



## **ROLE OF STUDENTS IN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

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Student's role is paramount in present time, where our society is facing problem with present leader. They are deteriorating the condition and ways of living through their decisions as a legislature and executive, and it has paralyzed other i.e., judiciary. Some of the decisions like demonetization or GST, or latest financial bill which was passed in the washed session of lok sabha are a prime example, which is present in front of us. Along with, conditions of the farmers aren't good, because of poor loan waiver system which has been implemented by the centre and state government. This could only be sorted out, if we involve students in it, through discussions, research work, accepting critical analysis of the bill passed by the legislatures in the parliament or state assembly. Thereby, we shouldn't underestimate the role of students in the development of society.

**“The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow”.**

**- Nelson Mandela**

We are living in the twenty-first century, and many incidents have happened in the past which has changed the dimension, and course of our country and as well as the world. There were such incidents also which had surprised everyone, and those works were done by students. One such incident was twenty month emergency which was declared on June 25, 1975 by then Prime Minister of India Mrs. Indra Gandhi, and it is often referred to as the **“Darkest Phase of Independent India”**, this was the third emergency which was declared in our country. The first two were during the Indo-China War and Indo-Pak War 1971, respectively; her reason to declare an emergency in the nation was deceleration in GDP growth, because of the war which was fought against Pakistan along with droughts, unemployment and oil crisis had troubled the economy of our country, which had increased a sense of cynicism and angst amongst labour and students, it led to an unrest in the country. Mass protests were organised by JP Narayan, and under his leadership a protest was started against Indira Gandhi's corrupt and autocratic government. In that period, a series of incidents happened such as suspension of fundamental rights, and any person who opposed the government was either detained or arrested without the right to appeal the courts. If we

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look into the constitution, certain fundamental rights like Article 19 which allowed the people, to freedom of speech and expression and assemble peacefully and without arms, and a right to form associations or unions. If a person is detained in custody without being informed, he or she shall be informed about grounds for arrest, and allowed to consult, must be defended by a legal practitioner of his choice, it has been mentioned in the Article 22 of our constitution, notwithstanding it was been suspended by the government due to uncertain emergency in the nation. This incident is remembered by many people, who had seen it. Although, students had a paramount role, when they went against the government. It had showed a sense of responsibility of their towards the country, and demands were analytical and logical, which completely changed the dimension of our country. Thus, it leads to an expulsion of Indira Gandhi's government.<sup>2</sup>

A similar incident had happened, but its extent wasn't like that of emergency period, and opposition which was faced by Indira Gandhi's government. The ruling party's member of parliament filed an FIR against the students who raised an anti- national slogan in the Jawahar Lal Nehru University, and certain students were arrested, on which there was a doubt, and they arrested and kept in a remand under section 124A of Indian Penal Code which mentions about "Sedition". At last, they were released due to lack of evidence. When these students came back to their university, they addressed not only the administration, but also the government and whole nation. One such student from university, who addressed everyone, and recited a poem written by Bertolt Brecht, and it went like this;

**“General, your tank is a powerful vehicle**

**it smashes down forests and crushes**

**a hundred men.**

**But it has one defect**

**it needs a driver**

**general, your bomber is powerful**

**it flies faster than a storm and carries**

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<sup>2</sup> quora/ india- how- india changed under indira gandhi



**more than an elephant  
but it has one defect  
it needs a mechanic  
general, man is very useful  
he can fly and he can kill.  
But, it has one defect;  
he can think.”**

So, such is the power of a man that it has born with a brain, and students are also a part of that class of human. There are people, who aren't that skillful as compared with students, and it is the responsibility of them and us to build a bridge to connect everyone with knowledge and wisdom which has been attained along with mistakes which has been done.

Another poem that pertains to society;

**“First they came for the socialists, and I  
did not speak out  
because I'm not a Socialist  
they came for the trade unionists, and  
I didn't speak out  
because I wasn't a Trade Unionist.  
Then they came for the Jews, and I  
didn't speak out-  
'because I'm not a Jew.  
then they came for me- and there was  
no one left to speak for me.”**

Students through education, skills, and participation can develop the society, where there isn't any kind of discrimination on the basis of caste, creed, religion, sex, gender, on the basis



of place of birth. The role of students is necessary in opprobrium of statements of those who think the practice of manual scavenging attain an experience in spirituality, and this statement was given by then Chief Minister of Gujarat and present Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi. As we are living in a more heterogeneous and pluralist society, the idea of student shouldn't longer rests on surface attributes like languages, ideology. It has to be anchored, instead in shared values where everyone collectively ascribes or subscribes to, and a society has to be formed where everyone has shared values that everyone or anyone from any part of the world can come and adapt to.

We have to build a society, which provides equality, and opportunity to different gender, it shouldn't be limited to male, female but also to transgender as well. It will benefit the state in its growth, and employment will increase, though full employment cannot be expected, but "selling pakodas" in a state by its citizens will not help in the growth, rather it will be an under employment and it has its own stringent impact on growth of the country. As, our Constitution has mentioned about Article 14 which is a fundamental right, it is about every person is equal before the law, and equal protection shall be given to every citizen of the state. Similarly, many countries like Canada, United States Of America, Australia, Ireland and others have allowed the same sex marriage; students in those countries are mostly in support of the action of their government. Though, there are people who have different opinions and we need to give a respect to them, same is with the students. In our country we haven't passed a bill in the protection of those people who has an interest towards same sex yet. Despite that, last year Supreme Court gave a judgement on the "Privacy" as a Fundamental Right which showed a support, and given a respect to their interest. Ultimately, it is the students, who have to accept, protect and bring them to the mainstream society, without any kind of hindrance. Now, the time has come to scrap section 377 of IPC which penalizes people who consummate with same sex.

Another, problem which our society is confronting with at this point of time, it is the climate change and increase in pollution which augmented difficulty for people to breathe. Evidence is present, where planet's average surface temperature has risen about 2.0 degree Fahrenheit, since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century which has increased carbon dioxide and other human made emissions into the atmosphere. If we look closer into the records, 2016 was the warmest year on record- similarly, the ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctic ice have decreased in mass. The sea level rose about 8 inches in the last century. We can transform, and make our planet



recover, when we talk to friends, families, and voicing concerns via social media, helping to protect public lands, stopping offshore drilling and more. Investing in energy efficient appliances, saving water will reduce carbon pollution. As, it takes a lot of energy in pumping, heat and treat water. Hence, it will be better to take shorter showers, turn off tap while brushing teeth, led light bulbs can be used, which will save up to 60 percent energy compared with usual bulbs, or conventional incandescent. Even, a less frequent flying can make a big difference too.

We have to think ahead, where we have a healthy community particularly comprising of healthy children, and it is a good economic policy, it starts with young people as they are naturally healthy. Vaccines have cured diseases which didn't happen before. We have to work on sewage system, clean drinking water, proper ways of elimination of wastes, as it prevents diseases to take its root. The world is less violent and more tolerant than it ever been. Few people are dying at a young age, more people are living better and in a subtle manner, girls are attending schools, more adults can read, more children have vaccines they need. It happened because people chose to make it happen. Many of those people are working over the course of many years started without power, wealth or title, and many of them were extraordinarily young.

Ultimately, the role of students in the present time is decisive, as it depends upon people to transform society in better living with a better climate, protection. Thus, it shouldn't be based on might is right. However, the path is difficult but we have to take a step forward for a better subsistence. Though, it shouldn't exasperate them while they do their work, and masquerade by false ideology, and opinions of others. Their role will be prevalent in the society, if the reservation is given to those people who belong to lower caste in secondary level, and their education has to be given free of cost. We have to separate from discrimination which is still existing in the country like India, and economical division in the European countries.