



EMERGING THE CHALLENGES AND RECENT SOCIAL CHANGES IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

In India, some people are attracted to same- sex marriages recently. Foreign countries were the source of that. In India, that was not a legal marriage at that time. Legal marriage in India requires some conditions that are fulfilled by the marriage parties. If the marriage parties were finished, in those conditions, they would be called couples. India now recognises the legality of same- sex marriages. They are also human beings. We need to accept their rights as well. They haven't committed any wrongdoing. Indian people must accept these changes. Because changing is an important part of our day-to-day lives. But mere people were criticising the people who have committed a same- sex marriages. That will affect them enormously in their lives. In my opinion, they were chosen by their willingness. There is no right to criticise them. That issue had an impact on me, so I decided to write an article about recent changes in India.

Keywords: Same Sex Marriage, LGBTQ+ Rights, Social Acceptance in India.

INTRODUCTION

Social change is the alteration of the social order of a society, which may include changes in social institutions, social behaviours or social relations. Sustained at a large scale, it may lead to social transformation. Change is the best part of our day-to-day lives. Because that will make people more independent. Changing means a person was changing their behaviours or rituals for society to become better. Everyone might have to change for their self-development. Because if a person is choosing a profession and also wants to be a more intelligent person, they might have to use advanced technology that is made for their profession. When he does those things, then he becomes the best person in his profession. An example of that is Artificial

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Intelligence, because if people were to use those AI tools correctly in their day-to-day lives. That will make them intelligent.

CHALLENGES THAT ARE FACED BY THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT

India recently faced a multitude of challenges across various sectors. Those challenges are making the government ineffective. And that is also influencing the public to think that the government is not taking any action for public welfare. But the truth is the government make mere actions for preventing those challenges. But the government couldn't prevent those challenges on their own. Because people might have to help the Government to prevent those, when the people agreed to do that, then the government have to overcome that sufficiently. The challenges that are faced by the government like issues of poverty, unemployment, economic development, and climate change. Poverty is a state or condition where individuals lack the financial resources and essential goods and services to maintain a basic standard of living. Including adequate food, shelter, and healthcare. It can be defined as a lack of income or resources to meet basic human needs, such as food, clothing and shelter. Poverty also encompasses social, economic and political elements and can lead to insecurity and powerlessness. The government had to take so many steps to prevent poverty. But it's not that effective. Today government also takes a few steps to prevent poverty. But it takes some time. So, we have to wait for that and trust the process that the government is taking. Unemployment refers to the state of not having a job, despite actively seeking work. It's a key indicator of economic health, reflecting the inability of an economy to provide jobs for those who want to work. The unemployment rate is the percentage of the labour force that is unemployed. Those are the problems faced by India.

WESTERNISATION

Westernisation is the process by which societies adopt or are influenced by the cultural, social, and technological aspects of Western societies, particularly those of Europe and North America. This can include changes in language, clothing, technology, law, political systems and lifestyle. While it can lead to advancements and globalisation, it can also result in the erosion of local cultures and traditions. An example of that is that recently, so many Indian people are attracted to or influenced by the Korean culture and technologies. The people went crazy for that, like they will learn the Korean language, and they are dressing like them, and they also want a boy like a Korean guy. The Korean culture had a profound impact on them.

So, they are trying and practice the Korean culture. And the technology of Korea was developed more than India, like Korea having a self-serving shop and every place in Korea that uses advanced technologies. So that people of India get attracted to that.

CULTURAL CHANGES

Cultural change in India refers to the dynamic transformation of the nation's customs, traditions, beliefs, lifestyle, and behaviour patterns. This evolution can be driven by both internal innovations and external influences, leading to shifts in cultural narratives, expression, and even the adoption of new identities. India has twenty-two official languages, but now most people use the language English for their communication. And the famous festivals of India, known as Diwali, Holi, Pongal, etc. Before, it was celebrated by Indian people only, but now it is influencing Western countries. They also want to celebrate those festivals in their countries. And they also want to visit India; it is a good idea for India because it will help in increasing tourism in India. And it also enhances the income development of India. These are the cultural changes of India.

LGBTQ+ RIGHTS IN INDIA

In India, LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer) rights have seen significant legal advancements, particularly with the decriminalization of same-sex relationships and the recognition of a third gender. However, societal acceptance and comprehensive legal protections are still areas of ongoing effort. The 2014 NALSA (National Legal Services Authority) decision recognised transgender individuals as a third gender, granting them legal recognition. The Madras High Court has directed the state to provide welfare services to the LGBTQ+ community. India has made significant strides in LGBTQ+ rights, but the journey towards full equality and acceptance is far from over. While legal advancements have been crucial, addressing societal attitudes and ensuring comprehensive legal protections remain critical for the LGBTQ+ community in India. The milestone example for that is a case named *Navtej Singh Johar v Union of India*¹. The Supreme Court of India decriminalised consensual homosexual acts by striking down Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code. This landmark ruling, delivered in 2018, recognised that sexual orientation is a natural part of identity and that criminalising same-sex relations violates Fundamental rights to equality, privacy, and dignity. The Court affirmed that sexual orientation is inherent and that

¹ *Navtej Singh Johar v Union of India* AIR 2018 SUPREME COURT 4321.

denying these rights to minority groups is unconstitutional. Petitioners argued that section 377 violated Articles 14, 15, and 21 of the Indian Constitution, which guarantee rights to equality, non-discrimination, and personal liberty, respectively. The Court recognised the right to privacy and the right to choose one's sexual partner as inherent aspects of the right to life under Article -21. This decision was a significant victory for LGBTQ+ rights in India, allowing individuals to live with greater dignity and freedom.

WEAKENING OF THE CASTE SYSTEM

The weakening of the caste system in India refers to a decline in the rigidity and social stratification that characterised the traditional divisions between castes are becoming less pronounced, and social mobility and interaction between castes are increasing. The Indian Constitution guarantees equality and prohibits discrimination based on caste. Legal measures like the protection of the Civil Rights Act and the Schedule castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act aim to protect individuals from caste- based discrimination and atrocities. The decline in the Power and influence of Landlords, who often played a significant role in maintaining caste hierarchies in rural areas, has also contributed to the weakening of the system. Various social movements, such as the Arya Samaj, have challenged the traditional caste system and advocated for social equality. In essence, the weakening of the caste system reflects a shift towards a more egalitarian and socially mobile society in India, where caste is becoming less of a determinant of an individual's social standing and opportunities.

INCREASING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN INDIA

Recently, in India, women have participated in every department, like law, politics, social services, and the IT profession; every profession has seen an increase in the percentage of women participation. It was very helpful to the government to make it more developed. This increase is particularly notable in rural areas and is driven by various factors, including government initiatives and changing socio-economic conditions. The female labour force participation Rate has increased from 23.3% in 2017- 18 to 41.7% in 2023-24, according to the periodic labour force survey (PIFS). The government is also focusing on enhancing the employability of female workers through vocational training programs at women's Industrial Training Institutes and other vocational training centres. There's been a notable increase in self-employment among rural women, particularly in sectors where the government has

provided support. By continuing to focus on these areas, India can further enhance female participation in the workplace and unlock the full potential of its female population.

TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS

In India, technological advancement generally refers to the ongoing process of developing and adopting new and improved technologies across various sectors, leading to increased efficiency, productivity, and innovation. It encompasses the creation of new tools, methods, and systems, as well as the refinement of existing ones, to enhance capabilities and address societal needs. This includes advancements in areas like information technology, space exploration, biotechnology, renewable energy and more. Technological advancements are a key driver of economic growth, leading to increased productivity and competitiveness. These advancements can significantly impact society by improving communication, access to information, education, and healthcare. The Indian Government actively support technological growth through various initiatives and policies, such as Make in India, Digital India, and Startup India. In essence, technological advancements in India are a dynamic process of embracing and developing new technologies.

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

Recently, in India, there were some Acts replaced or amended in 2023. These are recent legislative changes in India.

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS):² BNS stands for Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which is a new criminal code for India that will replace the existing Indian Penal Code (IPC). It aims to modernise and consolidate criminal law, introducing new offences, increasing penalties for some existing ones, and removing outdated provisions. The BNS introduces new offences such as those related to organised crime, which include kidnapping, extortion, and cybercrimes committed on behalf of a crime syndicate, and terrorism, defined as acts that threaten the unity, integrity, and security of the country. The BNS aims to promote justice, enhance accountability, protect victims 'rights, and simplify the legal process.

The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Adhiniyam (BNSS):³ The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Adhiniyam (BNSS), 2023, is a new law in India that replaces the Code of Criminal Procedure,

² The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita- 2023.

³ The Bharatiya Suraksha Adhiniyam – 2023.

1973 (CrPC). It aims to modernise and improve the criminal justice system by consolidating and amending the law relating to criminal procedure. The BNSS received presidential assent on December 25, 2023. The BNSS emphasises victim involvement in the legal process by mandating digital delivery of FIR copies and investigation updates, and ensuring victims' hearings in serious cases. It mandates summary trials for minor offences to speed up the process. The BNSS allows for the electronic examination of accused persons and the use of audio–video electronic means for evidence collection. The BNSS expands to scope of property seizure and alters the powers of police and magistrates.

The Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA):⁴ The Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2022 (BSA) is a new Indian law that replaces the Indian Evidence Act, 1872. It aims to consolidate and update the rules and principles of evidence from a fair trial. The BSA incorporate modern legal terminology, admissibility, and includes electronic records as primary evidence and addressing the digital landscape. The BSA is structured with 4 parts, 12 chapters, and 170 sections covering various aspects of evidence law.

Constitution of India:⁵ The most significant constitutional Amendment in 2023 was the 106th Amendment, also known as the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam. This amendment introduces a one–third reservation for women in the Lok Sabha (House of the People) and state legislative assemblies. This includes seats already reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). The amended aims to increase women's representation in Indian politics and decision–making bodies. The amendment does not include a separate quota for women from Other Backwards Classes (OBCs). There were discussions and debates regarding the inclusion of OBC reservations within this framework.

CONCLUSION

These are the recent changes in India. Changing is the best part of our lives, so we could change some behaviours or actions, rituals, as that is a good thing for people. And we also have to accept that. At the same time, people might have to be aware of that. Because sometimes changes made people crazier or mad, like that. So, we have to spread that awareness to people to protect themselves from falling into those changes madly. That will help to build better governance for people.

⁴ The Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam – 2023.

⁵ The Constitution of India – 1950.