

Development and Democracy: The Core Social and Political Concerns

The Context of Reforms

§ The Mainstream Perspective on Crisis, Diagnosis, and Prescription

§ Tracing the Roots of Financial Crisis

§ The Crisis of Performance

§ The Crisis of Accountability OR The Crisis of Governance

∅ The Power Sector Crisis is Essentially a 'Political' Crisis

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Electricity Sector Reforms

Ø Is it an Institutional Strategy to Resolve the Financial Crisis?

OR

Ø Is it a Political Strategy to Depoliticize the Sector ?

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Development: The Core Social Concern

§ Socially Disadvantaged Section Are also Asset-Less Sections

§ Energy (Electricity) & Water:

Inputs Critical for Asset-Less to Climb the Development Ladder

§ Inadequacy of the Life-Line Tariff

Ø Danger of Reforms Restricting Development

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Democracy: The Core Political Concern

§ Electricity: An Input for Development:

Hence, a Matter Within Public Realm

§ Reforms Take Electricity out of the Public Realm

§ By Treating Electricity Primarily as a Commodity (+ Object of Charity)

§ By Substituting the State with Technocratic and Legalistic Regulatory Institutions

§ Limiting Capacity of People to Influence Decision-Making in This Public Affair

Ø Danger of Reforms Restricting Democracy

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What We Have? What We Need?

§ State-Centered Model:

- ü Restricting -Growth;

 - ü Restricting Development (partially);

 - ü Restricting Democracy (partially)

§ Reforms:

- ü Facilitating Growth;

 - ü Danger of Restricting Development

 - ü Danger of Restricting Democracy

§ Desired Model

- ü Facilitating Development

 - ü Facilitating Democracy

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Evolving Consensus

§ Avoiding Conflict; Attaining Consensus

ü Confidence in Process:

Requires Transparency & Accountability

ü Ownership of Content:

Requires Meaningful Participation (Space & Capabilities)