

Growth of Cooperative Movement in the World

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1. INTRODUCTION

Cooperative movement contributes to improve the social, economic, cultural, environmental and political advancement of a country. It recognized as a key stakeholder in both national and international affairs. Cooperatives **are people-centred, not capital-centred**, they do not perpetuate, nor accelerate capital concentration and they distribute wealth in a more fair way.

Highly democratic, locally autonomous and self-help practices are the major issues in cooperatives. Removal of poverty, employment and income generation, social inclusion are the major objectives of the cooperative movement.

2. HISTORY OF COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT

The earliest cooperative were started by weavers and workers in cottage industries. The earliest record of a cooperative comes from Fenwick, Scotland where, in March 14, 1761, in a barely furnished cottage local weavers manhandled a sack of oatmeal into John Walker's whitewashed front room and began selling the contents at a discount, forming the Fenwick Weavers' Society.

In 1844 (during another transitional period, revamped industrial revolution) a group of 28 artisans working in the cotton mills in the town of Rochdale, in the north of England established the first modern co-operative business, the Rochdale Equitable Pioneers Society. The weavers faced miserable working conditions and low wages, and they could not afford the high prices of food and household goods. They decided that by pooling their scarce resources and working together they could access basic goods at a lower price. Initially, there were only four items for sale: flour, oatmeal, sugar and butter.

The real co-operative movement can be credited to Rochdale Equitable Pioneers who established the cooperative consumer store in North England, which can be called as the first in the cooperative consumer movement.

The Rochdale Pioneers are regarded as the prototype of the modern co-operative society in North England and the founders of the Cooperative Movement. It is the first in the cooperative consumer movement. The major issues of the rules of conduct in Rochdale Pioneers annual proceedings are:

- a. Capital should be of their own
- b. Only the purest provisions procurable should be supplied to members
- c. Full Weight and Measures should be given
- d. Market Prices should be charged
- e. Profit should be divided according to the purchases made

- f. Principle of 'one member one vote'
- g. Officers and Committee should manage the cooperatives
- h. Distribution of profits allocated to education purpose.
- i. Account statements and balance sheets should be given to members.

In recognition with these fundamentals, the cooperative members believe in the values such as: honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others and major values and self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity as added ones.

2.1. United Nations Observance

In 1992, the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and members of the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC), the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the International Day of Cooperatives by the UN by [resolution 47/90](#) of 16 December 1992.

The date of the celebration of the International Day was chosen to coincide with the already existing International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) International Cooperative Day with has been celebrated since 1923.

Since that date the global community celebrates United Nations International Day of Cooperatives and ICA's International Cooperative Day on the first Saturday of July. Celebrations of the Day are held at the international, national and local levels around the world.

The cooperative principles are based on: voluntary and open membership, democratic member control, member economic participation, autonomy and independence, education, training and information, cooperation among cooperatives and concern for the community.

2.2. 2018 theme: Sustainable Societies through Cooperation

On 7 July 2018, members of cooperatives around the world celebrate the International Day of Cooperatives. Through the slogan Sustainable society's cooperatives have sustainability and resilience at their core, with concern for community as the seventh of their guiding principles. By their very nature, cooperatives play a triple role:

- a. Opportunities for jobs, livelihoods and income generation.
- b. People-centred enterprises for social equity and justice
- c. Play leading role in local communities.

The 2019 International Day of Cooperatives will be celebrated on 6 July 2019. It will be the 25th United Nations International Day of Cooperatives and the 96th International Cooperative day.

2.3. About the International Day of Cooperatives

The International Day of Cooperatives is an annual celebration of the cooperative movement which happens on the first Saturday of July since 1923 by the International Cooperative Alliance. Since 1995, together with the United Nations, we have been setting the theme for the celebration of CoopsDay through the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC), champions and supports people-centred and self-sustaining cooperative enterprises as leaders in sustainable development.

2.4. The International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Cooperatives

The ILO is also an important organization that works to improve the living and working conditions of women and men globally through cooperatives. It promote the principle of rights at work by encouraging freedom of association, seeking decent employment and income, social protection by providing socially excluded services, strengthens the social dialogue, technical cooperation, increasing public awareness and promoting values and principles of cooperatives.

2.5. Cooperative Movements in different Countries

We can find the following global cooperative movements in during different period.

1. Great Britain: In Great Britain, Robert Owen (1771-1858) established self-contained semi-agricultural, semi-industrial communities and Dr. William King (1757-1865) helped to spread Owen's doctrine; his ideas were more reasonable than Owen's and achieved more results.

2. India: The cooperative movement in India has begun in the early twentieth century, and then it spread to other Asian and African countries. It also spread into capitalist countries such as the United States of America, Canada, Israel and Australia.

3. Germany: Robert Owen (1771-1858), is generally regarded as the founder of the modern co-operative movement with the workers of Belles, as "doctrine of circumstances". William King (1786-1865) was another pioneer who helped a lot in building up co-operative ideology, published a monthly paper "co-operative" in which he made an education campaign to popularize the co-operative ideology.

Germany is the birthplace of co-operative Agricultural credit movement in the World. In India, the inspiration for the co-operative movement come largely form Germany. Herr F.W. Raiffeisen and Herr Franz Schulze, helped farmers and laborers, started making experiments with various methods of relief. In 1850, Schulze established his first credit society to raise funds to be lent to its members.

4. Ireland: Farmers are the main beneficiaries of the cooperative movement in Ireland.

5. Israel: The first agricultural collective settlement at Dagania in the Jordan Valley during 1908 is the main cooperative movement.
6. Italy: Luigi Luzzati and second was Dr. Leone Wollemburg Pioneer in co-operative movement, during 1880, concentrated on improving the conditions of the poor people.
7. Sweden: During 1870, the cooperative movement started in Sweden in industrial sector.
8. Canada: In 1861, the coalminers had started a co-operative store in Novascotia, followed by the 1911, Saskatchewan Elevator Co. in support of the government to set up a Wheat Board for agricultural farmers.
9. Denmark: Credit associations were started in 1850 to solve problems of the credit through a special law.
10. Russia: The first attempts in Russia made during 1864 through organizing when co-operative stores and credit societies
11. Japan: In 1879, the cooperative movement was stated in the form of consumer's cooperatives with the object of cheep the soaring prices.
12. China :Famines, floods, mutual quarrels and Japanese war are the major cause of starting cooperative movement in China. In 1912, the founder of Chinese Republic, Dr. Sun Yet Sen, pioneered the cooperative moment.

3. CONCLUSION

The cooperative movement was started in England during 19th Century mainly to protect the interest of workers who spread throughout the world. It spread from there to all parts of the world. But, the movement's objectives are differing from one country to the other, depending upon the circumstances. Cooperatives are in all sectors like agriculture, industry and service, to help the members in the form of wages, employment, productivity and marketing facilities. The cooperatives are differ from one perspective to the other like consumer cooperatives (food and other related products), housing cooperatives (shelter), workers cooperatives (decent work), credit cooperatives (savings and credit), agricultural cooperatives (input to agricultural production, pricing and marketing) etc., Today, the cooperative movement is very much successful with widespread inclusive policy.

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