

HOW LIBERALISM CREATES MARGINALITIES

Jayesh Sharma* Tanuj Jain*

INTRODUCTION

The root word of Liberalism is 'Liber' a Latin adjective that denotes a free person, which is the opposite of slave. Liberals believe in human capacity and agency to decide things for themselves. Right to make independent plans, independent opinions, and to participate in public life. Knowledge acquired from all these attitudes resulted in the creation of a system we know as 'liberal democracy.'

Liberalism is an explicated feature of modern democracy, countries where free and fair elections endure, rule of law exists, and civil liberty prevails are illustrated by the term 'Liberal Democracy.' It is based on a moral significant clash about ensuring a person's right to live, enjoy liberty and own property be levied by the government. Liberals emphasize and believe that government is necessary to protect individuals from getting harmed by others, but also recognize that government itself can pose a threat to liberty it imparts. These principles have acted as the foremost requisites in democracy as they support struggles for rights and justice across the globe. Liberalism lines thinking of freedom above all else. For there be rights, liberty amongst all must be the foremost as if we are not free to act we cannot exercise any of our other rights.

NEO-LIBERALISM

The addition of the prefix 'neo' just means a new approach from individuals who are not satisfied by the old socio-political ideology. It is slightly different from the past and includes certain new and better ideas and is catchier, attracts more people within the preview of liberalism. Neoliberalism is an economic concept that is mainstream for the last 25 years. It includes free markets and it virtually oversees the markets to dictate the development of economies. It abolishes government interventions and influence to encourage entrepreneurship. It promotes no price controls, freedom of movement of capital, goods, and services. It is a view that unregulated markets are the best way out to systematically increase economic growth as it will be beneficial for all at last. It gives a free hand to the private

*BBA LLB, THIRD YEAR, MANIPAL UNIVERSITY, JAIPUR.

*BBA LLB, THIRD YEAR, MANIPAL UNIVERSITY, JAIPUR.

sector and deregulation laws to give wings to international trade and commerce. Neo-Liberalism has led to a small minority of winners and the vast majority of losers, it has benefitted the capitalist, IT sector, real estate, and natural resources. A certain level of economic success is enjoyed not only by women after liberalization but also by the highly educated and socially privileged (Upper Castes). It is ruthless in Rural India.

MARGINALITY

The concept of Marginality was introduced in 1928 by Robert Park, he referred to "New Type of Emerging Personality" out of rapid migration patterns during the beginning of the 20th Century and how this personality was going to affect the present and future relations between two groups. Most interesting amongst all was "Cultural Hybrid", a man who shares traditions and cultures of two distinct persons who never met or fused. Park's model is no longer used today, neither does his ideology of racial, cultural, and ethnic differences caught up between two worlds exists. Marginalization means when a certain person or a set of people are made to feel of lesser importance, by those in power. Marginalized persons are forced to the periphery or the edge of society. The term has been expanded to include vast groups that differ in a variety of ways from the prevailing dominant culture. It includes women, the poor, homosexuals, and those with mental and physical illness. Thus, Marginal are both 'of' and 'in' the society but with limited access and prescribed positions with special roles. People who are marginalized have little or less control over their lives and the resources available to them in any way. Our Indian Constitution promises all its citizens equality in all aspects. Every person must be treated equally in the eyes of law and society as well.

HOW LIBERALISM CREATES NEW MARGINALITIES AND ITS CLASH WITH LIBERALISM?

Liberalism has been glorified for the expansion of Equal Rights, Liberty, Equality, and Democratic Processes. All these principles were necessary for the expansion of justices around the world. But the application of liberalism is where dispute starts, expansion of liberalism to an extent where the challenge for liberalism is less from other social forces and more from inherent weakness reason exacerbated by its successes. Marginality has two types, Imposed and Chosen. In Imposed Marginality, powerful groups using their legal, economic, social, and political influence push less powerful groups to the edges of disparity.

Marginalizing may often lead to anger and bitterness, and in response for this marginalized

lay in wait of opportunities in anticipation of curb time when scores might be settled. The second type of marginality is by Choice in which the groups, usually for scholarly, artistic, or religious reasons desire to part themselves and head marginally to the larger political, social, and economic community. In contrast to Imposed marginality in which the marginalized desire more extensive economic, cultural, and political participation, people marginal by choice are happy to be left alone.

It was not too long ago when it seemed like a lucid dream for liberalism that would drive in a very way, we thought we wanted to go on the path of open markets, free democracy, and people-centered democracy. Then came a thought that created a bubble of disapproval towards liberalism and that too in multiple continents, from superpowers like the US and Russia to post-colonial states such as Hungary, Nicaragua, and the Philippines. In some countries this is so prevalent that this narrative is being shaped by isolated manifestations of discontent to an extent just enough to enable the ruling elite to make uncomfortable adjustments, in others, it enabled to an extent that it enabled the strongmen to completely dominate the narrative.

The apparent truth is that marginalization is the residue of liberalism. As in a system where the main objective is to prevent individual liberty with minimal intervention and freehand if given quashes the legitimacy of individual rights. Liberalism has achieved its purpose, maybe even exceeded it. It needs a recalibration, Individual liberty, not for the sake of liberty but targeted for the vulnerable and marginalized. Liberalism's past sprints long history of wins but unless it evolves with the pace of time and populism, it runs at risk of being side-lined.

HOW ELITE IN INDIA BENEFIT FROM LIBERAL POLICIES?

The corrupt government often ties up with big players and privatizes a chunk of publicly owned land by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and allocating land to establish businesses for establishing business varying from agri-business, SEZ (Special Economic Zones), dams, etc. Taxes are usually kept very low in these deals with a low probability of new businesses entering identical businesses. In the case of Tata Steel in Chhattisgarh, the Government of Chhattisgarh signed an MOU with the company, and a vigilante militia was established for ground clearance operation to eradicate the local forest people so that Tata could set up its steel plant. This resulted in approx. 600 locals were burnt alive, raped, and murdered forcing 50,000 people into police camps and displacement of more

than 350,000 locals. The government labeled these people as 'Maoist Rebels' but, they were just displaced and exploited people. Marginalization led them to gain no proper knowledge of law so how they can expect proper access to Justice.

Based on cultural norms in India, belief practices and customs derives their legitimacy from principles of caste and religion in Hinduism. For example, scavenging, shoemaking, hair cuttings are considered impure and are performed by lower caste. Caste inequality has been socially constructed since age-old norms and customs exist and practices to project social and political interests. These groups try to dictate and impose their world view, their practices, beliefs, and customs on other depressed groups. Self-imposed caste discrimination- members of lower caste have internalized caste inequality as a basic and consider their position divinely provided and they willingly submit to the dictates of the upper caste.

NEO-LIBERAL MARGINALITY IN INDIA - CONTRADICTIONS OF DEVELOPMENT

The maximization of profit if takes precedence results from the human brain perceived as capital. In a world where capitalistic logic of demand and supply exists and determines the ups and downs, the ones in power determine development, define rich and poor, the lower and the upper caste. The capitalistic approach brought discrimination for the lower and weaker stratum of the society from outside the country witnessed a maelstrom of social changes in its various spheres, but this development excluded the grass root level of society. Globalization brought an increase in the economic differences and religious and cultural disparities between people. Though the country welcomed liberalization and westernization, the old ideology of 'money is power' remains in India. The only difference that came in recent years is that power structures have adopted to new modus operandi (a particular way or method of doing something) to continue marginalization, discrimination, and inequality in this country. With the addition of Liberalization consumerism and new commodity, patterns came into the lives of the Indian people. Though neo-liberalized India saw a favorability in women at huge joining workforces, liberalization quashed the dystopic space of women being treated subjectively for their identity. Transgenders are still neglected as 92% of India's trans people are unable to participate in any economic activity, less than half of them have education and 62% of them face discrimination, sure they can see their workplace as a site for no discrimination if Liberalism one day, provides them more resources to think and accept LGBTQ+ normal. The elasticity which is one of the fundamental characteristics of the term

'Queer' is still not accepted by Indian society.

Deprivations in the well-being of the marginalized should be removed for the effective rendering of social justice in India. Enterprises that are not public generally belongs to the top caste (10% of the total population), which holds 60% of the total wealth in India, does not promote the ideology for caste-based reservation in their workplaces, so a man belonging to slum, add his inability to study a result of his necessitation and his caste which he cannot decide, will have no chance to get enrolled in a multi-crore firm which only prefers perfect employees, so at last, he falls in a vicious cycle of poverty in a country which promotes equality but when it's turning for the support, they can't. By birth in the upper caste, the individual enjoys higher social status, inherent cultural capital, more economic powers and uses the same against the individual born in a lower caste.

From the historical point of view, they have been subjected to the worst type of societal exploitation. They are mainly landless with little control over resources such as land, forest, and water. They constitute a large proportion of agricultural laborers, casual laborers, plantation laborers, industrial laborers, etc. This has resulted in poverty among them, low levels of education, poor health, and reduced access to healthcare services. They belong to the poorest strata of society and have severe health problems.

The case of resource-rich states of Jharkhand, Orissa, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh are located in eastern and central India. Mining areas in these states are leased out to big global corporations that left many poor tribal homeless. Common and wastelands that were traditionally providing livelihood to the tribal are being taken over to create Special Economic Zones (SEZ), rich coastal areas with enormous biodiversity are handed over to corporations for making chemical hubs, natural resources like rivers and ponds are being privatized for commercial purposes. New economic spaces are given land carved out of existing agricultural lands, forests, fishing zones, villages, and even slums in part to promote more economic activities, resulting in mass displacement of economically weaker sections inviting state atrocities and violence.

Colonial History is witnessed that the Adivasis of Jharkhand's mica-rich areas are being exploited by the other people to make more capital for their benefit. And even now no changes could have been made, exploitation of the people in these areas remains rampant since colonial times. Although China is the largest producer of Mica globally, a report

suggests if we add

70% of illegal mica produce from India, India will become the world's largest producer of Mica. The biggest constituent of illegal mining is the private sector, who employs a group of people to collect illegal mica to sell it to export companies, which provide it to big cosmetic industries across the globe. In remote villages of Jharkhand, children risk their lives every day to extract mica flakes. Mica is a shimmery ingredient used globally in makeup products. A huge number of children are hired to rummage through the crumbling mines with bare hands. Around 22,000 children work in these illegal mines, with an average wage of 30 Rupees per day. The Marginal difference is so huge that poverty-stricken parents of these children have no choice but to send them to work. Many children face skin infection, tuberculosis, respiratory infection, asthma, and many of them supposedly died while working in the mines. However, while working in mines is illegal, local officials often cover them up, thus making the actual fatality count rather difficult. Income disparity and marginality is the biggest cause of the exploitation of labor in India.

All countries across the globe ratify the principles of equal opportunities and equal rights, research shows that when it comes to schooling and education, some people are more equal than others, the marginalized being least equal at all. Inequalities linked to low parental income, gender, ethnicity, and other factors continue to intensify marginalization till now. In our country the education of boys is more valuable than a girl, not to add a layer of disadvantage with child marriage. Members of ethnic minorities face obstacles to equal opportunity, starved of an opportunity to learn their language, and face social stigmatizing lines daily, all of which lead them to be socially and mentally handicapped.

DEVELOPMENT AND NEO-LIBERALISM

India appears to be a successful case of developing democracy in South Asia both in terms of free and fair elections and governance. But if we think deeper, this impression does not stand scrutiny. With the neoliberal paradigm shift in the economic policy regime in India, especially since 1991 the rise of politics of identity and ethnicity, most strongly mobilized in the form of Hindutva (Not defined in any epic) in the national arena and a variety of regional parties based on religious, caste, and tribal identities. There has also been an unprecedented growth concerning corruption and criminalization of politics since the rise of neoliberalism in the Indian political economy (1991). It is no case that these vices were non-existent before

the neoliberal shift, rather that they have become much more endemic since then.

GLOBALISATION AND MARGINALISATION

Globalization is not just an economic and monetary phenomenon, it also has a fine effect on cultural, political, social, legal, and religious life. These aspects of globalization interact with each other and there are feedback and communication loops between them. These effects may be unexpected and contradictory. The rapid erosion of traditional cultures and religious beliefs is common in all regions of the world, but there are also powerful reactions asserting ethnic, caste, linguistic, territorial, religious, or political identities. In pluralist societies, cultural exclusion occurs when a person or a group of people is not allowed to participate in society in the way that others are allowed and encouraged to do, or when the one group in society denies recognition of a lifestyle that another group would choose, for instance by insisting that members of that group must live exactly like the dominant group.

Though most a few decades ago believed that social and economic inequalities were unfair, thoughts after the introduction of neoliberalism cannot be underestimated. Though it reduces the citizens to mere consumers, it also increases individuals to get the opportunity to aspire to dignity and mobility by connecting them to the modern market. Globalization had a great effect on the economy, lifting almost 2 billion people out of poverty in 10 years (2006-2016).

CHALLENGES OF LIBERALISM IN INDIA

Liberalism is more challenged in India today than in any other democracy across the globe. As conservative communities appear to have gained more importance and untrammelled power in recent times. Self-proclaimed custodians of caste and religion are perpetually breathing down the necks of young men and women, dictating who they must meet, converse with, befriend and marry, what they should eat, wear, watch or read, whether they can use mobile phones, and even where they can go and when. By encroaching on the most intimate relationships of love and friendship, interfering in matters of pleasure or habit, they suffocate personal freedoms and violate the very basic norms of individual choice. Secondly, people find it much more difficult to express themselves freely. Thirdly, large corporations with the help of the government have access to virtually every detail about us, making us vulnerable and insecure. Fourth, confidence in the rule of law is brutally shaken, on the other end, we often fear excesses by official agents at every level of government, worry that power will be

abused on us, that some person in charge of law and order will behave lawlessly.

CONCLUSION

The purpose of this research was to find out how Liberalism creates new Marginalities. Based on the analysis conducted, there are multiple previews on which extent of Liberalism creates a sense of despair between rich and poor, religions, educated ones, ethnicities, language dialects, genders, age groups, people with disabilities, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, etc. To rebuild and instill that can remove the evils of marginalization, and to ensure ongoing progressive food security programs, good public healthcare systems, good regulators, abolition of untouchability and discrimination.

