

A Social Movement against Corruption by Anna Hazare in India

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Abstract:-

Anna Hazare's journey was extraordinary in terms of a flower seller, army truck driver, a tenacious soldier, social reformer, anti-corruption campaigner and a gentle reminder of Mahatma Gandhi's Satyagraha. He follows the non-violent path up till now effective campaign of resurrecting a barren village into an 'ideal village' model and empowering the faceless citizen through pioneering work on 'Right to Information'. Anna takes efforts to protect efficient government officers from frequent transfers and empower Gram Panchyat. In 2011 Anna Hazare named among top 100 global thinkers in Foreign Policy. A national daily newspaper ranked Anna Hazare as the most influential person in Mumbai.

Introduction:-

The anti-corruption campaigner Anna Hazare shows a new path in the history of independent India. Anna's struggle against corruption was a gentle reminder of Mahatma Gandhi's Satyagraha. Anna Hazare shows the world what is Gandhism means in today's world by his fast-unto death of the five day fast. The power of Gandhiji's non-violence will never cease to exist in the ages to come. In India, a respected social activist Anna Hazare is waging a peaceful and non-violent war against corruption. His urge to free India of the greatest evil 'corruption' commends appreciation. This fight against corruption staged at Jantar Mantar(Delhi) was not a one-man show. People from different parts of the country gave their support to Anna Hazare in his non-violent war against corruption. No any political party was involved in this non-violent struggle, it was the greatest merit. Anna Hazare and his supporters were not influenced by any political party. There was only one flag waving high in the sky and in people's mind that was the Indian National Flag.

Methodology:-

The present study is related to "A Social Movement against Corruption by Anna Hazare in India." The study analysis has been conducted using descriptive and diagnostic method to carry out the research. The reference period of the study has been taken from 1937 to 2017. Purposive sampling method is used. The researcher selected and collected data by primary and secondary sources.

Objectives:-

The objectives of the present study are:

1. To examine the role of Anna Hazare in "India against Corruption Mission".
2. To analyse the Anna Hazare as a Social Activist.
3. The society's awareness against Corruption.
4. Make suggestions to minimise Corruption in Indian society.
5. To examine impact of work done by Anna and his team on corruption in India.
6. To highlight the development with social equity in 'Ralegan Siddhi' as a role model of an ideal village.

Hypothesis:-

The following hypotheses are used for this study.

1. The reforms made by the Anna Hazare were known to be a milestone in 'India against Corruption Mission'.
2. The non-violent mission of "India against Corruption" movement by Anna Hazare took whole world's attention.
3. Ralegan Siddhi is come in to light with reforms made by Anna and became the first role model of smart village in India.

What is Corruption?

In sociological point of view the word corruption leads to various meanings, but as per this paper the definition of the corruption revolve around Government officials and politicians. Corruption is a crime committed by officials (public or private) abusing of their role to procure gain for themselves or somebody else. Several forms of corruption exist: bribery, embezzlement, abuse of power, just to name a few. UNODC adopts an evidence-based approach

to quantify the extent and describe the patterns of corruption at country level. Information on experience of corruption is gathered through sample surveys on different targets - general population, business sector, and civil servants - following strict methodological standards.

Corruption in India is an issue that adversely affects its economy. The country owes its stunted development largely to the rampant corruption. A study conducted by the Transparency International in 2005 shows that more than 62% of Indians had a firsthand experience of paying bribes or influence peddling to get jobs done in public offices successfully. In a study conducted in 2008, Transparency International reported that about 40% of Indians had firsthand experience of paying bribes or using contacts to get jobs done in public offices. In 2015, India was ranked 76th out of 168 countries in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index, compared to its neighbours Bhutan (27th), Bangladesh (139th), Myanmar (156th), China (83rd), Nepal (130th), Pakistan (117th) and Sri Lanka (84th). The largest contributors to the corruption are entitlement programs and social spending schemes enacted by the Indian government. Examples include Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and National Rural Health Mission. Other sources of corruption include India's trucking industry which is forced to pay billions of rupees in bribes annually to numerous regulatory and police stops on its interstate highway.

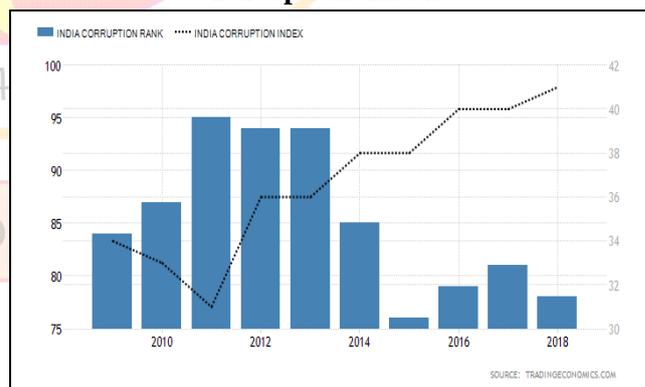
Corruption in India is a problem that has serious implications for both protecting the rule of law and ensuring access to justice. As of December 2009, 120 of India's 524 parliament members were accused of crimes, under India's First Information Report procedure wherein anyone can allege another of committing a crime. Many of the biggest scandals since 2010 have involved very high level government officials, including Cabinet Ministers and Chief Ministers, such as in the 2G spectrum scam (₹ 1.7 lakh crore (US\$25 billion)), the 2010 Commonwealth Games scam (₹ 70,000 crore (US\$10 billion)), the Adarsh Housing Society scam, the Coal Mining Scam (₹ 1.86 lakh crore (US\$28 billion)), the Mining Scandal in Karnataka and the Cash for Vote scam.

The media has widely published allegations of corrupt Indian citizens stashing millions of rupees in Swiss banks. Swiss authorities, however, have denied these allegations, which have now been proven in 2015-2016. The Indian media is mainly owned by corrupt politicians and industrialists who also play a major role in most of these scams, thus misleading public with wrong information and using media for mud-slinging their political and business opponents.

The causes of corruption in India include excessive regulations, complicated tax and licensing systems, numerous government departments each with opaque bureaucracy and discretionary powers, monopoly of government controlled institutions on certain goods and services delivery, and the lack of transparent laws and processes. There is significant variation in the level of corruption and in the government's efforts to reduce corruption across India.

Below graph represents India is the 78 least corrupt nations out of 175 countries, according to the 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index reported by Transparency International. Corruption Rank in India averaged 75.67 from 1995 until 2018, reaching an all time high of 95 in 2011 and a record low of 35 in 1995.

Below Graph Showing 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index



India Corruption Rank Notes:-

The Corruption Perceptions Index ranks countries and territories based on how corrupt their public sector is perceived to be. A country or territory's rank indicates its position relative to the other countries and territories in the index. This research provides the latest reported value for - India Corruption Rank - plus previous releases, historical high and low, short-term forecast and long-term

prediction, economic calendar, survey consensus and news. India Corruption Rank - actual data, historical chart and calendar of releases - was last updated on June of 2019.

In Indian scenario as per the above situation there was a need to minimise corruption to boost faith of Indians in the government and to boost the Indian economy by next door. This valuable task has been taken by Anna and his team in the Indian history. These efforts were later on proven to be a mile stone in Indian history after Mahatma Gandhi mission for independence.

Who is Anna Hazare?

Kisan Baburav Hazare popularly known as Anna Hazare was born on 15th June, 1937 in Bhingar, near to Ahmednagar. Anna Hazare was a soldier for 15 years in Indian Army. He was enlisted after the 1962 Indo-China War, when the government exhorted young men to join the Army. In 1978, he took voluntary retirement from the 9th Maratha Battalion and returned home to Ralegan Siddhi, a village in Maharashtra's drought-prone Ahmednagar. He was 39 years old.

At the New Delhi railway station Anna purchased a book of Vivekananda. After reading Vivekananda's book, it was a eye-opener and shed light on Anna's mind. As he started reading the book, he found answers to all his questions. Anna thinks about the purpose of his life. Human life has been created for service. To serve others should be the aim of life. Anna thought our nation is a temple. To serve this nation, to serve the people, is to serve God. At the age of 26 he decided that my life would be dedicated to the service of the people and the nation. In the beginning he inspired by Mahatma Gandhi and took up the work of development of villages.

He decided not to let go of a life time by being involved purely in earning the daily bread for the family. That's the reason why he pledged to be a bachelor. Then he had completed only three years in the army and so would not be eligible for the pension scheme. In order to be self-sufficient, he continued to be in the army. After 12 more years he opted for voluntary retirement and returned to his native place in Ralegan Siddhi, in the Parner tehsil of Ahmednagar district.

Anna is well known and respected for upgrading the ecology and economy of the village of Ralegan Siddhi. Ralegan Siddhi was located in the drought prone Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra state. The previous barren village has metamorphosed into a unique model of rural development due to its effective water conservation methods, which made the villagers self-sufficient. Earlier, the same village witnessed alcoholism, poverty and migration to urban slums. Hazare's Ralegan Siddhi became the first role model of an ideal village and has become a tourist spot for many visitors across the nation. It shows the metamorphoses from the worst village to an ideal village. Visitors include politicians, researchers, social workers and students. Four postgraduate students have completed Ph. D. thesis on Ralegan Siddhi.

Anna Hazare's dream was "India as a strong nation will not be realised without self-reliant, self-sufficient villages, this can be achieved only through social commitment & involvement of the common man."

Anna Hazare against Corruption:-

Anna rightly thought that Development is stained by corruption and started a new mission in 1991 called 'Bhrashtachar Virodhi Jan Aandolan (BVJA)' or public movement against corruption (India against Corruption). It was found that some 42 forest officers had duped the state government for crores of rupees through corruption in association. Anna submitted the evidences to the government but the latter was unwilling to take action against all these officers as one of the ministers of the ruling party was involved in the scam. A distressed Anna returned the 'Padmashree Award' to the President of India and also returned the 'Vriksha Mitra Award' given by prime minister of India Rajiv Gandhi. He further went on an indefinite hunger strike in Alandi on the same issue. Finally, the government woke up from deep snooze and took action against the guilty peoples. Anna Hazare continued campaign on this issue had a great effect - six of the ministers were forced to resign and more than 400 officers from different government offices were sent back to home. Anna Hazare realized that it was not enough to merely take action against fraudulent ministers or

officers but to change the entire system that was studded with loopholes.

After that, Anna Hazare campaigned for the Right to Information Act. The state government turned a blind eye towards the pleas in this regard and so he first agitated in the historical Azad Maidan in Mumbai in the year 1997. To create mass public awareness about RTI amongst the youth, Anna Hazare travelled extensively throughout the state. The government kept promising that RTI Act would be made but never raised this issue in the house or the state assembly. Hazare did not give up he agitated at least ten times. Finally, again he went on an indefinite hunger strike at Azad Maidan in the last week of July 2003. At last, the President of India signed the draft of the Right to Information Act after his 12 days hunger strike and ordered the state government to implement it with effect from 2002. The same draft was considered as the base document for the making of the National Right to Information Act-2005.

After the implementation of the RTI Act-2005, Anna Hazare travelled for more than 12,000 Kms across the state creating awareness about the Act. In the second phase, he interacted with more than one lakh college students and also conducted mass public meetings across 24 districts of the state. The third phase included daily 2-3 public meetings in more than 155 tehsil places. In this massive campaign, posters, banners were displayed and more than one lakh booklets of the provisions of the Act were distributed at a nominal price. This created enough of awareness and people were educated on the issue of rights of citizens.

Anna Hazare's first fast demanding a strong Lokpal (on 5 April 2011), supporters started a campaign known as "I Am Anna Hazare", which was similar to the "We Are All Khaled Said" campaign from the Egyptian uprising. During Anna Hazare's second fast, his 'Topi', the cap which became synonymous with Anna Hazare, became almost a fashion statement. Sales of the topi's hit an all-time high. Kiran Bedi recommended that the "I am Anna" topi be displayed whenever someone asked for a bribe.upt

Anna Hazare deservedly won the popular 'Padmashree and then Padmabhushan Award'. Care International of the USA, Transparency

International, Seoul (South Korea) also felicitated him. Apart from this, he received awards worth Rs 25 lakh. He donated the entire amount for the Swami Vivekananda Kritadnyata Nidhi (social gratitude fund). Out of the two lakh rupees received from the above amount, mass marriages are carried of at least 25-30 poor couples every year.

Conclusion:-

Last 12 years Anna has been working in the field of eradication of corruption. This movement is run entirely by public support without and grants or sponsorships. Anna appeal for money wherever he went for a public meeting and urge them to contribute generously. The same money Anna use to carry out his campaigns. The money collected at such public meetings is counted in front of the villagers and Anna's volunteers issue a receipt of the same on the spot."

1. The movement that Anna and his volunteers started many years back without a penny in wallet, has spread its wings in all the 33 districts and 252 tehsils of the state.
2. Anna and volunteers have been active in offering rights to local bodies like Gramsabha, preventing red-tapism and initiating the law of transfers. This has prevented corruption on a large scale.
3. This has also resulted in offering social justice to the economically backward class. The Union Government keeps on making various schemes for poor people in availing kerosene, LPG and pulses on ration card but the middlemen keep on gulping the subsidies of the same. Anna's efforts made these necessities available to the poor.
4. The state government promoted opening of co-operative societies, credit societies & urban banks. Believing in the principles of co-operative sector, the maximum lower class of the society invested their savings with such co-operative societies.

Recommendations:-

1. In the future, the BVJA(Bhrashtachar Virodhi Jan Aandolan) or India Against Corruption will work for the decentralisation of power and laws related to the same. Anna Hazare had decided to develop centres to create awareness amongst people about government schemes and train activists to know the corruption in each sector.
2. As the state government has decided to set up committees at almost every nodal point

like state, district, tehsil, and village level with one member on such committee represented by Anna's organisation. Anna Hazare has trained more than 400 volunteers to work on such committees.

3. Actually the government should train the members of NGOs and that members can work for prevention of corruption all over India. Then we can dream of corruption-free India.
4. Sustainable development of any village by making it a "Model Village" and eradication of corruption are two sides of the same coin. If both are adopted, only then there will be an established welfare state.

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