The Future of Democracy and its problems and challenges towards Indian Constitution

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Abstract

India is considered to have the largest democracy in the world, where every person without any discrimination on the basis of caste, creed, sex and religion has the right to vote and form their own government. In the age of globalisation, rapid urbanization, advancement in technology we see Indian society is backed by caste system orthodox beliefs, poverty, illiterate, regionalism, communalism and corruption and above all educated unemployed all over the country, where a political leader use caste as a weapon to win votes and support of people, on the other hand where caste is considered as an identity and acts as a weapon to discriminate, criticise and dominate people. Where people don’t have access to food, clothing and shelter which are basic necessity how can we expect just people to be interested in politics. In India women are discriminated at every level and every place, where India has been declared a rapist country, how can be expect India to have the largest and save country with no threats to its existence. Participatory democracy is promoted and in most cases grass root people are not involved who are the main source of money and development for the country. Increase demand for the formation of new states, followed corruption in every sector of the government where people are manipulated and given hopes in most of the cases never turn out to be a reality. Democracy in India is just daydream or a reality

Keywords: Democracy, communalism, corruption, poverty, caste system, participatory democracy

Introduction

Democracy can be defined as a government where the people have the power to directly elect their representatives to form a government body i.e Parliament in India. It is called the majority rule. Power can be inherited in a democracy system of government. The term Democracy came from Greek political and philosophical thought in the city-state of Athens. The word comes from the Greek word Demos which means common people and Kratos means strength. One of the principle of democracy is that all members of the society must be equal, equality in vote, denying groups the right to vote is against the principle of democracy. In USA elected officials carry out the will of the people, USA has republic government which is a form democracy. India has the world’s largest democracy, it was formed post Independence era in the year 1947. In India every citizen has the right to vote without making any distinction to which caste, creed, sex, race they belong to. The Preamble of the Indian Constitution declares India to be a sovereign, socialist, secular Democratic republic and to secure to all its citizens Justice social, economic and political, Liberty of thought, expression, beliefs, worship and faith, equal status and opportunity and to stimulate
among them all fraternity reassure the majesty of the individual and the union and integrity of the Nation.

Democracy is considered as one of the best forms of government because of its features which include Majority rule which is based on parliamentary majorities, we have a representative election, where the public have the right to choose and form the government with a multi-party system in a democratic system the government the voters have the scope to choose from variation of political parties, representing a wide range of political opinion. Freedom of speech – there is no curtailment on the freedom of speech, people have right to express their opinion openly, freedom of Association- There is no limitation, people have the right to form their own political parties and to take part in democratic life, Respect the individual rights – It is the duty of the state to make sure that the individual rights are protected and no one’s right is taken away, respect for minorities rights – minorities in India shouldn’t be discriminated and kept dominated by the majority rule, it is the duty of the state to make sure minorities rights are protected. Respect for Public Law – In a democratic form of government, it is mandatory for all citizens to obey the law of the land and the law will protect the rights of the people, Respect for Democratic Procedures- Individuals or groups who have grievances against the system, should work or make changes through legal means and Independent Judiciary is a very important feature of a democratic system. India has a democratic form government which faces many threat to its existence.

Research Methodology

For the purpose of this exploration, I have used a amalgamation of two of the archetypical social sciences research tools application – as they are authentic and brilliant method to assemble statistics from multiple appellant in an methodical and convenient way. Question were asked to the parents and their children, survey, interviews – consisting of several interrogation which were dispersed among representative of each contender group.

Objective of the Research Paper

The main areas of exploration in this paper incorporates

1. Understanding Democracy in the Indian Context
2. An in depth study of the origin of democracy in India
3. What are the major threats to the Indian Democracy

Literature Review

India has a diverse culture and is a home to the world largest poor community where two-third of the people are living below poverty line. Lack of education, unemployment, poor economic development, caste system, regionalism, federalism, communalism have acted as a hurdle in the smooth functioning of democracy in India ever since Independence which continues till today. India is a democratic country and elections are a very integral part of it. The Election Commission of India has been empowered with the authority to conduct elections, a permanent constitutional body. The electoral Commission of India conducts elections all through the year, elections to the parliamentary, different state assemblies and local bodies including panchayats. The political parties in India have generally taken the populist route in this country to win the elections and using the weapon of caste to gather majority support, as India society based on orthodox believes. Many a times we finding Political leaders getting hold of illegal immigrants and getting them registered as Indian citizens, as a voter in the country. Casteism-Caste has been used as a weapon by many political parties to gather support and caste groups also try to pressurize parties to offer tickets for their members elections. Voting on caste lines is accepted in India and this is a serious blotch on democracy and equality. This also leads to rift in the country. Communalism is a matter of concern which causes serious threat to the Indian political ethos of secularism and federalism, there is lack of
moral values in the political leaders, Indian political system is a product of corruption, people enter the political system to make money and be power, no one is concern for the development of Nation.

Findings

The illiterate rate is very high in India, education is very important for the proper functioning of democracy and socio-economic development of the Nation. One of the major contributor to this lack of illiterate rate in India is lack of schools in the rural area with 70% of India’s population living in rural India, Compulsory education for children from the age group 6-14 years as a fundamental right in India has not been successful to a great extent, lack of money, power, caste system, reservation of seats have acted as a hurdle reaching of education to all, even if schools are there in villages people don’t sent their children to schools because of orthodox believes or they don’t have money to send their children to school and as agriculture is the main occupation in villages, children after a certain age are asked to join their fathers in their occupation and girls are kept at home helping their mother’s in household work, In the urban area we see reservation of seats and political power restrict students from joining or receiving education, Qualified candidates are kept behind which has contributed to a good amount of illiterate in India. Today 77.7% of the Indians are educated we have come a long way from what we were in 2001, with the government bringing in the New Education policy from the betterment of people and with the aim to achieve universal education in India is a big challenge in itself, where NEP talks about digital education, forgetting the reality that only 8% of the household in India has access to laptops and computers and many parts of rural India don’t have access to electricity 24*7.

Poverty has been a burning issue in India since ages. India is home to the largest number of poor, where people don’t have food, shelter and jobs, for them right to vote has no meaning. Half of the population die in India due to food scarcity and water crisis. In Urban India huge amount of food is wasted. India has the second largest population in India with the rise in population demand for food is also rising. 17 million people are added every year to the population with 94% of the population working in unorganised sector. There is less of productivity in agriculture, due to salinization, less vocational skills, less knowledge about crops production, nutrients, productivity, fertilisers which all add to the problem of poverty, lack of infrastructure for cold storage, poor agricultural logistics facilities in India, these all contribute to farmers economic deprivation in India. Deforestation, taking away of land for vast development projects have resulted in farmer committing suicide and a rise in poverty level, educated people are sitting at home with no job, as seats are being taken away by powerful candidates and reservation, which further adds to the problem. Lack of family planning, shelter, with rapid urbanization we see a gradual shift, more
people are shifting in the urban area in search of jobs and better living, actually live in the slums areas, which has led to an increase in child labour in India.

Unemployment - Labour is the most rudimentary and vital element in the production system. It is a chief offering to the manufacturing of goods and services in an economy. Labour in India refers to the metier in the economy. In India there are about 501 million workers, out of which 41.19% belongs to the agriculture sector, 26.18% belongs to the industry and 32.33% belongs to the service sector. Out of this, we find 94% of the labourers work in unstructured sector. The unorganised zone of the labour force is classified into four groups based on their occupation, environment of utilization, specifically mellow group and service class. On the other hand, the structured sector of the labour force which incorporates both private and public organisation, we see the private sector with more than ten employees per company than public employees, overall more people are engaged in the public sector, whereas the gender ratio differs in both the sector. It has 5.5 million women and 22 million men employed. However, the situation is very different in rural and urban area in case of employment rates. India’s unemployment rate is very high. People working in the unorganised sector don’t have fixed salary or job to survive, they are dependent on their daily wages for living. Two-third of the people living in India are poor, they live below the poverty line and are unemployed. Unemployment in India can be traced back to the period of ancient time, starting from the caste system in India. Caste system in India is considered to be one of the biggest hurdles in the development and growth of employment rate in India. Followed by slow economic growth, agriculture is not developed in India to that extent, joint family system, imperfect planning, insufficient irrigation provisions, insufficient availability of manufacturing products is one of the major source of unemployment.

![Unemployment rate (%)](BusinessToday.In)

Women participation in the work force has been decreasing in India since years we see a decline in LFPR by 23% from the year 2011 to 2018 in women participation in the economy, there are a number of reasons behind it which includes social issues - the patriarchy society, security at workplace, women should feel protected at places where they work and decent work should be provided. Equality - usually we find that female are provided less wages compared to men for same amount of work and demand skill mismatch which includes both men and women. India economy is growing which requires more women
participation at the workforce. Economy development is an important component for the smooth running of a democratic system.

Regionalism –It is one of the most note able challenge to federalism in India. Federalism flourishes as a democratic system when alleviate the centralisation of power between the central and the state. The pluralist nature of India gives rise to many components including regionalism. Regionalism can be defined as love for one’s area. India’s successful federal rule over the past years since Independence, has now given rise to regionalism in many parts of the country. Demand for more states especially after the formation of Telangana in 2014. Recent demands for the creation of Gorkhaland from West Bengal and four fold division of Uttar Pradesh are produce of regionalism that has serious threat to the federal structure of India. The perturbation for Gorkhaland, Bodoland and KarbiAnglong have been revived. In Maharashtra there is a demand for separate Vidarbha state and Harit Pradesh and Poorvanchal in Uttar Pradesh. The more the states, the more the centre will be held hostage to state parties on matters of national importance which goes against the principle of democracy, as this is not what the people demand. Public opinion is very integral part of democracy.

Federalism -Division of powers between the Union and the state, Unlike USA and Australia, in India division of power is made under three lists in the seventh Schedule of the constitution. The powers of the central and state is clearly mentioned in the given list over which they have exclusive power. Union and the state list where as power mentioned in the Concurrent list is enjoyed by both equally. The residuary powers are vested with the central government. The general principal underlying the division of powers is that all matters of national importance for instance defence, foreign affairs, railways currency are under the supervision of the central government, matters which are of regional and primary for the states are under the state list which incorporates education, public health, police, local assignment, and some requires the consideration of both the government which are mentioned in the concurrent list those involves criminal law, forest and economic. In cases of conflict on matters of legislation the centre over rules. Article 200,352,356 and 360 and compulsory compliances by the states with the executive power of the state under Article 256 and 257 amount to centralisation of power has been a serious issue among the states which acts as a threat to the federal structure in India and overall threats the democratic system in India.

Corruption can be defined as the abuse of public office for a private gain. Democracy experiences corruption in many ways like lack of transparency in political and campaign financing, rule of elites and with no power in the hand of people, corruption results in destruction of check and balance system, promotes unfair election where there is lack of representation of real sentiments of the public, loss of trust upon the government, Impediment to development and people lose interest in politics – it makes the public resistant to get involved in public issues, corruption further results in opportunism and authoritarianism, risk of backsliding from democracy, Corruption procreates instability, violence and extremism, and people start looking for alternative governance system to regulate their lives. Corruption seeks answers in violence, religion, ethnic and political extremism. Corruption is the biggest threat to Indian democracy, where the voices of minorities and women are suppressed.

Conclusion

Corruption, communalism, constant Hindu–Muslim conflict, demand for new states, Central constant over domination over states activities, lack of economic development, with increase rate of unemployment, rise in poverty and hunger rates, existences of multi-political parties and unfair means of elections despite so many electoral reforms made from time to time. The future of democracy is a critical discussion in the minds of liberal elites and political thinkers. India needs to end corruption and communal practices and eradicate caste based politics so that India can become a democratic country in the true sense of the term. A country for the people by the people and of people and not a country run on politics.
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