

Changing Attitudes of Citizen towards Good Governance through Participation: A Brief Discussion

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Abstract : Participation is a necessary component of every political system, although some powerful authority in the society monopolizes it. However, powerful authority cannot deny the importance of population, which is a substantial part of society. In today's society, in the era of good governance people are participating in the system not only in political way, but also they are participating in politics as a civil society.

Key words : Youerance, participation, civil society, centre state relation environment movement.

What is participation?

Political participation is the involvement of groups and individuals in different types of political system .Many political scientists are explaining the importance of participation in the politics. Like Milbrath and Goel once argue that citizen must at least participate in the choice of their public officials in order to keep public action responsive to their wishes and desires. Voting right is the basic right of the people, through which they can make authority accountable to them. So according this view participation means involvement in electoral process through voting system, campaigning, discussion on politics, convincing another person to vote, distributing party lecture, attending political meetings, contributing money to campaigns and so on. Beside voting behavior people can interact with government at many ways. Huntington and Nelson argue that knowledge about politics, feeling about political competence and efficiency, perception of the relevance of politics- all this may closed to political participation. So in this point of view scope of participation is extending. Now a days participation means activities of citizen in the period between election through which they try to influence government policies.

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In a way participation is naturally assumes greater importance in democratic system. In this system participation is a principal by which people can withdrawal or granted authority legally. Nie and Verba argue that it gives some sort of satisfaction to the citizens, government and satisfy with one's own rule. Besides voting behavior, people can participate through public debate that helps to build a better and noble character in the people participation in society. The rights which citizen enjoy are become realistic when they understand the nature of political system and control the function of this system. In this way participation is getting emphasis in today's society. However, in reality what we have seen that people are less interested to participate. During last decade, in polling booth, 50% to 60% of population are taking part. What are the causes? Do people being afraid or getting frustrated of politics or they are searching for a new alternative method? Failure of government and administration put a question mark on the accountability, responsiveness, transparency of government. The state and public organization are moved away from pursuing welfare activities. This failure has also raised a question in the mind of people. The Classical and Weberian model of public administration that is based on bureaucracy-led administration is failed to satisfying public demand. Along with increasing global trends towards more decentralization and less hierarchical concept is also demanding a change in mode of governance. More emphasis has been given on private agency and network. A World Bank document named "Governance and Development" was published in the year of 1992, where governance define as the manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country's economic and social resources for development.⁶ The World Bank and UNDP emphasis on the following parameters for promotion of good governance,

1. Direct participation, 2. Trust on Government, 3. Accountability of ministers as well as higher officials, 4. Right to information of the citizen, 5. Giving emphasis on public interest during decision making process 7(Jana,2008,p-20)

In recent time, Indian politics is being changed due to active or passive participation of the people. If we look back we have noticed that after independence "one party Dominate System" (Renounce Rajni Kothari's view) had collapsed during 80"s. Why did it sink? The ruling party failed to meet the needs of people. The people come to expect that the state and the party in power would convey primary education and

subsidies higher education, guarantee health, remove poverty, generate jobs and incomes, institutionalize inter-group equalities, remove inequalities within the group and protect the needy vulnerable and poor.⁷ However, the Government not only failed but also become authoritarian-all this factors generated grievance among people. These grievances create a new alternative path for society. Civil Society movement started from this context. People are losing their faith on authority, but at the same time they could not retreat of the situation. They need actual transparency, real accountability, and genuine welfare government.⁸ (Reference- Vanaik and Bhargava -, 2012,Pg 91,90-105)

In this context emergence of civil society is being significance. In the period of rising political animosities and mistrust, civil society has emerged as an expression of choice; the sphere of the civil society allows unrestricted differentiation and is therefore a field of innovation, energy, and initiative-which is one of the major advantages of modernity. The term "trust" is now very important aspect of civil society. The trust among Stanger__ is the core element of civil society. In the recent year India have noticed different kind of social movement, where people spontaneously participated. Another important view is that in a society, civil society is independent of economic domain and state, where ideas are publicly exchanged, and association are formed freely. Though it is a western concept, it emerged as classical western political theory, (especially when both the liberal and Marxist concept was dominated by state led modernization.) but in today's society civil society movement is reemphasized.⁹ (Reference- Vanaik and Bhargava ,Pg 179-303)

State, market and civil society are the three pillar of the society. Among these state has a broad objectives and it is the most important organization It arrange our civilization in an constructive pattern. But when it failed to do its duty, alternative concept is emerged. Market is important, but it has a narrow objectives, while civil society is becoming more important now a days. It is a apolitical concept that can easily mobilized people. People could articulate its demand through different types of organization. These organization are not directly or actively related with political party . So people are founding a space by which they could move together, even they

are unknown to each other. Socialist Beteille define it as an open and secular institution.¹⁰ That means it is open to all irrespective of caste, religion and gender. It is a unique state of affairs in which millions and millions of people act directly or sometimes indirectly, through some different types of network site. Citizens, who are losing their trust on politics, are now trying to organizing them on an issue according to their values, ideas, and consciousness.

Emergence of civil society

Civil society does not directly means development. According to Lock, a civilized society was not only an essential systematic entity, but It was simply a symbol of dynamism of civilized human being, it is based on common trust, discovered common interest and securing a civilized society. The creation of civilized world of course is a part of development.

The concept of "civil society" is emerged in idea of John Lock, the Scottish theorist of commercial society and in the idea of German Idealist Hegel .Both vividly observed the danger of "absolute politics" and both sought to restrict the boundaries of politics. Marxist identified it as "Bourgeois Society," they had criticized them for overwhelming the concept of state. Economically dominated class conduct the whole system of state-that is why civil society is a part of state and conducted by authority.

According to Lock Law of Nature is the part of God's power. This law should run state. All human being including the supreme authority king is a part of these laws.¹¹ No one can violate these. People must obey king as because king had followed and try to establish this Nature of Law. However, by the time of conflict among lethal human beings for acquiring more power put a question mark on the survival of free and equal judgment of this view. In this situation what is desperately required that an alternative to the state of nature. And that alternative is what Lock himself calls a "civil society" is a legitimate political order, founded on the recognition of the rights of all its members. According to Lock, civil society is the historical remedy for the inconveniences of the state of nature. Civil Society first provides known standing laws, secondly it provides impartial judges, and thirdly it put an aspiration among offended individuals and their friends and relations.¹² A Civil Society can in principal be an effective remedy for the state of nature because its member has their own

rights and capacity to judge whether the Law of Nature has been violated. Along with they can judge their own executive power of that law with which they can enforce their judgments, to the legitimate political authority.

Introduction of civil society in the Hegelian theory clearly shows that a different thought about individualism had become popular in Nineteenth Century. ¹³ It also implied that free use of judgments and thus freedom of opinion, religious, toleration were consider as the fundamental rights of citizen. All this thinking apart Hegel from this conservative thought of state. Within the new version of political community, Hegel believed that free pursuit of individual interest will be central features of commercial society.¹⁴ (Reference- Kaviraj and Khilnani, 2014 pg no 39)

To explain civil society Jurgen Habermas has pointed out on two ideas-'Public Space' and 'Public Sphere'. According to him individuals and groups first engaged in private discourse. But when their own interest has threatened, by state intervention they come together in public space and they articulate for their rights. Such transformations from 'private' to 'public' create public opinion. It can first develop in coffee houses, library, cultural societies, political clubs, literary journals and journals of opinion etc. In this way for satisfying their own demand of livelihood 'depoliticization of the masses' has been emerged. It is a new idea of participatory democracy.¹⁵ (Banerjee, 2008, pg 14)

Now a day it reemerged with its view. Its view is to establish political morality rather than political brutality, humanism rather than terrorism, integration rather than disintegration. Trust among stranger-is the new approach of civil society. Its free from any kind of political and economical domination, it can spread its fragrance through network system...therefore it is better to say-sky is its limit.

Importance of civil society

Civil society movement is regarded as a last hope for human civilization. It regarded as a "second power" and no doubt, it is a great moral force. The role of civil society is crucial in all over the world. Major cities of the world-London, Paris, Rome, Madrid, new York and 750 cities of the world on a single day to register their protest against war on Iraq. NGOs, pressure groups, professional bodies, trade union, the

other informal type of association are taking active part of civil society movement. 16 Not only are that common people also interested in protesting against crime. Here I like to put two example of civil society movement in India. In December 2012 a brutal ganged rape of a 23-year old woman, a physiotherapy student, of New Delhi happened. To protest this brutal happening million and million people all over the country were demanding for justice. Young, urban, educated, middle class Indians demanded not just stringent punishment for guilty, but also a change in how women are treated in India. This cry for justice has gone across everyone, everybody is totally moved, motivated and hopefully this kind of social outcry forced government to lunched some new law regarding this "Nirvoy Case."¹⁷

Another Example of civil society movement in India is Anti-corruption movement of 2011, where a series of demonstration and protest across the country are shaking the whole authority. The movement gained momentum from 5 April 2011. Anti-corruption activist Anna Hazare began a hunger strike at the Jantar Mantar in New Delhi. The chief legislative aim of the movement was to alleviate corruption in the Indian government through introduction of Jan Lokpal Bill.¹⁸ People's grievance, their frustration, their indifference in politics, their attitude like mute spectator - comes out as a fire through this movement. This entire attitude is changing slowly with this movement. That is why movement of civil society regarded as the last hope of common people. Their spontaneous participation proved -that man needs a transparent, developed and accountable society.¹⁹ In addition, for this they can go at any extent. This movement is first started as non-violent civil resistance, featuring demonstrations, marches, acts of civil disobedience, hunger strikes, marches, and rallies, as well as the use of social media to organize, communicate, and raise awareness. The protest were nonpartisan and most protesters were hostile to attempts made by political parties to use them strengthen their political agenda. Corruption in India has become increasingly prominent in recent years. Criminalization of politics is now too common factor. All this made people aware of this brutal politics. Hazare's hunger strike movement demanded to give more independence to Lokpal and Lokayuktas and wanted to prepare a draft committee along with government and civil society representatives to ensured stronger punishment of victim. Hazare also wanted to include Prime Minister in lokpal. However, all these demand rejected by prime minister Dr Monmohan Sing's government. But across the country this

movement increases the awareness among common people. A poll conducted by Indian Against Corruption in Karnataka about 94.3% of Chikkaballapur constituency and 79.7% of Bangalore south wanted to bring the prime minister under the ambit of the Jan Lokpal.²⁰ The result showed that a majority of population wanted Jan Lokpal bill to be passed by parliament and not the "watered down, toothless" bill drafted by the government. The 6,000 participants at the referendum also said that being representatives of the people, members of the parliament should vote for the lokpal, not as directed by party, but as by the voice of majority in his/her constituencies.²¹ The participants also voted to bring judges under the lokpal, give adequate power to lokpal to dismiss officers guilty of corruption, monitor corruption at the central as well as state level through Lokayuktas and bring all the officers under the bill.

Not only in India has this civil society movement got respond, but also all over the world, it supported. Spokesperson for the United States Department of State, Victoria Nuland told, "with regard to case (Hazare), however, you know where we are. We support freedom of expression and assembly, and we encourage all countries and all parties to do the same.²² All democratic government has a responsibility to allow peaceful protest and freedom of dissent, even as they work to maintain public safety." (Reference-South Asian Human Rights Documentation Centre, , 2012.pg no-66-83,86-96,195,209-220, Srinivas. , 2013 pg no.172, Sinha -, pg no- 187, Dasgupta - 2012, pg no-1)

In India, civil society movement is criticizing at many points of view. Movement like justice for gender have been criticized as disrupting the cultural milieu, being derived from western models and creating social instability. Environmental movement like agitation against establishment of big dams like Sardar Saravor Dam on the river Narmada in Gujarat, Tehri in Uttar Pradesh, Indr?vati in Orissa are criticized as an anti-development activities and therefore it "against national interest".²³ Movement of peasants and tribal regarded as a movement against law and order. The civil liberty and democratic right movement (Human Right Movement) regarded as a partisan and anti-state movement. Regional autonomy movements consider as separatist movement. These are all criticizing at different angle. However, alternative view is also comes out in this context. This view is trying to establish a theory of a creative transformation of society-that is creative society.

The recent movement all over the world indicates the emergence of this creative society. During late 19th century, the concept of creative society is emerged. May the intensity and form are varied from country to country and place to place. However, no one can deny these challenges. Creative society is a society where a large number of potential contradictions become articulate and active.²⁴ In this event, the oppressed of social groups are also politically mobilized and demand their rights. For an example, we can say various types of social movement -movement like women, environmental, tribal, regional, and anti-corruption-all are a broad aspect of participation. (Reference- Vanaik and Bhargava ,Pg -313) Kaviraj and Khilnani, 2014 pg no 250)

Indian constitution gives a special emphasis on Fundamental right and Directive Principles of State policy. Later on, some judicial creative construction gives special importance on it. Contemporary social movements of India are trying to materialize all these rights. All these movements are demanding of the legitimate execution of these democratic rights. Demanding of a new state put a question on center-state relationship, demanding for reconstructing the Union of India. Environmental movement put a question on is the state law executes the "Right to Life" so far. On the other hand, how far could corruption get opportunity at the cost of livelihood? Alternatively, it claims to save the relationship between nature and human being. Women movement are putting strong opposed on the setting of patriarchal society. Moreover, it claimed to re-establish women's own-esteem that is lost in this patriarchal society. Demands of dalits indicate that no more Brahmanic values have been tolerated so far. They must not tolerate any kind of superstition, which destroy their creativity .The tribal that enjoyed a highly creative life in the natural environment during past centuries, are exploited by commercial interest and agencies of the state. They are worst victim of many project, especially of mining, big dam, tea project etc. Their movement articulates their "Right to Earth," must be supported by every corner of society. So all these movements seek for alteration and modification on power structure that based on human values and on the concept of justice-equality and fraternity. It indicate that time is changing, it required a new kind of thinking where all human being are getting a place of their own, are getting a place for their creativity and finally for their livelihood. It put a new challenge toward the idea of "Good Governance."

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