



HARVARD UNIVERSITY

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The Bihar Project:

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I here introduce and recommend the "Bihar Project" being managed by experts from Harvard and other highly responsible institutions. It is a modest but exemplary attempt by members of the International Health Organization of Boston. It is aimed at improving the public health and development projects of rural areas of India, particularly the state of Bihar.

Bihar is the poorest state of India, with indices of health and development lower than many countries of Africa. The major parties responsible for this state of affairs - the Federal and state governments, and the national and international non-government organizations - have maintained a detached attitude towards the needs of the people of Bihar. Most of the developmental assistance of international organizations is targeted at the more developed and prosperous states of India.

Members of the Bihar Project have initiated a modest project that has been carried on by volunteers for three years. This venture has very laudable features:

- it is being carried on mainly through volunteers
- the project is aimed at the most fundamental problem plaguing the rural areas of India i.e., water and sanitation
- the project lies at the interface of health development i.e. the control of water-borne diseases as well as the provision of resources for clean water and sanitation
- finally this project is facilitating the return of Indian expatriates to serve in India, upon completion of their advanced training in the United States.

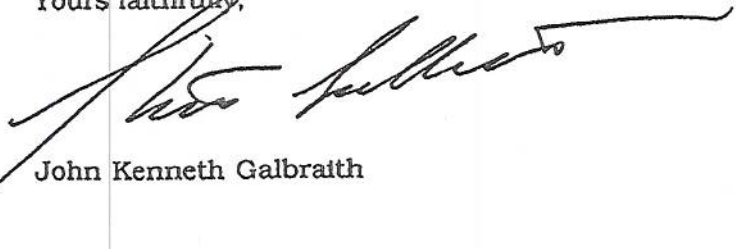
The members of the Bihar Project as noted are experts drawn from different fields - from India and the United States, and are now interested in expanding the scope of their project onto a larger population. They are interested in undertaking a moderate sized demonstration project (target population 75,000-100,000), the results and experiences from which will then be extended to larger population bases in Bihar and adjoining states (target population approximately: 500,000-1 million).

At this stage of their operation they need moral, logistical and financial support from us all. I am writing to ask a sympathetic consideration for their proposal for the start-up funding. Although, at a later stage they intend to secure funding from other sources such as the World Bank or USAID or the Government of India, at this stage the need is to obtain private financial assistance.

The Bihar Project requests a very modest start-up fund and I am confident that this does and will meet all funding requirements in good faith. Based upon my experience in developmental projects, I strongly feel that this project has great potential and will go on to serve a larger population.

The Director of the project, Dr. Bikash Verma and other members of this project from Harvard will be, of course, very happy to meet with you and discuss it in detail.

Yours faithfully,



John Kenneth Galbraith

JKG/bap
