

PUBLICATION No. 1

ICG

IDEAS UNLEASHED

ICG - Goa University Essay Competition 2014



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**ICG-Goa University Essay Competition 2014**

**INNOVATIVE IDEAS FOR RAISING  
GOA'S HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX  
TO THE VERY  
HIGH HUMAN DEVELOPMENT  
GROUP LEVEL BY 2025:  
ROLE OF GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY**

The views expressed in the publication are solely those of the essay writers and not of The International Centre Goa.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Ideas Unleashed ICG-Goa University Essay Competition 2014 was launched on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2014. Keenly mentored by two brilliant men, Dr Raghunath Mashelkar, National Research Professor and life trustee of ICG, and Dr Satish Shetye, Vice-Chancellor of Goa University, the essay competition seeks to encourage and develop ideational thinking amongst college and university students in Goa, which will generate innovative solutions and creative, even out-of-the box ideas, that inspire decision-makers in Government of Goa, academics, policy-makers, media and civil society.*

*Fifty four essays were initially screened by Dr Isabel Santa Rita Vas, English language teacher and theatre personality, out of which eleven essays were evaluated over four meetings by a jury comprising Ms Patricia Sethi, journalist, Manohar Shetty, poet and writer, and Dr Kiran Budkuley, Professor and Head, Department of English, Goa University. In step with the objectives of this initiative, the criteria for evaluating essays included analytical and critical thinking, original ideas, innovative solutions and essay composition, even as the essay writers remained incognito during screening and judging of essays. We deeply appreciate the time spent and the efforts made by Dr Vas and the jury members to diligently screen and judge the essays.*

*We are deeply grateful to Goa University for joining hands with us in the essay competition and making it possible to reach out to the student and academic community of Goa.*

*We are thankful to V. M. Salgaocar & Bro. Pvt. Ltd (Hotel Division) for fully supporting this initiative. We are also very thankful to all the fifty-four essay writers for responding positively to this competition and contributing with their essays.*

*We are confident that Ideas Unleashed will grow from strength to strength in following years, generating progressively well-written essays and creating a culture of ideational thinking that will benefit our society.*

**MR. YATIN KAKODKAR**

**President, The International Centre Goa**

## MESSAGE FROM THE MENTORS

*“The youth of Goa should not only harbor the dream of raising Goa’s Human Development Index to the level of the most advanced countries, but it should also lead the way in achieving it by using the power of innovative and game changing ideas. This essay competition is the challenge to the young to lift Goa to a league of advanced nations by 2025.”*

**PADMA VIBHUSHAN DR. RAGHUNATH A MASHELKAR**

Chancellor, The Academy of Scientific & Innovative Research (AcSIR)

President, Global Research Alliance

National Research Professor, CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory

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*“Innovation, planning and governance are three crucial elements to realize the Goa of our dreams. The young citizens of the state form an important source for innovation. Quantitative thinking is necessary to convert innovative ideas into realistic plans. This essay competition aims at tapping the ideas of our students to define a realistic path towards the Goa that we aspire for.”*

**DR. SATISH SHETYE**

Vice Chancellor, Goa University

# ABOUT HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX (HDI)

Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite statistic made popular by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). HDI measures the average achievements in a country in three basic dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, access to knowledge and a decent standard of living. HDI has enabled innovative thinking about progress by capturing the simple yet powerful idea that development is about much more than income. The HDI value is minimum zero and maximum one.

Human Development Report 2013 published by UNDP ranks India 136 in human development among 186 countries. India's HDI value is 0.554. The world average is 0.694. Norway with HDI of 0.955 is ranked first. America with HDI of 0.937 is ranked third. Niger is ranked 186 with HDI of 0.304.

The 2013 report groups the 186 countries into four categories as follows:

<b>Human Development Index Group</b>	<b>No. of Countries</b>	<b>HDI Value</b>
Very high human development	47	0.905
High human development	47	0.758
Medium human development	47	0.640
Low human development	45	0.466
Total / Average	186	0.694

India is placed in the group 'medium human development'. Sri Lanka with a HDI of 0.715 is ahead of India and is in the group 'high human development' at 92<sup>nd</sup> rank. Bangladesh and Pakistan tie at rank 146 (below India) with HDI of 0.515 and are in the group 'low human development'.

Planning Commission of India has published India Development Report 2011, prepared by the Institute of Applied Manpower Research. The report covers 23 states, is based on data from 2007-08 and calculates an HDI of 0.467 for India.

Kerala stands first with HDI of 0.790 and Goa comes second with HDI of 0.779. Chhattisgarh is placed last with HDI of 0.358.

Goa's high HDI vis-à-vis other Indian states is a matter of pride for Goa. But how does Goa compare with the rest of the world, especially the very high development group mentioned in UNDP's Human Development Report 2013? Though there are some variations in the statistical methodology used in the reports of UNDP and Planning Commission, and therefore the HDI values of the two reports are strictly speaking not perfectly comparable, it is reasonable to assume that Goa's human development significantly lags behind the human development in countries represented in UNDP's very high development group.

What does Goa – Government and Society – need to do to raise Goa's human development to the level of the 'very high development group' mentioned in the UNDP report? To elicit answers to this question, the International Centre, Goa and Goa University conducted an essay competition on:

***“Innovative Ideas for Raising Goa's Human Development Index to the Very High Human Development Group Level by 2025: Role of Government and Society”***

Essays were asked to focus on boosting education, health and income, and display critical and original thinking, solid arguments, and offer innovative solutions and creative, even out-of-the box ideas, which will inspire decision-makers in the Government of Goa, academicians, policy-makers, media and civil society. Without being a critique of the Human Development Report 2013 and the India Human Development Report 2011, the essay had to cover the role of Government and Society in raising Goa's human development to the level of the 'very high human development group' by 2025.

# **AWARD WINNING ESSAY**

## **FIRST PLACE**

*“The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking”,* Albert Einstein is believed to have said. Innovative ideas for raising Goa’s Human Development Index to a greater height will be brought about by a change in thinking by our society.

### **Health as a Strong Foundation**

Good health is the strong foundation on which success and prosperity can be built. Better nutritional inputs improve learning as well as the health status. A concern for good health begins from the pregnant woman herself. She is the solid foundation of the next generation. Importance should be given to her food. Breastfed children are more intelligent because breast milk has a special fatty acid which is essential for brain growth and the central nervous system. The Government should provide special assistance of cereals to pregnant women. Medical checkups should be taken and health records should be maintained. Achieving 100% hospital deliveries should be a goal. Malnutrition is an indicator of chronic hunger. The weight and height of citizens on an average have not shown improvement.

There should be computerized connectivity between the ambulance and the hospitals. When an emergency occurs a notification on the condition of the patient can be sent to the authorized faculty in a hospital. The necessary treatment to be given is to be kept ready so

*There should be computerized connectivity between the ambulance and the hospitals. When an emergency occurs a notification on the condition of the patient can be sent to the authorized faculty in a hospital. The necessary treatment to be given is to be kept ready so that as soon as the patient arrives, quick treatment can be started without any delay.*

*I suggest a Cultural Creativity Index (CCI) to be a part of Human Development. I define it as an area which includes both plastic and elastic arts, dance, drama, singing, drawing, painting, playing instruments such as dhol, tashe, ghumat, drums, tabla, harmonium, etc. By this yardstick, I believe Goa would score very high, because there are hardly any families where you cannot find a culturally active person.*

that as soon as the patient arrives, quick treatment can be started without any delay.

### **Promoting Organic Farming**

Organic farming would be the best option for nutritious food. The Government should give subsidies on organic bio-pesticides so that the farmers adopt organic farming in large numbers. As Dr. Vandana Shiva has put forward her hand to support Goa in bringing organic farming, it is up to Goa to take up ideas on how to proceed with it.

### **Physical Education and Care**

Physical education should be made compulsory at every level of education. Exercise is what makes us fit and healthy. Rather than giving e-tablets to students at the age of 10, students should be provided with good bicycles. With regular exercise the height and weight index increase. A healthy mind resides in a healthy body.

Senior citizens should be provided with medical assistance, exercise and communication units. Every civilian should be provided with medical allowances of about Rs. 7000 per annum. Win the hearts of citizens, make them happy. Happiness brings you health. National gross happiness increases HDI as already seen in Bhutan.

All Goans should have personalized medicine. Tele-medicines can be introduced, the sensors at home would detect the problem, provide automatic prescriptions online, paid by government medical insurance, medicines would be delivered at the doorstep of every citizen. In Sweden, the health-care guide receives more than 4,000 phone calls- and has more than 22,000 visitors. Shared responsibility and health-care decentralization are the main goals in Sweden.

### **Eradicating Alcoholism**

Goa has got a European-like tradition of high fat diet. This leads to diabetes and disease load. Control on rising alcoholism would decrease liver cancer and other liver diseases. The Government should freeze the increasing number of alcohol retailers. No drinking for people below the age of 21!

Social psychiatric counselling units should be set up in schools, Panchayat offices and every locality. This would decrease social tension. Physical health is the outcome of a holistic approach; but what matters even more is mental health. Just because nobody can share anything today, the suicides rates have increased, alcoholism has increased. If health is taken seriously, by 2025, Goa should be psychologically the best state.

### **Cultural Creativity Index (CCI) and Sporting Activity Index (SAI)**

Goa can boast of a large number of people engaged in cultural activities. Around 2 lakh people in Goa are employed in the field of art and culture. I suggest a Cultural Creativity Index (CCI) to be a part of Human Development. I define it as an area which includes both plastic and elastic arts, dance, drama, singing, drawing, painting, playing instruments such as dhol, tashe, ghumat, drums, tabla, harmonium, etc. By this yardstick, I believe Goa would score very high, because there are hardly any families where you cannot find a culturally active person.

My formula for CCI is = 
$$\frac{\text{Total number of culturally active persons}}{\text{Total number of population}}$$

Goa is a land of sports. Therefore, I suggest a Sporting Activity Index (SAI) which takes into account the number of sportspersons per 1000 persons. CCI and SAI are not part of HDI; if these are integrated, this would do justice to small states like Goa.

### **Demystifying administration through people's languages**

Education comes into the picture for increasing the HDI. Why are Norway and Sweden among top countries in HDI? In Sweden, education is in Swedish. Here in Goa, if government is supporting English as its medium of working then how will the citizens not knowing English manage to do their work? Corruption and malpractices flourish when administration is not demystified in a language which people understand. Konkani and Marathi are included in

the world's top 100 languages and have the right to be the languages of day-to-day administration. For example, this essay competition is in English, why didn't it strike the organizing committee to have it in three languages, including Konkani and Marathi? This is where the ones with really good ideas step back when they cannot express themselves in English. Forms in all the offices are in English. The Government should make it a must that they should be provided in Konkani and Marathi also. Looking at the scenario of Goa, there are more Marathi and Konkani newspaper readers rather than those in English.

### **Quality education for all**

Best schooling should be provided from primary level. The Government should subsidize education, quality education. Parents wish to send their children to the best school possible. Due to high fee structure, they step back. Model schools should be established where all schools act the same. Quality education should be given to all sections of the society. The education system should be on par with the best anywhere in the world. Schools should have high quality hostels. After primary education, the students can be sent to the Model schools. Schools should be equipped with playgrounds, gymnasiums and swimming pools.

The Government should invest in the schools in the initial years for support; later once well established the schools would provide commendable benefits. Education of the girl child is an important input and an outcome indicator, which influences other development factors such as health, income and family planning. Children who do not complete minimum years of schooling are unlikely to retain literacy or numeracy skills in their adulthood. Inclusive development cannot be attained unless women participate equally in the development process. In order to account for such inequalities, UNDP developed the Gender Related Development Index (GDI).

Teachers should give unlimited commitment towards the educational development of the students. They should teach how to get employment, which subjects would help find those jobs. Strengthening Parents Teachers Association would provide a major hub for interaction at state, district and Taluka level.

The combination of low public expenditure on both health and education has had serious, long lasting adverse consequences for human development levels as per the HDI India report- 2011.

## **Income**

The income index is showing a decreasing trend in Goa. Why is this happening? The basic and most important reason is that we are destroying our Goan tradition and culture. There are 7000 employment openings per year. Income increases due to sustainability and surplus.

Farmers in Goa find it difficult to survive in a post-globalized market economy. A total ban on conversion of agricultural, horticultural and pasture lands should be imposed. When any such lands are acquired in public interest there needs to be a statutory mandatory provision for public hearing, full information disclosure, and adequate compensation at market rates.

Farmers do not get enough profit from their produce. Therefore producing secondary and tertiary products from their produce would give them five times more profit. The farmer can make his own production of juices, jams, several other items from the fruits. He can seek help from self-help groups and create a sustainable economy.

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## **Eco-friendly and community-friendly industries**

When there are so many possibilities in Goa to generate more employment then why look only to industrialization? Tourism can increase HDI, it should be decentralized. Goa has got its nature as a gift. Why not make it a micro-level tourist attraction at Village Panchayat level? This can be according to the model guidelines from UN to regulate Tourism in the state, i.e. WTO global charter (Santiago, Chile, 1999). Village people would get jobs to show their tradition, art, and create eco-friendly picnic spots without ruining natural resources and affecting cultural, social life.

A cashew festival should be introduced in Goa. The orchards can be converted into eco-tourism clubs and the Government can pay development charges for

***A cashew festival should be introduced in Goa. The orchards can be converted into eco-tourism clubs and the Government can pay development charges for the first five years.***

the first five years. Innovative bus stops can be created and solar-battery light facilities can be provided. The Feni distillation units can demonstrate various processes and cashew delights can be served at a good price.

The enforcement of the 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendments empower the gram sabhas as a parliament of villages. Decentralization has to be implemented to empower people.

The Gram sauntha should get opportunities to strengthen its essence. Today we see that self management is destroyed, no one helps others, the co-operative spirit is lost. Co-operation is the important indicator to increase HDI. The co-operative spirit of the Comunidade system should be brought back. The earlier employment pattern is getting destroyed. Goan carpenters have vanished and one can only see furniture stalls at the roadside manned by people from outside the state.

More than one lakh people in Goa are self employed in various traditional occupations. To protect them against the adverse impact of globalization and market competition, a policy must be formulated to protect Goa's traditional occupations and microenterprises. There should be backward integration in every work.

Traditional knowledge is far better than any other. Government should create community empowerment, agro-processing units. Wine production, Supari, can be processed and made a secondary product here in Goa itself. Use can be made of jasmine for the perfume industry. We need to promote the arts and crafts industries and avoid pollution.

The compulsory sale of ionized salt should be reduced to half. Rock salt cannot be substituted by ionized salt. One hectare of rock salt pan in 120 days can give a profit of Rs. 2 lakh.

5000 Goan jewelry designs are unique to our Goldsmiths. Why not promote these arts rather than the branded jewelry shops in Goa such as Tanishq, Tara, Orra, etc.?

Why do the traditional industries have a low supply? There are hardly six families in Goa who make jackfruit papad. It is a common snack in Canacona,

but no one encourages this industry. Here comes the little role of the government to create incentives for these jobs and generate more employment and more income.

Most of the fish catch goes to the eminent hotels and no fish remains for the local people. The fisherman can get premium price for an instant catch. If you have fish and tourism, combine both and get an income. Give recipe options and get instant money. Traditional Goan food and culture is thus maintained and income is also gained.

Roadside stalls by the non-Goans should be removed near the famous beaches. They do not portray anything about Goa. These stalls should be replaced by an indigenous (simply 'shudh') Goan twist.

State governments are agents of change. The policy of the state plays a crucial role in shaping the nature of the development process. How inclusive the developmental process is for all social groups residing in the state is a reflection of the state's commitment towards different dimensions in the human development.

### **Safeguarding precious biodiversity and managing waste**

Environment protection and conservation is necessary. The forest cover should be more than 33%. Plantation of endemic trees would be beneficial. The coast and beaches of Goa are in a total mess. They face the fury of climate change. Goa beach management policy and an omnibus Goa beach management Act (similar to North Carolina, USA) has to be made. Demarcation of illegal mining is a must and all the old mines have to be closed and replanted with local indigenous species. All the mines close to water supply projects and within wildlife sanctuaries and national parks need to be closed.

An integrated solid waste management site at Panchayat level has to be developed. Segregation of the waste has to be done before disposal. This is possible at grass root levels. The students should be taught how to segregate waste and asked to apply this knowledge at homes and in the neighborhood.

### **Science and technology to serve the people**

The IT industry can be promoted in Goa. In Goa, e-commerce, e-banking, e-shopping can be done. Goa can be a hub. Employment can be generated this way. The institutions and university should function in a manner to create

employment by talking to the industries and get an idea what kind of jobs are available and similarly train the students in particular subjects.

Empowering e-governance which promotes e-self governance would bring flexibility. A person would be able to contact the heads of any department in offices, university, etc. directly from home.

A new communication revolution can be a goal of 2025. The government should introduce Tele-conferencing facilities in all Village Panchayats and also introduce a centre for media conferencing. Community radio can be provided in all villages.

The aspects of social infrastructure are housing, electricity, roads and telephony. An improved standard of living, electricity, roads and proper housing provide stimulus to growth and human capability enhancement.

Systematic efforts must be made to make Goa a passenger-friendly and pedestrian-friendly and accident-free state.

### **How I see Goa in 2025**

I see Goa in 2025 as a state with decreased infant mortality, a Suicide-Free State, an Alcoholism-Free state, urbanization and computerization advanced with good transportation facilities, with an anti-AIDS vaccination, cancer within control, with good EIA, a crime-free state, a drugs-free state, a smoking/gambling-free state, 100% enrollment in schools, 100% passing, 100% literacy, and health for all.

In 2025, I see 75% of the population as urban population which will demand sustainable urbanization.

I believe in what Mother Teresa said "*I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples*".

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**Ms. DIVYARANI S REVANKAR**

**PART I, M.Sc. (BOTANY) - GOA UNIVERSITY, TALEIGAO PLATEAU, GOA**

**RESIDENT OF MARGAO, GOA.**

# **AWARD WINNING ESSAY**

## **SECOND PLACE**

*“All that is valuable in human society depends upon the opportunity for development accorded to the individual.”* - Albert Einstein. This opportunity - as opposed to our superstitious beliefs – is not going to materialize at our doorstep by merely pleading the Almighty. It is up to the government and our society to harmoniously work towards the development of themselves and others.

### **Goa moving backwards?**

Our very own Goa might have been selected as the ‘State of the States’ in May 2003, and might have ranked as the Best Placed State in the country in terms of infrastructure facilities by the Eleventh Finance Commission. These achievements, among many others, led to the assumptions that the milestone has been reached, expectations have been fulfilled. The sense of fulfillment was followed by apparent lethargy, or simply nonchalance, the consequences of which were faced later.

Goa’s HDI has dropped from 2<sup>nd</sup> rank in 2007 to 4<sup>th</sup> rank in 2011. Goa has also consistently dropped to the 33<sup>rd</sup> rank in 2012-13 in the EDI data compiled for Union Ministry of HRD by NUEPA (National University of Educational Planning and Administration). This has been found to be due to faults in educational infrastructure and teaching faculty management.

How are we suddenly moving backwards? Did our previous success push us into a state of oblivion due to which such happenings have gone almost unnoticed? Or were such occurrences always taking place simultaneously, but at a smaller scale?

Either way, we have reached our milestone and are now retreating. We need to, instead, strive towards crossing it, and then reaching even further, and then still farther. Our benchmark does not have to be our own past performance, nor that of our neighboring states, especially considering the non-synchronized demographics and achievements of the various regions in our country. Our benchmark should instead be the milestones touched by the farthest and the best in the world.

***Our government should make a Health Impact Assessment mandatory for any projects, policies or plans to be sanctioned by it. This would complement the Environment Impact Assessment which already needs to be taken. In this way, their effect on the population will be placed on record, and this can be referred to in case of any negative consequences.***

Considering our Asian neighbors, Japan has got the highest HDI in Asia at 0.884. South Korea, Israel, Singapore and all of Asia's best in terms of HDI have figures ranging from 0.800 to 0.884. Goa as a state itself is not very far behind at 0.779. While we have reached the High Human Development category alongside them, we are still a couple of digits behind and are definitely way above the world average of 0.694. While Norway may currently stand first at 0.955, all we need is 0.026 digits more than our current HDI to reach the list of "very high human development" countries.

### **Human Development Index**

What exactly is HDI? While it was created by the Pakistani economist Mahbub ul Haq and our very own Indian economist Amartya Sen in 1990, it was

the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) - an agency of the UNO - that constructed various indicators of human development out of which the Human Development Index (HDI) proved to be the most important and widely used tools of measuring the standard of living of the people, as opposed to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

HDI considers a combination of longevity, knowledge and a decent standard of living. Longevity would signify life expectancy, knowledge would be a choice to acquire literacy, education, information, etc. and a decent standard of living is simply the ability to enjoy a quality life.

### **Longevity**

Firstly, we can examine longevity. Goa's life expectancy at 70 might be above the Indian average of 68, but we still lag behind the best and that is Kerala at

76.8. But, we are nowhere close to the world's highest which is Morocco at 89.7.

To start off with, our government should make a Health Impact Assessment mandatory for any projects, policies or plans to be sanctioned by it. This would complement the Environment Impact Assessment which already needs to be taken. In this way, their effect on the population will be placed on record, and this can be referred to in case of any negative consequences.

The hazardous effects of smoking and tobacco and its relation to cancer has been announced and the public has been made aware of it quite effectively, but there definitely has not been much initiative by the smokers themselves to reduce this habit. The ban on smoking in public places could hence be taken a little more seriously so as to limit their freedom. The legal smoking age for smoking could also be increased from the mere 21 to say 25-27, since this condemned habit starts from a young age, and needs to be controlled then.

Another sorry fact is that immigration has increased into the state mainly due to the

cheap and varied health facilities available here. Consequently, our very own residents have been unable to avail of such benefits, originally meant for them. The Government should start charging a fee from non-residents of Goa for such facilities, or at the least give the residents a priority over the rest.

Our society could play a far more impacting role than the government in this regard. There has been an overall increase in gastrointestinal diseases in Goa and to top it all Goa has also registered the highest number of colorectal cancer in the country. Now since red meat is the major cause of gastrointestinal diseases in our state, our restaurateurs could either increase the price of red meat, or convey its side effects to our health. This could be in the form of humor

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*With the recent controversy concerning Olacab, and the subsequent uncertainty over the fate of tourist taxis in Goa, taxi ambulance services should also be encouraged. This would be ideal and is beneficial in many ways. It would serve the growing need for time-efficient ambulance services, it would give the drivers more revenue and most importantly, it would serve the numerous public and private hospitals as well as the sick around the state.*

and would also compliment the casual attitude reflected in the ambience of most eating places around the state.

With the recent controversy concerning Olacab, and the subsequent uncertainty over the fate of tourist taxis in Goa, taxi ambulance services should also be encouraged. This would be ideal and is beneficial in many ways. It would serve the growing need for time-efficient ambulance services, it would give the drivers more revenue and most importantly, it would serve the numerous public and private hospitals as well as the sick around the state.

Goa has the second-largest proportion of old-age citizens in the country, around 11.2%. This might seem alarming, but on the contrary is in fact at quite an advantage. Taking this huge elderly population into account, there could be an Elderly Employment Exchange. One of the many NGOs which are created for the purpose of benefitting the senior citizens needs to take such an initiative. This helpline will not only provide them with means of re-employment into our economy, but it will also serve the growing need for babysitters, caretakers, tutors, etc. The basic affiliation of the elderly and social needs could also be fulfilled through this. The elderly would be made independent and self-reliant.

### **Knowledge**

Secondly let us consider knowledge. Goa might have a high literacy rate, but its education sector fell from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> spot in the HRD ministry's education development index (EDI). This was judged on the parameters of access to education, infrastructure, teachers' qualification and training and performance of students from Classes I - VIII. This puts us in the list of the

bottom 5, which shows that we have a long way to go to reach the level of even our neighboring states before attempting to compete worldwide.

Have you ever noticed how every second student from Goa appears to be studying, or at least attempting to study, outside the state? It is always the same reasons that apply: lack of opportunities, lack of quality education, lack of recognition, et cetera. The Directorate of Education needs to get international institutes to set up branches in our state. Owing to the growing awareness among the youth regarding world renowned universities and their legends, this would only retain and as well as attract talent from around the country into Goa. This initiative would not only develop Goa's image as an educational hub, but would also provide means of employment.

Beside this, there is a dire need for the percentage of seats reserved for Goan students in our colleges to be increased.

Year after year we have students yearning to get seats within Goa, and then unwillingly resigning to study in Belgaum, Mangalore, etc. This step would tremendously decrease the amount of talent and opportunity pouring outward from the state.

Some of the schemes could do with some restructuring, especially the Cyberage scheme. While practically all of my own classmates have left their laptop in a sorry state, some have even sold them in order to earn a little. This is simply because the laptops/tablets are made available to everyone in their respective standards, irrespective of need or class. This restructuring could be done in numerous ways; tablets should be availed of only by students of class 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, not right from 5<sup>th</sup> standard. In case of siblings, only one in two could make use of the scheme. Only students of a particular income group, or those above a

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***The Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) would be a better alternative for the government to base its policies upon the Human Development Index. While both are a measure of how well people are doing economically and socially, GPI adjusts for factors such as income distribution, adds factors such as the value of household and volunteer work, and subtracts factors such as the costs of crime and pollution.***

particular grade, should be able to receive them.

Surveys have shown that while the teaching staff in our state is efficient enough; it is their management that is flawed. Teachers around the state have been increasingly used for non-teaching activities such as election and poll duty. This should be reduced, if not stopped, within the state, just as states like Maharashtra and Karnataka have already done. In this way, the teachers would be able to focus on the obvious, and also spend quality time relaxing or with their families, taking into account the fact that a majority of the teachers in the state are female. N.S.S. and N.C.C. volunteers should be made use of for activities such as election duty, poll duty, and other miscellaneous duties instead of teachers. In this way, they would be fulfilling the true purpose of their respective

organizations and themselves gaining that pride, instead of simply focusing on receiving grades.

Goa is also one of the seven states to not conduct an independent Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) for its school teachers, which has been recommended by the Right to Education Act, 2009 (RTE). The conducting of this test has been put on hold in the name of feasibility for long enough now, and the need for it has increased in order to know where our teachers stand within the state and nationally.

It is up to the society to help students in applying what they learn in school into their daily lives. Old age homes should start a program where once a week, for an hour or two, students between the age of 5-13 years could be invited to visit the elderly there and spend time with them as a group. Parents and teachers should be made aware of this initiative so as to encourage it. The students could

be asked to do group activities such as dancing, singing, etc. or individual activities such as reciting lessons or reading out to the aged. This would not only entertain the elderly folks, most of whom do not have their own families, and who pretty much long for such a distraction. The students would also be able to apply their school learned lessons onto a real life situation.

Homemakers who find themselves with a lot of free time should get in touch with PTAs of various schools to pass on basic skills such as cooking, candle making, etc. onto the students as extra-curricular activities. Babysitters, day care centers, etc. could also help children do homework in a more fun to do way than by simply compensating or rewarding. Videos, jokes, illustrations could be used to pass on simple lessons to children, that is the only way they will remember.

### **A Decent Standard of Living**

The last aspect to deal with would be a decent standard of living. A stable income, among other factors, is what contributes the most for the amount of material comfort available to an individual. Goa has already been ranking the highest in terms of per capita income for the past few years now. The fact that remains unknown is that despite this, approximately 9000 families are living below the poverty line.

There are already centrally available schemes to help these BPL families. Since the estimation of their identity and other information is already available, NGOs should volunteer to personally try and reach out to them, or at least to their areas. This could be a part of the graduate's NSS/NCC assignment. The figure is comparatively small, and if it is their ignorance that is keeping them in that level, then they need this type of assistance.

Homemakers with free time, N.S.S. / N.C.C. students could help in providing some skills to the less fortunate from which they can earn a living. This could include basic reading/writing skills, handicraft-making, cooking, crochet, etc. The financial assistance required for such businesses to be set up can then be availed of from the government through grants and schemes.

### **Genuine progress report: a better yardstick than HDI**

I personally would like to conclude by saying that with all due respect, the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) would be a better alternative for the

government to base its policies upon than the Human Development Index.

While both are a measure of how well people are doing economically and socially, GPI adjusts for factors such as income distribution, adds factors such as the value of household and volunteer work, and subtracts factors such as the costs of crime and pollution. Thus it covers a wider span than simply health, education and income. While the HDI could continue to be given its priority, the GPI should also be treated with equal if not more importance.

As Calvin Coolidge once said, *“All growth depends upon activity. There is no development physically or intellectually without effort, and effort means work.”*

It is thus up to us, as a society, and more importantly as a segment of humanity, to put in our efforts together towards helping one another grow as one entity. The government alone would not be able to move the world without our assistance, and we simultaneously would not progress without helping each other move forward along with us. *Development is one race where we can only win if we all cross the finishing line together.*

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**TRISHALA SANZGIRI**  
**SECOND YEAR, BBA - SRIDORA CACULO COLLEGE OF COMMERCE &**  
**MANAGEMENT STUDIES, MAPUSA, GOA**  
**RESIDENT OF MAPUSA, GOA**

# **AWARD WINNING ESSAY**

## **THIRD PLACE**

The human development index or HDI plays a major role in estimating the development of a country or state within a period of time. It takes into account three basic dimensions of human development, a long and healthy life, access to knowledge and a decent standard of living. We know that for better access to schools, colleges, offices, medical facilities and proper standard of living we require the basic income of our state to increase. For increasing our HDI we must first and foremost ensure mass employment which will bring up individual living standards to a higher level. Statistics have revealed that even as the literacy rate of our country is increasing the rate of employment is rapidly decreasing which has been a major factor in the downfall of the Indian economy. Highly educated and qualified persons sit idle due to unemployment and lower wages. This can be overcome by competing in the international markets. This can be achieved when we bring forth our assets and heritage beauty to the world and win the trust of our consumers by excellent quality engineered day to day. Imports are a way by which the demands for our goods will increase, further raising employment.

### **Mining**

Goa is known worldwide for its iron ore deposits. Good quality deposits are a boon for our state, capable of producing high quality and quantity ores. A majority of Goa's income is from the mercy of these grounded treasures. A majority of these deposits are unfortunately exported raw to the other countries. Here is where a key to our problems lie. For better quality of living and employment we must take the processing of ore in our hands. We must set up high quality steel plants and manufacture iron and steel and steel products rather than export raw ore to the other countries in cheaper prices. Manufacturing good quality steel or steel products will put a share of the market prices of international steel in our control. This will give us a say in the prices of steel supplied to the world. This will also recognise Indian manufactured steel at international levels and give us a chance to compete and manufacture more steel products which will

*When we look at the map of Goa we notice that Goa has maximum development along its coastal areas rather than in its inner areas. This alone focuses our attention on lack of development for its own people and more for its tourists.*

further enhance export of steel and iron. Doing so will, in turn, increase employment in the state and also make development cheaper in our state and also our country. Hence we must increase our manufacturing units either by government owned organisation or by private sector investments which must essentially be of Indian origin. Either way our society will benefit from it.

### **Tourism**

Goa is one of the smallest states in the Indian federation. Its uniqueness lies in its ability to stand alone as a world tourist destination. Goa being one of the least populated states has stood shoulder to shoulder with other states in bringing out its culture and diversity in front of the world. Its standing second in its HDI values in India has been a badge in her honour. Goa has made its fullest with its ever blooming tourism industry by which it has exploited the hearts of millions of people by flaunting its lush greenery, bordered by its exotic beaches, shaded by the tall coconuts. The Goan cuisine has bought about the want for authentic Goan restaurants and has added to the flavour of spending cash in Goa. Tourism has by far extracted immense foreign exchange for this state. Our country believes in “attithi devo bhava” which means guests are gods, and our state Goa has been a loyal follower of this maxim. As the inhabitants of Goa we have to look upon its state of development as our own personal interest. When we look at the map of Goa we notice that Goa has maximum development along its coastal areas rather than in its inner areas. This alone focuses our attention on lack of development for its own people and more for its tourists. For the HDI value to soar higher we must get in touch with rural development rather than only expanding the urban.

### **Unique skills**

As is said “India lives in her villages” we must focus on uplifting our assets i.e. our villages, and only then will our country be recognised. Our diverse

culture has given us diverse and unique skills in all the fields. Our excellent handicraft skills should be uplifted and exploited and brought in front of the world. Countries like China produce their own goods and export them all around the world; in the same way we must not be behind in getting our skills on to the platform of the world market. Production of Indian authentic goods and their exports will increase the rate of employment and also raise our village income. The uniqueness of our skills from the world due to our diverse culture will make our products stand out in the world market. This will give us an excellent chance for competing and getting our tastes and choices recognized.

When we take a tour in the local markets, even today they do not render us all goods and services. Many essential commodities are only found in the bigger cities. People of Goa have to travel for miles to the cities to avail themselves of good hospitals, clinics, shops etc. This alone indicates our lack of production of goods and services and our lack of access in our own markets. Hence Self-help groups should be promoted to make goods and services locally available to people in affordable prices. Initiatives should be taken to help people come together and spread the idea of working as a system rather than individual units. This will ensure safety of investment and price control and make production and finance easier to handle.

### **Agriculture**

Our asset also lies in agriculture. For example, spices produced in India and its various parts remain unavailable to the world. We must combine agriculture with innovation. Hence engineering and promoting our agricultural products by promoting Indian cuisine and its health benefits along with the authenticity of tastes will help to increase our exports and will improve our agricultural demand in the world market. We should set up plants to process and package Indian food and supply it to the world. For example we have processed readymade Chinese soup-and-noodles available which is famous all around the world. This helps China to promote their cuisines and sell at the price and quantity they desire.

### **Roadways and railways**

Goa's small population is a plus point for the ability of the state to expand and develop with ease. Hence developing road and rail connectivity will enhance the flow of trade and also give the rural areas a fair chance to be recognised

*We should set up plants to process and package Indian food and supply it to the world. For example we have processed readymade Chinese soup-and-noodles available which is famous all around the world.*

as a market and achieve development. The construction of roadways and railways (keeping in mind city planning and development) will enhance labour employment and increase the employment of illiterate or poor people and give them a better chance in leading a normal life. It will enhance the flow of goods and services and make the living standards better for economically backward and essentially remote places. This will also enhance medical facilities to reach these places and uplift their health conditions. Modernization and introduction of technology can help the local people with better productivity at lesser costs and hence enhance availability of goods in cheaper prices. These locals can also sell their goods in the urban market as and when required. This will in turn help keeping the population of the cities in check and stop labour transfer from villages to cities in search of jobs and better living standards.

### **Imports**

Control of goods and services imported is a must to increase our country production and gross domestic products along with HDI .We must only allow those goods and services to enter our country which are critical and essential for our country living. Controlling imports will help the local markets to bloom and give them a fair chance for improving. For example, low quality goods from Thailand, China and other countries sell far better in our country (just due to the country name tag) rather than the same quality Indian goods. Such preferences force the Indian companies to go into losses and eventually shut down. Hence we must allow only good quality products to be imported into our country.

### **Education**

Education is a very powerful tool by which we can change the world and colour it the way we want. Education gives power and knowledge to our society to become better every day. India has taken many great initiatives to educate her people and give them wisdom. Yet India stands as one of the countries with

maximum corruption. Education without morals leads to an unwise society and mindset. Corruption in turn brings down our country's development due to the greed of a few influential people. As one person indulges in corruption, like a bad fish this person spoils the whole pool. This becomes a vicious cycle and more and more people then indulge in corruption. Hence corruption rots our country's system from within. Strict rules and checks must be set up to curb corruption. For example, the American green card system puts the power of recognition and punishment in the hand of the public. A common man witnessing corruption or the breaking of rules can anytime call for the police and is paid for informing about such an act by the person caught rather than a simple fine which puts the police in power and can further increase the chances of bribing and corruption. Giving power to every individual controls the breaking of rules and ensures greater control over corruption. Such a system if applied to India will also ensure lack of corruption.

*Quality education and eradication of corruption will also present our huge human resource as the world's best*

Not just education but good quality education should be made free. People who get their education qualifications from government schools are often noticed to lack in proper personality development rather than those people who graduate from private schools and colleges. Bad quality teaching is that which might arise due to the inability of the teachers to deliver their ideas and knowledge in an acceptable form to students, either due to lack of good speech and presentation quality or due to the teachers' own reluctance due to job security that they misuse. Hence we must have proper inspections and interviews of the teaching and administrative staff before appointing them and must keep track of their day-to-day work and progress. We must give students the power to complain against their teachers' teaching inability, if any, by giving them a rating chart to express their views about their teachers anonymously or setting up private counselling. Teachers must be appointed based on the quality of the teaching they deliver to the students.

Also we must offer equal quality education to every citizen of our country. This can be achieved by setting a common syllabus for a chosen course and a common Board rather than many separate Boards. The quality of this Board

of Education should be compatible with the international and high Indian standards. As we see certain minor Boards are not accepted by the schools and colleges of National and International Boards. This deprives some students of quality education that they might desire. It also makes them vulnerable in getting employed by reputed companies. Setting up of international standard Boards of education will increase the chances of Indians to get employed in various MNCs and countries, hence utilizing our human resources. Hence quality and equality are a must in educating the masses. This gives everyone an equal platform to compete and get employed.

### **Quality Control**

Our country has taken measures to set up plants all across the country to ensure mass production but has failed severely to promote its product due to lack of quality control. This lack of good quality production has failed us in our own markets, the international markets are far beyond our reach. For our country to rise in its HDI we must take over quality control on every aspect of our economy as crucial. Quality control will win the trust of the local and the world market over the Indian goods and services and help enhance our exports and the rate of employment in the country. Quality education and eradication of corruption will also present our huge human resource as the world's best; it will increase chances of Indians' employment overseas which will reduce the load of employment solely within the country; it will improve upon the country's average income and employment conditions which will take care of our country's financial and economic conditions. It is time that not only production but quality production should be insisted upon all around the country for better quality living, health and education.

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**THIRD YEAR, BE (MECHANICAL) - DON BOSCO COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING,**  
**MARGAO, GOA**  
**RESIDENT OF PONDA GOA**

## Profile of Jury Members

**Dr. (Mrs.) Kiran Budkuley** is Professor and Head of English Department at Goa University. Her areas of research interest include 'Gender and Culture Studies', 'Poetry' and 'Konkani Literature and Folklore'. She has presented papers at National and International Conferences on invitation.

A multilingual scholar, writer, critic and translator, who works from and into English, Konkani, Hindi, and Marathi, she has published *Mapping the Mosaic of Culture: Essays in Language and Literature* (2009); *Shenoi Goembab: The Man and His Work* (2003); *Musings in the Meadows* (2012); *Akshar Sarita* (2009); *Shatakaantika* (2009); *Pani Pe Lakeerein (Poetry:2009)*; *Devotee of the Desirable (Translation from Konkani:2010)*; *Sahitya Niyaal:Antarang ani Kayaarupam (Literary Criticism: 1998)*; *Paschimi Samikshekaden Ishatagat (Western Literary Theory:1998)*

She has worked as a resource person for the British Council, Sahitya Akademi, National Book Trust, Institute of Indo-European Studies, K. K. Birla Foundation, Kala Akademi, Department of Art & Culture, Ministry of Culture- Govt. of India, Vishva Konkani Foundation, Mangalore, and has been the adjudicator for several State and National Awards. She has been awarded:

- (1) 'Late Shri Gundu S. Amonkar Triennial Award' (2003),
- (2) "Late Shri Narsinha Damodar Naik Sahitya Puraskar (2011) and
- (3) Goa Konkani Akademi's Sarvotkrushta Konkani Granth Puraskar (2012).

**Manohar Shetty** has published 6 books of poems including 'Domestic Creatures' (Oxford University Press, N Delhi). Several anthologies feature his work. His new book due from HarperCollins is 'Living Room'. He has edited

*'Ferry Crossing: Short Stories from Goa '(Penguin India), He edited 'Goa Today' magazine for several years.*

**Patricia J. Pereira-Sethi**, *is an award-winning journalist who worked for two decades with Newsweek magazine in New York. She has interviewed 45 heads of state during her career and is the author of "Thunder Unbottled: From Thums Up to Bisleri," a biography of industrialist Ramesh J. Chauhan. She is also a distinguished columnist for the Sunday Panorama section of the Navhind Times. Sethi currently lives in Goa.*

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**Profile of Dr. Isabel de Santa Rita Vas (did the initial screening of the essays)**

*Lectured in English Literature at Dhempe College of Arts and Science, Miramar; on the Guest Faculty at Goa University; a member of the Mustard Seed Art Company, an amateur theatre group; member of Positive People, Goa; member of Sangath; and member of Child's Play (NGOs); directed a documentary film ( with Cecil Pinto ) on 'The Search for Abbe Faria'; author of Frescoes in the Womb: Six Plays from Goa.*



# INNOVATIVE IDEAS FOR RAISING GOA'S HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX TO THE VERY HIGH HUMAN DEVELOPMENT GROUP LEVEL BY 2025: ROLE OF GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The Essay competition is open to students currently enrolled with:

- Goa University
  - Colleges affiliated to Goa University
  - Birla Institute of Technology and Science (Goa Campus)
  - Goa Institute of Management
  - National Institute of Technology Goa
- in the age group of 18-25 years.

Message from Dr. Raghunath A. Mashelkar  
National Research Professor

The youth of Goa should not only harbor the dream of raising Goa's Human Development Index to the level of the most advanced countries, but it should also lead the way in achieving it by using the power of innovative and game changing ideas. This essay competition is the challenge to the young to lift Goa to a league of advanced nations by 2025.

Message from Dr. Satish Shetye  
Vice Chancellor, Goa University

Innovation, planning and governance are three crucial elements to realize the Goa of our dreams. The young citizens of the state form an important source for innovation. Quantitative thinking is necessary to convert innovative ideas into realistic plans. This essay competition aims at tapping the ideas of our students to define a realistic path towards the Goa that we aspire for.

## AWARDS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize - 25000/-
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - 20000/-
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - 15000/-

## LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION

28<sup>th</sup> February 2014

## SUBMISSION DETAILS

The Essay, along with the 'Personal Information Form', should be sent by email to:

program@incentgoa.com

and a printed copy should be sent to:

The Director,

The International Centre Goa,

Dr. E Borges Road, Dona Paula, Goa 403004.

## RULES

- The Essay should not exceed 2500 words.
- The Essay should be submitted before 28<sup>th</sup> February 2014.
- The Essay should be the original work and must not have been submitted to any other essay competition(s) or otherwise published. Participants will not be allowed to make any revisions to the essay, once it has been submitted.
- The participant will be required to submit personal information along with the essay. The personal information form, available on the website, pertains to name, address, contact details, age and college particulars of the participant.
- A Screening Committee constituted by ICG and Goa University will first review the essays received. The selected essays will be submitted to a panel of judges for final review. The panel of judges will be selected by ICG and Goa University. The decision of the screening committee and the panel of judges will be final and binding on the participant.
- The final review of the essays by the panel of judges will be completed by 10<sup>th</sup> April 2014.
- ICG and Goa University reserve the final right, where necessary, to make amendments to the above rules and to select the winners of the competition.

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*The International Centre Goa (ICG), is a non-profit autonomous society founded in June 1996, and conceived as a forum to bring together thinkers, scholars, academics, achievers, sociologists, industrialists and creative people from India and around the world. The objective of the ICG is “to promote understanding and amity between parts of the country and with different communities of the world” through a multiplicity of activities. In a span of 18 years, ICG has emerged as the hub of major national and international socio-cultural activities, political dialogues, economic debates and a variety of programmes.*

₹20 for members