

# Transforming the Dimensions of Democracy for the Empowerment of India

Mamta Chhabriya<sup>1</sup>, Roman Janbandhu<sup>2</sup>

Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities, Priyadarshini College of Engineering, Nagpur, India<sup>1</sup>

Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities, Priyadarshini College of Engineering, Nagpur, India<sup>2</sup>

**ABSTRACT:** Indian Democracy has transcended an era of obscurity and has put itself ahead on the learning curve. It did a yeoman's service by keeping the social fabric of the nation intact. An odyssey of six decades of Indian democracy have offered plethora of learning opportunities and challenges. The demographic dividend of India is at stake. In the context of changing dynamics of Indian society there is a dire urgency to put Indian democracy on the anvil once again. It does not really mean that we should throw the baby out with the bath water. While keeping the pristine character of Indian democracy intact we need to reshape and sharpen it further so as to redress certain evils which are at play and eroding the sacrosanct character of India.

This research paper hinges upon limited areas like electoral reforms, political accountability, vulnerability of media, crony capitalism, economic inequality, judicial reforms, pseudo hype of patriotism and freewheeling of falsified propaganda by vested interests the grey areas which present democratic set up of India have failed to address.

**KEYWORDS:** Democracy, Demographic dividend, Crony capitalism, judicial reforms.

## I. INTRODUCTION

India is considered to be the largest democratic country in the world. Democracy is defined as a government of the people, by the people and for the people. It is considered the finest form of government in which every individual participates consciously and in which the people remain the sovereign power determining their destiny. So, in democracy the people are the ultimate source of power and its success and failure depend on their wisdom, consciousness and vigilance. Explaining Indian democracy requires a wide array of tools and lenses because India's democracy has displayed changes not only in historical and political arenas but also cultural, sociological, judicial and economical areas. Fortunately, not being methodological dogmatist, India did not hesitate to mix, adapt and reorient tools and objectives as required by Indian conditions. India is best described in its complexities where various cultures are accepted, different religions followed and being paradoxical is celebrated. Indian democracy has proved substantial as well as durable and has succeeded for more than half the twentieth century, may be because this country has always believed in accepting social contradictions. We the people of India have made this country partly truth and partly fictional, where astronomical growth is coupled with extreme poverty, a vibrant citizenry coexists with intense corruption, and modernity is juxtaposed with antiquity confound and confused observers. Today in the twenty-first century, the youth of our nation believe, that they have the power to change the country more than any government. Earlier the question used to be "what can the country do for us? But today the question is, "what can we do for our country?" The bigger question is when the youth wants to involve themselves in changing the ideologies of a nation and bridge the gaps of the past and the present, will they succeed by continuing to believe in the same democratic principles enumerated in the Indian constitution or there is an instant need to transform the dimensions of our democratic system to empower India. Today the world's most populous democracy is facing daunting challenges and addressing these issues has become a major concern towards development of this nation. Of the panoply of challenges faced by this large democracy, some are perennial and usually of a low intensity yet others are seasonal and high-stakes.

# International Journal of Innovative Research in Science, Engineering and Technology

(An ISO 3297: 2007 Certified Organization)

Website: [www.ijirset.com](http://www.ijirset.com)

Vol. 6, Issue 6, June 2017

## II. DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND

It's become quite fashionable to talk about India's demographic dividend. Demographic composition of any nation plays an important role in the growth and development of the economy. The proportion of working age group in the total population is deemed to be more important for framing the policies for economic growth and development.

Demographic dividend is a population bulge in the working age category and occurs when a falling birth rate changes the age distribution of a population. It is a rise in the rate of economic growth due to a rising share of the working age population. Demographic dividend is essentially due to two factors – declining birth rate and improvement in life expectancy. The pertinent question is whether India will be able to reap the benefits of its demographic dividend by only increasing its employability and quality of labour force. Demographic Dividend is a limited time window, and it is very essential to frame appropriate policies to be able to utilize this window. The urgency to put in place appropriate policies is magnified by the reality that what follows the “demographic dividend” is a time when the dependency ratio begins to increase again. How much of the demographic dividend we are able to realize ultimately depends on India's performance on key indicators like the number of quality jobs created, the education levels, the social security net available. To achieve the outcomes on the ground however, we have to go beyond the key indicators and look to work on certain fundamental aspects. The economic fundamentals, the quality of public service delivery, the governance of the country are those fundamental aspects, which will ultimately give us results on those key indicators.

And these aspects certainly go beyond the realm of government to include the people, the civil society, the businesses and the institutions of the country. Thus, realizing India's demographic dividend is the responsibility of each and every one of us. The entire country has to raise itself and play its role in helping achieve the desired outcomes.

## III. INDIA'S DEMOCRATIC CHALLENGES

For more than sixty-five years we have witnessed the conduct of successful elections, peaceful changes of government at the Centre and in the States, people exercising freedom of expression, movement and religion. But democracy is not limited to just a process of election, but also fulfilling social and economic aspirations of the people and India has also been developing and transforming economically and socially. Yet Indian democratic system struggles with challenges like Illiteracy, social and economic inequality, poverty, gender discrimination, casteism, communalism, religious fundamentalism, regionalism, religious extremism, corruption, criminalization, political violence, militancy and caste-based violence. There is a dire need for poverty alleviation, elimination of gender discrimination, removal of regional imbalances, administrative and judicial reforms and sustained economic, social and environmental development, electoral reforms, political accountability, vulnerability of media, crony capitalism, economic inequality and pseudo hype of patriotism. The democratic system of India may be running smoothly but the transition of this country from being a developing nation to a developed one has been failing time and again. Today India needs huge public investment in health, housing, agriculture and renewable energy. Malnutrition remains widespread, the state of education is appalling, child labour continues unabated, and the state machinery is a bastion of unfettered violence against the most vulnerable groups in India.

As citizens of India, we believe that the government rules the people who have to respect the political authority and obey it. They are there to be governed. But don't you think we need to evolve our thinking in terms of a democracy. The people who are citizens in a democratic system like India cannot and ought not remain passive and treat themselves as governed. In fact, a democracy can be successful and vibrant only when citizens imbibe and reflect in their mindset, thinking and behaviour the basic values like equality, freedom, secularism, social justice, accountability and respect for all. They have to appreciate the opportunities for their desired roles and play proactive roles to actualize the goals of democracy.

## IV. ELECTORAL REFORMS

There has been universal appreciation of the Indian electoral system. People have hailed the manner in which elections have been conducted in India. It has been observed that in spite of the efforts of the election commission to ensure free

# International Journal of Innovative Research in Science, Engineering and Technology

(An ISO 3297: 2007 Certified Organization)

Website: [www.ijirset.com](http://www.ijirset.com)

Vol. 6, Issue 6, June 2017

and fair election, there are several shortcomings. And in order to vote wisely it is necessary that each citizen listens to and knows the views of different parties and candidates, and then makes his or her own decision on whom to vote for. It is also learnt that in many cases the percentage of voting is still low. The Election Commission is doing its best to educate the people about importance of participation in elections. The election commission also faces series of problems like involvement of unaccounted money, bribing, rigging or voter's intimidation, impersonation and providing transport and conveyance of voters to and fro the polling stations, Caste based voting, violence during elections etc.

To bring electoral reforms in India it is important to change the behavior of the political class and change the system in which they operate. We urgently need fundamental political reform, including referendum on electoral reform, much greater cooperation across party lines, and changes to or political system to make it more transparent and accountable.

**Referendum:** The expression of public opinion through voting by the people on a law passed by the legislature is known as referendum. People get a chance to approve or reject a law. They develop interest and gain participation in law making. They also become conscious about law. This is widely practiced in Switzerland for amendments of the constitution and for making ordinary laws. Some of the states in the United States of America too follow this practice.

**Recall:** This is the removing of elected representatives from office before the end of their tenure when performance is unsatisfactory.

**Plebiscite:** Plebiscite is not conducted in matters relating to legislation. Plebiscite is a mechanism to ascertain the decisions of the people on issues of grave public importance. This will help prevent the imposing of the views of the minority on the majority.

**Initiative:** Initiative means the direct involvement of the people themselves in the law making process when legislature commits mistakes or defaults in law making. Such interventions are made when the law making body makes wrong commissions or omissions. This method is resorted to when a specified number of electors demand direct law making by themselves. A law desired by the people can be submitted either in brief or in full text before the legislature. The legislature is then bound to enact that law as submitted by the specified number of electors. In case such a law as desired by the people is not enacted by the legislature, it will be further submitted before the whole body of electors for their final decision. This method is followed in Switzerland and in some of the states in the United States of America.

Introducing internal democracy and transparency within political parties is important to promote financial and electoral accountability, reduce corruption, and improve democratic functioning of the country as a whole."

## V. CRONY CAPITALISM

One of the greatest dangers to the growth of developing countries is the middle income trap, where crony capitalism creates oligarchies that slow down growth. Crony capitalism is where the rich and the influential are alleged to have received land, natural resources and spectrum in return for payoffs to venal politicians. By killing transparency and competition, crony capitalism is harmful to free enterprise, opportunity, and economic growth. And by substituting special interests for the public interest, it is harmful to democratic expression. Our EX-RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan stated "three factors — land, natural resources, and government contracts or licenses — are the predominant sources of the wealth of our billionaires. And all of these factors come from the government." The recent Vijay Mallya case shows how India jumped from crony socialism to crony capitalism.

Many complain that Indian politics is deprived of honest men, but when middle class professionals or other such groups stand for elections with a hope to clean politics, they end up losing their deposits. The lack of transparency in the system survives because the venal politician "is the crutch that helps the poor and underprivileged navigate a system that gives them so little access". This is a vicious cycle where the people vote for a politician because he can tweak the system a little in their favour, which otherwise does not let the common man access what is their right. Every politician considers his association with a businessman and this cycle of dependency continues and ensures the status quo prevails. Instances of conflict of interests are but symptoms of deeper systemic issues plaguing the political system where weak or absent regulations, feeble enforcement and Neglect of systemic issues is further giving rise to crony capitalism.

# International Journal of Innovative Research in Science, Engineering and Technology

(An ISO 3297: 2007 Certified Organization)

Website: [www.ijirset.com](http://www.ijirset.com)

Vol. 6, Issue 6, June 2017

## VI. CORRUPTION

India seems to be becoming a booming economy, but it still hasn't taken speed to tread the path to reach a developed country. This slow growth reveals how rampant government corruption is affecting our country. Corruption is a serious economic issue as it adversely affects the country's economic development and achievement of developmental goals. It promotes inefficiencies in utilization of resources, distorts the markets, compromises quality, destroys the environment and of late has become a serious threat to national security. It also adds to the deprivation of the poor and weaker sections. There are three distinct types of malfeasance: facilitative, collusive and extractive corruption.

1. Facilitative corruption: We as Indians will immediately recognize facilitative corruption from our regular interaction with officials demanding bribes to perform or expedite the basic functions of their job, for eg: when people violate traffic rules, for issuing land sanctions, issuing vehicle license etc.

2. Collusive corruption: Collusive corruption involves bribes paid to circumvent regulations, kickbacks from government procurement, and bribes paid to illegitimately obtain government contracts or licenses.

3. Extractive corruption: Extractive corruption comprises diverse crimes, from embezzlement and harassment bribery to shirking and simply not showing up to work. Since corruption prevails in all public sectors from our policy to law makers, eradicating corruption should be considered of utmost importance.

Narendra Modi touted the catchy slogan, "*Na khaunga na khane dunga*" during his election campaigns. This pledge to eradicate corruption from our Indian system, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was elected to power. Eradicating corruption cannot be based on opinions, it requires accountability of the wider sections of the society while not subverting the democratic and parliamentary process.

Corruption can be eradicated from Our Indian system only when :

1. E-governance will be applicable to all public, private and government transactions. Once everything becomes on-line, there will be little opportunity for corruption.
2. All govt projects must be time-bound . Fixed time for all projects failing which a strict penalty for those involved.
3. All those involved in technical evaluation of bids must have clear well-defined instructions , especially on rejection criteria. No committee should have the power to relax any rules midway.
4. There should be a greater transparency in allocation of resources. Complete transparency in the licensing process of oil blocks, iron ore blocks, spectrum allocation, would reduce chances of corruption at macro level.
5. Corporates should also inculcate values in their employees and have strict policies and accountability for all national and international transactions too.

## VII. CONCLUSION

Globalization has indeed brought new opportunities and avenues for Indian citizens, but the fact is that not all are in a position to take advantage of these opportunities. This undermines the very universalistic foundation of democracy. Today our country does follow democracy socially and politically, but only the way it was taken from the roots of the Indian soil. Today Indian citizens do question hierarchies, suggest changes, talk about amendments and empowerment but yet our country has failed to realize the importance of transforming this democratic system. This paper has made an attempt to question the rate at which changes are being accepted and implemented in our Indian democratic system and are they really matching our social and economic empowerment too. Be it social or political the hitherto marginalized Indian citizen is trying hard to be heard but they are not making enough attempts to be considered the essence of our system and the nation. Today we cannot discern the real meaning of democracy, but by transforming the dimensions of our democratic system we will be able to empower liberation too.



ISSN(Online) : 2319-8753  
ISSN (Print) : 2347-6710

# International Journal of Innovative Research in Science, Engineering and Technology

(An ISO 3297: 2007 Certified Organization)

Website: [www.ijirset.com](http://www.ijirset.com)

Vol. 6, Issue 6, June 2017

## REFERENCES

1. Atanu Dey, Transforming India: Big Ideas for a developed Nation: Democracy and Freedom, Chapter 11, pp. 130-139.
2. Nagaraj V.Gudaganav, Rajashri.S.Gudaganavar, Demographic Dividend-Its Implications to India, Indian Journal of research, vol. 3, no.1, pp. 46-50, Jan 2014.
3. Paul Niehaus and Sandip Sukhtankar, Corruption Dynamics: The Golden Goose Effect, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, Vol. 5, No. 4, pp. 230-269, November 2013.