



Role of Social Media in Political Education – A Case study on Indian Democracy

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ABSTRACT

In order to make proper use of the Social Media in a democracy the flip side of the Social Media should not be neglected. The information provided should be cross checked and people should make use of self-regulation before circulating things on the Social Media to prevent it from becoming Anti-Social

Keywords:- Nations, Democracy Deliberations Political Education

INTRODUCTION

Democracy: Meaning and Nature

A Democratic society is the one, where the citizens elect their representatives and give them the power to govern; where the citizens are entitled to their basic rights and efficiently follow their duties and the ideals of liberty, equality, justice and fraternity are given prime importance. Countries throughout the world are realizing and adopting the basic tenets of democracy, the democratic ones are taking steps to protect and preserve the democracy and the non-democratic countries such as Egypt, Syria, Tunisia, have been going through a revolution, so as to adopt a democratic system of governance. With the changes in times and changing needs, the nature of democracy has also undergone a change. With the establishment of large Nation states, democracy has changed from a direct democracy to one which given more emphasis to deliberations. Decisions are based on consensus and public awareness and opinion are vital for decision making. With the growing number of forums for exchange of ideas and values more and more people to a great extent are getting a chance to connect and interact on significant issues central to a democratic society.

Understanding Political Education

Education is a process and an experience which nurtures and brings out the best in a human being. The significance being given to Education and the diversification in the field of education is a phenomenon which is progressing with the passage of time. As human society developed, it was also realized that human beings are required to acquire the knowledge of certain skills, values and dispositions to become a member of the society. Human beings were also required to make their individual contribution for the growth and maintenance of the societal set up. With this realization, came the understanding that Education plays a key role in making individuals fit to become a member of the society and we need to structure and restructure the system of education as per the changing societal needs. Thus, various disciplines were born and flourished while making individuals develop their theoretical knowledge and also practical experiences in different domains. For instance, the knowledge of sciences helped in development of a scientific temper and instilling a technical lens among the learners. The study of history made individuals aware about the past events and they learnt important lessons from them. Similarly, the subject of Economics helped the learners in procuring knowledge about the economic processes and activities which could be helpful in having a better earning capacity and a better quality of life. Language studies developed for better communication and exchange of ideas and Researches in various subjects became rampant which led to opening up of new fields and disciplines. As we know that a certain level of check is required to be imposed on the activities of individuals so as to prevent them from going against the social norms and harming the social fabric. In order to develop among individuals, the understanding to differentiate between the right and wrong deeds, the subject of religious and moral education gained ground, so as to make individuals morally correct and prevent them from causing harm to others. Similarly, in order to make them acquire basic knowledge of the rights, and duties being a citizen of a country the subject of Civics came to the fore. This also helped in strengthening the citizens' trust and loyalty for the power holders by providing them with the basic idea about governance. Later on, it was realized that the citizens are required to be more critical, sensitive, interrogative, deliberative, and transformative citizens and they need to acquire more

systematic and diversified knowledge of the system of governance for which the subject of Politics or Political sciences was considered to be relevant. The larger aim of Civics and Political Science was to prepare responsible citizens. Later on, a separate discipline of citizenship education' gained popularity. It was intended to develop citizens, who not only participate in the political process of the country, but, are also proactive and responsible towards social and economic issues in society. It is either taught as a separate discipline or its elements are embedded in the curriculum of Civics or Political Science. Citizenship Education has its roots in the subject of Politics and many a times the term Political Education' is used for Citizenship Education.

Social Media and Democracy

A democratic society requires well informed and engaged citizens who are aware of the functioning of the democratic set up and play a role in preserving its essence. Participation of the citizens in the democratic processes is the essence of a democracy. An understanding about how a democracy functions is quintessential for the peoples participation and this understanding is developed with an exchange of knowledge and information. If we talk about exchange of knowledge and information on a large-scale then we can look at the industrial revolution and analyze how it led to an information revolution. Starting with the coming up of the steam engine, followed by printing, then telecommunication and later on the digital media and robotics. In the report titled *The Fourth Industrial Revolution Explained* Teck-Boon Tan and Wu Shang-Su, have cited the work of Rifkin who explained the first industrial revolution started in the 18th century with the advent of the steam engine which paved way to introduction of machinery. After that, the second industrial revolution took off in the latter half of the 19th century with the advent of electric power and mass production processes. (Jeremy, 2016 as cited in ShangSu,2017) —The third industrial revolution then came about towards the end of the last millennial with the introduction of digital and Internet technology. Fuelled by new technologies, these shifts not only mechanized the production process, but also brought disparate manufacturing activities together. The net outcome was significant increases in productivity. (Rifkin, 2016 as cited in Shang-Su, 2017). The third industrial revolution in the 1950s initiated the progress of alphanumeric systems and quick developments in computer software and technology, which enabled novel ways of producing and disseminating information. Later on, during the 1970s another significant change occurred with the arrival of the next revolution characterized by robotics which advanced the link between sapiens and technology.

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