SOCIAL STRATIFICATION AND HOW IT CAUSES VARIOUS SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN TODAY'S WORLD

Vishal Chouhan[*]

ABSTRACT

This article discusses social stratification that which is the arrangement of any group or society into a hierarchy of positions that are unequal with regard to power, property, social evaluation, and psychic gratification. Further, it contains that many social problems were created in past also happening in the present continuous in future due to the social stratification in society or problems which are seen in the news every day because of social stratification in the society. Examples of problems caused by social stratification are mob lynching, cyberbullying, etc. and this article explains why these problems are happening because of social stratification in society. Further, these acts of Mob lynching and Cyberbullying, or other such violence cannot be justified as per the Indian Constitution and are punishable under the Indian Penal code and mentioned various sections in wrongdoers are punished for their acts. In the later part suggestions to address or prevent these social problems are discussed as by appointing a Nodal police officer, Government or parliament make strict laws for the punishment to the offender and to set an example for the culprits, establishment fast track court to give a decision fast with fair awareness needs to be created at schools and college level through seminars and conference to take preventive steps to control cyberbullying.

Keywords: Social Stratification, Mob Lynching, Cyberbullying.

INTRODUCTION

According to Melvin M Tumin "Social stratification is the arrangement of any group or society into a hierarchy of positions that are unequal with regard to power, property, social evaluation and psychic gratification." Talcott Parsons regards social stratification as the differential ranking of the human beings who make up a given social structure and their treatment as superior and inferior in some socially significant respects. According to Tumin, he explains that "To the extent that loyalty to a society depends on a sense of significant

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[*]BA LLB, SECOND YEAR, BENNETT UNIVERSITY, GREATER NOIDA.

membership in the society, social stratification systems function to distribute loyalty unequally in the population."[1]

HOW SOCIAL STRATIFICATION LEADS TO VARIOUS SOCIAL PROBLEMS?

Social stratification and loyalty related to one another, as in social stratification, people are divided between different categories, caste, religion, gender, or any other matter, and these categories are loyal or committed, each category follows its own cultures, and they feel or feel emotionally connected with devotion. This leads to social stratification since both groups adhere to their respective cultures, but the dominant group will disturb or suppress the other groups, resulting in social stratification. Most of the time, there is a negative relationship between loyalty and social stratification because it harms society, those who are committed to their religion, customs, or beliefs believe they are superior to others, resulting in conflicts and differences as they both try to suppress one another.

Social problems that are created due to the social stratification society or problems which are seen in the news every day because of social stratification in the society:

The first one is Mob lynching refers to a group of people kill someone for an alleged offence without a legal trial, social stratification leads to Mob lynching as people belong to one particular community religion, caste, race, etc. getting constant threat of killed or beaten up on the mere ground that they belong to a particular community. Two recent examples for mob lynching to show how it actually affects the society and how it is increasing because of social stratification in the society are:

- The first one is a very recent example of one man his name is Asif Khan from Haryana in Nuh district lynched to death by a mob belonging to the other group. According to the family of Asif, he went out to buy medicines, when he went back with his two brothers lynched by a group of youths, groups killed Asif and forced him to say "Jai Shri Ram". So, in this example, there was old enmity between two groups, both the groups' belonged to different religions hence it is social stratification, and it leads to Mob lynching by one group over other as killing and beating of Asif khan by the other group. According to Tumin loyalty leads to social stratification since both

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[1] M. M. Tumin, "Some Principles of Stratification: A Critical Analysis" (2013) vol. 18 JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2087551>

groups adhere to their respective cultures, but one group will disturb or suppress the other groups, resulting in social stratification. [2]

- The second example is the most famous case, which was happened some years ago, but the same situation faced by lots of people in the society every day, which name is Khairlanji massacre case in this case four members of a Dalit family lynched, assaulted, and murdered by a mob of upper caste. This case has disappointed large sections of Dalits in the country which leads to massive strikes, rallies to give capital punishment to all accused involved in the lynching. After the investigation by police, it was found that this was an attempt of upper caste or non-Dalit to suppress the Dalit in the region. So, in this case, we can understand the social stratification in caste and the hierarchy of positions and power, in which the people who belong to non- Dalit groups lynched the lower caste or group people and think that they are more superior to them.[3]

So, these are two examples that show that how social stratification in society leads to mob lynching, and not only in past or present these problems are there but it is continuous these problems will increase even more because of social stratification.

The second one is Cyberbullying refers to when someone bully, harasses, threatens, makes memes on others on the internet by using their digital devices like cell phones, computers, and tablets, etc. through text SMS, email, apps online in various social media sites. Social stratification leads to cyberbullying as people from a particular community, religion, or race bully on the internet, they are threatened and harassed by people who have more skills and those who think themselves more superior to others in positions. These problems are increasing at the same rate as technology and internet access are developing in the world. Two recent examples for Cyberbullying to show how it is affecting society and how it is increasing because of social stratification in the society are:

- The first example of Cyberbullying is the very recent case of Rashmi Samant, she is from Karnataka's Udupi and went to England for further studies at Oxford University. She was elected as the first Indian woman president of the Oxford University Students

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[2] Bagish Jha, "Gurugram trainer killed; kin allege hate crime" Times of India (2021) <**https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/gurgaon/gym-trainer-killed-kin-allege-hate-crime-police-deny/articleshow/82723459.cms.**>

3. Avinash Pandey, "Khairlanji is not just another murder story" The Hindu (2010) <**https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/open-page/Because-Khairlanji-is-not-just-another-murder-story/article16140401**>

Union. After she was elected as president not only the students, but faculty members also started bullying her on Twitter and other social networking sites only because she posted her views on one topic many years before she was elected as president. She said that she was also trolled for her Hindu identity and faces so many comments on racial discrimination. Samant said that she has been unfairly targeted and even her family has been unnecessarily dragged into the whole affair by the Internet. So, by this case, we can say that social stratification leads to Cyberbullying as Samant belong to the Hindu religion and bully on racial discrimination on social media.[4]

- Second is the example of David Knight, in this example, a website had been created by his classmates to bully him, which contain everything about him? He was teased, taunted, and punched for years in both school and more on the website. His classmates posted sexual comments, called him Gay and dirty boy. Students send him emails, texts, and images saying that how much they don't like him which makes his whole school life hell. He wants to become a piolet but after being bullied by his friends, he wants to drop schooling. This all things happened because he is belonged to the third gender category and wore dirty clothes. SO, this example shows that how social stratification of dividing individuals and groups according to various social hierarchies of differing status or prestige leads to cyber bullying as David faced because he belonged to the third category and wearing dirty clothes which differ him from other students in terms of status & prestige.[5]

So, these two examples show that how social stratification in society leads to Cyberbullying. Cyberbullying in the future will increase more because students learn and use to with all technology and social media sites from a very small age and they don't know their act consequences, which results that the misusing these sites.

These actions of Mob lynching and Cyberbullying cannot be justified as per the Indian Constitution and are punishable under the Indian Penal code:

There is no law or Act in our country that deals specifically with Cyberbullying or Mob lynching but the punishment for both is provided under the sections of the Indian Penal code.

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[4] Deeptiman Tiwary, "No one was ready to listen to me: Udupi 22-yr-old forced to quit as Oxford students' union president" *The Indian Express,* (2021) <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/no-one-was-ready-to-listen-to-me-udupi-22-yr-old-forced-to-quit-as-oxford-students-union-president-7224598/>
[5] Joan Leishman, "cyberbullying" CBC news (2005) <https://njbullying.org/CBCNewsIndepthBullying.htm_a>

In 2018, Supreme Court described Mob lynching as a "horrendous act of mobocracy". The Supreme Court urged the federal and state governments to enact legislation expressly dealing with the crime of lynching, as well as certain provisions to be included in these laws, such as fast-track hearings, victim compensation, disciplinary action against lax law-enforcers. After that, some states started forming laws which were specifically dealt with Mob lynching. Some of these states are:

Manipur state government was the first to come up with the bill against mob lynching in 2018 after the Supreme Court urged to form laws. The Bill contains that there would be nodal officers in each district to control such crimes and if any officer failed to control lynching, then he will be liable for such crimes and imprisoned also. Rajasthan government was second to pass a bill against lynching in August 2019, because according to the report of the Parliamentary Affairs Minister 86% of mob lynching's. The West Bengal government came with very strict laws against lynching. Anyone who lynched anyone to death is liable for punishment for life imprisonment or punishable with the death penalty and fine also up to 5 lakh rupees.

Indian Penal Code sections in which the punishment for mob lynching and cyberbullying is provided are:

Sections	Punishment	Details
302	Punishment related to murder.	Any person who commits death by mob lynching or cyberbullying would be liable under this section of IPC and will be punished for death or life imprisonment.
304	punishment for culpable homicide not amounting to	A sentence of imprisonment of up to ten years, a fine, or both, if the crime is

	murder.	committed with the knowledge that it is likely to cause death or harm that is likely to cause death, but with no intent to do so.
34	Acts have been done by several persons with common intention.	When two or more people commit an illegal act of the same motive, each of them is held responsible in the same way as if the act had been committed by him alone. So, all the people who commit Mob lynching or cyberbullying are liable under this section.
120 'B'	Criminal conspiracy	all the people who are involved in a criminal conspiracy for mob lynching and cyberbullying will be liable under this section.
143	Unlawful assembly	Any assembly of 5 or more people gathered to do an unlawful act, then all the people will be liable for the punishment up to 6 months.
325	Causing grievous hurt	Any person who caused grievous hurt to anyone from

	voluntarily	his action is liable under this section.
147	Rioting Punishment	When unlawful assembly uses force or violence in the prosecution of a common object of assembly then they are liable under this section.

University Grant Commission (UGC) also formed some laws to control the fast-spreading activity of Cyberbullying by students and termed as anti-ragging laws. Every university student has to follow them and if anyone acts to tease or harm any students or bully on social media or other networking sites then the students will liable under the sections of IPC.

SUGGESTIONS TO ADDRESS OR PREVENT THESE SOCIAL PROBLEMS

First to identify the regions where lynching could occur or possibility to occur then appoint a Nodal police officer, who should be responsible to control and take measures to prevent lynching. Appointed police officer liable for all the activity in that area to prevent this police officer should take steps to prevent the creation of a hostile environment against any community or caste. The officer takes the step to prevent the spread of any video, images, or anything that incites mob lynching. Government or parliament makes strict laws for the punishment to the offender and to set an example for the culprits then after if punishment will be harsh, one thinks a greater number of times before doing any act. after identifying areas where lynching occurs frequently the restrict large public gathering that is to restrict this activity and the government must form an awareness campaign. After this, if anyone does any activity that incites mob or leads to mob lynching then that person should be punished according to the provisions of IPC and established Fast track court to get a decision fast and fair. For Cyberbullying many things will be the same as mob lynching the state should appoint one nodal officer who is responsible for all the activity of social media. The officer should take preventive steps to control cyberbullying and more awareness needs to be created at the schools and college level through seminars and conferences because a greater number of cases came from these two backgrounds only, social media or other networking sites need

to create and reinforce channels for reposting cyberbullies. Students should be taught to adhere to online safety protocols.

CONCLUSION

Cyberbullying and Mob lynching two are rapidly increasing in India because of social stratification in caste, race, religion, or other societal groups. Cyberbullying rising steadily every year probably due to the increased availability of cheaper smartphones and the internet to individuals. The introduction of new social media sites and other messaging platforms has contributed to an increase in a large number of cases of cyberbullying. Mob lynching is also increasing over the year because of an increase in social stratification between the groups. Measure or laws must frame by the government to prevent these two social problems and strict punishment should be given to the offender who incites mob and is responsible for the cyberbullying.