

The Dream of Viksit Bharat Mission, 2047: Key Contributions of Sangh Parivar (RSS Family)

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Abstract

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) is a volunteer organization which is commonly known as Sangh Parivar, founded by Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar in 1925, with the aim of nation building based on promoting Hindutva ideology, Indian culture, values and traditions among the people of Bharat. Before independence, its main goal was to bring freedom but after independence, the members took an oath for the development of the country in various fields. Now, RSS has become one of the largest independent organizations in the world, with millions of its members (Swayamsevaks) giving free and selfless service in different areas such as providing education, promoting Indian culture, moral values, development of rural areas, environmental conservation, emergency relief, tribal welfare, women empowerment, etc., in order to make the country a global power. This paper highlights the contributions of Sangh Parivar in the nation-building process and development of 21st century India (Viksit Bharat by 2047). The paper describes the role of RSS affiliates in building a strong and developed country.

Keywords: RSS, Viksit Bharat, environmental conservation, tribal welfare, women empowerment, global power

Introduction

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) is an organization founded by Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar on 27th September 1925, at Nagpur, Maharashtra. It was started with only few members, having its aim to uphold Hindu culture and values among the Indians. Now, it has become one of the largest independent organizations in the world with an estimation of 5.5 - 6.0 million members. There is no formal membership record register, but anyone can become its member by joining the nearest Shakha (branch). Mohan Bhagwat has been the current Sarsanghchhalak (the head) of the RSS since 21st March, 2009. The volunteers are known as Swayamsevaks, who participate in different activities like social service, environment conservation, promoting Indian culture, educating people, etc. The philosophy of the RSS is based on the following lines:

Sarve bhavantu sukhinah serve santu niramayah,

Sarve bhadrani pashyantur ma kashchid dukhbhag bhavet.

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This Sanskrit shloka is a prayer, wishing that, every creature of the world remain happy and free from all the sufferings. No one experience sorrow.

The Rastriya Swayamsevak Sangh has started with the aim to spread cultural awareness among the masses and emphasizes to unite the nation under the idea of Hindutva. Beyond this ideology, the RSS is playing a major role in the building of 21st century Bharat i.e., vision of a developed nation. Its volunteers meet every day in shakha to discuss the issues and their possible solutions. This paper is going to focus on the contributions of RSS towards the accomplishment of the vision of Viksit Bharat Mission 2047. The paper is going to explore that how do the affiliate organisations of RSS effects grassroots development of the country.

Literature Review

A. Anand in his work, *The Saffron Surge: Untold Story of RSS Leadership* (2019), provides a detailed vision of five different Sarsanghchalak on India's glory. In the book, *RSS: Swarnim Bharat ke Disha* Sootra (2025), Ambekar clearly outlines the ideology of RSS in building a developed Bharat. D. Chakraborty focuses on the civilizational journey of India and role of RSS in national awakening through his work, *Bharat, Hindustan & RSS: The National Awakening and the Way Forward* (2024). Dr. Ashwani Mahajan in his article, *Vision for Viksit Bharat* (2025), offers the need for swadeshi as a national dharma. N. Sahgal compiled, *The Ultimate Goal of RSS: Vishwaguru Bharat* (2024), which focuses on the need for national resurgence as a peak of glory. Mohan Bhagwat compiles a document, *Future Bharat: An RSS Perspective* (2022), outlines the vision for India's future with the concept of economic growth and social development. In *RSS: A Vision in Action* (compilation) (1998), H.V. Seshadri examines shaping of people as a tool for national transformation. M. Bhagwat in his work, *Yashasvi Bharat* (2020), offers a vision of Hindu nation building by empowering youth and women and highlighted sustainable development. A. Anand gives information about the organisational structure of the RSS in his work, *Know About RSS* (2024).

Methodology

The present study is based on qualitative analytical, descriptive and explanatory research design to examine the contributions and support of Sangh Parivar in the development of Viksit Bharat mission. The qualitative analysis of government documents, books, academic journals and speeches of RSS thinkers has been done to visualize the role of Sangh Parivar. In this paper, speeches given by Sarsanghchalaks were studied to find out the vision of RSS family and their ideological goals regarding samridh Bharat. The paper explores how the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh is working in the field of Viksit Bharat (@2047) mission with the strength and limitations.

Case Study Approach:

From the developmental point of view, affiliate organisations of RSS are trying to build new and Viksit Bharat (Developed India) which could serve the people of the world. It works with the help of its several wings in different areas for the all-round development of the nation. Some of the related organisations who works in this area are SAKSHAM (for divyang), Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, Rashtriya Sevika Samiti, Seva Bhartai, Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi

Parishad (ABVP), Vidya Bharati, Swadeshi Jagaran Manch, Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), Arogya Bharati, Bharatiya Kisan Sangh, etc.

- **Samdrishti, Kshamata Vikas Evam Anusandhan Mandal (SAKSHAM): Empowering Divyang**

SAKSHAM is an organisation dedicated to the welfare of Divyang (persons with disabilities). It has organised free eye check-up camps (Netra Kumbha) from 12th January to 4th March, 2019 in which 2,02,020 patients were treated and 1,55,210 were distributed glasses free of cost.¹ This wing of RSS is bringing inclusiveness in the society because the development of a nation depends on the contribution of every individual. Earlier people with disabilities used to consider themselves weak. But now they are also getting a chance to nurture their talent. Even they are participating in sports (Paralympics Games) at world level and winning medals. This was made possible by the support of Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi who is a member of RSS. Modi ji has coined the word 'Divyang' for people with disabilities so that they can get respect in the society.

- **Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram: Social Service for the inhabitants of remote areas**

Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram (VKA), an RSS affiliated organisation established in 1952 focuses on the all-round development of tribal communities (people living in remote areas) all over India. In recent years it has expanded initiatives in education, healthcare, village development, particularly in Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh. With the help of Swayam Sevak, VKA is operating 18 hostels for tribal children along with fostering leadership and community upliftment. Approx. 2000 Vanvasi villages are present in Maharashtra alone. Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram runs weekly medical camps, dispensaries, health centres and also first aid training is given to Arogya Rakshak for basic treatment. For village development VKA builds infrastructures like cement check dams, toilet blocks, etc., to increase rural progress along with sustainability.

VKA has initiated the "Jaldoot Project" in collaboration with organisations like Sevavardhini and Atlas Copco, which focus on water conservation and watershed management in Maharashtra. This project motivated the villagers to actively participate. The project is successful in getting water availability throughout the year in the village of Maharashtra.

- **Rashtriya Sevika Samiti (Women's Wing of RSS): Empowering Women**

Rashtriya Sevika Samiti founded in 1936, empowers the nation by building women's character, leadership and service mind-set. This wing operates independently by focusing on Hindu cultural values to strengthen families and society. It is dedicated to the empowering woman in the country, so that the country could develop in every sphere. The Rashtriya Sevika Samiti tries to contribute to their empowerment for the Bharatiya context.

There is a great contribution of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh to empower the women of Bharat. They are getting training in shakhas. Rashtriya Sevika Samiti is making woman physically strong and self-reliant. Women are also becoming responsible towards their family

¹ Source - <https://vision2020india.org>

and society. As a result, the nation is progressing forward with the contribution of women.

- **Seva Bharati: A step towards Disaster Management**

Seva Bharati a key affiliate of the Sangh Parivar, mainly focuses on grassroot social service projects aimed at development of Bharat at different levels. In 2025, Seva Bharati and RSS volunteers supported Mahakumbh with Annakshetras for meals, Chikitsa Kendras for medical aid and Ashray (shelters) for pilgrims. During disaster the volunteers of Seva Bharati are the first to stand as a pillar in relief operations showing the spirit of Seva Parmo Dharma, whether it is Mahakumbh of 2025 or plane crash of Ahmedabad on 12th June, 2025 or flood and landslide in Jammu and Kashmir on April 21st, 2025, Seva Bharati is always the first to arrive. Seva Bharati is continuously making this effort that only when the people of the country remain safe then a strong and prosperous India be built.

- **ABVP: Integrating Young Minds**

Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) is India's largest student organisation linked to RSS, founded in 1949, which is focusing on student welfare through campus level activism. It emphasizes sustainable development and social harmony. ABVP conducts construction work among college and university students. The Motto of the organisation is -

1. "Gyan, Sheel, Ekta" (knowledge, character and unity),
2. "Today's student is today's citizen"
3. "Student Power is National Power"

Work of ABVP is different from party politics. They not only do movements to fulfil their demands but solutions to problems are also proposed. It mobilised students during events like 1973-74 Nav-nirman movement against corruption followed by anti- Emergency protests nationwide, when thousands of its members were arrested. It also ran a nationwide campaign against illegal immigration in Assam (1980s) for the need to abrogate article 370.

According to Prof. Yashwant Rao Kelkar, "The aim of ABVP is to provide such workers who are committed quality-oriented, high leadership capability, imbued with supreme national sentiments in all fields." ABVP is Working for the upliftment of marginalised students like SC, ST and OBC communities by putting pressure on the government for better classrooms, teacher recruitment and scholarship. It also led relief camps like plasma camps during COVID-19 pandemic, for the supply of medicines and helping countless citizens. ABVP's responsibility is guiding youth in positive direction so that they could become a responsible citizen of Bharat.

- **Paryavaran Vibhag of RSS: An initiative to Save the Mother Earth**

Presently Bharat is developing with a very fast pace in every field but it is the need of hour that development must be sustainable. Thus, we should not try to disturb the environment in the name of development. At present we are not only consuming the resources but exploiting them. The RSS Paryavaran Vibhag is dedicated to environment wing, established around 2019 for the environment conservation. It emphasizes on three major activities:

1. Water conservation and management

2. Widespread tree plantation.
3. Eliminating plastic and non-biodegradable materials.

At its centenary year (100 years of RSS), 'Panch Parivartan' a five-fold social transformation initiative launched by Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. These are:

1. Swabodh or self-awareness: looking forward for the use of Swadeshi (Indigenous).
2. Nagarik Kartavya (civic duties): citizens must know their duties.
3. Environmental Protection: promotes eco-friendly practices.
4. Samajik Samarasta: fostering social harmony among the citizens.
5. Kutumbh Prabodhan: awakening people of Bharat to preserve family values.

Present RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat wants to transform the society by focusing on social harmony, family values, environmental awareness, national selfhood and civic responsibility, making self-reliant Bharat. A few decades ago emphasis was given mainly on spreading awareness regarding the environmental protection. But now it is time to take action and preserve the Mother Earth. 'Paryawaran Vibhag' of RSS is doing the same at its own level. This organisation has been taken initiatives for planting trees at a large scale, to execute water conservation projects, remove the use of plastics and thermocols, creating awareness regarding such activities. These all things show RSS concern towards the nature, country and the world.

- **Swavalambi Bharat Abhiyan & Swadeshi Jagaran Manch: support of Vocal for Local**

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh is working on Swadeshi principles by promoting production of indigenous goods. RSS has initiated Swavalambi Bharat Abhiyan which was started during CORONA Pandemic period. This Abhiyan is mainly targeting rural youth and tribal groups through Self Help Groups (SHG) to become self-reliant.

Swadeshi Jagaran Manch, a wing of RSS working since 1991 against the foreign investment. The goal is to avoid buying and using Chinese products while promoting Indigenous goods within the country. It encourages preferences for Indian commodities in daily life. The "One Nation One Symbol" (logo for Made-in-Bharat products) movement is strongly supported by Swadeshi Jagaran Manch which is aligned with "Vocal for Local". It is also a part of five key pillars of "Panch Parivartan" described by RSS in its centenary year 2025. They promote the use of local made goods (indigenous products) and wants to make Bharat more self-supporting and self-sufficient.

Criticism Vs. Clarification

Critics argue that RSS ideology do not favour and support the minority communities and mistreats the pluralistic behaviour of Indian Constitution. Some people declare that RSS dominates the governmental policies, makes laws in favour of Hindus and try to crush other minority groups. Sometimes its vision of nationalism combines with majoritarian agendas that challenge democratic inclusivity. But on the basis of research it is clear that, RSS has involved in conducting social service activities other than spreading cultural nationalism. BJP under Prime Minister Narendra Modi (also a Swayamsevak of RSS) formulates regulations in favour of the people of Bharat which is based on adhering the Constitutional Provisions and not in

favour of RSS. Thus, there is no doubt that RSS is playing an important role in making the country united as well as socially and culturally rich.

Discussions

After examining the primary and secondary sources, it is clear that Viksit Bharat Mission, 2047 is not only the dream of BJP government but also a vision of the Sangh Parivar (RSS family). As many people think that Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh only wants to bring cultural awakening through Hindutva Movement and trying to make India a Hindu Rashtra. But the findings indicate that RSS gives strong emphasis on Jan Kalyan (public welfare) in addition to spread Hindutva ideology. The organisation is doing work in variety of areas like, education (Adivasis as well as women), bringing discipline and building character (among the millions of swayamsevaks), empowering women, providing selfless services whenever and where ever needed. The RSS is also working for the Sustainable Development, which is need of the hour and every country of the world is looking for it.

The study concludes that the Sangh Parivar is highly concerned and committed to the government's mission of Viksit Bharat 2047. It is working as a big force in fulfilling the dream of developed nation within 100 years of Independence. Sangh Parivar (RSS Family) is a great support to the government in making her mission successful because they have taken the responsibility of social, cultural and economic development of Bharat. Thus, there is a great support of Sangh Parivar to the existing government in fulfilling the dream of Viksit Bharat.

Conclusion

Affiliates of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh are working hard to achieve the dream of "Viksit Bharat Mission 2047" which is launched by the BJP government in 2023. Sangh Parivar is playing a significant role with the help of its affiliate organisations in making India internally self-sufficient and externally strong along with reviving Hindu culture, family values and social harmony.

Thus, RSS has been a driving force to revive India's strength and cultural beauty. The broad network of Shakhas (affiliates) having millions of Swayamsevaks (members) are playing major role in transforming India into Viksit Bharat by promoting swadeshi concept of "Made in Bharat" products (Atmanirbharta with vocal for local), supporting rural communities by Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, all round development of women through Mahila Wing, students' welfare, environmental management, etc. Deep dedication and unwavering focus of Sangh Parivar with its disciplined cadre, focusing on building strong foundation for India so that the next generation will be prosperous and Bharat become "VISHWA GURU".

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