

Indian Experience on Federalism

Dr. Rajshree Dutta*

INTRODUCTION

Post-colonial India began as a political system which was even more centralised than its Constitution on account of the legacies of the nationalist movement for freedom as well as of the British Raj, the one-party dominant system under the aegis of the Indian National Congress (INC) and the presence of the All India Services. This is paradoxical in the sense that we are dealing with a federal nation-state with a highly centralised constitution operating in a society with deep regional and cultural diversities and with a long history of regional kingdoms competing for supremacy in the Indian subcontinent and with a strong regional demands for reorganisation of states along cultural cleavages based on language, religion, tribe and vast geographical dimensions. Some of these have verged on succession but have mostly stopped short of separate statehood in the long run.

In the nearly 3000 years of recorded history, India has had only three sub-continental states: Mauryan, Mughal and British Colonial, accounting for about 800 years. During colonial and post-colonial

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GENDER SECURITY & GLOBAL POLITICS

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POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY IN INDIA: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF 2014 AND 2019 GENERAL ELECTIONS

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Abstract :

The term 'transgender' is usually used to describe those who contravene gender norms of the society. Transgender is often used as an umbrella term to signify individuals who defy rigid, binary gender constructions, and who express or present a breaking of culturally customary stereotypical gender roles.

In contemporary usage, transgender¹ is used to describe a wide range of identities and experiences, including but not limited to pre-operative, post-operative and non-operative transsexual people. The Election Commission of India after the landmark ruling by the Supreme Court, for the first time in the year 2014 cataloged transgender as the 'third gender'. In the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, out of 28,527 registered transgender voters, only 1,968 had exercised their right to vote. This is a dismal picture because according to the 2011 census, the total transgender population in India is 4,87,203. As per the latest Election Commission data, the registered transgender voters for the 2019 elections are only around 40,000 just 10% of their total population. However, despite several awareness programmes and debates concerning the rights of transgender, their

National Education Policy 2020

Unmasking the Perspectives

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National Educational Technology Forum under New Education Policy-2020: A Paradigm Shift in Higher Education in India

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I. Introduction

The New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 which was approved by the Union Cabinet of India is regarded as the first education policy of the 21st century to replace the thirty-five year old National Policy on Education, 1986. The policy aims at universalisation of education from pre-school to secondary level with 100% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in school education by 2030. Some of the biggest reforms in the NEP include teaching up to class five in mother tongue or regional language, lowering the stakes of board exams, allowing foreign universities to set up campuses in India, a single regulator for higher education institutions except for law and medical colleges and common entrance tests for universities (Business Today, 2020).

Under the NEP 2020, it was decided to create an autonomous body, the National Educational Technology Forum (NETF) which will provide a platform for the exchange of ideas on the use of technology to enhance learning. Teachers will undergo rigorous training to use online teaching platforms and tools and become high

Constitutionalism and Changing Dimensions of Fundamental Rights in India

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Human Rights in India during COVID-19

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Abstract

Human Rights are commonly understood as inalienable fundamental rights to which a person is inherently entitled simply because she or he is a human being. The phenomenon of human rights is connected not only with the protection of individuals from the excesses of state but also directed towards the creation of social conditions by state in which individuals may develop to their fullest extent. Human rights in India is an issue complicated by the country's large size, its tremendous diversity, its status as a developing country and a sovereign, secular, democratic republic. The decision that Prime Minister of India took on March 24, 2020, to impose a total lockdown in the country, will be regarded as one of the most important prime ministerial acts since independence. The choice was between life and livelihood, and the government chose life. While Prime Minister Modi adopted this measures to 'win the battle' against the COVID-19 pandemic, a large portion of the country is left wondering if their well-being and human rights were also accounted for in the hasty decisions of the Government. The same is also applicable for the lockdown imposed by different states during the second wave. Therefore, drawing on the secondary sources, the objective of this study is to analyse the status of human rights in India during COVID-19 pandemic.

Keywords: Human Rights, COVID-19 Pandemic, Fundamental Rights, Indian Constitution, State.

Women Empowerment and Micro Finance

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Empowerment through Political Participation of Women: Indian Perspectives

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Introduction

Political participation is a process by which people take part in political activities. Exercising voting rights during elections is one of the important political activities of the people. However, political participation is not just casting vote. It includes wide range of other activities like membership of political party, electoral campaigning, attending party meetings, demonstrations, communication with leaders, holding party positions, contesting elections, membership in representative bodies, influencing decision-making and other related activities (Srivastava, 2000).

With an increasing recognition among international community of women's historic exclusion from structures of power, a global commitment has been made to redress gender imbalance in politics. Women's enhanced participation in governance structures is viewed as the key to redress gender inequalities in societies. Women constitute half of the world population and therefore, it is fair enough that they should have equal participation and representation in world democracies. Instrumentalist argument pushed for women's greater participation on the essentialist ground that men and women are different. Women have different vision of politics owing to their sex and their gender roles as mothers. Therefore, it is assumed that women in politics will bring a special caring focus and female values to politics (Gurin, 1985).

True democracy is a system which in Abraham Lincoln's words is "a government of the people, by the people and for the people". While most of the democracies have given a system which has government elected by all the sections of societies, it is debatable whether the government comprises of all the diverse sections and importantly whether the government works for all the people of the democracy.

ETHNOGRAPHY OF STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY

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Social Media and the Electoral Success in India

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ABSTRACT

India is not only the second most populated democracy in the world, it is culturally one of the most diverse as well. Media constitutes the fourth pillar in a democracy. As India is the largest democracy in the world, media has become a guiding force for mobilising the people in the country. It can be defined as a means of sharing information by using modern techniques. The primary significance of media is that it has hegemonic power which not only controls the mind and body of a user but also can have the capacity to influence its decision. Social media is the greatest, easiest and cheapest way of sharing information for the government as well as for the citizens. In a nutshell it can be said that social media constitute the blood and breathe of Indian democracy.

The study adopt a society-centric approach that views social media as social institution and aims at analyzing its various features and effects in its relations with other social institution like politics, governance and the people. In this light the study posits that media role vis-a-vis politics and the electorate are significant in the extent to which it influences and impacts the latter. It is the voters who decide upon their voting decision based on what the newspaper publish and the news channel broadcast on politics. The role of media in integrally related to its accountability to the voters and accumulation and dis-