

Peace building, though the phrase sounds very simple, is definitely a ‘complex task of great magnitude. Therefore, it should be undertaken with the seriousness it demands and deserves. Sporadic and unorganized attempt at peace building, I feel, will create more punctures, some of which may even cause irreparable damage. Hence, it should be carried out according to a well planned, methodically phased out programme. For this there should be extremely committed, truly dedicated person as well as institutions, who can work, putting aside personal agendas, whatever form these agendas may take, and also who can rise about petty divisive forces.

Experience shows that what is of primary importance is building of trust and confidence of all parties affected by breach of peace. Without fulfilling this primary requirement no peace building effort will be able to achieve the objectives envisaged. Peace building is necessitated by the fact of peace being breached. Therefore, as an initial step it is necessary to identify correctly the factors that contributed, in different measures, to this breaching of peace. These factors may be economic, ideological political social, cultural etc. These have to be identified by those who venture at peace building, and try to avoid involving whatever factors –whether individuals or institution, attempting to surreptitiously promote any of the above referred to divisive forces. It is only then that parties affected will begin to repose confidence, trust and faith in the peace building process and the people and institutions involved in such a process.

When the elements are active, the indispensable elements are affected by breach of peace and those involved in peace building cannot truly commence, empathy building is a must.

This cannot be achieved through pontification and providing idealistic advice. Breach of peace results not only in wounding the hearts of those affected but making them lose also the lives of dearness, losing their possessions, material as well as ideological, losing their dignity, self-respect almost everything imaginable. In such a context building empathy is no easy task.

The peace builders have to prove their sincerity. They have to show their keenness to share the losses of the affected. Meeting, seminars, documentations, preparation of dossiers of statistics and remedial measures may be helpful, but not sufficient to arouse confidence and faith and pave the way for empathy.

Whatever beneficial measure that are documented should be translated into action, producing beneficial efforts. All, except the loss of precious lives, can be reasonably compensated and reimbursed. Loss of shelter food, clothing and other basic facilities, jobs and whatever means of livelihood they were engaged in, loss of social states and self-represent and dignity have to be gradually restored. And concrete action have to be taken in this regard. The affected should be made to feel that they can hope that conditions will change for the better.

is gigantic task we have to forge alliance ethnic, economic, political and territorial etc, all have to bury for the time being becoming the personal agendas, whatever they may be, and rally round one pivotal point-peace building.

This is possible. And Sri Lanka has the experience. It is well known that Sri Lanka happened to one of the countries that was most severely devastated by the 2004 tsunami. It is also well known that Sri Lanka, if not the only country but one of them at least, that manage to overcome the adverse effects including the snuffing out of thousands of human life by the angry sea waves.

In spite all the lashing she got, Sri Lanka was able to stand on her feet again, because the Sri Lanka were ready to merge grand alliance of unity for the good of the nation and the people. Though we failed to sustain this, we did succeed in experiencing the great effort of forming such a unity.

Thus, it is clear that forming of such a grand alliance of unity, and working together in harmony is the urgent need of the time for successful peace building.