

## Social Justice Issues and Solutions in India

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### Introduction:

**S**ocial justice refers to a fair and equitable division of resources, opportunities, and privileges in society. Originally a religious concept, it has come to be conceptualized more loosely as the just organization of social institutions that deliver access to economic benefits. It is sometimes referred to as "distributive justice." The term also used to refer to social, political, and economic institutions, laws, or policies that collectively afford such fairness and equity and is commonly applied to movements that seek fairness, equity, inclusion, self-determination, or other goals for currently or historically oppressed, exploited, or marginalized populations.

- It's easy to shake your head in dismay, and complain about all that's wrong with the world. But as Gandhi reminded us in words and actions, "You must be the change you wish to see in the world."
- Not happy with police brutality? Worried about the acts of terrorism across the globe? Concerned about the seemingly unstoppable refugee crisis? Well now is the time to stand united and practice social justice for a better future for all.
- As Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon put it: "As we seek to build the world we want, let us intensify our efforts to achieve a more inclusive, equitable and sustainable development path built on dialogue, transparency and social justice."
- We all know social justice is an underlying principle for peaceful and prosperous coexistence. But while we can agree with this, many of us are at a loss when it comes

to acting on or upholding the principles of social justice in our everyday lives.

### Social Justice Legislations in India:

- Protection of Civil Rights (PCR) Act, 1955
- SC and ST Prevention of Atrocities (PoA) Act, 1989
- Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992
- National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993
- National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993
- Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995, 2016
- Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas Act, 1996,
- National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disability Act, 1999
- Forest Rights Act, 2006
- Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007
- Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013
- National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992

### Ways to promote social justice:

- **Spread the word:** Become active in spreading empowering information, whether it is through word of mouth to friends and family, via your online networking and emails, or just by having a conversation with colleagues at work.
- **Adopt a politician:** Write a monthly letter or email to your local member for council or parliament on issues that are important to you. Take action to support specific legislative initiatives or give your opinion

and advice on what you think they should focus on.

- **Embrace diversity:** Travel to neighborhoods, communities and events that are ethnically focused, to gain a greater appreciation of diverse cultures. Befriend someone of a different race, ethnicity, religion or age, to explore your prejudices and gain a better understanding of the issues affecting them.
- **Sign a pledge:** We are all bombarded with emails and pleas from groups hoping we will sign their petition or pledge. It takes five minutes to sign your name to one of these documents, but could mean the world of difference for those trying to give legs to their cause.
- **Practice what you preach:** Remember social justice begins in the home. There is no point going out and urging others in the community to change their words and actions if you haven't first looked at your own stomping ground.
- **Listen more:** Before you head out the door with that megaphone to spread your message, remember to always be courteous and open to hearing what others think and feel.
- **Attend a rally:** If history has taught us anything, it's that there is power in numbers. It's all well and good to post information about an event or demonstration that is part of the cause that you feel strongly about, but if you can put that into action, then you're no better than those who choose to stay silent.
- **Reclaim your community:** It's vital to get know your neighbors and those around you as you cannot promote social justice on a broader level without a sense of community. It's also important to help those who may be struggling around you first before you seek to help others outside your community.
- **Volunteer:** Sparing some time to help others in need will help organizations struggling to respond to the demand for help not to mention, give you a new appreciation for all

that you have and continue to empower you to do more.

- **Support local organizations:** There are a multitude of groups that fight for equality and the basic human rights for all. Find the ones whose messages resonate most with you and find out how you can support their events and campaigns.

**Social Justice in Education:**

Social Injustice in education prevents bright and deserving students to reach their potential or show their abilities because the wealthy not-so-bright students take over and leave them behind using their resources. Introducing social justice in education is not limited to building schools that offer free education to all pupils. Even if education is free of cost, how can you ensure that there is no discrimination based on colour, creed and gender? Reforms should be introduced in all schools to change the educational system on the whole.

**Social Justice issues in education:**

- Low level of engagement of low income parents.
- Children who leave school early are more likely to turn into criminals and end up in prisons.
- No meaningful qualification no chance of good job.

**Addressing Above challenges:**

- Focus on most disadvantaged children so that they can get a better start in life.
- Partnership between existing schools to have consistent education.
- The best teachers should be motivated to go to the most disadvantaged communities and work there to bring the best talent on top.
- Close relationship between school and employers for providing job opportunities to the students.

**Social Justice and Law:**

The power of law can be utilised to achieve social justice, meaning equal distribution of wealth and resources in a society so that everybody has a fair chance to grow. Safety must be provided in case of abuse or violence or breach of rights.

- ✓ **Key legal, Social and Political issues:** Poverty and Racism, Labour market for low skilled, Legal protection regarding wages, Financial incentives etc.
- ✓ **Inequalities in welfare and social justice:** Wage and income inequalities, Social exclusion
- ✓ **Social Justice affected the law:** Civil rights violation, domestic violence and abuse, forced marriages, statutory rights, Immigration Status and other social issues, People who are affected due to these offences or crimes should be provided legal protection to fight their cases.
- ✓ **Laws played part in social justice:** Laws regarding discrimination based on gender, race, religion and sexual orientation are directly related to social justice implementation.

**Delivering Social Justice:**

Social Justice makes way for the society to perform better and to produce more. This can be done by extending helping hand to those who belong to the disadvantaged and less income groups.

- ✓ **Implementing good social behavior:** Thinking about others, caring for them and working for their betterment are the aspects of good social behavior. It is also called as pro-social behavior.
- ✓ **Strong Partnership and Leadership:** It helps in developing plans which addresses social and economic issues of people in order to deliver social justice to different communities.
- ✓ **Creating the right environment:** Prepare the environment to accept the change and the transformation. Children that are raised by both parents are more likely to finish their schools and acquire decent job than single parenting or broken marriages.
- ✓ **New Social Economy:** new Social Economy is composed with two basic components; social investors and social service providers. Both of these entities must work together for the betterment of the society.

- ✓ **Good future prospects and plans:**
  - Ending child poverty by ending children to attend school and complete their education.
  - Helping young people to develop skills that would help in getting good jobs.
  - Providing employment opportunities to everyone based on their skill, age and education.
  - Supporting senior citizens through pension and other financial benefits to improve their quality of life.
  - Building communities that are self-sufficient and self-reliant to minimize dependency.
  - Once all these prospects are fully functioning, delivering social justice becomes easy.

✓ **Challenges faced by governments in implementing social justice policies**

- **Human Rights:** Ensuring basic rights for development
- **Equity of opportunities:** Fair distribution of wealth and resources
- **Social Safety:** Social protection systems are devised to support families so that they will be ready to face the challenges of life.
- **Poverty Reduction:** Ensuring job opportunities as soon as education is completed. Supporting under privileged and disadvantaged sections will also ensure poverty reduction.
- **Capacity and Empowerment:** Capacities can be revived and reinforced by the government in to empower the human resources.
- **Misuse of social justice:** It should be eradicated from the society and workplace.

**Social Justice Influence Changing Times:**

Social justice helps to create a relationship of man with the society in which he lives, which is just and fair. Keeping up with global economic change would be possible only if social justice is

truly implemented in any society. Changing times demand more and more people to enter into self employment, an access to share capital and productive environment for skills development.

- **Changing Cultures:** Everyone needs to recognise his or her position in society, know their basic rights, and survive in cultural change over time. This is recognised as social justice in all walks of life.
- **Social Justice enable global development:** If a country falls behind in getting the participation of all social groups in the path of national economic development which will certainly not participate in global development and earn benefits.
- **Security and Conflict:** There are some areas that states should securitize, such as climate change, domestic and gender based violence, terrorism, forced migration etc. Another area that affects social justice advancement is the change of power. Whenever power shifts, inequality, violence and exclusions become a norm.
- **Living with environmental change:** Climate change on the whole has a huge impact on regions where water and food is scarce and people already suffering. Similarly there are serious threats to human health imposed by global warming and therefore living with environmental change calls for an immediate plan of action in the context of social justice.

### Conclusion:

Providing fair and equitable justice to is very important in any society or nation. With fair and equitable opportunities to all we can develop peace and harmony in the society. If a nation falls in getting the participation of all social groups in the path of national economic development certainly it will not participate in global development. Certain areas like climate change, domestic and gender based violence, terrorism, forced migration, disabilities etc. must be addressed well in advance so that it will not pose any problem in the path of national development. Changing times demand more and more people to enter into self employment. Social Justice makes way for the society to perform better and to produce more. This can be done by extending helping hand to those who belong to the disadvantaged and less income groups.

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