a South-South cooperation in which countries interact with each other as partners at an equal level. To distance them from the West and to avoid internal discussion about the legitimacy of Indian development assistance, terms such as 'donor', 'development assistance' or 'ODA' are avoided where possible in Indian government jargon. The government's 'Non Paper' on the partnership with Africa states that 'The relationship is not one of donor-recipient but of partnership for mutual benefit'.

Maya Chaddha (2015) writes, over the years, India has extended training to a large number of African military officers. Currently, India has military-to-military cooperation activities, primarily related to the training fields, with almost one-third of the 54 African nations. India sent its troops to participate in several UN peacekeeping operations stretching from Egypt to Congo. Whilst Arvind Dutta of IDSA (2008) claims that India has participated in all the UN peacekeeping missions in Africa and currently has sizeable contingents in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Southern Sudan, Ethiopia and Eritrea.

The UNCTAD, BRICS, IBSA, G-77, Indian Diaspora and vice versa

Formation of UNCTAD was a major step in boosting South-South Cooperation a Marion Mushkat (1982) puts his view that It aimed to continue and strengthen efforts for social and economic improvement also through increased trade, establishment of tariff favorable to third world products, and agreement to stop falling raw material prices.) L.K. Jha (1982) postulates that each session of UNCTAD was marked by a widening gap between the North and South.

Prime goal of BRICS is therefore advocacy but on behalf of half of the population of the world and by governments that collectively command vast financial resources, large armies and sophisticated technologies. Maya Chaddha (2015) put her views that the formation of BRICS reflects a serious engagement with the issue of how the future global economy should be governed. This vision cum advocacy shaped the declaration that emerged from the BRICS further annual meeting held in Delhi in March 2012. Now BRICS is considered as a platform for coordination, consultation and cooperation on contemporary issues having global as well as regional significance. The studies of Dailami and Masson(2009), Quercia and Magri(2011) and Keukeleire and Bruyninckx(2011) maintain that of BRICS has turned into an institutional entity from an informal group of states. The economic growth of these countries enhances their political weight. In BRICS Summit (2012) Prime Minister Manmohan Singh expressed his views that ‘the world is passing through uncertain times. The rapid recovery of the BRICS economies from financial crisis highlighted their role as a growth drivers of the global economy, our cooperation is intended to explore meaningful partnerships for common development, address global challenges together and contribute to furthering world peace, stability and security.

Unlike BRICS, IBSA as Yadav & Baghel (2010) argued that the organization of India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) is now playing a key role in strengthening South-South Cooperation, not only among these three countries also in three continents and much more than on global platforms. White (2009) argues that it is a relevance of IBSA(India-Brazil-South Africa) in the global political economy that provides a unique opportunity to move the core countries of south to the center of the new and emerging global order. Flemes(2009) says that IBSA has been the launching pad for its member states in the global hierarchy of states and will also remain as a motor of global institutional reforms in the future. Alden(2010) postulates that a newly assertive coalition of emerging powers in the south seems to be presenting the north with a unified stance of resistance after a long period of South-South dis-articulation.

Marion Mushkat (1982) opines that Group of 77 had affluent regarding passing several resolutions passed in UN one, to combat violations of the human rights of the people like apartheid, racial discrimination and colonialism secondly, the realization of NIEO.

Gwyn Campbell (2003) gives similar importance to India Ocean Rim Association of Regional Cooperation which was formed by the leaders of Africa, India and Australia in 1997. The post colonial Africa has become prominent in geopolitical view and it also has become a thrust area for multinationals.

Aparajita Biswas (2013) opines that there is a historical evidence of Indian Diaspora in Africa. India has various political, economic, social and cultural engagements with Africa.

While Maya Chaddha (2015) says that this is the soft power asset of India. David Malone (2011) (former Canadian Ambassador to India) comments that India's diaspora is certainly an asset but far from the only one. India is attractive also because of its 'cultural and civilisational riches, its vibrant democracy, its free media, its mostly independent judiciary, its dynamic civil society, and the impressive struggle for human rights since independence (OECD, 2014).

MAJOR THREATS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

San Bilal (2012) opines that South-South cooperation faces many challenges--One of the main weaknesses is the lack of appropriate monitoring and evaluation of the activities undertaken under the aegis of South-South partnership and cooperation. To start with, there is too often a lack of transparency and information on Southern cooperation, the terms and conditions associated with the engagement. Gladys Lechini (2005) argues approximately same as he says nowadays, the countries in the South are facing essential challenges, such as the dislocations produced by rapid social changes and the dissolution of traditional patterns of social life, major economic restructuring caused by globalization trends and domestic crises, and the broken promises of recovering democracies. Peter Rosseel, Erik De Corte, Jan Blommaert and Elke Verniers(2009) indicate to some other threats are, Complications about ownership or management, Northern fears for the rising South Political problems are an obstacle for cooperation. In spite of these hurdles there are several as they indicate, Learning from each other, Economic, environmental, climatic, cultural and social advances, Changing North-South relations with altering power balance. Also, Ajay Dubey (2009) opines that energy is currently an emerging area of cooperation, where prospects for collaboration are immense. Sumit Ganguly(2011) emphasizes on of spot notice on Indian maritime security and the geopolitical importance of Indian Ocean.

CONCLUSIONS

Briefing above I can put my own views that India has played a big role in building a strong south block for a better world. Thus engagements of India with Africa show that a better world depends on a strong South-south Cooperation. While a miles have to go yet. Indian government should focus in 21st century global scenario like energy security, economic diplomacy, the interaction between defense and diplomacy and foreign policy institutions. Sikri (2013) is suggesting that India is not a status quo power, even though its goal is to join the great-power system. C.Raja Mohan (2015) gives example how Prime Minister Modi became the first prime minister since independence to articulate a comprehensive policy for the Indian Ocean when he travelled to the Seychelles, Mauritius and Srilanka in March2015. Conclusively in Marion Mushkat (1982) views the gap between the more developed and the less developed countries is the only source of international insecurity in present day world.

Gwyn Campbell (2003) predicts that India has potential to play a considerable peacekeeping role in the Indian Ocean Rim. It possesses the world's fourth largest navy and should its policies of economic liberalization achieve their objective of a growth rate of 7-8%. While Marion Mushkat (1982) was sure about The independent position of third world nations based on the oil power has recently been reflected in the UN and other bodies resolutions promoted by 'Group of 77' regarding, among other things, a New Economic World Order.

Ruchita Beri (2014) opines that a global shift in global power structure is being discerned over the past few decades. This period has witnessed a relative decline of United States and the rise of other powers such as China, India and Brazil. At the same time Africa is moving in a new direction. The continent has demonstrated a surge in economic growth and democratic governance.

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