



## The Status of Marginalized Groups in Indian Democracy

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### Abstract

*The main reason for calling democracy a way of life is that it is based on the human principles of freedom, equality, brotherhood, cooperation, sacrifice and coexistence. Democracy in the true sense is a system of value. Giving every person the full opportunity to develop his personality, as well as every person in the society is just as important as all other people in the society. Democracy is based on such a broad value. If we consider the democratic state in such a broad sense and not just the form of government, it becomes clear that the democratic theory is based on certain basic principles. Considering the basic principles, these include the rights of the individual, equality, freedom, sovereignty of the people, rule of the majority, belief in peace, creation and control of democratic institutions for policy making, etc. The idea of human rights is basically about emancipation and human freedom. Human rights have been considered in Indian society since ancient times. The social message given by Lord Mahavira and the Buddha, "Live and let live", guides the global human rights ideology. That is why the concept of human rights has been clearly enshrined in the Indian Constitution considering the fundamental rights of the common man.<sup>1</sup> Even though India has been independent for more than seventy years, there are huge disparities at the socio-political and economic levels. Today, public policy and decision-making is dominated by the capitalist class, the landlords, the upper bureaucrats, the upper castes and mainly men. This ruling class has an influence on the political and social system.<sup>2</sup> this class, which controls the affairs of the state, is at the center of the whole social system. Therefore, there is a huge number of marginalized groups in the country who are deprived of power, supremacy, justice, decision making and social, economic and political system, Agricultural laborers and the poor. Such groups are weakened socially, economically, educationally due to lack of education and employment opportunities. Even today, these groups are isolated from the mainstream of development. Therefore, in the broadest sense, these groups are exploited, secondary and deprived.*

**Key words:** Democracy, Equality, Human rights, Marginal groups, Constitution, Humanism.

### Introduction:

Democracy seems to be the norm in many parts of the world today. Democracy is based on the will of the people, and the importance of citizenship has been recognized by various thinkers. This citizenship provides a democratic system of government, which gives people all the rights to live life. After independence, India was born as a new nation on the world map. In the name of the Constitution, India ensures that all Indians enjoy social, economic, political justice, freedom of thought,

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<sup>1</sup>Ghugare, S.(2011), Manavadhikarachi Prachin Parshvabhumi, Aruna Prakashan Latur Pg. 212.

<sup>2</sup>Bhogale, S & Vaikar, A. Rajkiy Sakalpana Sindhant Ani Sanshta, Vidyabharati, Latur, Pg. 19.

expression, belief, worship and equality, as well as the unity and brotherhood of the nation.<sup>3</sup> Similarly, the guiding principles of the Constitution have adopted the ethical principles of welfare governance. The Constitution, based on the principles of democracy, socialism, secularism and adult voting, has adopted a policy of uniting all the elements of the nation to make democracy a success. From this, it has been decided to protect the human rights of the common man.

Human rights are a way of life that enables every person to lead a social life. Human rights are a basic social phenomenon that develops a person's personality. Human rights are a matter of justice for the dignity and honor that every man and woman enjoys as a person, a man, a human being, a person, a citizen, which is paramount in a democratic system.<sup>4</sup> This gives everyone the right to live life as a citizen. Indian democracy has set some goals for the development of the society such as equality, social and economic justice, which is meant to meet the minimum needs and uplift the standard of living. And to what extent was the objective of economic justice achieved and was the reflection of the public interest and public expectations reflected in the dealings of the state? These questions need to be considered. The present research paper has tried to consider this.

### **Significance of the study:**

Even though India has been independent for more than seventy years, there are huge disparities at the socio-political and economic levels. Today, public policy and decision-making is dominated by the capitalist class, the landlords, the upper bureaucrats, the upper castes and mainly men. This ruling class has an influence on the political and social system. Therefore, there are a huge number of marginalized groups in the country who are deprived of power, supremacy, justice, decision making and social, economic and political system, Agricultural laborers and the poor. Marginal groups have not developed as expected in a democratic system of governance. The democratic system has not succeeded in extending the rights of the people to the common man. Marginalized groups are being driven out of social consciousness. The conscience of the society in the state system which is now under the influence of capitalism has become so dull that many marginal groups have started the process of expulsion from social consciousness.

### **Objectives of the study:**

- 1) To study democracy and marginalized groups.
- 2) To study human rights and marginalized groups.
- 3) To study the perceptions of marginalized groups.

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<sup>3</sup>Palashikar, S.(2004),Samakalin Bharti Rajkaran, Pratima Prakashan, Pune, Pg. 09.

<sup>4</sup>Ghugare, S. (2011), Manavadhikarachi Prachin Parshvabhumi ,Aruna Prakashan Latur, Pg. 212.

## Research method:

The presented research essay is based on secondary tools. The analysis method has been adopted by collecting information from reference books, books, newspapers etc. for the study, for which the definite meaning of the concept can be explained by the analysis.

## Discussion:

### Indian Constitution:

After independence, the Indian Constitution adopted a system of democratic governance. With the development of the concept of democracy, the meaning and concept of democracy has changed by many thinkers.<sup>5</sup> Abraham Lincoln defined "democracy is the rule of the people, by the people, and for the people."

Prof. Laski, who has adopted a broad approach to democracy, says that "democracy is not only a form of government but also a form of society, state and economic and moral system."<sup>6</sup> Montesquieu and Compts see the state as the driving force behind social organization and change.<sup>7</sup> Herbert Spencer discusses the relationship between the state and the individual, but the individual libertarian Spencer considers the creation of and maintaining the right conditions as the main function of the state so that the state and the government should minimize interference in social affairs and allow the individual to enjoy full freedom.<sup>8</sup> According to Giddings, "Democracy is a form of government, of state and of society. That is why the theory of democracy is so broad that its purpose is to explore the supreme life of the individual."<sup>9</sup> The main reason for calling democracy a way of life is that it is based on the human principles of freedom, equality, brotherhood, cooperation, sacrifice and coexistence. Democracy in the true sense is a system of values. Giving every person the full opportunity to develop his personality, as well as every person in the society is just as important as all other people in the society. Democracy is based on such a broad value.<sup>10</sup> If we consider the democratic state in such a broad sense and not just the form of government, it becomes clear that the democratic theory is based on certain basic principles.

Considering the basic principles, these include the rights of the individual, equality, freedom, sovereignty of the people, rule of the majority, belief in peace, creation and control of democratic institutions for policy making, etc. Although there is a slight difference in theory between a democratic state and a democratic government, today the principle of democracy is more recognized in terms of democratic governance. From the point of view of Indian democracy, governance is based on

<sup>5</sup>Palashikar, S. (2004), Samakalin Bharti Rajkaran, Pratima Prakashan, Pune. Pg. 32.

<sup>6</sup>Palashikar, S. abid. Pg. 34.

<sup>7</sup>Bhehare, S. (2002), Abhijat Samajik Vicharvant, Vidya Prakashan, Nagpur Pg.78.

<sup>8</sup>Bhehare, S. abid Pg. 82.

<sup>9</sup> Bhehare, S. (2002), Abhijat Samajik Vicharvant ,Vidya Prakashan, Nagpur Pg.87.

<sup>10</sup> Palashikar, S. & Vhora, R. (1987), Rajyashatra Kosh, Dastane Company, Pune.Pg.119.

democratic principles. Therefore, it has to be called a democratic state, committed to social, economic, cultural development and equality.<sup>11</sup>

### **The nature of human rights:**

Human right is a universal and world-wide concept. Human right is a major social thought that determines social relations and social behavior. Human right is a role of social equality, human rights and humanism are two interrelated concepts.<sup>12</sup> Humanism has some basic meanings like Humanity, etc. There are some basic meanings of Human Rights like Rights, Rights, Ownership, Sovereignty, Equality, Status, Establishment, Dignity, Pride, Freedom etc. Humanism and Human Rights are two of the human nature. There is awareness and two motivations. That is why humanism is considered the foundation of human rights. Suhas Palashikar says, "Humanism has advanced the idea that man is the creator and creator of all values."<sup>13</sup> That is to say, man is the only hope to get rid of all the misery in human life. Human rights are essential for the holistic development of the individual and for a better social life. The state, government or administrative system is very important for human beings to get human rights and develop their personality. In this regard, Aristotle says, "The concept of the state was originally created to meet the needs of human life, and the state system still exists today for the attainment of a superior life."<sup>14</sup> Human rights make it possible to protect human life, maintain social continuity in the existence of human life, and bring about national transformation and national progress through the development of individual elements. That is why thinkers like Laski and Green have emphasized the need for human rights to be socially recognized as well as recognized. The idea of human rights is basically about emancipation and human freedom. Human rights have been considered in Indian society since ancient times. The social message given by Lord Mahavira and the Buddha, "Live and let live", guides the global human rights ideology. That is why the concept of human rights has been clearly enshrined in the Indian Constitution considering the fundamental rights of the common man.<sup>15</sup>

### **Status of marginal groups:**

When India became independent; the society set its own goals. Equality and social and economic justice are its main goals.<sup>16</sup> With the adoption of democracy in India, the principles of freedom, equality, fraternity and justice were adopted from a humanitarian standpoint. The political and social journey of independent India began with the goal of establishing equality at all levels in Indian society within the framework of democratic values and human rights. The responsibility for development on the principle of overall equality has been shifted to the state institution within the liberal democratic framework. The

<sup>11</sup>Bhogale, S & Vaikar, A., Rajkiy Sakalpana Sindhanth Ani Sanshta, Vidyabharati, Latur. Pg.21-22.

<sup>12</sup>Palashikar, S. & Vhora, R.(1987), Rajyashatra Kosh, Dastane Company, Pune. Pg.127.

<sup>13</sup>Palashikar, S. (2004), Samakalin Bharti Rajkaran, Pratima Prakashan, Pune. Pg.49.

<sup>14</sup>Patil, B. (1987) Bharti Shashan Ani Rajkaran, Fadake Prakashan, Kolhapur, Pg.32.

<sup>15</sup>Ghugare, S. (2011), Manavadhikarachi Prachin Parshvabhumi, Aruna Prakashan Latur Pg. 214-215.

<sup>16</sup>Palashikar, S. (2004).Samakalin Bharti Rajkaran, Pratima Prakashan, Pune, Pg.53.

expectations from this state are clearly stated in the Objectives and Guidelines of the Constitution, and it is disappointing to think of the extent to which social and economic justice has been achieved in Indian society.

Even though India has been independent for more than seventy years, there are huge disparities at the socio-political and economic levels.<sup>17</sup> Today, public policy and decision-making is dominated by the capitalist class, the landlords, the upper bureaucrats, the upper castes and mainly men. This ruling class has an influence on the political and social system. This class, which controls the affairs of the state, is at the center of the whole social system. Capitalism is evolving in Indian democracy as power; dominance and decision-making power are in the hands of a limited number of people. Therefore, there are a huge number of marginalized groups in the country who are deprived of power, supremacy, justice, decision making and social, economic and political system, agricultural laborers and the poor. Such groups are weakened socially, economically, educationally due to lack of education and employment opportunities. Even today, these groups are isolated from the mainstream of development. Therefore, in the broadest sense, these groups are exploited, secondary and deprived.<sup>18</sup> The distance of marginalized groups from the center of social dominance is evident from certain criteria. Such criteria are included. In fact, even if a group is weaker or weaker by some criteria, it is definitely far from the center of the system. That is why the groups that are on the periphery of public life are called marginal groups.<sup>19</sup>

Marginal groups appear all over the world .Because the process of marginalization is more or less common in all types of human societies. Marginalization is the process by which a particular individual or group is kept away from the economic, political and social system or such groups become marginalized groups due to lack of resources. A marginalized group is generally defined as an exploited, oppressed, disenfranchised, rejected social component.<sup>20</sup> In the Indian democratic system; such groups have been on the rise since independence.

### **Conclusion:**

The formation of India as an independent nation was started after independence. The constitutional system of government was adopted in the form of democracy. In the same way, the guiding principles of the Constitution have adopted the ethical principles of welfare governance. We have adopted the principles of social, political and economic justice from the Constitution based on the principles of democracy, socialism, secularism and adult voting. This principle was influenced by humanitarian values, the adoption of the principle of “live and let live”.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>17</sup> Salunkhe, S., Jatrakar & Marulkar (2000), Samakalin Bharatatil Samajik Samasya, Narendra Prakashan, Pune, Pg.67.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid, Page. 68.

<sup>19</sup> Palashikar, S. (2004), Samakalin Bharti Rajkaran, Pratima Prakashan, Pune, Pg.205-206.

<sup>20</sup> Palashikar, S. Ibid. Pg. 206.

<sup>21</sup> Patil ,B. (1987), Bharti Shashan Ani Rajkaran, Fadake Prakashan, KolhapurPg.33-34.

India's independence was a matter of political integration, but even with the adoption of democracy, social and economic democracy has not yet been established in Indian society, laments Nani Palakhiwala, a well-known jurist, in her book “We the People”.<sup>22</sup> Equality, brotherhood, the principles of democracy is not rooted in the true sense. The goal of a socialist, secular and welfare state has not been achieved. Much remains to be done to establish social and economic equality. The government controlled the development of post-independence capitalism in India. Which was expected to lead to efforts to implement a minimum welfare program? This meant that the general elements of the society should not be thrown out of the perimeter but the peripheral elements should be included in the capitalist economy. However, under the influence of the capitalist system, democratic values and human rights have been pushed aside. As a result, the ruling class and the middle class have begun to make public and judicial decisions. The capitalist-inspired system will be able to avoid the minimum needs of the common man as the state moves aside and capitalists begin to feel the influence of the political decision-making process.

Even after the adoption of democracy in India after independence, many communities in the country have experienced marginalization. The conscience of the society in the state system which is now under the influence of capitalism has become so dull that many marginal groups have started the process of expulsion from social consciousness. Therefore, the values of democracy and human rights have been questioned in Indian society.

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<sup>22</sup> Bhogale, S & Vaikar, A., Rajkiy Sakalpna Sindhant Ani Sanshta, Vidyabharati, Latur Pg.81.