

CRIMINALISATION OF INDIAN POLITICS

Multifarious Dimensions



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The Crisis of Political Authority: A Look at the Criminalization and Degeneration of Politics in India

Dr. Swapna S Prabhu & Dr. Niranjan Mohapatra***

The Indian Political System has been in a state of crisis since the National Emergency in 1975. It constituted a moment of rupture in India's institutional democracy. In point of fact, it pushed the system into a chronic state of crisis from which it is yet to recover. The Emergency clearly represented the ruling party's desperate attempt to put down forcefully the counter validity claims of the opposition when its own legitimacy was critically questioned in the public realm. The Emergency created a rupture between the political institutions and the protest movements which entered the representational system, resulting in competitive politics among various ethnic, religious/ communal and regional power groups. Although the power of right to vote cannot be underestimated yet it can be rightly said that the magnitude of criminalization that has crept into the electoral system has to a large extent vitiated the value of the vote. The electoral system, no doubt, has a reasonable degree of fairness but the electoral system as a whole only legitimizes the power structure. For instance, in the past there have been elections in Assam, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir where

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Liberalization and Transformation of Womens' Work in India

SWAPNA S. PRABHU AND NIRANJAN MOHAPATRA

'There are multiple images of a woman's work: cooking on a *chulha*, transplanting in the field, carrying a child on her back, teaching in a school, overburdened at home And yet, the question is often asked: what is women's work?'. Throughout history, women have aimed for a status and recognition in the society like Marie Curie in science, Mary Wollstonecraft in writing, and Simone de Beauvoir in philosophical debates. (Gandhi and Shah, 1993: 160)

The onset of globalization and liberalization accompanied by a revolution in the IT sector has provided women with new opportunities to create a platform to diffuse their ideas. However, on the other hand, liberalization has also transformed women's work in India in several ways. Economic reforms are one of the factors that have changed the entire scenario of social and cultural environment within the country, especially for the women. Liberalization and the adoption of the New Economic Policy (NEP) by the Indian government in 1991, calls for an assessment of the role and impact of globalization, structural adjustment and deregulation of the economy on the employment of women in small scale sectors. The present paper seeks to examine the role of liberalization in transforming the nature of women's work in India with a special reference to women in rural India employed especially in the unorganized sector. The paper also places the woman worker, in particular the poor woman worker, at the centre of analysis since it is her hard work and enterprise which creates half of the wealth of the nation and whose labour leads to national growth.



Combating Violence Against

Women

A REALITY IN THE MAKING

Smita Nayak

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Gender Sensatisation in Law Enforcement: Major Issues and Challenges

Dr Swapna S. Prabhu and Dr Niranjana Mohapatra

Abstract

A society is judged by the status its women enjoy. The growing violence against women in the country has been a matter of great concern for both the government and civil society. Earlier while cases of violence against women went largely unnoticed (most of these cases being confined to the domestic arena and went unreported) for the past few decades due to the efforts of women's groups and media coverage, a large number of such cases have been highlighted. This has helped in creating a climate to build up public opinion about the urgent need for adequate state intervention not only for action against such offenders but also to sensitise the police forces in the country to prioritise such cases.

The growing number of women in police and their increasing visibility has led to a positive statement about the country's prioritisation of cases of violence against women and to handle the victims compassionately. But did this also lead to the sensitisation of the police force to women's issues?

The present article intends to look at the above-mentioned issue in order to assess the ground realities of the situation. An