



Perspectives of Liberalism: An Analytical Study of India

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Abstract

Liberalism has been perceived through the freedom, liberty, equality and justice of the individual. Personal security is the main source for growth and development of liberalism. Democratic process, rule of law and representative government are part and parcel of liberal society. Now, liberalism has spread of all over India. Some liberal organisations, liberal parties and liberalists are prominent actor for spread of liberalism in India. Basic elements of Indian liberalism are equal gender rights, liberal society, public goods, freedom of education, socio-economic equality, universal franchise, secular democratic principle, against statism, good governance, stateless democracy, world peace, prosperity, disarmament and anti corruption rule; etc.

Key words: Liberalism, Personal Security, Liberal society, Liberal parties, Liberal organization.

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Introduction

The main aim of public policy is outgrowth of individual liberty. Liberalism emphasis on civil liberties. Liberals denotes state is a necessary evil. There are two sides of liberalism, in political side excites democracy and on the economic side, it raises capitalism. John Locke, Adam Smith and Jeremy Bentham are early exponents of liberalism (Gouba, 2013: 28-31). The Subjective relationship of liberty and human progress took birth to modern liberalism (Bhargava and Acharya, 2017: 239). Liberalism is also an anti authoritarian ideology (Johary, 2012: 486). John Stuart Mill was illustrated to classical liberalism (Voegelin, Algozin and Algozin, 1974: 506). The main stream of Anglo-American political debate is liberalism. Liberalism also consists with liberty and social equality (Bell, 2014: 689-94). In Indian liberal perspective, some prominent liberals Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Mahatma Gandhi, C. Rajgopalchari and Minoos Masani, etc. have played vital role in Indian politics. Universal franchise, has introduced in India. India has given political rights to its citizen. Progressive liberal party (Erdman, 1963: 394-95) is main active party in Indian liberalism. Main liberal organisations like center for civil society, Indian liberal group and swatantra centers, etc. are part and parcel of Indian liberalism.

Objectives

It analysis various concept of liberalism.

It denotes liberal role of political parties and some political organizations of India.

It studies prominent Indian liberals.

Perspectives of Liberalism

Liberalism is connected with political percept. It attacked absolutism. It is a promoter of constitutionalism and representative government. It has emphasized on

individualism. It has supported to individual freedom. Personal security and maintenance of domestic order as the basic aim of liberalism (Heywood, 2004: 29). Revolutionary liberalism of pains advocated on the extend of democracy through military intervention. Liberal concepts right to vote, society of politics, free and fair trades and military powers are deliberated by Kant's and Pains (Walker 2008: 450-51). Extensive and abolition of their welfare state have accepted by liberals. Liberalism as a capacious tradition of traditions (Bell 2014: 683). Separations of power is demanded by liberals. Basic human rights, the separation of powers and universal suffrage are required by liberals (Voegelin, Algozin and Keith 1974: 515). Moral economic liberty and personal freedom is conceded by liberals (Morgan 1998: 42). Politics of liberalism of Green's was connected with his theology of liberalism. (Pichter 1956: 470). Properness, self regarding and mercenary are denoted by classical liberals (Seaman 1978: 786). Nationality has been played a significant role in liberal politics. In a modern nation, nationality as a permanent feature (Ajzenstat 1981: 590). It emphasis on rights and freedom of individuals. In a liberal ideology, secular, democratic and egalitarian are main thought of Mill. Mill in his personal life advocated that women's subjection and rights. In England Mary Wollstonecraft refers to women's liberty and rights in his work 'A vindication of the Rights of Women' (1792) (Gatti, 2012: 168-179). Kant as a international philosopher, some critique are criticized of his international philosophy as lack of clarity and coherence. Kant as also both a realist and liberal (Walker, 2008: 450). It would be said that, libertarians are categories as 'Consequentialists' and 'rights' theorists. The theme of first one happiness of a community has promoted by the community. The second one derived self fulfillment of individual. Limited government, fixed rules are necessary for advancement (Barry 1983: 93). L.T. Hobhouse enunciated, liberalism and socialism as represent complementary and mutually necessary aspects of the social ideal, and their respective values, freedom and mutual aid, are "the twin foundations of social life" (Seaman 1978: 787) Ronald Dworkin explained that "a certain conception of equality... is the nerve of liberalism". Liberalism has focused on liberty, authority and also equality. Religious wars in Europe were analysed by Glorious revolution of 1688. The discussion topic of this glorious wars are democracy, political economy, natural rights, the social contract and constitutionalism (Bell, 2014: 684-86).

A Study of Liberalism in India

Some prominent liberalists have played vital role in India, namely; Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Mahatma Gandhi, C. Rajgopalchari, Minoos Masani, Sharad Joshi, Gurucharan Das, Dr. Jayaprakash Narayan, Jagadish Bhagwati, Deepak Lal, Parth J. Shah, S. V. Raju and Venkatesh Geriti. Some liberal political parties and also organizations have played a significant role. Journing of Indian liberalists has against the caste system. Their main motto for equal gender rights in India. Raja Ram Mohan Roy, who was known as father of Renaissance in India. He gave his view on constitutional government, freedom of press, independence of Judiciary and representative model of elections. Liberal society, public goods and freedom of education are provided by Gopal Krishna Gokhale. Gokhale was more liberal in the thought of Gandhi. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who was also a liberalist. He admitted that political and socio-economic equality became weaker through capitalism (Manish, Rajagopalan, Suffer and White, 2015: 433). After the post independence, liberal rights have given to its citizens. People of India got their universal franchise. India is a Republic Country; all its Citizens have enjoyed their political rights. India as socialist model of state. Free and fair economy is a liberal concept. The year 1966 was the first economic liberalisation. In the year 1991, the Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao inaugurated of economic liberalism on the basis of balance of payments.

The concept of liberalism is contemplated as existent metaphysical tradition. It excuses individual rights and freedom (Chandra 2013: 135). At the time of visiting of a USA pioneer, he saw liberal, secular and democratic Principles both India and USA (Sharma, 2015: 66).

Liberal Political Parties in India

The liberal political parties have played a vital role in India. There are many liberal political parties in India, namely; Swantatra Party, Swarna Bharat Party, Lok Satta Party and Swatantra Bharat Paksh Swatantra (freedom) Party was raised its head at the General elections of India, 1962. This party is known as a progressive liberal party; C. Rajgopalchari was the instituter of Swatantra Party (Erdman 1963: 394-95). In the year 1959, the Swatantra Party was formed in India. It was designed for oppose the socialistic system of congress party. Laissez faire is the ideology of Swatantra party. It's main motto is fighting against 'statism and welfarism' (Bhambhri, 1968: 644). Social reform, recognition of states, national language and foreign policy had not been protected by Swatantra Party. This party was confronted by Swatantra Party. The three bulk party CPI, CPI(M) and the Nationalities were discontinued by Swatantra Party. Swatantra Bharat Paksh was founded in 1944. It is a liberal political party of Maharashtra. This party was organised by Sharad Anantrao Joshi. Swatantra Bharat Paksh has partnership with Bharatiya Janata Party and Shiv Sena. The demand of Vidarbha state is endorsed by Swatantra Bharat Paksh (<http://en.m.wikipedia.org>). In the classical sense Swarnabharat Party as a liberal party in India (Annual Report 2017-18). Swarnabharat party was formed on 1 June, 2013. It is the first liberal party of India. The ideologies of Swarna Bharat Party are liberty and truth. It emphasis on good governance, equality, rule of law and justice (<http://en.m.wikipedia.org>). In India, Lok Satta Party is known as classical liberal political party. It established on 2 October, 2006. Nagabhairava jaya Prakash Narayan is originator of Lok Satta Party (<http://en.m.wikipedia.org>).

Other liberal Organisations in India

There are many other liberal organisations worked in India. These organisations are center for civil society, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, Indian Liberal Group, I Paid A Bribe, Ward Infrastructure Index (WII), students for liberty and Swatantra Center. Center for civil society is a liberal organisation in India. It is a nonprofit organization, which is situated in New Delhi. In 1997, Dr. Parth Shah, former professor of economics was endowed the center for civil society. It is also a liberal research and educational organizations. Social change is its main objective. Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Sir Ratan Tata Trust, Oriental Global, Earhart Foundation, John Templeton Foundation and Gray Matters capital are foundation of center for civil society. The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) was established in 1987. It is a nonprofit international organization. Its main aim as promote of human rights in the commonwealth. English is its official language. The Headquarters of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative is New Delhi of India and also London of United Kingdom. It consisted with six existing commonwealth NGOs namely; Commonwealth Journalist Association, Commonwealth Press Union, The Commonwealth Broadcasting Association, Commonwealth Legal Education Association and also the Commonwealth Lawyers Association. CHRI is a known as International Advisory Commission. Another liberal organization is Indian liberal group. It has established in 1965. The headquarters of Indian liberal group is Mumbai. Prof. B.R. Shenoy, H.V.R. Iyengar, Freddie Mehta, Khushwant Singh, Sophie Wadia are founding member of CHRI. A liberal budget is presented by an Indian liberal Group every year. I paid A Bribe and Ward Infrastructure Index (WII) are liberal organizations. Welfare of society, good governance and corruption free society are main aim and objective of these

groups. Swatantra Center Organisation is a liberal organization. Venkatesh Geriti is founder of Swatantra Center Organisation (<http://en.m.wikipedia.org>).

Prominent Liberals of India: A Profile

Many prominent liberals have played vital role in India. They are Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Mahatma Gandhi, C. Rajgopalchari, Venkatesh Geriti, Sharad Joshi, Gurucharan Das, Dr. Jayaprakash Narayan, Jagdish Bhagwati and S.V. Raju.

Raja Ram Mohan Roy

In a Brahmin family of west Bengal, on 22 May, 1772, Raja Rammohan Roy was born in the Radhanagar village. Ramakanta Roy was father and Tarini Devi was his mother (Baral, 2004: 41). Raja Ram Mohan Roy was a liberal humanist. He was against the Sati Pratha. Bramha Samaj (1828) was established by Raja Rammohan Roy (De, 2016: 60). Raja Rammohan Roy is known as originator of Hindu Renaissance and father of Modern India (Hodder, 1988: 134). In 1844, he was founded Atmiya Sabha (Soman: 77). In Modern India, Rammohan Roy was a great social regenerator and political believer. He wrote Vedanta Grantha (1815), Vedanta Sara (1815) and Kathoparishad (Gaubha, 2018: 41). Raja Rammohan Roy was influenced by western education. He emphasis on science and technology. He was supporter of liberal education of British (Behera, 2015: 92-93).

Gopal Krishna Gokhale

Gopal Krishna Gokhale was born on 9 May 1866 of Ratnagiri district of the Bombay Presidency (New Maharashtra). He was the son of Krishnarao (Father) and Satyabhama (Mother) (Baral, 2004: 116). The liberalism of Gokhale was separated from pure liberalism. In 1889, Gopal Krishna Gokhale became the member of Indian National Congress. He was partisan of decentralize political system of government. His thinking was welfare of state (Pathy, 2015: 41-42). Gopal Krishna Gokhale was founded servant of Indian society in 1905. Mahatma Gandhi's Political Guru was Gokhale. He was also supported to British liberalism. Gokhale believes rule and order with bureaucratic government (Gaubha, 2018: 57).

Mahatma Gandhi

The earlier name of Mahatma Gandhi was Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. On 2nd October, 1869, Mahatma Gandhi was born in Gujarat in Western India and assassinated on 30th January, 1948. He was a great Indian freedom fighter, philosopher and social reformer. He is a pioneer of liberalism. He emphasis on rights of citizen and individual freedom. The young India was written by Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi has given his idea on Swaraj, self control and self discipline (Gaubha, 2018: 164-74). The concept state as a 'necessary evil' was not received by Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi did not accept the utilitarian philosophy. The elimination of evil is possible through Satyagrah, because, it is a moral weapon. He promotes 'stateless democracy' (Baral, 2004: 131-53). Mahatma Gandhi was a nationalist. In the nationalist movement of non-cooperation, civil disobedience and Quite India Movement was the central weapon for achieving freedom. Non-violence of Mahatma Gandhi has played a vital role against British Empire. Mahatma Gandhi was a shrewd politician (Bilgrami, 2003: 4159). He is also believed that, haratal is a weapon for fulfilling the freedom of the nation (Roberts, 1923: 234).

C. Rajgopalchari

The study of post-colonial period of India, we get a leading delineation in liberalism. He is known as C. Rajgopalchari. He was born on 1878. He was taken the seat of Governor General from June 1948 to January 1950 in India. He penetrated politics of Madras in 1952. He opposed to the Communist Party of India. Bharat Ratna was a nobel Civilan award, which was accepted by Rajgopalchari in 1955. Swatantra Party was

constituted by him. Its main motto contravene to congress party. He was also against socialism (Manish, Rajgopalan, Sutter and White, 2015: 442). He was the Chief Minister of Madras. He opposed to use of nuclear weapon and supported to world peace, prosperity and disarmament.

Minoo Masani

Minoo Masani was the founding member of Swatantra party. His other name is Minchor Ruston. Harold Laski was the teacher of Masani. He learned law at the London School of Economics. He had relation with Lohia, Ashok Mehta, Achyut Patwardhan and Yusuf Meherally. But, he was against socialist principle. Since 1957 to 71, he was Member of Parliament of India (Manish, Rajagopalan, Sutter and White, 2015: 443). Uniform civil code was presented by Minoo Masani, but that was rejected. Some works of Masani are Zoroastrianism. The religion of good life (1938), our India (1940), Socialism Reconsidered (1944), A Plea for a Mixed Economy (1947), our Growing Human family (1950), Neutralism in India (1951), The Communist Party of India: A short history (1954), liberalism (1970), etc.

Sharad Joshi

Sharad Anantrao Joshi is a Indian liberalisrt. He was born on 3 september, 1935. Sharad Joshi was a Urban Brahman intellectuals. His father was working in Indian Postal (Indian Civil Service). In 1957, Sharad Joshi also joined Indian Postal Service (Civil Service) (Lennberg, 1988: 447-48). Sharad Anantrao Joshi was a member of Advisory Board of the World Agricultural Forum (WAF). Swatantra Bharat Paksh Party and Shetkari Sanghatana were founded by Sharad Anantrao Joshi. He raised voice against the bill providing 33% women reservation bill of India, at that time he was MP of Rajya Sabha.

Jayaprakash Narayan

Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan is known as Jaya Prakash. He was born on 1902. Jayaprakash Narayan got Bharat Ratna in 1998. He was the supporter of Marxism. Economic foundations of politics were acknowledged by Jayaprakash Narayan. From socialism to sarvodaya (1957) and Swaraj for the people (1961) are works of Jayaprakash Narayan (Gouba, 2018: 124-28). Violent revolution was obstructed by Jayaprakash Narayan. He did not accept the concept of Violence is the mid-wife of revolution. Jayaprakash Narayan gave his notion on Unequal ownership of the means of production has took birth to poverty and injustice. For making of welfare society, there is needed to economic emancipation (Baral, 2004: 260-64). He was a tallest leader like Pandit Nehru, Dr. Ambedkar and Sarad Patel in post-Independent India. The absence of the eminent senior leaders during the Quit India Movement in 1942, he led the movement. He joined in Vinoba Bhave's Bhoodan Movement (Naidu, 2018). Jayaprakash Narayan had faith on continue of 'total revolution' (Shah, 1979: 511).

Venkatesh Geriti

Venkatesh Geriti is a classical Indian liberal. Swatantra Center is founded in Hyderabad by him. He is also connected with anti-corruption activities. He is a member of the center for the civil society. ICONGO in partnership with United Nations has given Karmaveer Chakra Award and Global Fellowship Award to Geriti in 2019. He is also a social entrepreneur and tech professional.

Conclusion

Liberalism is a weapon against state activism. Political and moral philosophy are connected with liberalism. It is based on freedom of the individual, rule of the law of government policy, individual rights, democracy and also limited government, etc. Conservatism has main motto of liberalism. Edmund Burk is regarded as the supporter of

stationery liberalism. Liberalism is opposed to capitalism, hierarchy and also private property. Classical liberalism has also played vital role through J.S. Mill. Indian liberal organization and liberal political parties are main actor for growth and development of Indian society. In analysis of Indian society, it is clarified that, they emphasis on individual dignity and freedom. Liberal philosopher of India has acted for making of liberal orgtanisation. Venkatesh Geriti is founded Swatantra Center. Every liberal philosopher of India has their own liberal ideology. Social reformist ideology of Raja Rammohan Roy, Citizen Rights and individual freedom of Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Swaraj, Non-violence and satyagrah philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, anti-socialist ideology of C. Rajgopalchari, Uniform Civil Code thinking of Minoo Masani, opposing concept of women reservation of Sharad Joshi, liberal faith of total revolution of Jayaprakash Narayan are necessary for a liberal society.

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