

## EDITORIAL

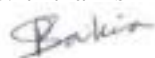
With the advent of the Information Age, the frontier of knowledge is fast expanding. Easy access to the electronic media, most particularly the internet, right within the four walls facilitates augmenting one's thirst for knowledge and information. This direction is a green signal in achieving uniformity among the academicians, scholars, researchers and readers in general irrespective of spatio-temporal locations. Despite this, a disquieting picture arises when a brief survey shows that research activity, primarily in the North-East, is far lagging behind in comparison to the pan-Indian scenario, not to talk about Europe and the U.S. The rich cultural mosaic and the multifarious issues including those of socio-political and socio-economic conditions with all their recent upheavals bear every possibility in opening up the much needed research activity. If perpetuated in right direction, this noble venture is likely to transcend the barrier of academics and may come out instrumental in alleviating the unrest cropped up in recent times.

However, the so called not-so-sound picture of research activity in the North-East has been undergoing a radical change with people engaging themselves in different fields, thanks to the initiatives taken up by the University Grants Commission. Be it under compulsion or on one's sweet will and interest, university and college teachers do research in the region. It is with a view to augmenting this move that a humble effort has been made under the banner of "Scholars' View" from Chaiduar College, Gohpur, Sonitpur, Assam. A biennial multidisciplinary research, as the journal is, Scholars' View aims at opening up a new phase in the field of research. Touching upon as many and varied fields as language and literature, rites and rituals, art and culture, politics, history and science, commerce related subject matters, the journal is all set to extend its area of interest in near future. The journal hopes to give space to scholarly works of high standard which are informed by theoretical, interdisciplinary, experimental and comparative perspective or approaches across the country and from all disciplines to publish. It's vision is to provide the national and hopefully, global academic community with a comprehensive and unique synthesis of different areas and spectra of knowledge.

The coming out of the journal would not have been possible, had the contributors from different fields not made their pain staking and praiseworthy efforts in preparing their research papers. I thank all of them and expect their co-operation in every conceivable aspect. Besides, I, on behalf of the entire editorial board, would like to acknowledge the commendable help and timely suggestion of the advisory committee and the much esteemed reviewers in preparing the journal. And the last but not the least our Principal Sir, Dr.A.K.Ozah, associated colleagues of the institution and Bhabani Offset and Imaging System, deserve kudos for their co-operation in bringing out this noble venture.

It is our earnest hope that "Scholars' View" will reap positive response from all concerned with the teaching-learning mechanism.

With thanks



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However, Indian Democracy still continues to live with several social and economic inequalities. These have been adversely affecting the life of the people. Because of these, India, still continues to face problems in the way of becoming a fully developed society and polity.

Let us discuss the challenge posed by prevailing social and economic inequalities and then try to suggest ways and means for removing these.

**b) The Challenge of Social Inequalities:**

Social inequalities prevailing in our country can be discussed in two main parts:

- i) Caste based Social Inequality and
- ii) Gender based Social Inequality.

**i) Caste based Social Inequality:** Indian society has been a caste-based society and social inequality exists between the upper caste or “Swarn Caste Hindus” and the so called “low Caste Hindus”. Indian society still stands broadly divided into high castes and low castes. Originally, Indian society got stratified in four basic castes- Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishe and Shudra. Latter on, these got divided into very large number of castes and sub-castes based on family inheritance and characterized by the so called higher and lower divisions involving rigid relations and prohibitions. Till today, Indian society continues to be a caste-ridden society. Caste based political parties caste-based interest groups, caste-based voting, caste-based selection of candidates for contesting election, caste based policies and decisions, caste violence, caste discrimination, caste conflict between reservations and anti reservationist caste group caste based groups, all reflect the presence of caste-based inequalities of India.

**ii) Gender based inequality:** Indian society continues to be male dominated society. Women of India continue to live with certain inequalities and exploitations. The Constitution of India grants equal fundamental rights to all the citizens. It declares that there is to be no discrimination on the basis of gender. Legally women enjoy equal opportunities for development as are being enjoyed by men. Article 39 of the Constitution of India calls upon the state to provide adequate means of livelihood to men and women. The 73<sup>rd</sup>, 74<sup>th</sup> Amendment Acts have also given 30% reservations to women in Panchayati Raj and Urban Local Government institutions. Besides, in 2006, the state enforced an act preventing domestic violence against women.

Despite constitutional provisions and directives women in India continue to suffer discrimination, injustice and exploration. It segregates the Indian society into male-dominated society.

**c) Impact of Social Inequalities on Indian Democracy:**

Social inequalities involving both caste-based and gender-based inequalities have been a source problem in the way of Indian democracy. These have resulted into:

- (i) An increased Social Conflict.
- (ii) Violence in the name of caste.
- (iii) Exploitation of women and their continued under-development.
- (iv) Continuance of evils like dowry, dowry deaths, violence against women, crime against women and female foeticide.
- (v) Grossly inadequate representation of women in social, economic and political life of Indian society.
- (vi) Limitations on Indian Democracy and its inadequate success in achieving the goals of social justice, welfare of all and all round development of all the citizens.

**d) What should be done to eliminate social Inequalities:**

The following steps can be suggested for eliminating social inequalities:

- (i) Caste based discriminations and violence should be checked through stronger laws, policies and actions.
- (ii) Promotion of secularism as the way of life by reforming the Indian education system.
- (iii) Securing the empowerment of women by all means: spread of women education, increased opportunities for employment and self employment of women, stringent punishment for the persons found guilty of female feticides and implementation of women oriented special development plans and programmes.
- (iv) All women organizations must organize campaigns against social evils.
- (v) Indian democracy must ensure that all the people should get encouraged to realize their responsibilities towards the nation. It must make them fully aware of their rights as well as duties.

**e) The challenge of Economic Inequalities:**

To secure economic justice has been a primary objective of the Indian state. The Preamble of the Constitution of India gives it first priority among the objectives to be achieved. Further the 42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment incorporated the word socialism in the preamble and it again reflected the fact that securing of economic equality, a fairer distribution of wealth and an egalitarian society, was a goal. Besides, the Directive principles give to the state several directives for securing the objective of economic equality. Though, the different steps have been taken by the Indian government for economic equalities, these steps have been adversely affected by the following reasons:

**f) Specific Impact of Economic Inequalities on Indian Democracy:**

- i) Population and poverty continue to limit the process of India's development.
- ii) Unemployment and mass poverty have been together acting as sources of increasing conflict and violence in Indian society and politics.
- iii) Economic inequalities have been responsible for giving rise to the harmful practice of sale and purchase of votes in elections.
- iv) Differentiation policy of Govt.
- v) Inadequate success in providing education.
- vi) Failure in implementing development oriented schemes.
- vii) Failure of government in promoting the interests of peasants, workers, women and all other weaker sections of society.
- viii) Highly increasing the problem of terrorism, communal violence.
- ix) Slow increasing the different developing infrastructure.

**g) Some Essential Steps for Removing Economic Inequalities:**

The need to meet the economic inequalities constitutes a major priority item on the national agenda for development. The following steps can help us:

- (i) Control of population through self conscious efforts of people and aided by voluntary organizations and social movements aimed at making the people fully aware of the benefits of the family welfare programme.
- (ii) Making Indian education system a value based system of learning, and undertaking the exercise of vocationalisation of education.
- (iii) Special steps for promoting the interests of peasants, workers, women and all other weaker sections of society.

- (iv) Special campaigns in the direction of securing land reforms, development of agriculture, irrigation and rural infrastructure.
- (v) To meet the challenge of poverty and employment by increasing employment opportunities and encouraging self-employment efforts.
- (vi) Panchayati Raj must be further empowered and motivated to become a major instrument of all round rural development.
- (vii) Special steps for developing infrastructure electricity road, means of transport and communication must be initiated on a priority basis.
- (viii) Effective implementation of policies, plans and laws, stringent measures for checking corruption are needed to achieve our development objectives and goals.
- (ix) Unity of people against the forces of terrorism, which are trying to destroy Indian economy, is the need of the hour.

#### 4. CONCLUSION:

From above discussion, we have found that social inequalities and economic inequalities have become the root causes of several evils like communalism, violence, exploitation and corruption. Though, the Constitution of India has provided different provisions and directives to eliminate social inequalities and economic inequalities these have been adversely affecting the life of the people. Because of these, India still continues to face problems in the way of becoming a fully developed society and polity.

Without eliminating social inequalities and economic inequalities, India Democracy can neither be a really healthy democracy nor can it hope to become a fully developed system of politics. To develop India, these have to be eliminated. People belonging to weaker sections of the society have to be empowered to become full and active partners in the process of nation-building. Women education, women employment, women empowerment and full women participation in economic and political life of society can go a long way in securing the removal of inequalities and under-development.

#### 5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

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