

Modi's Policies and Social Inclusion in India

Rabia Darab

Research Scholar, Dept. of Political science, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh (AMU) (India)

ARTICLE DETAILS

Article History

Published Online: 12 June 2019

Keywords

NDA, Policies, Inclusive society, Equality, Poor.

Corresponding Author

Email: darabrabia[at]gmail.com

ABSTRACT

India is viewed as the largest democracy government of the world, which is represented by an intricate and detailed written and composed constitution. The preamble of the constitution has used the terms like "socialist", Social and Economic Justice, "equality" and so forth, these terms show that the state would broadly involve in social welfare of individuals, and would attempt to set up a libertarian society. Egalitarian society /Social inclusion is a procedure by which endeavours are made to guarantee equal opportunities for all, regardless of their background, caste, sex and so on, It is a procedure by which societies combat poverty and social exclusion. In such manner our Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made different pace and he reveals different inclusion plans for poor like – Pradhan Mantri jan dhan yojna ' swachh Bharat Abhiyan (in which he involves the task of making toilets everywhere specially where it most need), NITI Aayog (National institution for transforming India), Mann ki baat, LPG subsidy reforms, Digital India etc. He also promised to new foundation for a more inclusive India- socially, economically and politically. In this paper, I would like to analyse that to what extent these inclusion policies has been working and how these policies are proving beneficial for the country especially for poor's and how these policies help to make India an egalitarian or inclusive society.

1. Introduction

India is known to be a welfare state and moreover the largest democracy in the world. The people in India have been considered as the supreme authority in our nation, as it is announced by the preamble of Indian constitution that sovereignty vests not in the parliament but in the people of Union of India. The composers of the constitution looked for to unite the huge nation with its great diversity of languages and statements of faith within a common bond of constitutional justice dependent on the incredible beliefs of liberty, equality, fraternity and justice, and would try to establish an egalitarian society. The government vision (BJP led NDA) of an 'Inclusive India' and their efforts to architect just and inclusive society by their various policies, which ensures an equal participation of all sections groups in the governance of our economy and polity and in the fruits of social and economic development in the country.¹

The world summit for social development, held in March 1995, established the concept of social integration to create an inclusive society, "a society for all", as one of the key goals of social development. Such a comprehensive society must be founded on regard for every human right and basic opportunities, social and religious diversity, social justice and the special necessities of disadvantaged and distraught groups, democratic participation and rule of law. It is advanced by social approaches that try to diminish disparity and make adaptable and tolerant societies that grasp all people.²

¹ Exclusive: Role of Judiciary and Bar in making a just and inclusive Society : Chief Justice TS Thakur [Nalsar Convocation Speech. Live Law. Retrieved February 28, 2017, <http://www.livelaw.in/exclusive-role-judiciary-bar-making-just-inclusive-society-chief-justice-ts-thakur-nalsar-convocation-speech/>

² Creating an inclusive society: Practice strategies to promote social integration (DESA, 2009). Retrieved March 2, 2017, <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/egms/docs/2009/Ghana/inclusive-society.pdf>

Social inclusion is a procedure by which endeavours are made to guarantee equivalent open doors for all, regardless of their background, sex, caste and so on. In this way, they can accomplish their maximum capacity throughout everyday life. It is a multi-dimensional procedure went for making conditions which empower full and active participation of each individual of the society in all parts of life, including civic, social, economic and political exercises, and by which society combat poverty and social exclusion.³

Social inclusion is a multi- dimensional and cross-sectional concept, which needs to be, mainstreamed into various areas, at national, regional and local levels. It does not lie only within one tier or section of society, nor does it rely on only one area of policy to exact changes. There is a larger and infinitely more comprehensive aim to social inclusion that encompasses many areas of society and humanity.⁴

2. Inclusive society and Indian Constitution

To make the concept of a "just and inclusive society" operational, It is a formidable challenge for policy makers (government) and social researchers to discover ways and intend to promote a motivational and sensible arrangement of policy measures outfitted towards a "society for all". This requires a change in perspective to perceive the dignity, value and importance of every person, not only as a moral imperative, but also as a legitimate rule, a societal objective and in the long run a practice. Among every one of the partners of legitimate framework, legal executive being the watchman of fundamental Rights, has disguised its obligation and has played a portentous role in ensuring just and inclusive society- whether it be- human rights which include right to shelter, social security, right to adequate nutrition, clothing; gender

³ Op.cit, 3

⁴ Op.cit, 3

justice; education, protection of minorities and more prominently limits on the power of the parliament and governments to interfere with the basic tenets of the constitution.⁵

The Supreme Court has issued a range of commands for law enforcement agencies in order to develop a social trust in society. Once policies have determined and prescribed an outline of action to be taken the institutional mechanisms at the National level must take on the responsibility of implementation. To promote social inclusion, the legal system and security forces must be impartial and uphold basic rights for all members of society.⁶

As being a socialist state, the government is required to find a way to guarantee that the least facilities of life are given to each individual and there are correspondences of income and material assets to the extent democratically conceivable.

3. BJP led- NDA's policies and its impacts on social inclusion

Bhartiya Janata Party won the majority of seats in the 16th Lok Sabha elections in 2014 and made a BJP led-NDA government. As the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and his government has taken various initiatives for social inclusion and made new promises to foundations for a more inclusive India socially, economically, and politically.⁷ The Modi's government social sector strategy has aimed to make existing programmes launched by them more efficient and give priority to empowerment over entitlement,⁸ and want to make India socially and economically advance with inclusive one.

Narendra Modi launches many schemes, but some of them are working and some are looks good on paper means theoretically not practically followed. Some are as follows;

Social-sector spending

With sector spending as a level of the gross domestic product (GDP) tumbling to its most reduced levels since 2010, the opportunity has already come and gone the government followed through on its election promises of more attention regard for this sector. In its election manifesto, the BJP had said that public spending on education would be raised to 6% of the GDP. That is a long ways from the present number- under 3% of GDP, including food subsidies. The ongoing launch of three social security schemes- the **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojna** (accidental insurance), **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti yojna** (life insurance), and **Atal Pension Yojna**-that try to give accidental death and disability risk cover, extra security and contributory pension is a noteworthy step towards expanding government disability.

⁵ Op.cit, 2.

⁶ Op.cit, 3.

⁷ Sharma, Ramesh (2014, August 15). Modi outlines his vision for inclusive growth. *The Hindu*. Retrieved March 2, 2017, <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/pm-unveils-financial-inclusion-scheme/article6320857.ece>

⁸ Pahtania, Ramesh (2015 May 19). Narendra Modi government's first year in power in 9 Charts. *Live Mint*. Retrieved March 2, 2017, <http://www.livemint.com/Politics/dDrghcerwaPuOJTpXbEgJL/Nine-charts-that-capture-Narendra-Modis-first-year-in-power.html>

Rural distress

Rural India is enduring more under the Modi government; however that also has to do with the impulses of the climate mint's rural index, in light of the development of farm output, rural wages and tractor deals, show an intensifying rural situation. In addition the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), the previous government's (congress led UPA) flagship rural employment programme has seen a dip in performance under the Modi government, as measured by the pension days of work it has generated each year.⁹ The Congress accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of quietly squeezing funds meant for the MGNREGA scheme, and said pro-rich and anti-poor policies of his government created "intemperate and unimaginable rural distress" in the past five years.¹⁰

Financial inclusion

One of the government's most important programmes or schemes, the **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna** has seen 150 million bank accounts being opened mostly in rural India, anyone can now open an account, and the idea is to convert the existing subsidy programme into a direct cash transfer scheme, with money going straight to the receiver's bank account. However, while this looks good on paper, the fact is that more than half of these newly opened bank accounts have nothing in them. As it may, a good sign is that the extent of zero-balance records has been relentlessly falling since the formation of the program. The new government security and protection plans ought to likewise increment the usage of these accounts.¹¹

LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) subsidy scheme

The government has resolved to bring LPG cylinders to the households the government has launched "**Pradhan Mantri Ujjawal Yojna**" under which 5 crore BPL (below poverty line) house hold will be provided subsidized LPG cylinders over the next three years. The target for the current fiscal year is 1.5 crore households. The scheme is being financed to a limited extent from the reserve funds produce through voluntary surrender of LPG subsidy by existing more extravagant family units. A Prime Minister's call, 1 crore more extravagant families have officially surrendered this endowment.¹² It may minimise the rich-poor divide and people of BPL or poor may not feel exclusive one.

Removal of Poverty and Inequalities

The state must concentration to take out not just the poverty but also inequality among the various seats of society. The state must ensure that the advantages of globalization are not kept to some specific segments, and the benefit earned by a firm should be shared by the labour in suitable percentage.¹³

⁹ Op.cit, 10.

¹⁰ Modi government created rural distress: Congress, Bussiness Standard, 29 March 2019, New Delhi.

¹¹ Op.cit, 10.

¹² Panagariya, Arvind (2016, September 12). 'Taking stock, two years on', *The Hindu*. Retrieved March 4, 2017, <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/taking-stock-two-years-on/article8634147.ece>

¹³ In your opinion, what measures should be taken by the government to make cities inclusive. (2016, October 24). *The Hindu*. Retrieved

Like only high qualified person get job in higher firms like *Tata and Steel, Wipro, Ambani etc.*; and students who belong to the medium education background may not get this opportunity. So, this division of employment and education must not be there.

Digital India

This flagship program of Ravi Shankar Prasad's communication ministry aiming to make an information economy and good governance is travelling in the right path. Each minister and every ministry is now on twitter. A stage of e-governance measures like digital locker and feedbacks through mygov.in are some remarkable activities for making comprehensive society. The vision of Digital India program goes for comprehensive development in zones of electronic services, items assembling and job opportunities etc. As of 31 December 2018, India had a populace of 130 crore individuals (1.3 billion), 123 crore (1.23 billion) Aadhaar computerized biometric identity cards, 121 crore (1.21 billion) mobile phones, 44.6 crore (446 million) smart phones, 56 crore (560 million) internet users up from 481 million people (35% of the country's total population) in December 2017, and 51 per cent growth in e-commerce.¹⁴

Pradhan Mantri- Beti bachao, Beti padhao Yojna

It is very significant programme and campaign because of country's poor record on women related indicators such as child sex ratio, female infanticide, female foeticide and female education etc; especially alarming is the data for child sex ratio i.e. the sex ratio of children 0 to 6 years. The census data of the year 2011 shows child sex ratio at 918 which is lesser than the previous census (2001) data 927. Thus, child sex ratio (0-6 years) is showing a declining trend which is not a very healthy sign for social development of India.¹⁵

According to the government, the campaign has three main objectives:

- Prevention of gender based sex selective elimination.
- Ensuring survival and protection of girl child.
- Ensuring education and participation of the girl child.

The long term goal of the program is to assemble a situation of sexual orientation fairness in the nation through making of employment opportunity, wellbeing, security, versatility and fast mobility and speedy justice for women.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

The discussion of social sector reform and programmes will be deficient without a concise reference to the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM). The mission not only critical for a healthy India as well as essential to making a modern India, in addition to other things, it proposes to make India open defecation free by 2nd October 2019, the 150th birth commemoration of Mahatma Gandhi. Government has taken

more initiatives such as building more toilets, (Toilets built have raised from 5 million in 2013-14 to 5.88 million in 2014-15 and 12.5 million in 2015-16), waste management, and waste segregation. The real success will however happen or seen, at the point when manual removing is totally eradicated.

This documentation or paper is in no way, shape or form complete by saying that there is much else being done by means of housing for all, livelihood mission and much else that connects people's lives. The distinctive element of the approaches under the present government is that they promise to support high development in the GDP, incomes and social spending and convey social services more efficiently and effectively because more schemes are looks good only paper means theoretically but not practically. So, in this regard of social inclusion and social security government should take more steps and seriousness.¹⁶

4. Conclusions

Social inclusion is a serious issue, if government ought not to make serious steps and ignoring the situation of the general population, the state/nation is disparaging from its constitutional duties of making an egalitarian society and providing social and economic justice. It must be remembered that individuals are not simply intends to accomplish to higher economic growth, but they are ends in themselves; each strategy of government must put the people at the centre of it as beneficiaries. Social speculations offer us a chance to not just direct the flow of capital towards serving the requirements of economically more fragile communities but also to connect two enraptured worlds (poor and rich). Through effect ventures, rich socio-economic groups and enterprises won't just give the subsidizing to the advancement of these groups but also foster encourage commitment with communities from which they were previously segregated.¹⁷

We are standing today at the dawn of the new opportunities, and it is time for us to seize the moment to make this change a reality. It is daunting task that cannot be done by policymakers alone, when all the major stakeholders in the private, public and social sectors- commit together to the cause, we can make it happen soon (dream of making inclusive society).¹⁸

March 4, 2017, <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2016/10/24/1-opinion-measures-taken-government-make-cities-inclusive-discuss/>

¹⁴ Govt will soon make Aadhaar-driving licence linking mandatory: Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad, Indian Express, 7 Jan 2019.

¹⁵ Programmes and Schemes of Narendra Modi government. Retrieved March 5, 2017 <http://www.indiacelebrating.com/general-awareness-programmes-and-schemes-of-narendra-modi-government/>

¹⁶ Op.cit, 13.

¹⁷ Op.cit, 1.

¹⁸ Kapoor, Rana (2016, October17). How we can make social impact investing really take off in India. *The Huffington Post*. Retrieved March 6, 2017, <http://www.huffingtonpost.in/rana-kapoor/heres-how-we-can-make-social-impact-investing-really-take-off-/>