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Protests in 21st century

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“In a world we live in today is a place where everything and anything has a protest attached to it” When we talk about society, we live in a society wherein there are several protests that run’s. Women’s fighting for their rights, gender equality, protesting against women violation.

Young generation protesting against unemployment and reservation of seats at public universities. We are leading to a era wherein without social protests our words are not heard.

Not talking about the hypothetical protests whereas if we look at the exact protests of 21st century then we can see the powerful countries fighting with each other for gaining more and more power just for the sake of power there are several and thousands of people those who get drenched in those civil war yet nor war but the consequences are quite a similar to war. Not concentrating more on the actual protests but this article will throw light on the protests that go on in the day to day world. There are various societal issues that is always being and restraint in the progress of our country. There are several issues that turns to protests, having said that the issues like social, political and economic issues must be given first preference to solve societal problems. The very hypothetical mind of man always ends of thinking that the reason behind these societal problems and protest is the government and all blames are towards government, if thought positively each and every individual of the nation is some or the other way responsible for the social pandemic “.

We can see **corruption** in every loophole due to which maybe our country has only ended up being developing country and not developed country. In every public office we can see this and till now there is no proper action taken against it. There are several acts and laws that’s been set up to eradicate corruption but there is hardly any changes seen in the economy. No act or law till now is able to bring about any change as to this situation. India has been ranked at the 80th position among 180 countries and territories in the **Corruption Perception Index (CPI)** prepared by Transparency International. The CPI, released at the WEF 2020 in Davos, ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption, according to experts and business people. Denmark and New Zealand have cornered the top spot, followed by

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Finland, Singapore, Sweden and Switzerland in the top ten². according to the non-government group's report, even in democracies, such as Australia and India, unfair and opaque political financing and undue influence in decision-making and lobbying by powerful corporate interest groups, result in stagnation or decline in control of corruption.

According to few author the definition of protests are :

Horton and Leslie:

It is often defined as the condition which many people consider undesirable and wish to correct.

Lindbergh:

It is any deviant behaviour in a disapproved direction of such a degree that it exceeds the tolerance limit of the community.ⁱ³

To interpret :

“If we look at the definition we can notice that it is something that is undesirable but is there anyway to change this undesirableness and make it desirable?? To guess in this era the only way the citizens think that this undesirableness can be changed is protest. There are certain situations in this society that is completely out of tolerance level but each and every individuals are completely helpless.”

And then comes the very vital protest that is nothing but the vicious cycle of **illiteracy** that prevails throughout country. If half or more people are found to be illiterate in a country that is very real that protests will prevail in any such countries and there will be Drastic rise in the poverty level also. As per the 2011 census it was found that about 74.04% were found to be illiterate. If we look at rural areas rather than cities, the rural areas conditions are very pathetic when comes to illiteracy. The governments needs to Set up a good education system in order to revive the people those who strive and protest not only for food but also for better livelihood.

Another major concern and protest that gives rise out of illiteracy is **poverty**. As per the planning commission data the poverty line in the year 2011-12 shown a percentage of 22% which showed 15% decrease as recorded in the year 2004-2005. This figure is expected to decline to 5% by 2022, as per World Poverty Clock estimate. However, 80% of the poor in India live in villages⁴. The poverty is a type of vicious cycle that keeps on giving rise to new

² Corruption perception index, <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/india-ranked-80th-in-corruption-perception-index-1639648-2020-01-24>.

³ Definition of protests, <http://www.sociologydiscussion.com/essay/social-problems/essay-on-social-problems-in-india-sociology/13520>.

⁴ World poverty estimate, <https://worldpoverty.io/methodology>.

group of below poverty line people. The real protests of 21st century must always be all these concerns that needs to be curb down at least to a certain level if not eradicate completely it seems highly impossible to eradicate the poverty completely.

The rising **population** is also one of the concerns. if we club all the issues that were throwed light upon the main cause of all the issues is some or the other way the rising population.

As per the Indian census 2011 ⁵if we have a look at it there are various issues like growth rate, illiteracy rate, sex rate etc. The main thing to analyse is that whether the resources the job opportunities the government funds are somewhere enough or does it meets the societal needs?

If we look at the Indian population 1,210,854,977 and interpret does India have equal employment opportunities? does Indian policies are made in keeping in mind the entire population needs? if the population is more even the resources provided shall be more in order to avoid protests.

If we look at individual agenda of protests we can see the **women violence**. If we look at our law there are several law provisions that ensures the women safety. Not all the laws are effective when the violence takes another turn. There are several women violence protests but according to the view of many researchers we cannot see any significant change in the ratio of women violence. Then what are these protests for if its not heard? and is there no other way to convey the message to the society rather than protests.

There was a very big protests that prevailed worldwide that is **#ME-TOO movement** that originated from abroad and was based on the women assault at work place ⁶. It became quite familiar in our country as well and many women's came forward and raised voice against it.

Now if a question is raised that whether entire work environment in the world are free from women assault after the **#ME-TOO movement**?? the answer would be quite easy that is No. Even after several protests there can be no significant change that is seen in the matter of women violence and safety.

If we have a look at all the societal concerns we can see that all these concerns are somewhere related to one another and if any of the concerns are to some extent reduced then we can see some changes in the society.

The general conception about protests is always either for earning livelihood or for safety concern, our country's resources are very less as compared to the employment

⁵ The Indian census 2011, <https://www.census2011.co.in>.

⁶ ME-TOO MOVEMENT, <https://metoomvmt.org/about/>.

opportunities, that needs to be created in order to curb the **unemployment crisis**. Unemployment is basically found majority in youth generation. Everyone contributes towards the growth of the economy. There are several protests that the people do to eradicate the crisis of unemployment.

Dismissing the economic expansion as a jobless growth, the protesters said authorities should immediately fill 2.4 million vacancies in government jobs to reduce unemployment⁷.

According to the record's and the census there was around 3.52% unemployed people in 2017 which increased to 3.53% in 2018. If the concern of unemployment is not tackled it may lead to worsen the economic growth.

The end result of every protest must always be positive and if even after protests there are no significant change, then the protests are of no use. Even after these many protests does the main agenda for which the protest is done is served? even after thousands of people marching together there is no significant result out of it. Even after protests the women's are not safe even after protests there is no resultant change in unemployment crisis. Hence rather than coming forward towards protests there must be social awareness and self-realisation among the people.

⁷ Unemployment crisis, <https://apnews.com/712d2436088149a0b61ea61fd9ac242e>.