



Poverty Criminality and Communal Violence in India

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ABSTRACT

The India is considered as seventh largest country in an area wise and also the second largest countries in population wise. Being the largest demographic structure, it also represented diverse culture and tradition. Almost all the major religions of the world are borne and flourished in India. The prevailing socio economic upheavals from medieval period to British time and also foreign involvement of different countries in present time brought the country under various socio economic cries. One side there is poor management of limited resources, weak education system, illiteracy, superstition and uneven economic growth and development running in the country made the country meager. On the other side, there is also constant raising pressure of population on availability of limited resources, along with the false policies of government, put the country on the track of unemployment. Many educated youths feel the sense of deprivations and marginalization. In the same ways they have been engaged themselves in various criminal activities in the country. These criminal activities sometimes took shapes of various communal violence in the country. My attempt in this paper is only to discuss about the rising consensus of poverty, its causes and harmful effect on coming generation in reference to crimes happening due to various communal violence in the country. Moreover this paper also highlights the role of central government, its programs and policies for eradicating the poverty in the country. After analysing all the causes of poverty in India and its effects on coming generation, this paper also forward some suggestions that may overcome this burning problems in the country.

Keywords: Poverty, crimes, communal violence, role of government

India is one of the largest country in an area wise, occupied seventh largest position in the world map. Being a largest country, it is also occupied largest position in population, occupied second place in world ranking after china. India also has a great geo-strategically position in the world map. By keeping stronger interest of its geographical location, almost the entire world's major powers are interested in this region. A vast part of this country are dried unable to use for agriculture, due to harsh climate and uneven physiographic. In many places people are only depend upon jobs. When the resources of the country are limited and population is too much. In such circumstances most of the people involve themselves in various crimes for earning their bread and butters. Let us see the historical background in India what caused poverty generated in India?

Historical background

Historically India represented diverse culture and influence all over the history due to trade migration and external raid of some countries for plundering of wealth or expansion of their political empire on this region. No doubt India was a wealthy country once; everything, it occupied was economically valuable and culturally advanced. The economic system during the Indus valley system (2800BC-1800BC) was also advanced. Most of the Indus valley people practiced small scale agriculture, large scale domesticated animals. They also sold out different kinds weapons made up of copper and bronze metals. This had been their habit to manufactured and traded with rest of the countries included whole central Asia.¹

People of most of the continent used to visit in India. They came in India either for the purpose of trade or through different religious linked. In the meanwhile sudden abrupt changes took place when the British came in India they had settled their colonies in India. They had identified people on the basis of religions and castes. They started dividing people on the basis of caste and religions. Their motive was nothing but only to plunder the Indian wealth and resources. When, British colonised the country completely the economy of the country started declining. This had happened because of over exploitation and destruction of India's chief industries.²

What is Poverty?

It is a situation when people lack basic resources, knowledge, and ability to meet the necessary amenities of life. Infact it is not only the problem of India almost all the world suffered in this diseases. Historically people have relegated that poverty cannot separated from society and it is acceptable fatalistically. Let us see first the views of some thinkers on poverty.

Baratz and Grigsby define "Poverty as a severe lack of physical and mental wellbeing, closely associated with inadequate economic resources and consumption"³

This definition applied poverty as a material concept where people feel problem of food, clothing and home. When these things are not available at human's door they get the sense of living in poverty.

Deleek also define "Poverty is not restricted to one dimension, e.g. income, but it manifests itself in all domains of life, such as housing, education, health"⁴

India has suffered in poverty from long time. In spite of constant and transformed efforts by the central and state government in the country, this still continues to widespread in the whole country. It has been estimated that more than 37 percent population of the country still fall in the category of poor. India had played an important role in falling down poverty rate 51 percent in 1990 to 22 percent in 2015.⁵

According to World Bank report India made significant progress in eradicating poverty of the country. It showed

that from 2012 to 2015 India poverty rate reduced from 21.6 percent to 13.4 percent in the country. By getting this remarkable progress near about 90 million people escaped form extreme poverty in the country during this time period. The latest data of India showed that 176 million Indian people were living in extremes poverty.⁶ Poverty is related with small income, towering unemployment, poor physical condition, imperfect housing, absence of market opportunities, and poor educational accomplishment. Sequences of poverty are tremendously hard to smash and tend to last over many generations.

Causes of poverty in India

There are large numbers of causes that fuel up poverty in India, few of being notice here.

High Population Growth: India has great number population with wide data coverage 1.3 millions. This rapid growth of population in India is responsible for poverty in India. Because, the population growth rate has been increasing, from the last many decades. On the other side the resources of the country are already limited. The demand for goods is always more than the available resources. People are already depend upon the agriculture which is not so technological developed and advanced,. This condition heavily affects poor people; they directly or indirectly dragged themselves in labor supply that is the occupation get low income.⁷

Agrarian form of economy: Most of the population of India depends upon agriculture. They adopted traditional style methods of cultivation while practicing agriculture. There is no still significant technological development in the country. Almost poor facilities of irrigation are seemed in maximum part of the India. In this way the production available is very low, it could not meet the demand for rising significant population in the country.⁸

Unemployment: Due to large population and low accessibility of agriculture condition in the country people are only depends upon government Jobs. The average unemployment rate in India is 4.12 percent from 1983 to 2018. Unemployment rate in India increased 6.10 percent in 2018 from the previous year's 2017.⁹

Illiteracy and ignorance, Literacy rate of any country plays an important role in the country economic development. Moreover the India literacy rate is 79.31 percent (according to 2011 census), rest most of the population are illiterate. The data available shows that India literacy rate increased only slowly. Besides this there is gender disparities seemed in the country where the literacy rate for the men is 80.9 percent and 64.60% for women.¹⁰

Problems of communalism: India is large country with multi-religious society possessed. When the sense of communal ideology prevailed in the society, the young generation feels the sense of deprivation and marginalization by following policies of government the frustration appeared in the society. Due to this the attention of people diverged and some their interest of different community collide with each other. This has been seen from various communal violence happened in the country. There is vast killing and damaged of public and private property in the country.¹¹

Corruption: According to Transparency international report, India continues to be among the most corrupt country in the world. Due to this types of activates the poverty have been growing more and more in the country. From top to bottom, many officials are squeezing the blood of poor people. This caused also spread various crimes in the country.¹²

Poverty and crime in India

Poverty is itself main cause responsible for crime in the country. There are so many crimes happening daily in the country. It has been noticed that those area where poverty is too much there is high rate of crime noticed. Poverty is intimately associated to social anguish. Impoverished people are always seen more expected to be busy in subversive economy, they are involved in the use of alcohol and drugs, which, is infect a violent crime seen in the country. The rate of violent crime has been increased 29 percent from 2000 to 2010. The rate of murder also increased 41 percent from last two decades.¹³

In India rape has become the come crime against women. It has been reported by national crime

bureau of India every twenty mints a woman is raped in India. Further there is only ten percent cases of rapes are reported in India.¹⁴ Other than this there are various domestic violence seen on daily basis in the country.

Another data presented by NCRB in 2016 the total crimes in the country were recorded near about 2.97 million. In the same way crime rate was measured 379 crimes per lakh population in the country. In this report it was also mentioned that murder cases have increased from 53 to 59 where as kidnapping cases have been increasing from 1 to 3. The counting of rape cases rose up to 243 from 240 while the dowry cases have increased from 14 to 19.¹⁵

Role of Poverty and Communal Violence in the Country

When British came in India, they established their business network in the country. In this reverence the British occupation over India diverged from all previous foreign conquest. All the previous regimes overthrown Indian political power their business became good for some people but not good for all the majority people in the country. They didn't make any change in basis structure of Indian economy. The British invasion in the country brought major changes in Indian economy. They totally disturbed the traditional structure of Indian economy. They brought new methods of technology and innovation which affected the traditional skill and people suffered more and more in the country. They exploited all natural resources of the country, carrying away all natural wealth, ruin of Indian industries completely.¹⁶

According to Bapin Chandra, "though a religion was an important part in people liver, they did sometime quarrels over religions. There was hardly any ideology and communal politics. Communalism emerged as a modern phenomenon and its root structure in modern colonial socio economic political structure".¹⁷

For the purpose of gaining, they started divide and rule policy in the country and bifurcated many communities on the basis of religions and castes. They left the India on 15 August 1947, and made division of country on Basis of religion. Infect they left the country but the

Table 1: Showing the Death/Casualties during various Communal Violence in India

Name of communal violence	Years of occurring	No of people of both the communities Hindu and Muslim killed	No of people injured
Jabalpur Violence	1961		
Rourkela	1964	2,000	
Jamshedpur	1965		
Ranchi	1967	183	
Ahmadabad	1969	512	
Bhivandi Jalgaon	1970	76	
Moradabad	1980	2000	
Biharsharif	1981	80	
Baroda Gujarat	1982	17	50
Anti Sikh Riots	1984	4,000	
Meerut	1987	81	40
Indore	1989	27	
Gujarat	1990	224	775
Bhagalpur, Bihar	1989	826	
Banaras	1991	50	
Bombay	1992	1000	
Bhopal	1995	143	
Rajasthan	1998	25	
Ahmadabad, Gujarat	2,000		

Source: B Rajeshwari, *Communal Riots in India A chronology 1947-2003*.

seed which they had already sowed in India created the sense of alienation among the majority and minority community in the country. Both the community Hindu and Muslim started looking each other in suspicion. Their antagonistic feeling provoked various communal violence in the country. Once side the damaged of Indian economy done by British and people became frustrated. There was any option left for them to restore Indian economy back. The sense of poverty diverged people attentions. Instead of overcoming all this they started indulging in the religious affairs of each others. In the same way there were various communal violence had happed in pre- partition time.. e.g. 1713 in Ahmadabad 1809, Banaras 1863. Lucknow 1886 Delhi 1904 Mubarakpur 1923 Saharanpur. There were also large number of communal violence took place after the partition of the country.¹⁸

Communal violence that took place after the partition of India in 1947

Due to weak economy followed by sectarians' ideologies also adopted by British left deep impact on Indian culture and tradition. When India got partitioned by British in August 1947 the boarder was demarcated between Hindu Majority areas i.e. represented as Hindustan and Muslim Majority areas represented as Pakistan. The matter of drawing was not easy, the image of Pakistan was kept secret but when the line demarcated there was bloody partition more than 1 million people were died near about 15 million got displaced from their home and went to Pakistan¹⁹ Partition was the utmost catastrophe for India and it left everlasting scars on the Indian consciousness and nurtured a communal attitude.²⁰

CONCLUSION

India is a largest country in both area wise and population wise. Being the largest country its resources are very weak even not able to meet the demand of present generation. Earlier it was remained under the foreign rules. They had squeezed all its wealth and resources but didn't pay a single attention for its development. Instead of developing it they adopted every method and technique that made this country very poor. Due to foreign yoke, the rich people in the country became richer while the poor in the country become poorer. In this way majority of people came under the poverty. Poverty had led to illiteracy, ignorance unemployment in the country. Due to all these, lots of crimes have been created in India. For the sake of bread and butter the most people dragged themselves in various criminal activities like human trafficking, drug selling, and black money. Some people running the business of Mafia for the sake of money. Due to illiteracy and ignorance lot of other crime happening in the country like rape torture, daily basis home violence. There was other various communal violence, had happened in India. Although, the nature of communal violence, remained changing, from time to time in the country. The communal violence that happened before the partition of India was due to colonial legacy. Moreover the Violence that happened after the partition of the country were various factors involved, the combination of poverty, illiteracy, communal psyche, foreign involvement in the shape of terrorism, were also there. But we can't completely divorced from the country. We can minimize it if we put the following type of strategies. Some positive suggestions are as under.

Suggestions

- ❖ First the government of India should play active roles in the direction of population control. Although various schemes have been running to control population in the country but the attempt should also to bring new methods and technology to modify the conservative people behaviors'.
- ❖ Government should create more and more jobs through public and private sectors where the youths engage themselves in their work. This helps

the youths by keeping themselves free from various criminal activities.

- ❖ India's government should bring such policies by keeping the interest of both the majority and minority people together so that there would be no sense of marginalization and deprivation creates among the youths of different communities
- ❖ There shall be strict censure ship of those press that spreading the communal ideologies in the country and mobiles any community feelings.
- ❖ New methods and technologies should adopt for agriculture. So that people become self sufficient in agriculture in the country.
- ❖ A separate subject that shows the harmful effect of various crimes should introduce compulsory at primary and secondary level of education at schools and colleges though out the India. This can divert the attention of youth in the country.

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