

Date - 1-11-16

ESSAY 3 Mock

To improve is to change. Suman Sourav Mohanty
to be perfect is to change often (1)

It is said "the only thing constant in the world is change". It's truth can be ascertained from nature which has changed continuously and the rate of change has been often to ensure survival of mankind. From ice age to the modern civilisation nature has given us selflessly the ecological services changing to our needs. In Bhagavad Gita Krishna tells to Arjuna, "fight for your kingdom and your rights, because this society doesn't value cowards, mother worship's heroes". In addition he says, "change is constant so one has to make the choice for so as to dictate change or allow change to dictate us". Mahatma Gandhi said "Be the change you want to see in the world". It implies great deeds or acts are first decided & implemented by us and then others would follow.

We then come to the question for need to change? Change is basically done by human beings to move to an improved position or prevent harm due to existing status quoism. So it is both an external effort or an internal desire. Fred Riggs, one of great administrative theorists proposed in developing countries development is haphazard because change is forced & not from within, while in developed countries it is from within i.e. self created. Therefore it is positive, balanced and with equity. For example Swatch Bharat Ashiyon has resulted in non fulfillment of its targets because change is supply driven not demand driven. We put toilets, water and other amenities without allowing for behavioural change. i.e. change from within.

The soft and hard infrastructures for change →

To change often to achieve perfection we need to have soft and hard infrastructure. Soft infrastructure means our values, morals, ethics

3 values are motivating factors for change as they are personal. ethics and morals are constraining factors for change as they are relative and absolute. universal. For example, we wish to succeed in an exam nation due to our hard work & effort is determined by values. However less hard work & cheating can also lead to success is determined by morals & ethics. Hence morals, virtues & ethics need to be in sync to achieve change & perfection in desired direction. Hard infrastructure implies our education system, society composition, societal conscience, political culture, democratic ideals etc. They can influence our freedom to allow change in order to achieve perfection. For example India against corruption could succeed because of societal consensus against corruption and due to a democracy. It could never have been possible in a dictatorship. Hence to be perfect we need change which is a combination of hard & soft infrastructure.

Changing often leading to perfection

Since arrival of man we have numerous examples of change which has led to perfection. For example

evolution of man he has perfected the need and timing of change to suit himself. From living in caves to, a pastoral life to growing civilisation, man's evolution shows the need to change often for development. Simultaneously still we have 'bushmen' in Kalahari desert, highlanders who did not change and as a result are still rooted to their surroundings. Secondly, from concept of laissez-faire to feudalism, then concept of monarchy to final state of representative democracy we see the need for political change so as to attain perfection. Recently steps such as NOTA, referendum in Columbia and brexit and right to recall are signs of changing often to achieve perfection of democracy. In cultural spheres the need for changing often is also exemplified by the domination of church to renaissance, enlightenment & reformation. Now we have newer form of cultural change such as scientology.

Therefore, change in cultural sphere to accord
date interests of man is imperative. Similarly
in India, from spirits and animal worship
we have developed religion as a way of
life such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism
and Sikhism. The need for these religious
doctrines to change towards perfection is
exemplified by recent women temple
entry movement, and triple talag ~~announcement~~
by denouncement by government. ~~the~~

Similarly, social rigidities, taboos and
unhealthy practices like casteism and
manual labouring need to be changed to
achieve perfection as an egalitarian
society.

Our independence would not have
been achieved if we ~~had~~ ^{would} not have changed
our strategy ^{stimulus of change} to achieve perfection. From
moderates to enthusiasts, from revolutionaries
to pacifist ^{leaders} we had to change continuously
to achieve critical mass ~~to~~ to drive away
Britishers. ~~at~~ handiji had to frequently
change his strategy from struggle ^{to} to
struggle to enthrone the masses and
confuse the British.

6 Similarly in diplomacy we had to choose between two bipolar ~~countries~~ values to further our cause of progress as a nascent entity amongst super powers; but we choose non aligned movement. During Bangladesh war we had to get strategic support from Russia hence we had to change our strategy. Now it is the age of multilateralism & strategic interest, so simultaneously we are members of BRICS, SCO, ASEAN, SAARC, MOSA, BIMSTEC. Therefore change in diplomacy is required often to protect our sovereignty & strategic interests.

Coming to administration we see that we a colonial, rigid, elitist & master bureaucracy is slowly getting transformed into a participative, consensus seeking servant relationship for the people. Simultaneously we see the people getting empowered to demand & accept responsibility through social audit,

7 citizen charters, right to public services & democratic decentralisation. Therefore changes imperative & continuous for developmental administration.

Computers initially developed for complex mathematical computations have changed to provide e governance, accountability, & transparency & empowerment. Agriculture from being subsistence oriented has changed to capitalistic, precision oriented, organic and sustainable. Machines from being producing products according to rule of thumb have transformed into agile manufacturing, fungal manufacturing & intelligent manufacturing. Seeds from being traditional & less productive have transformed into genetically modified products assuring higher yield. This is due to the power of continuous change to achieve perfection. Finally our security doctrine of passive restraint has changed to strategic restraint thereby sending tremors across the enemy at borders.

8 When continuous change has not resulted in perfection

~~When~~ Continuous change also has led to deterioration if not perfection. Imperialism & colonialism are two examples where continuous change has led to more ruthless exploitation of the world. Military dictatorship, fascism & Nazism has shown how change can lead to more destruction almost annihilating the world itself. As Gandhiji said the world has enough for man's need but not for every one's greed. Newer technologies are ~~also~~ ruthlessly exploiting the environment. Our rivers are drying up, glaciers are melting, air is getting polluted. This is change for destruction not perfection. Recent Oxfam report says top 10% of the population has 50% of the wealth; while 30% of India's population is below basic survival needs. This needs change;

9. Rising consumerism is facilitating change.
but again in negative direction: Religious funda-
mentalism, sectarianism and chauvinism.
is again driving change towards destruction.
education suppose to be ^{most} progressive tool for
developmental change is becoming regressive.
Rising cost of education, inaccessibility and
inequity has left 50% of class V children
unable to read class III text. Healthcare is
progressing worldwide with better technologies
but 30 million Indians are getting into poverty
because of lack of affordable healthcare. Medicine
are becoming costlier due to emergence of
patients. Justice one of the fundamental parameters
for change to achieve progress is becoming
costlier & inaccessible. More and more people
are resorting to excesses of majoritarianism,
niggilantism. Democracy is being ruled on grounds
of secession & defamation. Finally the legislature
temple of justice is becoming haven for corruption,
criminal antecedents & factionalism. This is change
towards destruction.

The way forward

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Change is constant & omnipresent. Whether we allow it to integrate and develop us individually and socially or allow it to destroy us is in our hands. The concept of soft and hard infrastructure along with human infrastructure will determine the direction. Human infrastructure means conditions created by humans & for humans. Sustainability of nature, peaceful coexistence, ^{universal brotherhood} innovation in development and equitable growth are harbingers of change in positive direction. Jealousy, competition to destroy, hatred, greed, contempt are characteristics of change in negative direction. To facilitate choosing between these two and have a harmonious coexistence we need good governance, rule of law, transparency, accountability & accelerated growth with equity & inclusivity. Only then we can change

often, continuously and towards perfection.
The other side is destruction. Choice is ours!

Smart villages, not city is the need of India

Mahatma Gandhi said the soul of India lies in its villages. He wanted "gram swarajya" i.e. self sustaining village republic. The constitution also envisages a place for village republic when by article 40 of DPSP which states "The government of the day must empower village panchayats to be able to function as units of self government". However ^{even after} 68 years of independence we are debating about the need for smart villages vs a vs smart cities. It implies somewhere we have failed our cities and villages, thereby ultimately the people living in them. As a result we are constrained to choose between them. In the age of globalisation, when the world is a global village, why should we have to choose between a smart village or a city? What are the constraints social, economic, political or historic? How can we have both? These questions need answers for the Bharat in India to prosper and develop.

Why do we have a bias towards villages?

2

Since ancient times we have lived through our villages. The Indus valley civilisation had small clusters of planned villages which were self sufficient. Then during vedic and later vedic period we see guilds, ^{from villages} ~~king~~ ^{king} ~~robbering~~ ^{robbering} ~~times~~ ^{times} ~~from the people and~~ ^{from the people and} ~~villages coming into their own as~~ ^{villages coming into their own as} territorial demarcation of the king. The Maurian & Gupta period saw the village emerge as chief area of revenue administration as sthaniha, & gopa i.e. name of village headman and village. The Mughals saw this opportunity and consolidated their own administration using villages as units of revenue & military administration. Finally the Britishers implemented their administration keeping the unit of villages for revenue & territorial administration.

However Britishers specifically Lord Ripon saw the ill effects of village administration specifically the ruin of autonomy and excessive bureaucratisation of the administration. His magna carta of devolving power to villages through decentralisation was to serve two purposes, first

participative governance³ & second political education. However his successors especially Lord Curzon scuttled any such move. Even after the royal commission on decentralisation and Act of 1919 & 1935 promised village self autonomy all ideas remained on paper.

After independence our primary focus was on industrialisation and trickle down effect. Planners saw the revenue surplus oozing out of heavy industrialisation and trickling down to the people automatically. Land reforms which were supposed to change the face of Indian villages failed. Cooperative agriculture in the replica of collectivisation from Soviet also did not succeed. Then subsequently piecemeal efforts such as community blocks, rational extension services to catalyse village development came into being. Subsequently target based approach & area based approach ^{schemes} such as DWRC (target women) ~~are~~, SFALDA (target farmers), desert development area (Pisa)
 → desert
 never implemented
 manufacture

4 They also could not enthuse village's socio economic revival. The reasons for their failures are many, but the important one's are first, they focussed on poverty alleviation not poverty elimination, second the schemes were led by bureaucracy not the people, third there was no diffusion of power i.e. people were passive beneficiaries. Finally the reason for village's success community spirit was not tapped. Finally watershed moment came through 73rd and 74th constitutional amendment which gave power to the people.

Meanwhile state of our cities:

In the meantime our cities suffered due to haphazard planning and development. Our obsession with over romanti- cisation with village republic led development made us unaware about the existence of cities & the need for holistic ~~corruption~~ development for city towns & villages. Until the tenth plan we never had an idea about urbanisation as a part of development strategy. The urban develop- ment department was established in 1985. Meanwhile the world had moved ^{forward} ~~away~~ to in urbanisation. China, USA, UK & our south

Asian neighbours through rapid urbanisation of villages prospered ahead. Recently held sustainable city index shows Mumbai, Delhi & Kolkata amongst least sustainable cities.

WHO finds 13 out of top 20 cities in our country as severely polluted. Severe pollution, non-existent infrastructure, pathetic public service delivery standards and massive corruption in our municipalities have come to define our cities. Recently a famous actor alleged to have been asked for a bribe for permits. Therefore simultaneously our cities & villages both stagnated and the gap between Bharat & India became wider. That is why even after 2068 years of independence we have to choose between a smart village and a smart city.

Need for a smart village → Do we really need?

Recently our prime minister said "Ram rajya cannot be possible without gram rajya", which means good governance is possible when good villages are developed.

Reasons are many. First 68% of the population ~~live~~ lives in villages. Recently released SECC data points out to the grim realities.

of village life. 36% percent of people in rural India are illiterate. Recently released 90% of household main earning member makes less than 10,000 ru a month. Over half of them are ~~landless~~ ^{landless} and depend on casual labour for survival. Even after 68 years of independence irrigation is 35 percent and 65% of farmers depend on agriculture which is main dependent. United Nations population fund points that 50% of girls in ~~use~~ India are married off before 18 ^{years of age} and global nutrition index points that one out of every third child is ^{suffering from} malnutrition. Sub Saharan countries have better nutrition status than us. World Bank estimates 38 million people are forced to poverty due to rising healthcare costs. Finally disguised employment i.e people dependent on agriculture is almost 50%. 6 million people are joining the workforce every year.

This lures them to cities. Since cities are remunerative, & contribute to the economy, the rural poor find their way to city for better remuneration. As a result labour wages are falling in cities, urban sprawls, in peri urban areas are increasing. The city infrastructure is creaking under the weight of so many migrants. Many of these rural poor fall victim to

bonded labourers and traffickers. Back at villages it resulted in feminisation of agriculture and sufferings of the aged.

Now the concept of smart villages as entailed in the recently launched Shyama Prasad Mukherji Sururban mission is to provide an alternative to migration and complementary support to smart cities. It envisions a cluster of villages with 14 features so as to provide infrastructure of cities within the villages such as digital kiosks, mobile health vans, agriculture extension services, skill employment etc. SMART villages can be defined as sustainable, skilled, modern, adaptive, responsive techosavvy. sustainable village implies, sustainable practices in agriculture, healthcare, sanitation, education. Modern means removal of caste based rigidities. Adaptive means to disaster management & other contingencies, techosavvy means application of e-governance, digital literacy. These can be achieved by digital literacy mission, DDUKV - skill development, community based disaster management, Krishi sinchayee yojana. However it requires empowerment of the people.

8 Need for smart cities

Urbanisation in India contributes 70% to India's GDP. McKinsey global institute predicts doubling of urban population to 600 Mn by 2030. The need for housing is around 100 Mn. The Washim and Sarana committees have predicted almost 70% of urban population are poor. The multi-dimensional poverty index envisages 55% of India's population is poor, & 18% on the borderline. Weak infrastructure, pollution, urban sprawls, pathetic service delivery, unplanned housing, rising slums have made our cities ~~de~~ hellish. So smart city concept which envisages citizen participation, delivery of services, intelligent transport solution, solid waste management is a welcome step. However it is based on an area based approach which implies exclusivity. It could exclude a significant population while inflating real estate prices. So an inclusive, equitable & sustainable smart city is need of the hour.

Convergence between smart villages & smart city.

So how do we converge the two ideas? Is it possible? The answer is yes, but with subject to certain conditionalities. Mani Shankar Aiyar one of the foremost ~~po~~ ~~the~~ advocates of panchayati raj says "villages in western countries have evolved, whereas in India we have devolved villages". It means ~~we~~ our approach to villages have been top down, bureaucratic centres. True empowerment of the public for ^{self} governance has never been our motto. There exists formalism and intellectual dishonesty in our approach to empowerment ^{even} after 23 years of decentralisation. The recently released devolution index by ministry of panchayati raj shows only 50% of states have devolved 50% of functions to panchayati raj institutions (PRI's). Recently released ASICS Tanagraha survey shows Mayors ⁱⁿ most urban local bodies (ULB's) having negligible powers & security of tenure. They are

routinely bypassed by IAS offices serving as
 commissioners. The bureaucrats have moral
 responsibility but no legal accountability &
 Mayors
 Ministers have legal accountability but no
 authority. Most SPV's of smart cities have
 appointed bureaucrats as CEO's instead of
 hiring best talent from private companies
 constitutionally provided metropolitan and
 district planning committees exist in name.
 Ideas

The solution is new localism &
 democratic decentralisation. 2nd ARC,
 Mani Shankar Aiyar committee, 12th plan have all
 voiced for greater devolution of funds,
 functionaries and funds for villages & cities.
 New localism as thought by Tony Blair,
 stands for centralised decision making but
 localised implementation. Localisation &
 globalisation are buzzwords in adminis-
 trative parlance. Think local act global:
 (sustainable agricultural practices transferred
 to world) & Think global act local should
 (healthcare innovations to villages) should
 be the buzzwords. hereta model of village
 empowerment and Kolhata model of city

major concept need to be replicated.
Villages & city need to be given all 29 functions
as envisaged in the constitutional amendment.
They should be empowered to hire their own
functionaries and have specialised cadre.
As regards funds they should have freedom
to raise taxes and access municipal
bonds. E-governance measures such as
peia soft, plan plus, village GIS ~~maps~~
mapping must be facilitated for decentralised
planning.

The collector should behave as
chief secretary, the killa parishad chairman
as CM and killa parishad as assembly.

Similarly, the BDO, Gramsabha and saripanch
should behave as unit of self governance.

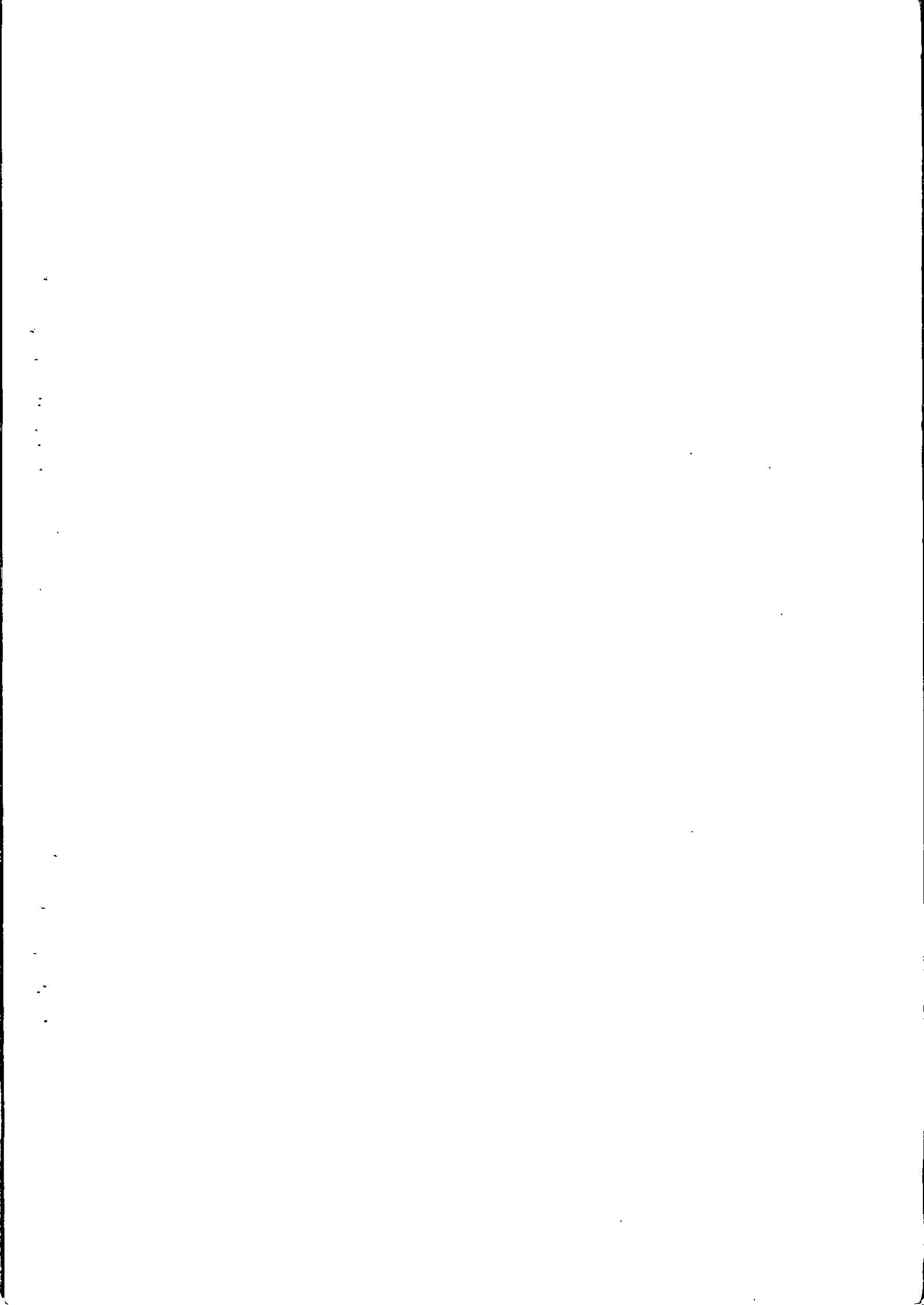
Sustainable development goals, disaster
management should be mainstream into

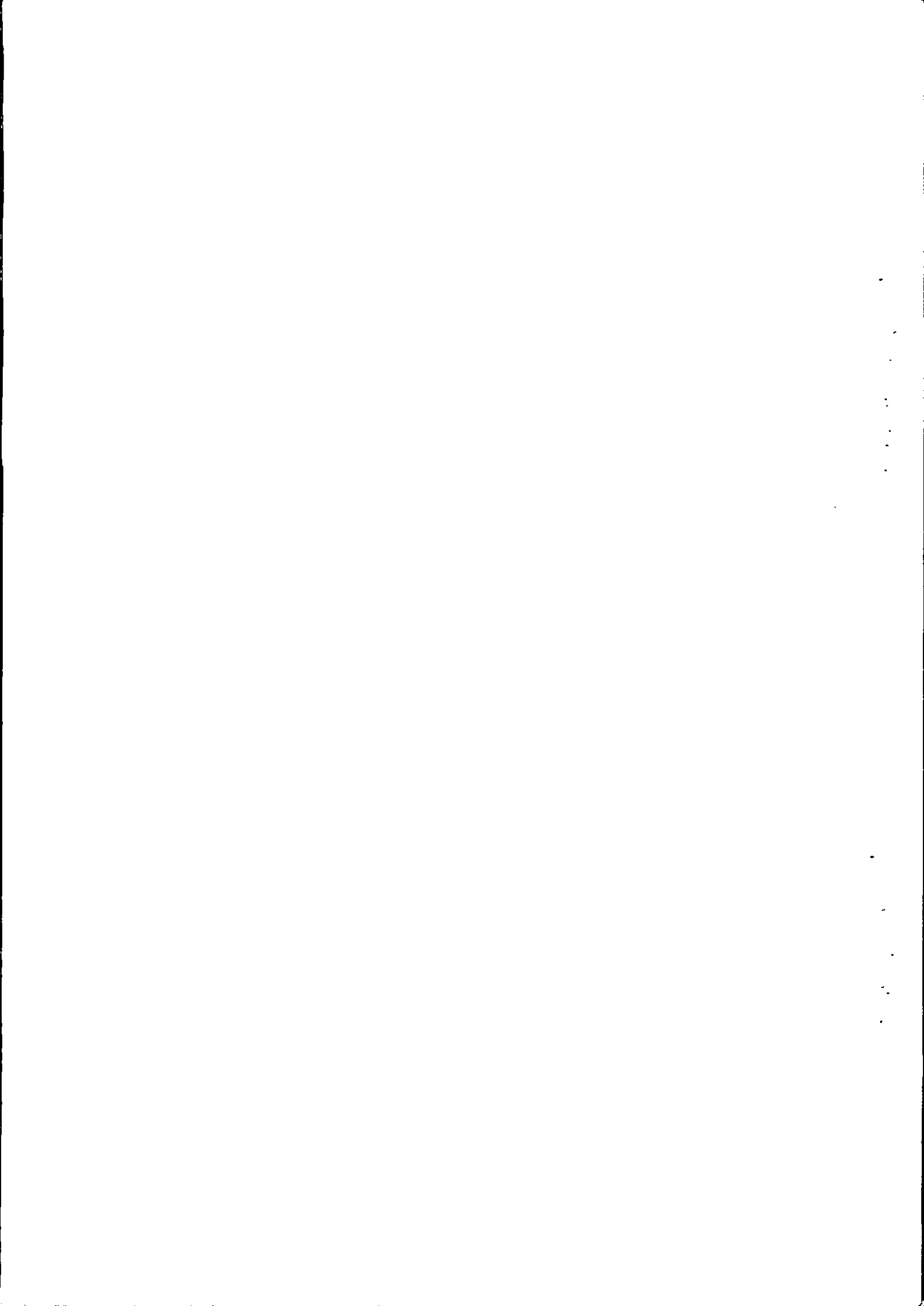
developmental plans. The village resident
should have infrastructure of city & they

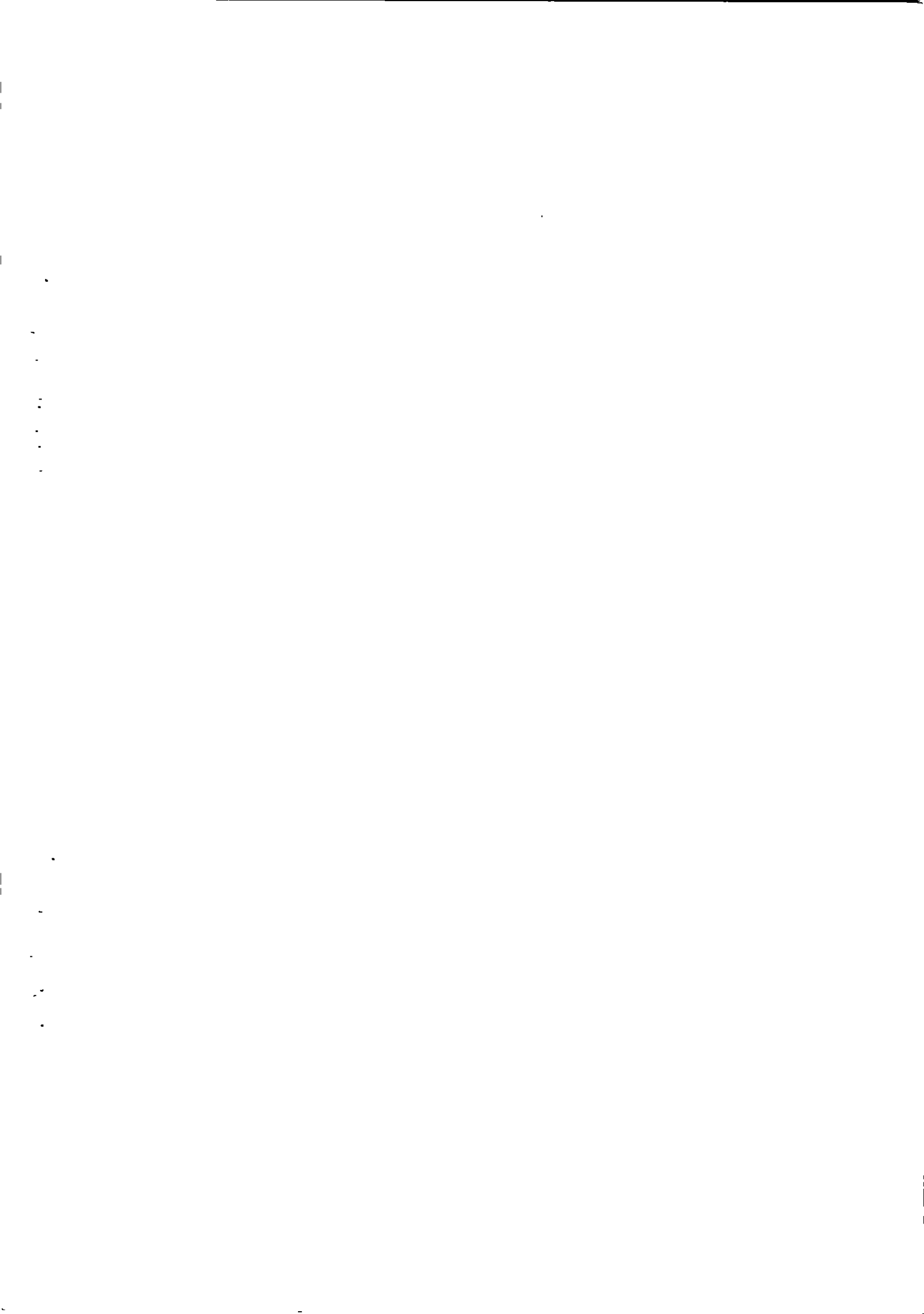
city dwellers should enjoy community
participation of villages.

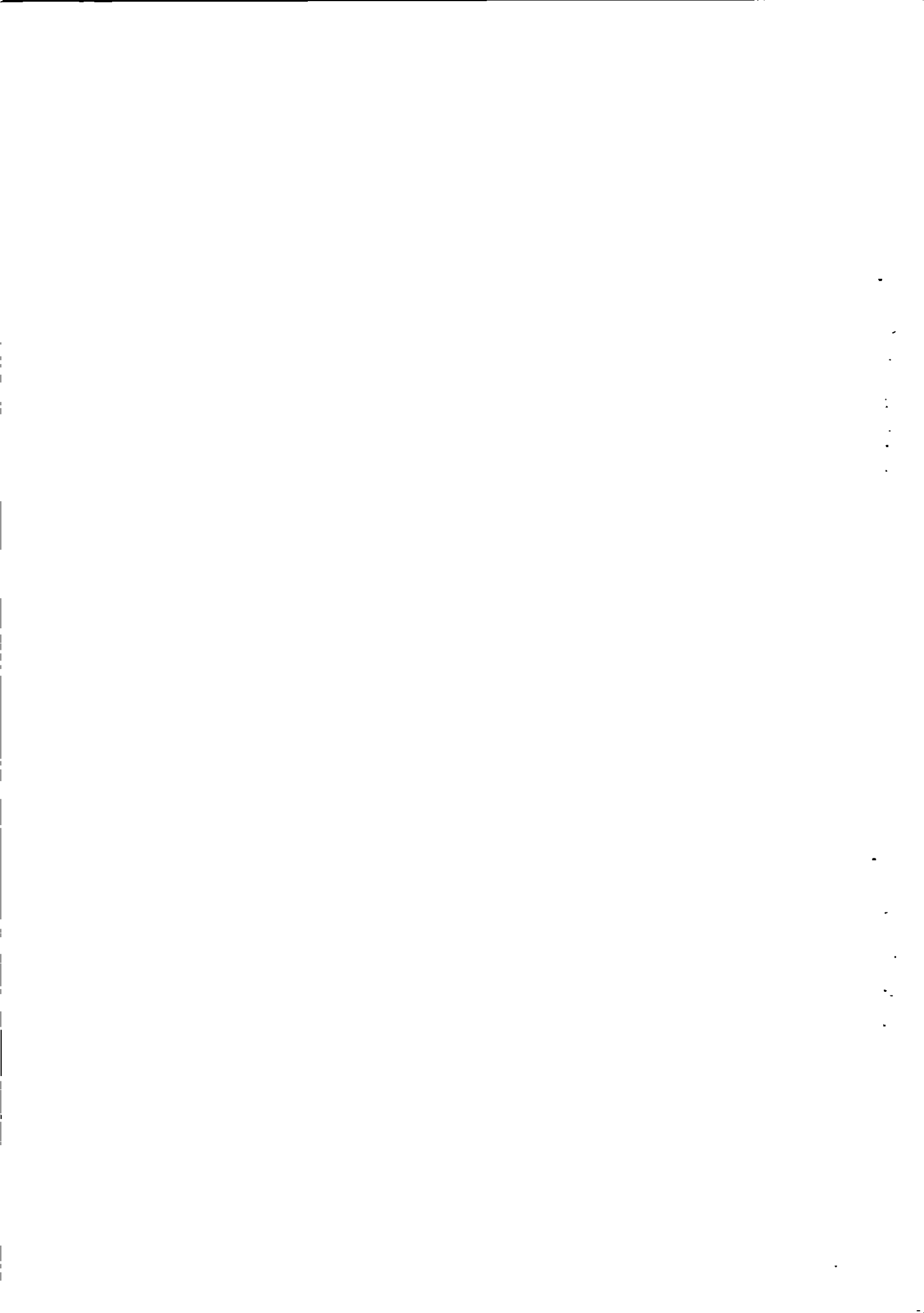
Then we can have

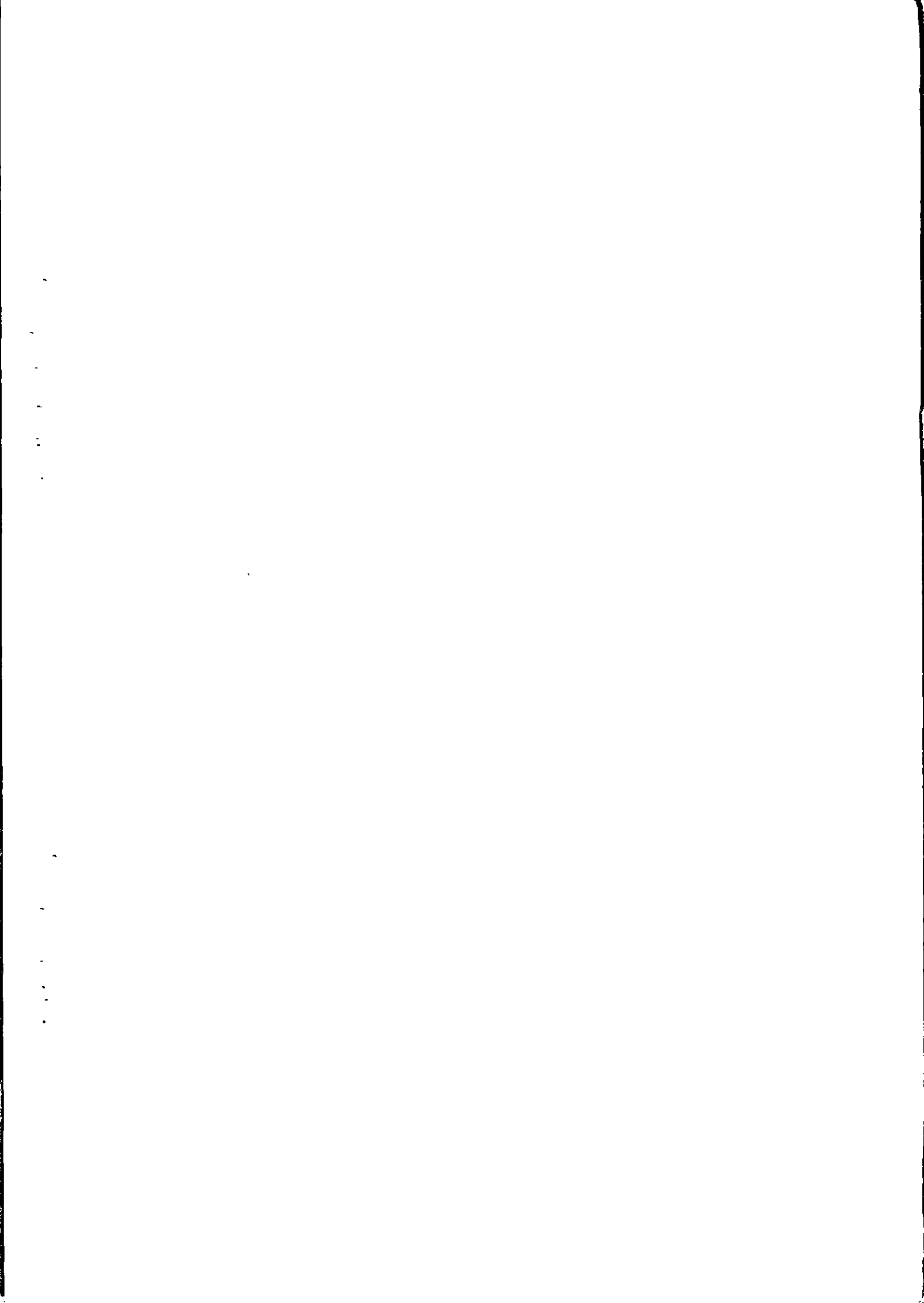
Gram Uday Se Bharat Uday!

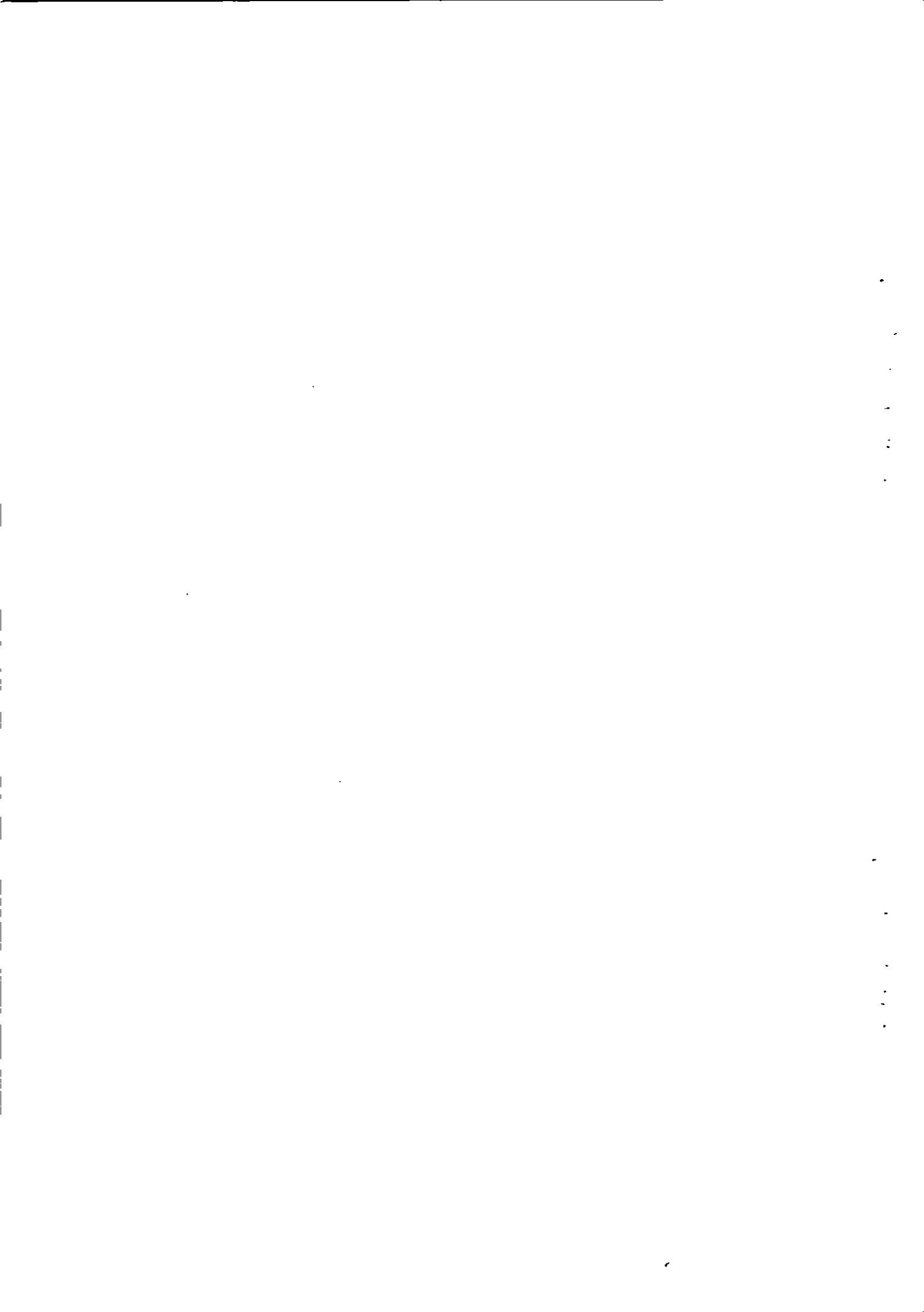


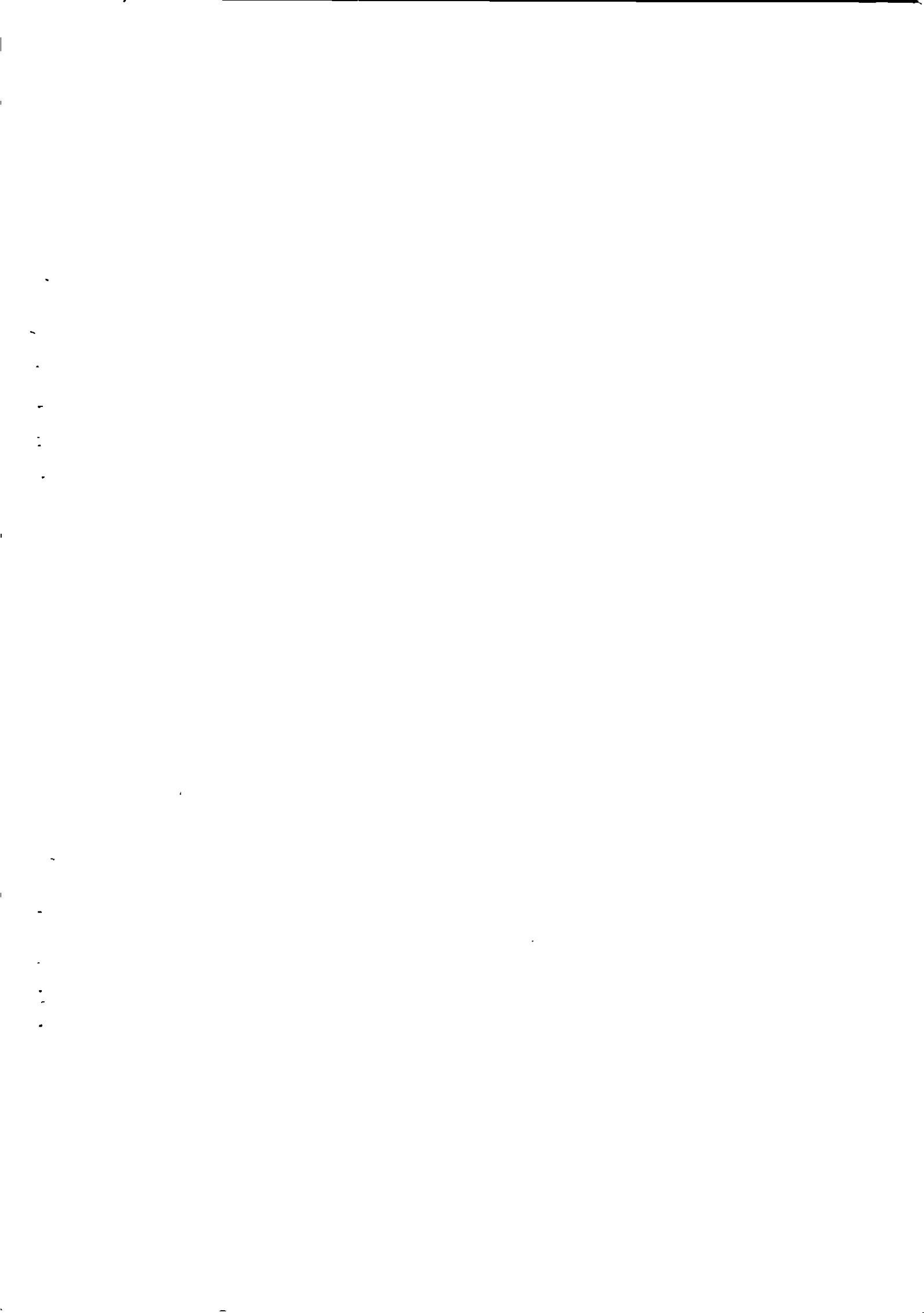


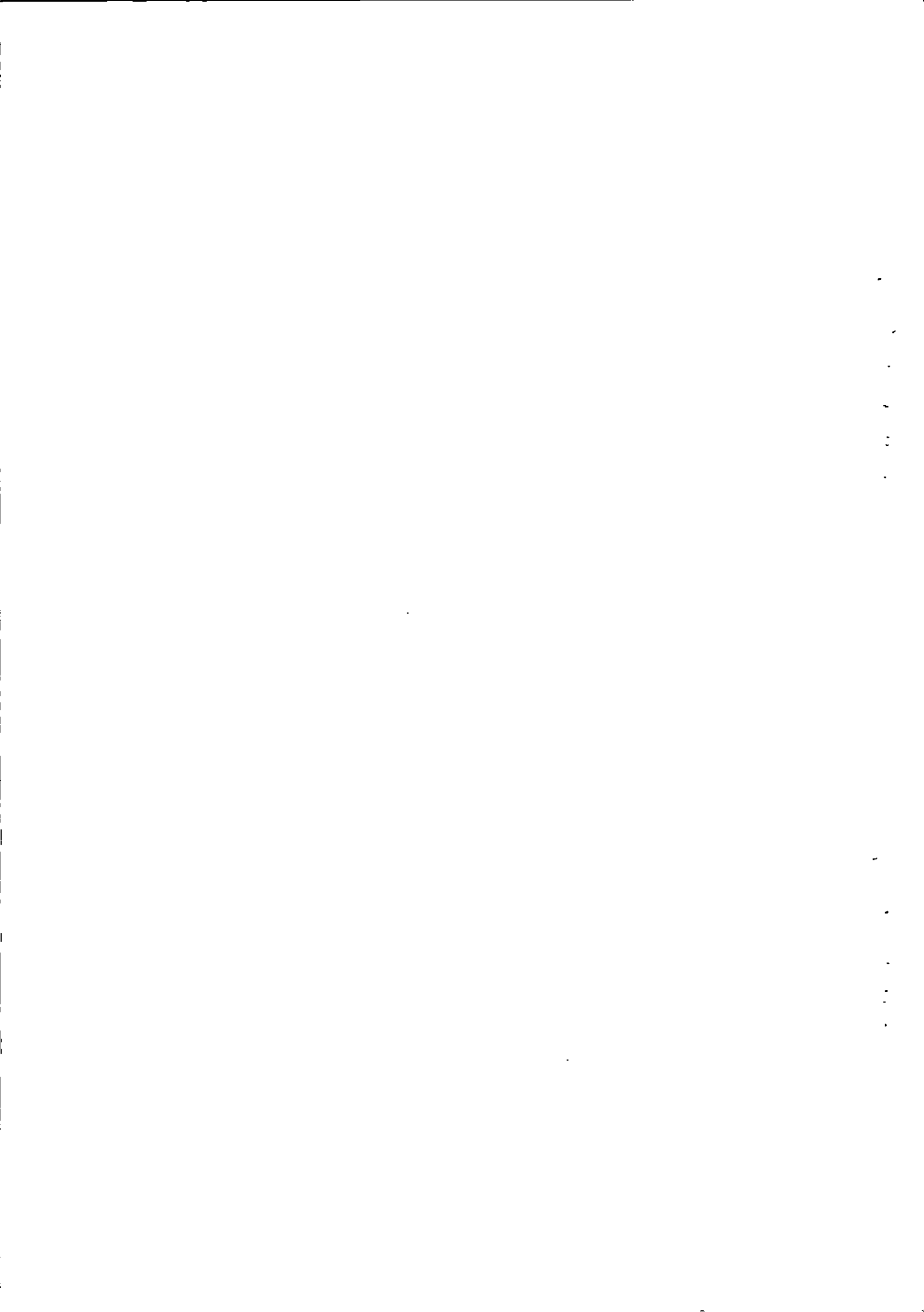


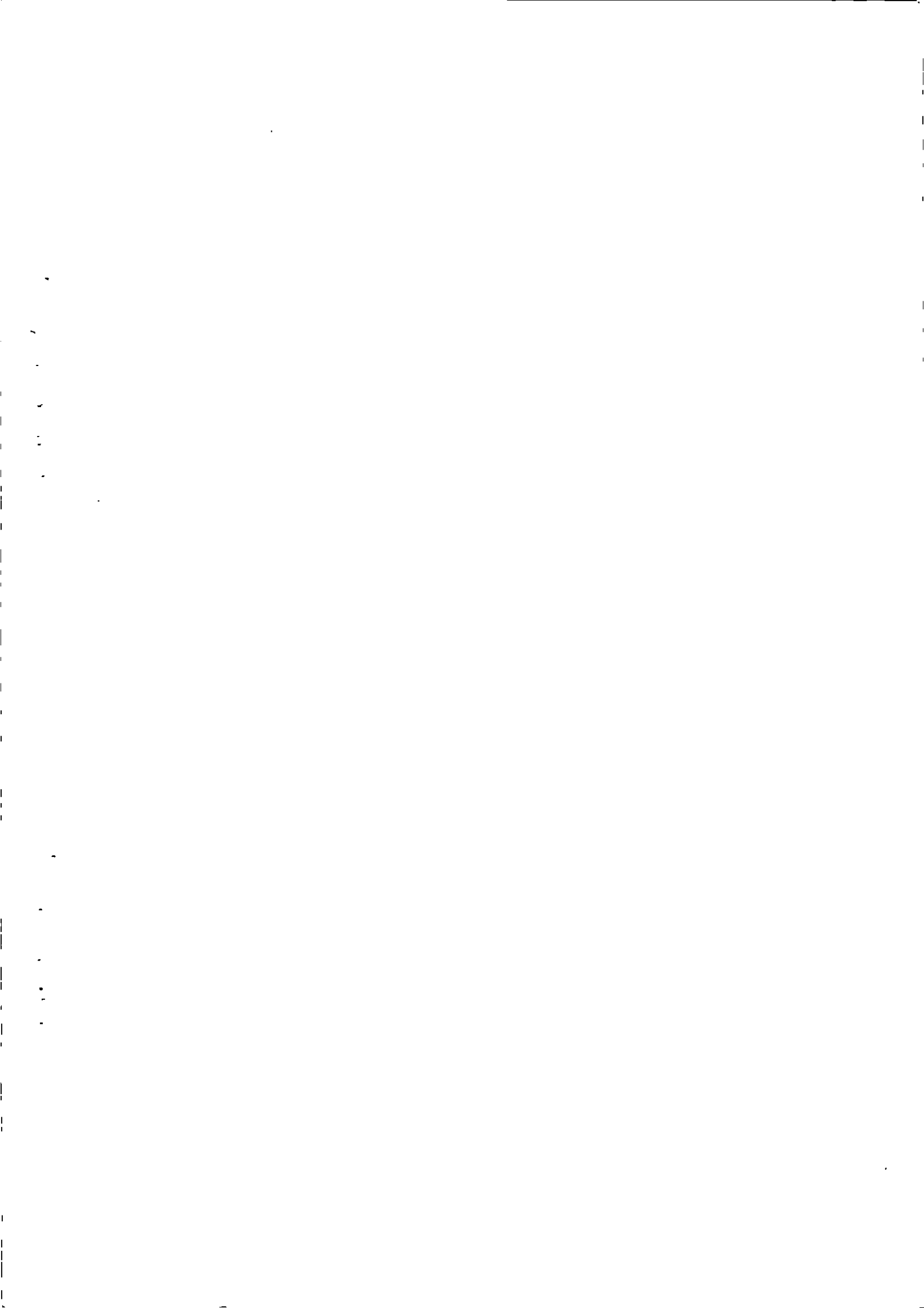


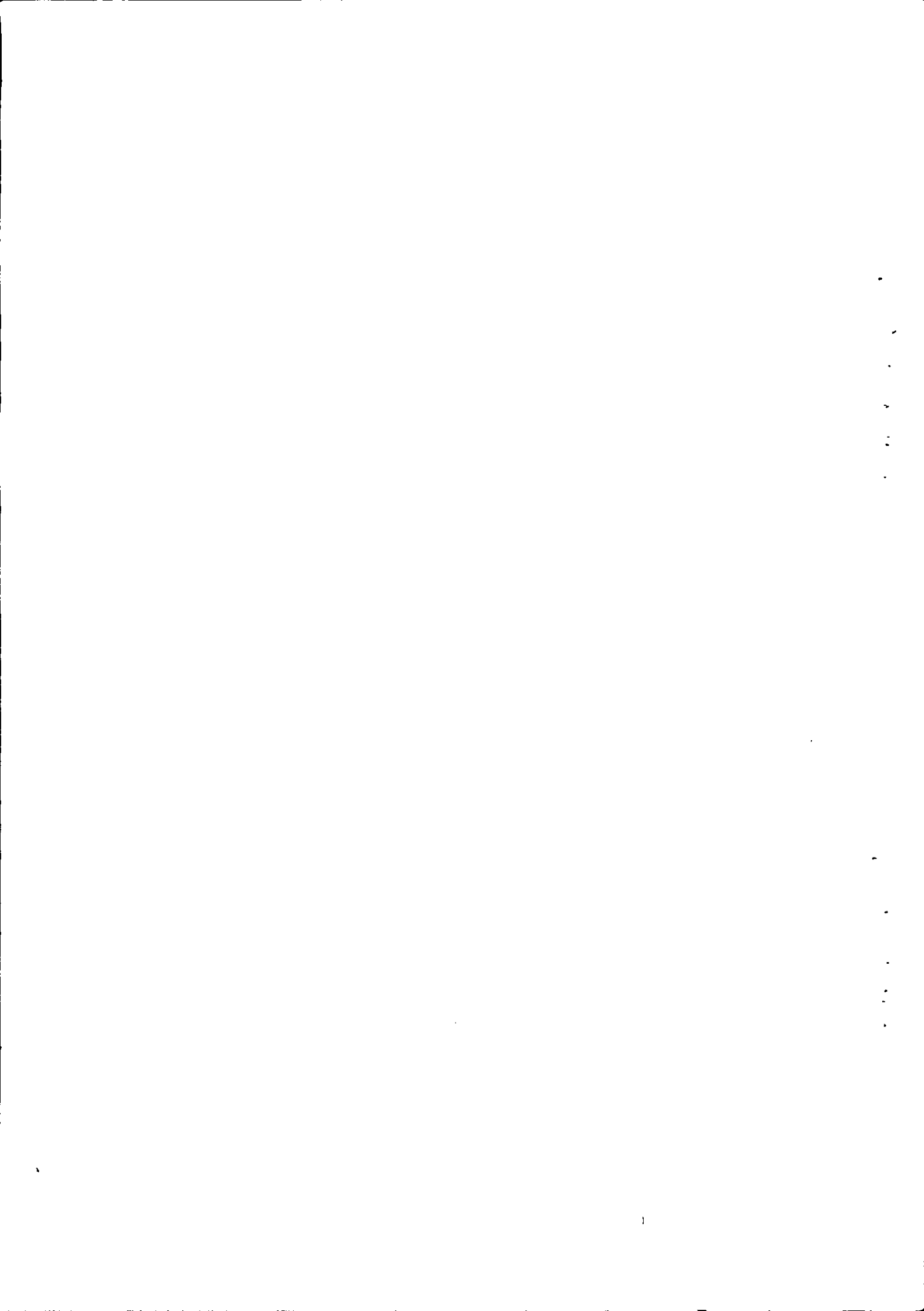


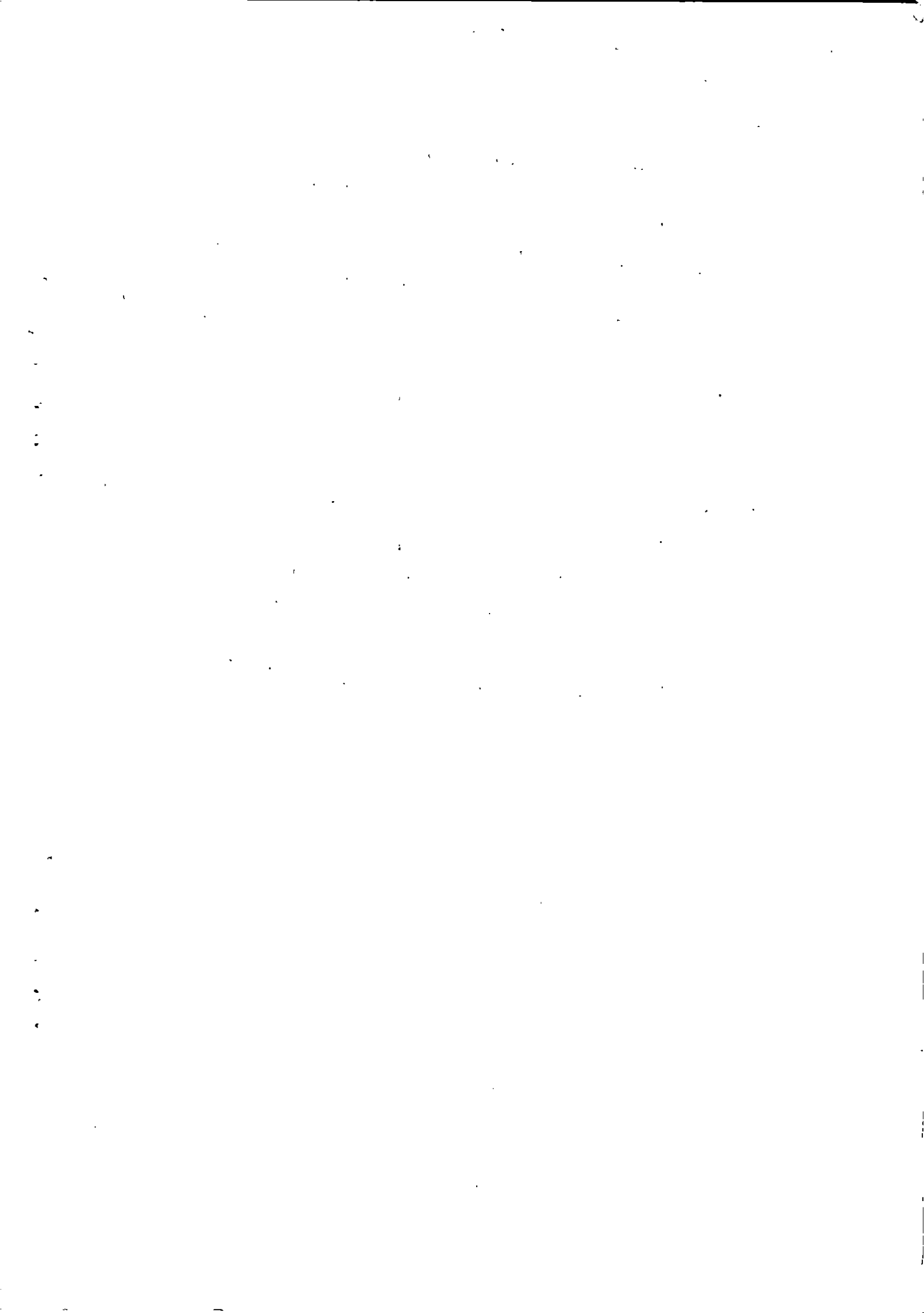












Smart villages not city is need of India

Why smart villages

Why village bias in India

After Independence status of cities & villages

→ pre-mughal era

Need of smart villages ~~scintillation~~ / independence

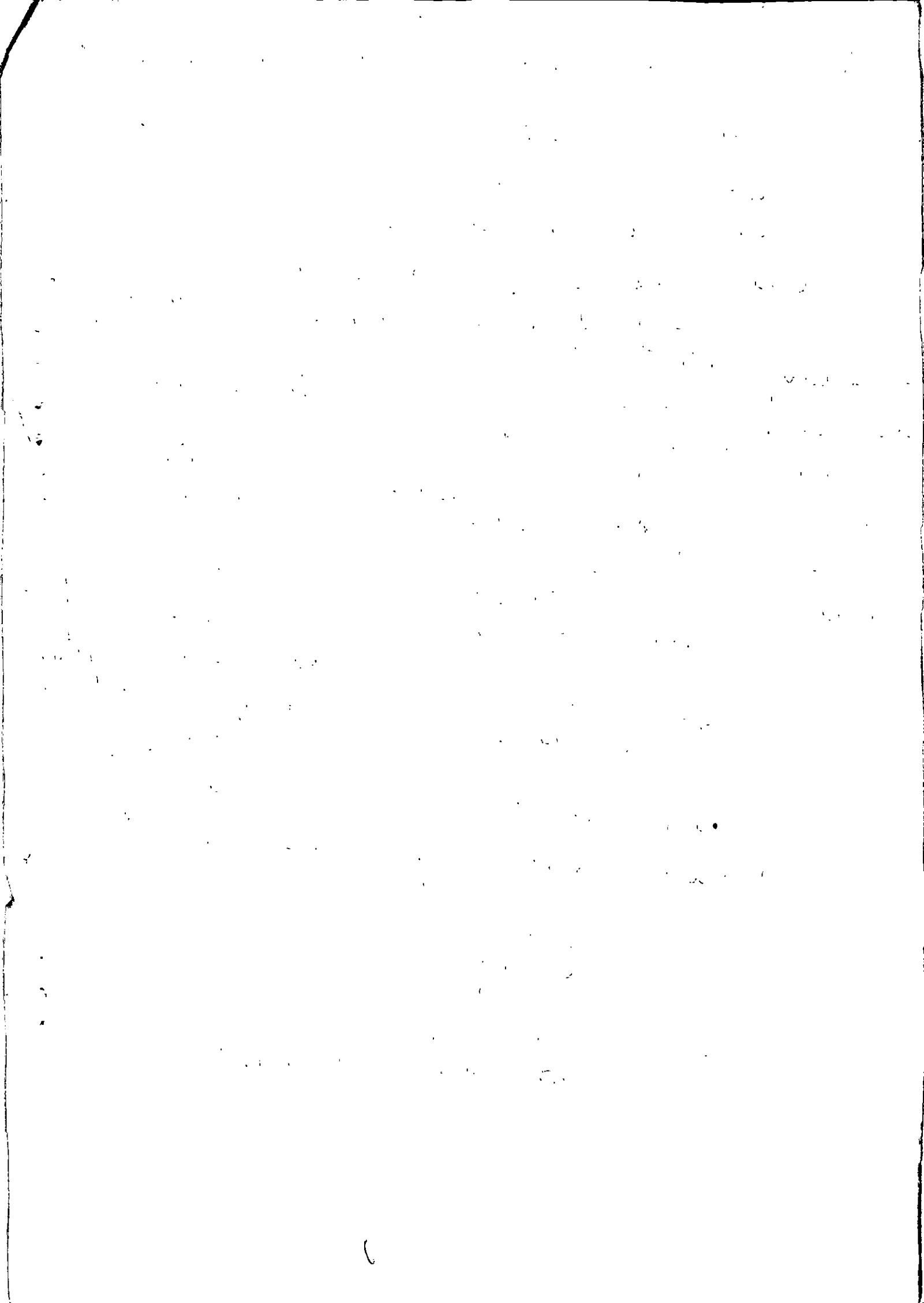
~~Need~~

→ failure of develop.
infrastructure

→ employ edn solar energy. social audit
agri healthcare economy
indust tourism nutrition

need of smart city → SHTU'S.

solution → complementary growth
Globalisation villages
Global village.



To improve change, to be perfect change of life

① why does change →
 factors necessitate change
 perfection and change.

	examples of change → perfection	destruction
leadership	industrial revolution	colonialism
character	corruption	imperialism
virtues	democracy	feudalism
values	renaissance	secularism
morals	enlightenment	regionalism
ethics	independence	communism
	diplomacy	poverty
	governance → judiciary	internal security
	science tech →	ethical considerations
	e-governance →	SDH / environment
	parliaments	sanitation
	innovation	legislation
	constitutionalism	
	hunger	
	agriculture	

factors we need for change → police
 good govt
 rule of law
 edn
 health
 sanitation
 enabling environment