

Global Cooperative Movement and Sustainable Development Goals Intervention



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Global Cooperative Movement

The cooperative is

- An economic dimension of an enterprise that operates within the market and accepts its logic; and
- The social dimension of an institution that pursues meta-economic aims and produces positive externalities for the entire community.

The governance of a cooperative enterprise codes: market code, social code

- Market code: Conventional economics- pursues only self-interested ends,
- Social code: Social science - through the market to forge strong ties of solidarity and participatory democracy.

Global Cooperative Movement

- History demonstrates that there have been times or phases in which
 - the market code has dominated, making it impossible to distinguish cooperatives from other corporations;
 - the social code has enjoyed an excessive dominance, leading to economic decline or marginal status.
- In both these cases, whenever one of these aspects is sacrificed to the other, the cooperative is losing its identity and **some cooperatives are facing this problem in Nepal too**
- Maintaining a dynamic equilibrium between the two codes and ensuring complementarity is the great challenge for the cooperative movement in the globalized twenty-first century, Nepal is facing this challenge now.

Global Cooperative Movement

- In civil markets promoted by cooperatives those least endowed with resources or least “efficient” are cared for not by redistributing the wealth produced by those better off, but during the production process itself, by allowing the disadvantaged/under privileged too to participate in the wealth generation.
- This is the prime mission of the cooperative movement today: to extend the space occupied by civil markets and also promote the market economy with human face- ***decent capitalism*** (*Sebastian Dullien et al.*)

- Three pillars of the market economy where cooperative promotes:
 - The first is the division of labour, a way of organizing production that enables everyone, even the less physically or mentally gifted, to perform useful work. Cooperatives are vehicle for the "have-nots" to improve their lives or standards of living through organized production and services , especially seen effective in low-income countries
 - The second principle is the priority of growth, hence accumulation. Wealth needs to be invested productively, in this view, not only as a reserve against future contingencies, but also out of responsibility to the community and to future generations.
 - The third principle of the market economy is freedom of enterprise- implies economic competition. A future expansion of cooperative enterprise would in no way mean the disappearance or even the weakening of the market as an institution. it would significantly strengthen the market.

Cooperatives and Sustainable Development Goals

- 1. Basic mark of civilization:** End of poverty, end of hunger, clean water and sanitation and clean energy, [*cooperative can promote production, access and distribution*]
- 2. Exercise of human capabilities and agency:** good health and quality education [*cooperative can support in access and quality*]
- 3. Higher Human Aspiration:** Gender equality, reduce inequality and peace and justice, [*cooperative can advocate and be active*]
- 4. Means for sustained progress:** Decent Work and Economic Growth, Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, sustainable cities, responsible consumption and production and global partnership [*cooperative can develop small business model, promote innovations*]
- 5. Threat for future prosperity :** Climate, environment, water and forest [*can work for advocacy, as activist and lobbyist*]

Sustainable Development Goals and Cooperative

- **1. No poverty**
 - Creates employment at the bottom of pyramid
 - Providing micro-credit to the poor
 - Active in micro-insurance to the poor
 - Employment for disadvantaged people thru focused program
- **2. Zero hunger and food security**
 - Enhancing access to food products in the market thru enhance income or social programs
 - Providing food security by providing quality foodstuff at lower prices
 - Enhancing diversified agricultural production
 - Preventing wastage of food stuff

- **3. Good health and wellbeing**

- Running, organizing health services on PPP model
- Managing health care programs and cure facilities
- Special care of needy patients (eye, diabetics,

- **4. Quality education and lifelong learning**

- Imparting education as one of founding principles of cooperatives (through around cooperatives)
- Providing practical training to members
- Providing educational micro-lending and financial education
- Providing consumer education
- Running education facilities on PPP model

- **5 Gender equality**
 - High ratio of women's inclusion in membership and elected positions in cooperative itself
 - Important cooperative networks are exclusively dedicated to empower women
 - Expanding women's opportunities to participate in local economies and societies
- **6 Clean water and sanitation**
 - Safe water filtration and distribution , managing such facilities, awareness and facilitation of projects
- **7 Affordable and clean energy**
 - Cooperatives are visible in facilitating access to sustainable energy, where they are playing a significant role in generating electricity and distributing it to consumers
 - Raising awareness and skills on energy technologies in rural and remote areas
 - Providing credits to small scale decentralized technologies

- **8 Decent work and economic growth**

- Promote market access thereby more value in hands of members,
- Providing employment to disadvantaged people,
- Providing shared services and social protection to people,
- Indirectly promote employment and self-employment, respected employment, decent, stable and resilient work through creating marketing opportunities and improving marketing conditions; and
- Cooperative influence non-members whose professional activities are closely related to transactions with cooperatives (such as tradesmen or input suppliers).

- **9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure**

- Virtually all industrial activities, maintaining enterprises in their communities
- Innovating in new business forms and democratizing online platforms
- Promoting energy, water and internet
- Piloting innovative ideas, production and production processes

- **10 Reduced inequalities**

- Redistribution of surplus to members, reinvesting in communities, lower wage gap than average
- Financial inclusion
- Promote the participation in production process to “not haves”

- **11 Sustainable cities and communities**

- Upgrading slums and providing affordable housing for a significant part of the population in a number of countries, either through ownership or rental
- Managing water supply, green areas, parks etc

- **12 Responsible consumption and production**

- **13 Climate action,
14 life below water and
15 life on land**

- Networks between agricultural and consumer cooperatives increasingly promote responsible consumption, including organic food, food chain and fair trade products, limiting food waste, promoting circular economy
- Green jobs, protecting natural spaces, dealing with waste recycling, protect forest, ponds, lakes, etc

- **16 Peace, justice and strong institutions**

- Key role after several armed conflicts, participation in reconciliation processes
- Increasing involvement in welcoming refugees and addressing their plights
- Advocating good governance and human rights

- **17 partnerships**

- International development cooperation developing within the cooperative movement and with other actors, including South to South cooperation.
- Co-operatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the co-operative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures

Way forward

Continued reform to create coherent environment and enhance governance is required to make cooperative movement sustainable

By supporting the growth of the cooperative movement around the world, especially in low income countries, it can help the values of equality, honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others as well environment to become instrumental in the SDG implementation at local, national and international level.