



PROGRESSION OF ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

By Manisha Sudarshan
From Bharathi Vidyapeeth Deemed University New Law College, Pune

Before the beginning of the rule by British in India indigenously there was village level panchayats comprising 5 elders of village used to decide matters which were getting implicitly obeyed for fear of reprimand, repudiation, ex-communication, or debarment from religious and social affairs. So wide spread is the impulse to sue that litigation has become nation's secular religion.

“Ten States have had to close their Court-house doors at least temporarily to civil cases because of the huge case loads. And we in the legal profession have to shoulder some of the responsibility for the mindset of turning to the Courts as a panacea for every dispute”¹.

There is a need of new institutions like ADRs which must be put to optimal usage to be used as beneficial mechanisms or tools for unresolved and future discourses, which cannot be resolved by courts alone.

From the lot of numerous adjudicative mode of absolution of justice, interceding methods are known to be furnishing circumstantial justice and also designated as distributive justice patterns. Therefore they are accepted as *“benign solvent of disputation”*.

Therefore there is nothing wrong to pronounce that they are alternative dispute resolution systems because in their truest value and perception they are preferred substitutes to juridical pronouncement.

Legal service institutions around the globe so as to rejuvenate must endeavor and should serve and foster the legitimate needs of the poorest of the poor. Therefore, our legislators very suitably perceived how crucial and pertinent law reforms and experimentation is, on the agenda of our nation. Thus this strand came on the Indian horizon – and got included as a plan item-pervaded in ADR mechanisms. Lok Adalats, legal aid clinics etc which thus got implanted and envisaged as national high priority policy matters.

On that note in galloping paces arbitration and other ADR mechanisms came on to the Indian perspective which brought the finest hour of sweetened justice prefigured an era of remedial estimates.

Justice P.N Bhagwati professed that the *“the finest hour of justice is when foes compose their fight through fair settlement to become friends”*.

In order to ascertain equivalent justice to all nationalities the state should provide affordable, trustworthy, equivalent and pragmatic justice to every man adapted by diverse arbitrary devices and by fabricating favorable arbitrary backdrop.

Arbitration – *“considerate solvent of discourse”* or *“situational justice”* is a customary alternative dispute resolution method reinstating the conventional juridical, adjudicative and courtroom related judicial proceeding.

Fundamental rights which accelerate sovereignty and secures autonomy to individuals is a requisite and sufficient gist to secure tantamount justice.

¹ “ADR, What it is and how it works “by P.C Rao & Wiliam Sheffield, Reprint 2009, p.107)



The ruling realm is supposed to dispense reasonable, genuine, proportionate justice to one and all arranged by differing arbitrary mechanisms and by erecting propitious arbitral vicinity. Guardians of our legal system very wisely ascertained how drastic and cardinal law reform and analyses is on the agenda of our nation. Thus this strand emerged on the Indian perception, incorporated as a strategy saturated in ADR mechanisms, Lok Adalats, legal aid clinics etc which got implanted and proposed as national high priority policy concern.

The nation conveyed disparate codification at the state and central level for the successful composition of legal assistance and ADR mechanisms to triumph, endure and enlarge their foundation. Thus the arbitral proceedings procured propulsion in India and also around the global economic transformation demanding prompt deliberation to the complications opposed by them for uncovering fastback solutions. Evidently the foremost propel and focus displaced as regards to renounce setbacks and long procedures, suppressing dispensable and sluggish, censure procedure laws.

Fast track arbitrary strategies like ADR were accompanied to the anterior and fortified by and large by all echelon of brotherhood, including in the legitimate arena. On that account the hunt to procure various methods of ADR spruced up and started getting acquired as feasible mechanism to the judicature in innumerable circumstances and in miscellaneous matters. This paramount culture in search of compromise through

arbitral methodologies generated convenient and arbitral ambience leading to a proliferate growth of compositions on alternative, complimentary, and expeditious channels of justice portage vehicles. The modern society develops in a high tide flow which ultimately requires speedy justice delivery systems to meet the dynamic needs of the society.

As per the commandment of Justice V.R Krishna Iyer “*Access to justice is basic to human rights which poor masses must get*”. *at state expense expeditiously*” .

A. REQUIREMENT OF SPEEDY TRIAL

Speedy trial –the righteous of procuring free legal aid and speedy trial are inferred in Article 39 of the constitution of India .Delayed court proceeding hinders the fundamental rights of the citizens .Indian legal system had undergone severe complications due to the engrossment on Indian freedom struggle and also owing to downswing trends that plunged ,appropriately led to depression in legal jurisprudentia they give no prominence for conferring its due supremacy to the legal profession ,at any point of time then.

The intact masses in defiance of the disdainful credence of sovereign, the civic contexture in the entire country became increasingly turbulent and vulnerable to that instigating freedom movements but led to the fall in of the legal framework.

“*Lawyers ad a pivotal role to play in a developing society presenting unending challenges of evolutionary and revolutionary changes*”. VR Krishna Iyer also added to the comment that

² Dayal.S.1978, “Legal Profession and legal education”, in Minnatur(ed) The Indian Legal system ;[NM Tripathi ,Bombay ,P148],



*“The legal profession should be the midwife of the ‘big change struggle “to be born ...indeed ,independence of the judiciary and fearlessness of advocacy are conceptually close cousins .The legal profession has a cause and should bear the cross”*³. Indian juridical conventional hierarchy is such that it’s inadequacy results in enormous accumulation of cases ,oppressed by extravagantly prolonged litigation antiquated judicial proceedings and escalating costs. Earlier the monarchs ,in those epoch descend to compromise of altercation by means of panch ,mediation, and reconciliation for fast track and appropriate means of indubitable dispensation of justice. Coming down to todays circumstances ,India approbated itself the execution of diverse rectification in varied domains of legislation and also in the arbitration law ,as a fragment of it’s reforms which were commenced prior to 1991 and has synchronizing taken upon the authority of judicial reforms too with much prominence on the complete curtailment and denigration of court’s intercession and participation in the arbitration procedure by embracing UNICATRAL replica regulation on domiciliary and international business arbitration matters

When the commensurate ratio of jurist should be 65 judges for citizens of one million citizens, we have only 25 judges and this appends to the distress of juridical organization in our nation.

As enunciated by justice Anand *“people want justice, pure, unpolluted and they have*

every right to receive the same” and he further add specifically “comprehensive steps are required for providing quick and inexpensive justice to people “.

*“Legal literacy spreads the cynicism that judiciary is not doing its role” –Indian nation awoke to work, now on, ceaselessly to attain jural order.*⁴

Although Indian law approve dispute resolution by arbitration, but Indian sentimentality has always detested the decisiveness affixed to arbitral accord.

Actually informal dispute resolution has a long tradition in many of the world societies dating back to 12th century in China, England, and America. The business world has rightly recognized the advantages that ADR in one form or the other is a right solution.

To day of all the familiar procedure of retrieving atrocity and resolving contention – propelled conflicts, rampage, combat, interceding, fall of the cards, prosecuting only the latter has constantly triumphed in the day even in the United States. So all inclusive is the stimulation to sue, that *‘litigation has become nations secular religion’*

*“It is clear that establishing new institutions is one thing but we must also try to carefully nurture them and make them useful tools. It is accepted today that all pending or future disputes cannot be resolved only through courts. It is ,therefore hoped that all these centers will work in a highly professional manner and will help in the resolution of domestic as well as international disputes”*⁵

³ [V R Krishna Iyer “On Law of Life “,Vikas Publishng house,UP1979,p169]

⁴ All India Reporter and the ICFAI Journal and Alternative Dispute Resolution ,Volume II,No 3,july 2003

⁵ ‘ADR ,What it is and how it works “by P.C Rao & William Sherffield ,Reprint 2009,p.107)



“Any democracy worth the name must provide for adequate and effective means of dispute resolution at a reasonable cost; otherwise, the rule of law becomes a platitude and people may take law into their own hands, disrupting peace, order and good government. Effective dispute resolution is also necessary to secure the smooth functioning of trade and commerce”⁶

To steer clear of lampooning and legitimate prolonged hindrances and also to discharge all the courts from docket briefs eruption and docket homicide. Such remarkable commitment taken by legal professional with an overt virtuous mission to contemplate ADRs as a preferred substitute. The 77th report of the Law Commission of India indicate very clearly in its report *“Delays and Arrears in Trial Courts”* “this became an epiphany to bring in ADR mechanisms to annihilate obstructions in justice.

The Supreme Court of India in *Hussainara Khatoon & Ors v Home Secretary, State of Bihar*⁷ observed: *“There is also one other infirmity of the legal and judicial system which is responsible for this gross denial of justice to the under trial prisoners and that is the notorious delay in disposal of cases...Speedy trial is of the essence of criminal justice and there can be no doubt that delay in trial by itself constitutes denial of justice....”*

Due to the intense wave of legal assistance in the indigenous perspective and engrossment in it storming across the country, the nation brought diverse codifications at the territory and central level for the victorious methodology of legal aid

and ADR mechanisms to overcome, endure and thus then diversify their foundation. Thus the probe, the requirement, the gravity, the focus and a sheer requisite emerged to explore for a corresponding and complementary procedure to the bench proceedings for rapid perseverance of altercations in many ostentatious approaches. A compilation of propositions from legal expert, bench and the bar, freshly spurting in of juridical pronouncement and resolute eagerness from not only the merchandising section but the brimming millions of penury afflicted deprived in India, led to the enlargement of the arbitrary stratagems, and thus arbitrary tribunals and arbitrary accords came into the front – *“because arbitrary awards can straight away be executable as a decree in India which becomes binding, even before their being enforced”*.

As per the data available with National Judicial Data Grid way back as on December 31 2015, there were a summation of 2,00,60,998 cases unsettled over the district courts in the disparate states India. Nonetheless, there are only 15,340 judges in the district judiciary courts to apprehend and determine the subsisting as well as new cases, which call attention to the deficiency of the jurist in the Indian courts.

Though it is a recapitulate from the earlier pages the view of Justice M.N Venkatachaliah (former chief justice of India (former Chief justice of India) that are replicated who manifested in these locution *“Judicial delay is a major handicap of the Indian judicial System”* “During his tenure as CJI he came across a suit coming up filed up

⁶ Ibid, p.100,101

⁷ 1980 SCC (1)98



by his father during Justice Venkiachaliah 's childhood.

A legal expert F.Nariman exclaimed. *“Although Indian law favors dispute resolution by arbitration, (but) Indian sentiment has always abhorred the finality attached to arbitral awards”*.

The cases that successfully put up by the footing laid by Hussainara Khaton⁸ intricate concrete instances of persons agonizing from dreadful inequities ;torment inmates as is perceived in *S.P Gupta v Union of India*⁹ .In this case the judicature expressly deserted conventional status prerequisites when public interest litigation is escorted prior to the court not for the objective of implementing the right of one discrete in opposition to other but to prosecute and redeem collective scrutiny which command that contravention of fundamental or civil liberties of a jillion ,who are impecunious ,benighted or ethically and reasonably in handicapped state ,should not proceed unheeded ,worsened –for that would be *“distractive of the rule of law”*¹⁰ .habitants of shanty towns demolished in the midst of the monsoon.¹¹ These cases is a manifestation of circumstances which only divulge in adequate measure the distressing predicament of under trials.

B. PRE-EMINANCE OF ADR IN CORPORATE WORLD

Arbitration has been mostly favoured in demand in international commercial settlements which include countries like UK ,where the parties are able to determine on their choice of rules and regulations by which they want to be regulated and the

jurisdiction in which they need to take part in the discourse. Arbitrators are persons with substantial proficiency in a specified sphere predominantly where the decision maker needs to be erudite about a certain content or business practice or it's professional competence. The arbitrators while determining the price see how much hour the case has get hold of and how composite the case and then only, he arrives at the charge .This amenity is unavailable in judicial proceedings in the court room.

*“No, arbitrator is an advocate for any particular party, he acts as judge in the ‘cause’; No arbitrator identifies himself with the interests of a particular party just for the reason that a particular party appoints him”*¹² -hence his mantle can be regarded highly.

In the corporate world the arbitration elements also prosecute both the employer and his employees. It also intercept litigation of prejudiced claims and assist employers to reserve finance and time

Article 14 of the Indian constitution ,in the matter of equality before law and equal protection of laws, provides the court of law the capability to expunge out the appalling inconsistencies and unfairness epidemic in India. The Chief minister and chief justices were of the perspective that Courts were not in a disposition to hold up the complete onus of justice procedure and that a number of contention impart oneself to resolve by alternative means alike arbitration, mediation and negotiation. They accentuated the preferableness of litigants taking dominance of alternative dispute resolution ,which

⁸ Hussainara Khaton&Ors v Home Secretary ,State of Bihar 1979 AIR 1369

⁹ AIR 1982 SC 149 at p 192

¹⁰ Khatri v State of Bihar AIR 1981 SC 928

¹¹ Bhandhua mukti morcha v Union of India AIR 1984 SC 802

¹² Oswwald v Earl Grey (19850 23 LJ QB 69-Russell 20th Edn.p.233)



dispensed strategical elasticity extricated beneficial schedule and finances and steer clear of the trauma of a typical trial. In this guidance even if it is our constitution or International Covenant on civil and political rights or the 14th Report of law Commission of India or Universal Declaration of human rights of all these endeavored, purported and manifested these very same epitome of propositions. The same is called “*efficacious remedies and processive equity*”.

The common man who was seeming to be astrayed in the entanglement of legal jargons timely with legal verbose and legal testament and jeremiad amplification of lawsuit and unfavorable legal glossary which was not easily accessible is now coming to normalize to the latest circumstantial integrity structure of law and its distinctive specification. This fabricated the circumstances completely dissimilar generating explications admissible to the parties without the requisite to go through high priced legal action all of which commensurate with that every one of them will cohere to the proposition of “*arbitral conscience*”. This is the saga of arbitration journey and arbitrations chronicle, though turbulent decades progressing all the while. In today’s era of technological sweeps, ADRs and such fast track justice delivery procedures became the welcome remissions. Thus dawned ADRs in Indian hemisphere and in the year 2015 amendment came into existence.

The use of arbitration for settling issues in the commercial sector is useful as it saves ample time and energy this can be strongly proven in the following case laws:

In *Guru Nanak Foundation v Rattan Singh & Sons*¹³ case wherein it was held that Court –fed litigation has plethora of “*procedural claptraps*” when correlated to other system which is more prompt, less approved and efficacious as scrutinized to compound, extortionate, time consuming and undefined court procedures where “*lawyers laugh and legal philosophers weep*”.

Also in *Maneka Gandhi’s case*¹⁴ the Supreme court laid down under Article 21 “a procedure prescribed by law”. It further laid down new and more liberal norms consistent with human rights. By embracing an established role Supreme Court held that “*legal aid is implicit in Article 21 which includes legal aid and speedy trial and right to human dignity*”. It is by this prolific elucidation only that Supreme Court held the “right to legal aid as a fundamental right under Article 21”. Supreme Court held “*legal aid is a positive obligation imposed on the state by Article 21*”. So there was a significant exigency for the entire society and people in different sectors to conclude the disputation in a whisk formula there the demand of ADRs come to the fore.

C. CONCLUSION

Since commercial arbitration no longer remains as an unambiguous procedure it requires an efficient and speedy trial, informal, economical and constructive mechanism. It means law needs reforms, hence 2015 law came into force rightly. Newly flourished 2015 law plays an exceptional role world over and offers considerable choices to parties involved as compared to the 1996 enactment.

¹³ AIR 1981 SC 2075

¹⁴ *Maneka Gandhi v Union of India* 1978 AIR 597