

**“OPERATION SADBHAVANA”
A Culture of Peace Process in Kashmir**

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**Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces
& Society : Canada**

**“OPERATION SADBHAVANA”
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**“Challenge and Change
for the Military Institution,
The Military Profession, and the
Military Leadership in the 21st Century”**

Kingston – Ontario – 25th – 27th Oct. 2002

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OPERATION SADBHAVANA – A Culture of Peace Process in Kashmir

(I visited Ladakh and a few border areas and saw for myself the project “Operational Sadbhavana”. I met a number of villagers, school children and women in particular to know more about the unique developmental process and I thought at once that many people outside India may not know about the effort of an Indian Army General towards a culture of peace process in Kashmir, so I decided to write a paper.)

The contemporary world is witnessing an increasing assertion of rights and privileges on the basis of religion, ethnicity and nationality. Religious fundamentalism together with ethnic conflicts and terrorism have appeared on the international arena with remarkable force, and pervasiveness. The traditional idea of the term security has become outdated. We have to redefine security not only in terms of military power but also in terms of economic power/ role it plays due to its extensive spill over effects on other vital issues of nation state. A question can be raised at this stage---Security for whom? And how do we achieve it?

A phrase often used by the Kashmiris, when asked about their indifferent attitude towards the rest of the country is “hum to mile thae ---ap ne alag rakha (we joined but you kept us separate)”. To some extent, it holds true in the case of Kashmir. The need to break the geographical and political isolation of Kashmir from rest of the country should be the uppermost objective. The construction of railway lines to the Valley should have been taken up as a part of greater political strategy long ago. There is a strong need to remove the “ you -- -feed ---me” type of attitude among the Kashmiris. The economic aid and investment must be geared to allow Kashmir’s economy to grow from below. The model for development must be found in order to have a systematic and sustainable development in the state.1

At the heart of the Indo-Pak conflict, there are two constants: One, the political usefulness of a war-like situation in both countries, and two, mutually sustained mindsets which recognize war as the only real solution. India and Pakistan are all the time vulnerable to the urge to fight. Peace-time life carries a sense of drudgery for millions of people in both countries. Military preparedness and the news of impending

war have the unfortunate capacity to give both the young nation-states an instant sense of purpose. One can't help recalling a time when India derived a sense of purpose by acting as a force for world peace during the seventies, it started to lose that self-identity, even as the failure of the national development project of the sixties became all too apparent. A new national identity began to take shape alongside the models available in the cold war-ridden world. Hunger, poverty and illiteracy gradually ceased to inspire the state planning apparatus. The desired self-image of a military power served a cohesive political role.²

Both countries have used education and the media to reinforce hostile mindsets. In Pakistan, school text books openly teach prejudice towards Hinduism and equate India with Hindus, forgetting India's struggle for secularism. Elite public schools have a better record, but their products either migrate or learn to live on the margins of a fluid, routinely manipulated public space. That journey to the margin of a rapidly shrinking political space is just beginning for the Indian elite's whose children have been dutifully raised on the staple of scientific temper in a corrupt, chaotic political milieu. The simplistic, secular textbooks they have studied fail to contextualise Partition in a rational universe, leaving adequate room for the belief that Pakistan is neither a legitimate historical entity, nor a functioning nation. Here lie the roots of a common elite perception that India can emulate what Israel has done to the defenseless Palestine. Senior Dutch sociologist W F Wertheim has rightly bemoaned the absence of a peace economy in the lone superpower the world has now. If only rich countries would consider stopping the sale of expensive weapons to poor countries, they can bring about the stability and peace they love so much. It is the arms sold by the US, UK, Russia, France and a few others that have brutalized life across the Third World from Chile to Liberia to the Philippines. Yet, for India and Pakistan, a phased disengagement with the arms trade offers the only realistic countdown to peace. ³

So how do we define peace? To me, a fruitful definition of peace has to include both the absence of direct violence and the absence of indirect or structural violence. Yet this is a rather negative way to define peace, and several peace researchers and peace educators have attempted to arrive at more positive definitions of the term.

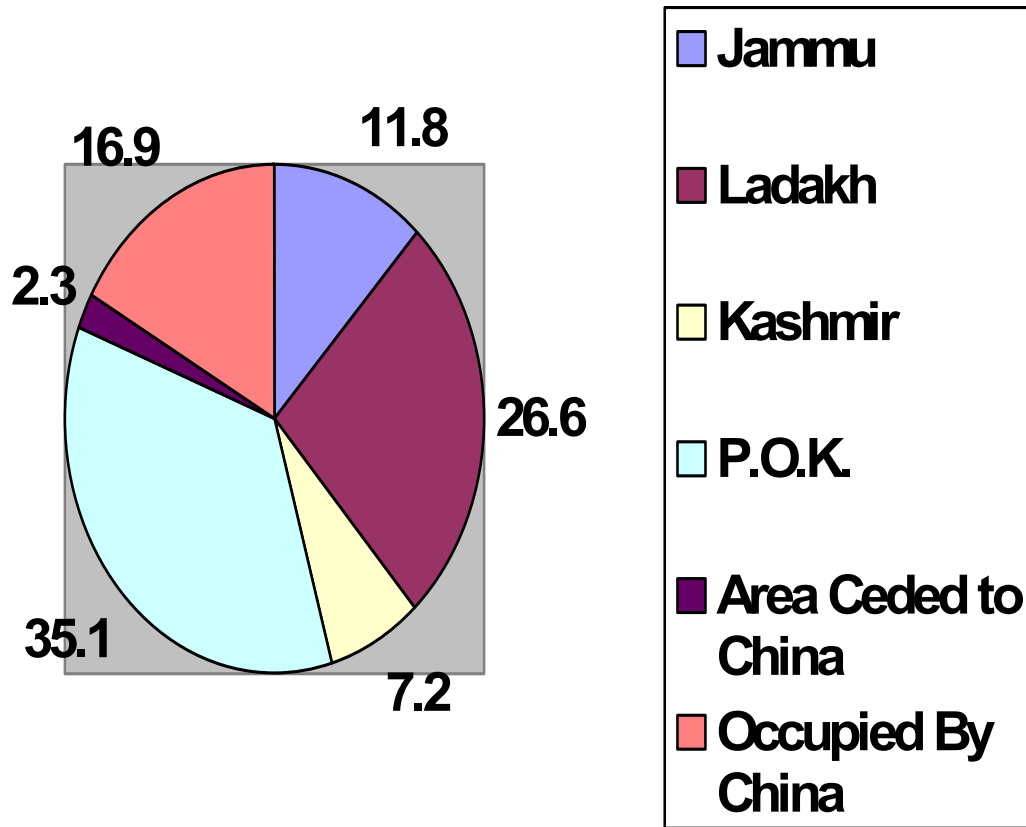
Garcia (1981) holds that one of the most attractive definitions of peace and peace education for a broader and more realistic scope is perhaps the one given by Mario Borelli :--- By peace we mean the results in any given society of equality of rights, by which every member of that society participates equally in decisional power which regulates it, and the distribution of the resources which sustain it. (Garcia, 1981, p.- 165) So by peace we mean the absence of violence in any given society, both internal and external, direct and indirect. We further mean the nonviolent results of equality of rights, by which every member of that society, through nonviolent means, participates equally in decisional power which regulates it, and the distribution of the resources which sustain it.

The more up-to-date definitions of peace with the UN system is not to define peace only as the absence of war and violence, but as the presence of justice. Peace is defined in more positive terms. This view was well expressed at the General Conference of UNESCO at its eighteenth session (Resolution 11.1): "Peace cannot consist solely in the absence of armed conflict but implies principally a process of progress, justice and mutual respect among the peoples designed to secure the building of an international society in which everyone can find his true place and enjoy his share of the world's intellectual and material resources."

Many would, however, still advocate that the Kashmiri struggle has reached a stage of no return, but in reality, the people in the Valley are most disenchanted and disillusioned not only with the unending spate of militancy but also for the fact that they have become a pawn in the game of power politics between Pakistan and India. Almost every family has lost a son, forcibly taken across the border for training. The women have fallen victim to rape and sexual molestation at the hands of the terrorists. The executions of numerous Kashmiris, including some prominent citizens, have left a bitter taste. The power struggles among the militant groups have led to kidnapping, looting, raping and killing of fellow beings. The local militants have resorted to forced marriages with girls belonging to socially higher and economically better off families. This has generated disenchantment among the average Kashmiri. 4

Jammu & Kashmir

Proportional Division of Area



Inside India : 45.6 %



Out Side India : 54.4 %

The above diagram shows the actual area of Jammu & Kashmir. 35% of area is with Pakistan (Pakistan Occupied Kashmir), 26% is Ladakh, 16% area is with China, 11% area is Jammu, 7% is Kashmir Valley, 2% area is ceded to China. So, we have 46% area inside India and 54% of the area is out side India.

The Background

The two neighbors India and Pakistan, were born of Partition, the most savage separation of people and territory in 20th century history. Since 1947, India and Pakistan have fought four wars over Kashmir and Bangladesh. Pakistan openly abets cross-border terrorism and mutual suspicion rules bilateral relations. The rest of the world considers the region a potential nuclear flash-point.

Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) was one of the 565 princely states of India on which the British paramountcy lapsed at the stroke of midnight on 15 August 1947. The ruler of these princely states was given the option to join either of the dominions-India or Pakistan. The ruler of J&K Maharaja Hari Singh did not exercise the option to join either of the two dominions, and instead, wanted a Standstill Agreement pending final decision on his state's accession. With Muslims comprising a majority of the population in Kashmir Valley, one could easily have expected communal politics to develop but the people of this Valley, through centuries of their history had developed tolerance and peaceful coexistence, irrespective of different religious beliefs. The National Conference led by Mr. Sheikh Abdullah, a popular Kashmiri leader, believed in nationalism based on community interests and not on religion. Mr. M.A Jinnah tried but failed to win the sympathies of the Muslims of Kashmir for his two-nation theory. Perhaps a plebiscite, soon after the partition of India and Pakistan, would have been overwhelmingly favorable to India.

Frustrated by this and with the aim of intimidating the population, Pakistan tribesmen entered Kashmir on 22 Oct. '47', and indulged in large-scale bloodshed. On 26 Oct. 1947, however, Maharaja Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession in favor of India. This instrument was accepted by the Governor General of India, Lord Mountbatten, on 27 Oct. 1947, thereby making J&K a legal and constitutional part of the Union of India. India took up the issue of Pak aggression in J&K to the UN, but it was only 01 Jan 1949 that a cease-fire actually came into operation, leaving approximately 84,000 sq. km (54.4%) of Jammu and Kashmir under Pakistan control. Ever since then, the state of J&K has remained a bone of contention between India and Pakistan, with the two countries going to war over the issue in 1965 , 1971 and 1999.

The present paper offers a long term strategy for a speedy integration of Jammu and Kashmir into rest of the country. This paper aims to highlight the effort of the Indian Army through a project called "Operation Sadbhavana" and how army transforms life in border villages of Kashmir. It is a great challenge – for the Indian Army and specially for Lt. General Arjun Ray, VSM who has given all his efforts and soul to the project. "We are committed to protecting the people and their rights" the general says. More and more people all over the world are realizing that the answer to present problem of violence is to be found in a morality which

replaces ravenous greed with contentment, hate with tolerance, and killing with reverence for life. There are many enlightened and eminent scientists, intellectuals and religious leaders who are talking in this positive language. At the common man's level also, awareness to these dangers of violence is growing. Many protest groups are contributing their mite in arousing the human conscience further. Principles of Ahimsa, Satya, Aparigraha, Anekantwad, ⁵ etc. assume great relevance in this context. ***The extreme importance of this project 'Operation Sadbhavana' begins from here.***

A culture of peace is a body of shared values, attitudes and behaviors based on non-violence and respect for fundamental rights and freedoms, on understanding tolerance and solidarity, on the full participation and empowerment of women and on the sharing and free flow of information. A culture of peace is a vast project linked to economic security and development, political security and democracy, military security and disarmament, cost-benefit analysis and economic conversion, and the development of global solidarity. A culture of peace can only flourish in an environment where war has been eliminated and its functions replaced by positive alternatives. ***"A culture of peace should be elaborated within the process of sustainable, endogenous, equitable human development; it cannot be imposed from the outside", says the General.***

The methodology has been the content analysis from some leading newspapers and extensive unstructured interviews with more than 150 people from cross section of Society at the border areas. For interviews, men, women and children of different religions along with group meetings at several places gave the investigator the opportunity to meet maximum people within limited time. They were eager to speak, very spontaneous and one could see and feel the enthusiasm of those who remained under pitiable and neglected conditions for years together. Content analysis is used in the social sciences as one means of studying communication—its nature, its underlying meanings, its dynamic processes, and the people who are engaged in talking, writing, or conveying meaning to one another. Thus, each content analysis employs an explicit, organized plan for assembling the

data, classifying or quantifying them to measure the concepts under study, examining their patterns and interrelationships, and interpreting the findings. Sorokin's monumental study of social and cultural changes in western Europe over the entire course of history rests in part upon an analysis of works of art, music, literature, and philosophy according to their central meanings (1937-1941). Lasswell developed a scheme for categorizing the content of patients' responses in psychiatric interviews as pro-self, anti-self, pro-other, or anti-other, and for counting the frequency with which such categories occurred (1938). Lasswell also, with a number of associates, pioneered the application of content analysis to the study of public opinion and propaganda, an effort immensely stimulated by the demands of the United States government during World War II. 6. A few newspapers and leading magazines have been taken into consideration to analyze the ground reality and assess the success of the mission of Operation Sadbhavana.

The Army is an instrument of nation building, and peace- building is an intrinsic part of it. With this objective in mind, the army is acting as facilitator in Ladakh for local governance and administration at the grass- root level. For this, the district administration, NGO's and people's representatives have been roped in and resources and facilities of the civil administration reinforced in these areas. The present paper focuses on the various efforts of the Government of India for the upliftment of border villages and populations with the help of army as a "facilitator", and to highlight the people's involvement in human development programs.

The Birth of an idea

Three years ago, when General Arjun Ray, VSM, had waved to some people in Drass while sitting in a jeep in border area, people there did not wave back. The body language was very clear. Had the Army been more alert to such body language earlier, the Intelligence failure in Kargil (1999) might not have happened, when the area was infiltrated and no body of consequence knew of any immediate danger coming from that area, which resulted in 1999 Kargil war with Pakistan. Security and human development had to be intrinsic parts of border management.

Lt Gen Ray briefed selected journalists about this movement on 10 October 2001. “I planned Sadbhavana movement with an aim to stop the infiltration of militants totally”, he said. The total aim of this movement is to sensitize the population of border areas and create an environment to avoid a war-like situation as well as, to ensure the all-round development of the region. This movement, heralded by the Army is fully supported by the Chief Minister of Jammu-Kashmir, Dr. Farookh Abdullah and the Union Govt.) The per head expenditure for this movement is Rs. 500/- and it is being implemented in the border villages of the area. The villager is being considered as the centre point of focus to manage the border areas. General Ray feels that, such programs with slight variations could be implemented in the other border states of the country, North Eastern states and the Naxalite infested areas of Andhra Pradesh. This does not imply that the governance of the border areas has been taken over by the Army. The Army is assisting the governance complementarily. ***The primary aim behind this movement is that, the militancy existing in the Srinagar valley should not spread in the Ldakh region. Gen Ray feels that such movements should be implemented in the border areas of the other countries of the world with the UN support in terms of World Bank, International Monetary Fund and Asian Development Bank funding them.***

He said that the time has come to change the basic definition of the role of the Army, as the modern wars cannot be won by the might of the gun and money. ***It is necessary to win the hearts of the people to overcome the circumstances. The Armed forces should not only aim to win the war but to avoid it all together.*** There are people demanding independence in their speeches in Jammu-Kashmir, but their impact is decreasing. The Indian peacekeeping forces are dispatched to various countries of the world, then why can't the Army be utilized for nation-building within the country, asked Ray and stated that thousands of educated people across the country have volunteered to work for the Sadbhavana movement in Ladakh. The people of Kargil address the Army as “Hamari Fauj” and we address them as “Hamari Kaum” . “The covert war of the militancy is a very difficult one to win. You may kill a man, but not his thoughts”.

The movement of operation Sadbhavana is based on idealism. The theme of the operation is achieving the progress of the nation through building up confidence amongst each other. The conventional system calls for the planning of the development of the rural areas by the Govt. and thereafter, its execution is done in practice. But in Operation Sadbhavana, the local masses decide their requirements and place their demands to the Govt accordingly. ***The human being is the central point of focus in Sadbhavana.*** Ray questions that if the human being is not central point of focus, how can this development be planned? The protection of the locals residing in the border villages is the duty of the Armed forces. The biggest challenge faced by the Armed forces is to stop the border infiltration. Ladakh has China on one side, and Pakistan on the other. Gen Ray has raised the question about the precarious condition of Ladakh, if the invasion on Ladakh were to come from both sides. The peacekeeping Operation Sadbhavana is a new model of the human defense. This model with slight variations could be adopted to curb militant activities in the Kashmir Valley, Jammu region, North-East states and the Naxalite activities in Andhra Pradesh, claims Gen Ray. The fear of money and weapons cannot control the masses, hence the Operation Sadbhavana movement has been planned accordingly.⁸

The population of Chechnya is lesser than the Patpatganj area of Delhi, but the Russian guns could not defeat the people of Chechnya. Ray believes that the political process will not start working without the confidence of the people. Any foreigner in Ladkah cannot avoid the eagle eyes of the locals. They immediately inquire about his name, purpose of visit etc. and convey the information to the police or the security outpost. The information regarding any horse traders or vessel peddlers entering the village is immediately conveyed to the police. The confidence of the people is the lifeline of the Armed forces operating on the borders. The jawans were required to be trained for this and their mindset prepared accordingly.⁹

The local population which harboured militants earlier, is now actively engaged in removing them. This has ensured complete peace in Ladakh during the last 15 months. Tyakshi, Bagdang, Partapur, Hunder, Batalik, Chanigund, Darchik, Kargil, Drass, Pandrass, Budkharbu, Nimu, Leh, Karu, Tangste, Chushul areas of

Ladakh are encompassed under Operation Sadbhavana and the human resource development programs are being run at these places.¹⁰

Developing the Concept

Post-Kargil, the Army is all out to win over the people's heart in the Ladakh region along the LoC, which separates arch rivals India and Pakistan. Its efforts are evident. It has built schools, roads and dispensaries. And thanks to the Army, ten-year-old Rigzen Norbo is now able to fiddle with a computer and smatter in English. "Operation Sadbhavana" has ushered in a new lease of life for many Ladakhi children. Talking about the Army's efforts, Lt Gen Arjun Ray, general-officer-commanding 14 Corps', said: "Our aim is to check militancy from spilling across the rest of the J&K into Ladakh." Ray believes that human security is a core element of national security and it is ensured through human development. Army officers' wives are also doing their bit by collecting Ladakhi children from remote villages and teaching them, With help from Bangalore's IT industry, it has installed computers in all these schools. Volunteers from Prakruthi, a NGO based in Bangalore, have come here to teach students. K Lalitha, a voluntary worker who teaches science, said, "I've come here for the first time and it feels great as it is in the national interest. The general intelligence of the children are at par with the rest of the country." Encouraged by the positive response, an optimistic Ray said, ***"It's a long process. But the locals are realizing that we are doing something for them and they are with us"***.¹¹

Lt General Arjun Ray, General Officer Commanding of HQ 14 Corps, on his first trip to Turtuk, was greeted by two improvised explosive device blasts. Just as terrified villagers were suspecting a violent reaction, Ray unleashed the unexpected a dose of development. Turtuk was part of Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (POK) until 1971 when India sliced it off from Baltistan. Ethnic affinity with people across the Line of Control (LOC), meant that it's 2,600-odd Balti-speaking populous has always been under a cloud and the area a flashpoint. It erupted in 1999, when Turtuk at the height of 10,000 ft played a key role in the Kargil war. The intrusion in the sector went undetected for months, as the locals did not inform the Indian Army, which is

considered “an occupation force”. Turtuk residents had not only refused to provide logistical support to the Indian troops, they are believed to have guided Pakistani shelling. The scene is vastly different today, Turtuk now has all that which villagers in the hinterland cannot dream of.¹²

Turtuk is not the only one. Winds of change are blowing along the 284 km LOC from Turtuk to Batalik, Kargil and Drass, where 190 odd villagers are the beneficiaries of the army’s novel initiative on border management. Called Operation Sadbhavana (goodwill), it is the brainchild of Ray, commander of the Leh-based corps raised soon after the Kargil war was launched, the operation seeks to ‘de-alienate’ the border populate and forestall militancy spilling over into the Ladakh region. Three years ago, Lt Gen Arjun Ray took over as commander of the Leh-based 14 Corps. And he had an idea. That if you won the hearts of the people on the border, Pakistan-backed militancy would never manage to get the hold. ***Of this idea was born the army’s Sadbhavana Project, focused on bringing development and dignity to the 109,500 people in the 190 villages close to the 265 km Ladakh-Pok (Pakistan Occupied Kashmir) border.***

Advani, (India’s Deputy Prime Minister) after his visit, proclaimed in that Turtuk was one border area in Kashmir where he could walk without any security. Since Sadbhavana started, 80 men from the Turtuk area have joined the army and 32 the police. Among the new soldiers is the son of Ali Hassan, a retired Pakistani army man. Hassan 72 retired from the Karakoram Scouts in 1970 and came back home to Tyakshi, which was then in PoK. A year later, his village was in India! Ali Hassan’s 30 year-old-complaint and his only conversation topic-is why Pakistan isn’t paying him his pension: “Didn’t I fight in 1965 against India?” He has already requested L.K. Advani about this when Advani visited the area, and the home minister has promised to take his case up with Pakistan. Meanwhile, the Indian army provides his family free rations, and his son Habibullah prepares to defend India.

Can all this goodwill last? Is Sadbhavana sustainable? For if the project loses steam, the people would see it as a betrayal, and the backlash could be dangerous. “The idea is to make these people self-sufficient so they can stand on their own feet”, says

Colonel J.S. Pama. “For example, we’re building a bus stop near Turtuk. We provide the material, but we have made it clear that they have to provide the labor and maintain it”, Charity alone cannot be the engine of growth. Charity has to necessarily begin the process, since these people have been neglected for so long, but it must be withdrawn gradually for full empowerment. The process is a tightrope walk, and there are already some irritating side effects. Says a junior officer. “Even if we catch someone for theft now, they say we’ll complain to General Ray”.¹³

Operation Sadbhavana, the world’s first civilian initiative to help an operation to initiate peace through education and development, “has been successful in forestalling militancy in Ladakh, which is now a militancy-free zone”, said the Lt General. The General is interested in wooing the multinational companies to invest in this “militancy free zone”. “I will provide them trained manpower. Then it is their duty to fix deals with the state government. I only work as a facilitator”, he said.

When asked about the sustainability of ‘Operation Sadbhavana’ after his transfer from the area, General said, ***“My name is hope. A movement started on ideological basis never dies”***. General believes the model if applied to Valley with modifications can do wonders. “We have won the people here in ten months. It may take a year or two in the Valley if only we start now”, he said.

The Concept of Operation Sadbhavana

The Vision – Win the hearts and minds of the local population residing in the border areas.

Core Concept –

- Human security is a core element of national security. It is ensured through human development.
- Human development is a part of border management.

Operational parameters -

- Army functions as a ‘facilitator’.
- Convergence and symbiosis of ‘Sadbhavana’ initiatives with the district administration, NGO’s & people’s representatives.

- Reinforcement of extant resources and facilities of the civil administration.
- Peoples' involvement in human development programs.

Thrust Areas -

- Primary education
- Secondary and tertiary health care.
- Community development.
- Empowerment of women.

Primary Education

- Facilitated by a network of 16 'Sadbhavana Schools'.

Their schools are different:

- High quality education based on National CBSE curriculum.
- Extensive use of computers with customized software for teaching English.
- Free Meals.
- Non commercial orientation with scholarships for children from economically deprived backgrounds.
- Human and Child Rights as well as religious instruction.
- Special education for mentally and physically challenged children.

Health

- **Level 1** Primary health care by unit medical officer.
- **Level 2** Enhanced primary health and secondary medical care.
- **Level 3** Tertiary treatment at Army's Command Hospital at Chandimandir and PGI Chandigarh.
- Treatment is FREE.
- Flown by AIRCRAFT.
- Comprehensive FOLLOW UP CARE.

Community Development

- Rural electrification in selective areas.

- Village irrigation and anti drought scheme.
- Setting up village cooperatives in poultry farming.
- Vocational training for unemployed youths.
- Resources centers at Leh, Kargil and Dras for mentally and physically challenged.
- Orphanage at Kargil.
- Boys hostel at Dras.
- Cultural fusion by mass community participation and revival of local culture, traditions, including horse polo and archery.

Empowerment of Women

- Human development, if not engendered, will be endangered. Human security occurs when there is gender equality, a necessary condition for human development.

Their Goals:

- Improved status in family and community.
- Provide basic gender needs to fulfill her classic role as a daughter and mother.
- Employment opportunities.
- Health care.
- Reproductive decision making.

Their Action Plan:

- Vocational Training Centers for nearly 500 girls. Composite package program:
Specific vocational skill in either knitting, carpet and shawl weaving and tailoring.
Computer literacy.
Education enhancement through National Open School program supported by software for class X and XII.
Social Education.
Free lunch.
Stipend.

Income Generation.

- 50% reservation for women in local village cooperatives in poultry farming.

All school teachers are local girls.

Widow rehabilitation package.

Working women's hostel at Leh and Kargil.

- **Adult Education Centers for Non-literate Women between 18-35 years,**

150 hours package which consists of:

Health and childcare.

Communication skills.

Folk culture.

Functional arithmetic.

Social education.

Health Program for Women and Children in Three Vital Areas of Concern:

- Infant and under-5 mortality.

Maternal mortality rate.

Reproductive health

The Results

OP Sadbhavana Statistics

Number of border villages and population covered

| | |
|------------|----------|
| Villages | 190 |
| Population | 1,09,541 |

Facilities Created

| | | |
|-------------------------------------------|---|----|
| * Army Goodwill Schools | - | 13 |
| * Women Empowerment Centers | - | 11 |
| * Medical Aid Complexes | - | 06 |
| * Resource Center for Challenged Children | - | 01 |
| * Women's Hostel | - | 01 |
| * Cooperative Poultry Farm | - | 06 |
| * Boys Hostel at Drass | - | 01 |
| * Orphanage at Kargil | - | 01 |

- All the above have been provided all necessary infrastructure buildings, heating, furniture, equipment and required staff

Contribution of army to local economy

(For year 2000-2001)

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| * Hiring of civilian transport (for army duties) | 10.04 crores |
| * Hiring of ponies/porters | 19.65 crores |
| • Purchase from cooperative marketing societies to meet 43% of army requirement | 2.5 crores |
| * Profit to local flourmills | 0.35 crores |
| * Engagement of labor at Army depots | 2.8 crores |
| Total | 35.34 crores* |

- **Note:** - In addition to this the transportation contracts for which the suppliers are mainly from Srinagar are to the tune of Rs. 2.2 crores per annum. Extrapolating this amount to the population of the valley, the expenditure would be close to Rs 500 crores. It also does not include about 1500 Ladakhis being recruited into the Ladakh Scouts.

Students covered under army goodwill schools

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Leh District | Kargil District |
| ↓ | ↓ |
| 550 | 700 |

Notes: The army has adopted the District Bal Ashram at Kargil which houses 47 orphans. Army is also running a boys hostel at Drass.

Girls Covered Under Vocational Training

Approximately 700 girls are being imparted a composite training package in Vocational Training Centers within a schedule of one year which includes various skills like tailoring, knitting carpet weaving, computer training and a comprehensive education package for enhancement of their qualification.

Adult Education

Army has undertaken a massive adult education drive to set up one adult education center in each Army unit's area of responsibility thus aiming at educating at least a batch of 3600 non literate women between the age of 18 and 35 in an 8 month cycle.

Number of lady officers involved in operation Sadbhavana

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Leh District | Nargil district |
| 14 | 12 |

They have ensured the availability of lady medical and dental officers as they have greater acceptability with the female population. There are 26 officers for a population of 1,10,000, i.e., 1 per 5000.

Medicare Under OP Sadbhavana

- **Primary Health Care:** The total population in the border area in the Corps Zone is covered under the primary health care scheme where the unit medical officers at the medical Inspection rooms and the Medical Officers at the Medical Aid Center provide free medical cover. Patients requiring advanced treatment are referred to General Hospital, Field Ambulance Drass, Kargil and Leh.
- **Secondary Medical Care.** A total of 280 patients have been operated upon in General Hospital at Leh in the last 15 months.
- **Tertiary Medical Care.** 77 civilians were flown to Chandigarh, Delhi and Pune free of cost and treated for complex disorders.
- **Total patients covered under Medical Aid Centers (MAC) (since their inception in Sep. Oct 2000)**

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| MAC Drass | 15,669 |
| MAC Kargil | 28,068 |
| MAC Hunder | 5,784 |
| MAC Darchik | 8,526 |
| MAC Achinathang | 9,587 |
| MAC Turtuk | 10,605 |
| Total | 78,239 |

Fact Sheet Zanskar

- The total population of Zanskar valley is 14,000 approximately out which 1340 are Muslims and rest Buddhists.
- **The following activities have been undertaken under Operation Sadbhavana in the region.**

Medical Care A seven days health Mela (festival) was organized in the month of Aug 2001 wherein 900 civilians of Zanskar region were treated. Also 45 successful cataract operations were carried out. A Medical Aid Center has now been set up at Padam.

During this summer, troops have been deployed for the security of the Valley.

OP Apricot

- The economy of Kargil depends a lot on apricots, which are grown close to the National Highway West or Kargil along the Hardas Belt. There are over 3 lakh trees.
- In view of the drought like conditions, the Army has launched Operation Apricot to provide water to save the apricot plantation.

| Villages Covered | Trees Saved + Areas Covered | Water Pumped |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 14 | 1,70,000 trees + 759 acres of agricultural land | 18,69,000 LTRS/day |

Electrification

A total of eight villages in the remote areas of the region have been electrified with the assistance of the Army, and 40 generators provided.

Cooperative Poultry Farm

Four Cooperative Poultry Farms have been established with a grant of Rs. 7.5 lakhs from Small Farmers Agri Business Consortium (SFAC)

| | | |
|------------|---|----|
| * Drass | - | 01 |
| * Tyakshi | - | 01 |
| * Chalunka | - | 01 |
| * Sanjak | - | 01 |

All Poultry Farms are registered cooperative societies with more women involvement than men, enabling them to generate an income of a minimum of Rs. 3,000/- per month.

IT Ministry: Grant

| | | |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Total Computers | - | 108 |
| Computer Centers 05 | → | Diskit (06 Computer + VSAT) |
| | → | Leh (12 Computers + VSAT) |
| | → | Karu (06 Computers + VSAT) 36+05 VSAT |
| | → | Kargil (06 Computers + VSAT) |
| | → | Nimu (06 Computer + VSAT) |

- * 13 Schools - 50 + 08 VAST
- * 11 Women Empowerment Centers - 22+05 VSAT
- * Computer furniture
- * 60 x Community TV Sets

Total Budget from IT Ministry – Rs 2 Crores

Sadbhavana Volunteers

A total of 15 volunteers from all over India have volunteered their services.

Financial Outlay OP Sadbhavana

- 2000-2001 - Rs 140.00 lakhs
- 2001 –2002 - Rs 200.00 Lakhs (Rs. 200.00 Lakhs more is likely to be allotted).

Conclusion

If we wish for peace, therefore, we must do everything in our power to find out and inform people about the crimes being committed in the name of various nationalism, combat the mutilation of humanity brought about by all forms of national exclusivism, and actively propagate universal human rights, democracy, and friendship between peoples, *Every one of us can do this in some capacity: as parents, grandparents,*

uncles and aunts, educators and scholars, journalists and writers, members of neighborhoods, religious communities, trade unions or women's groups, politicians or voters. Silence and passivity are not an option. 14

Culture of Peace, does not deny the conflicts that arise from diversity, it demands non-violent solutions, and promotes the transformation of violent competition into co-operation for shared goals. It is both a vision and a process, a vast project, multidimensional and global, which is linked to the development of positive alternatives to the functions previously served by war and militarism.

A century ago, the philosopher/psychologist William James argued that war would not be abolished until a substitute could be found for the psychological needs it fulfils, such as comradeship, loyalty and courage. War channels these attributes in action against an enemy. *The culture of peace can fulfil such psychological needs equally well through collective struggle against common threats. **Non-violence, as described by Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr, is not passive, but active. It requires great courage and strength, harnessed into the struggle against injustice. Moreover, while the culture of war primarily activates young men, the culture of peace provides a focus for everyone-men and women, young and old.*** 15.

I would like to conclude in the words of Mr Mike Chenoy, Senior Asia Correspondent, CNN, after visiting 14 corps zone on 11 Nov 2001. **“Gen Ray’s Doctrine’ is definitely a story of success and can be applied any where in the world with a few modifications depending upon the local situations and requirements. Gen Ray is open to new ideas and takes prompt action to solve the problem at hand. He has genuine repute in the area.”** “I have two sons, both are going to the school opened by General Ray, and are getting the best of education. Now, I do not fear for their future, I am sure both my sons will be well placed citizens of India” remarked a proud mother, somewhere from the border areas of Kargil. I think this is the future of “Operation Sadbhavana”.

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