

Revolution: A Process of Radical Change Needed with Time

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Abstract: Poverty, inequality, injustice and lack of basic needs form the ground for a revolutionary upheaval in a country and it develops with time in the mind of the affected masses for radical alteration in basic values and beliefs. Imposition of anything with force on the masses that hurts the sentiment on the multitude is sure to fuel fire of a rebellion. History is replete with instances. The main cause of Sepoy Mutiny of 1857, the rebellion against the military forces of the British India, stands for hurting the religious sentiment of soldiers of both Hindu and Muslim community besides injustice and economic exploitation of the British East India Company. Apart from radical change in political order either through violent means or silent revolution, there are various kinds of fundamental changes from the outdated concept to new ones that we happen to witness in our daily life to suit in the demands of time. These may also be viewed as revolutions, be it in the field of education or in the field of commerce and industry or in the field of healthcare system and the like and take the civilization onto the roads of progress with smiling populace all around.

Keywords: Radical change, religious sentiment, unequal treatment, political order, health care system, NEP-2020.

1. Introduction

Revolution is a term that has its evolution from radical change in socioeconomic set up with reddened history to silent transformation of ongoing hierarchy. In today's world, a fundamental change in the way of thinking about or visualizing everything around is another name of revolution. Being dissatisfied with unequal treatment of the present government for a considerable period of time and being pushed to wall losing the basic needs, the ground for a revolutionary upheaval is prepared and it develops with time in the mind of the affected and frustrated masses for radical alteration in basic values and beliefs. A glimpse of the four major revolutions in the modern history of human civilizations, viz. the English Revolution in 1688, the American Revolution in 1775, the French Revolution in 1789 and the Russian Revolution in 1917 showcases the same. And everywhere it is seen that the failures of the government to address some vital issues like feeling of inequality of treatment, denial of space of self expression, mass frustration resulted in from economic crises and the weakening of state institutions are the root causes of emergence of all these revolutions. In this regard the three famous quotes of Aristotle, the father of politics which have insightful suggestions may be

seen from the following—

“Poverty is the parent of revolution and crime.” [1a]

“Revolutions are effected in two ways, by force and by fraud.” [1b]

“Inferiors revolt in order that they may be equal, and equals that they may be superior. Such is the state of mind which creates revolutions.” [1c]

Since time immemorial attempts have been made by people to change their habits and routines that stand in the way of their free movement. Obstructors have been challenged every time, initially with appeals and if it fails, revolts spread fast and just. Imposition of anything with force on the masses that hurts the sentiment on the multitude is sure to fuel fire of a rebellion. Discontentment and depravation of right to self rule grow fast amongst a few sensitized affected people but soon it finds spread through the rest of affected masses like the flame of fire. The main cause of Sepoy Mutiny of 1857, the rebellion against the military forces of the British India may be studied as an instance. Though it failed due to not enjoying nationalism in the truest essence of the term and being confined to only some parts of India's divided geographical expression, it showed clearly how hurting the religious sentiment of soldiers as well as countrymen of both Hindu and Muslim community sparked off a revolt of their long resentment on the policies of the then British East India Company. Right from forceful application of “Doctrine of Lapse” by Lord Dalhousie to stressing on English education in place of Sanskrit and Arabic studies forcibly enkindled a strong resentment over snatching their right and privileges enjoyed so long. And with introduction of Enfield Rifle, the rebellion burst out terming the rulers as totalitarian, oppressive, exploitive and culturally invasive. The following may be seen in this regard—

“The attempt of Lord Dalhousie to evict the Mughal emperor from the Red Fort and the annexation of Outh contrary to an earlier agreement, stunned the Muslim community. The refusal to grant pension to Nana Saheb, the adopted son of last Peshwa, Baji Rao II, refused the wrath of the Hindus. This political dissatisfaction was aggravated by the demobbed soldiers of Outh and the few other areas. Added to this, the haughty behavior of Coverly Jackson in Outh exasperated the nobles. The spread of the British Raj and the increasing liberal tempo in England led to certain measures being passed by British Raj

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which hurt the sentiments of the people. On top of this social unrest came the western innovations which alienated the orthodox of the both the communities. English education was a threat to the both Sanskrit and Arabic studies and exposed its votaries, in the eyes of both Hindu pundits and Muslim maulvis, to contamination of Christianity and infidelity. At the moment was introduced the Enfield Rifle with special cartridges, which were supposed to be greased with animal fats, particularly with those of the cow and the pig. As the cartridge was to be bitten at its end before being used, both Hindus and Muslims were alarmed” [2].

The power center that controls the fate of the people may be of two kinds. One that cares nothing and exercises its wishes as the last words may be termed as totalitarian one or the autocratic form. With rise in consciousness and love for self-expression, nowadays excepting a few countries this type of government where the state exercises total control over nearly all aspects of public and private life through repression and coercion is least embraced by the majority of its denizens. The other is the non-autocratic form of government where people’s participation is ensured in the running of the government through voting system. And this is popularly known as the government of constitutional democracy where there is a provision of regularized free and fair election to choose the head of the state, adult suffrage, independent judiciary, and protection of basic laws of the individuals including the rights of the minorities enshrined in the constitution as well as provisions to safeguard the public and private life of the people from misuse of concentration of power in a single ruler through peaceful change in political order. Apparently, government of this form is more welcome than the dictatorial one. Revolution in the truest essence of the term finds no application here where it functions fully and honestly with the expression and spirit embodied in the basic laws or the constitution, but it faces challenges from masses including the political parties when it starts to deviate from the established rule or entrusted duties. Comparisons of the autocratic and non-autocratic form of governments and trends of the world towards non-autocratic government for better and greater participation of its masses may be seen from the following—

“In the modern world, constitutional democracy is the chief type of non-autocratic government. The minimal definition in institutional terms of a constitutional democracy is that it should provide for a regularized system of periodic elections with a free choice of candidates, the opportunity to organize competing political parties, adult suffrage, decisions by majority vote with protection of minority rights, an independent judiciary constitutional safeguards for basic civil liberties, and the opportunity to change any aspect of the governmental system through agreed procedures. In most modern constitutional democracies, however, there is a constitutional document providing for fixed limitations on the exercise of power. These provisions usually include three major elements: an assignment of certain specified state functions to different state organs or offices, the delimitation of the powers of each organ or office, and the establishment of arrangements for their cooperative interaction; a list of individual rights or liberties

that are protected against the exercise of state power; and a statement of the methods by which the constitution maybe amended. With these provisions a concentration of power in the hands of a single ruler is prevented, certain areas of political and social life are made immune to governmental intervention, and peaceable change in the political order is made possible” [3].

2. Revolutions in Different Fields of Life

Apart from radical change in political order either through violent means or silent revolution, there are various kinds of fundamental changes that we happen to witness in our daily life to suit in the demands of time. These may also be viewed as revolutions, be it in the field of education or in the field of commerce and industry or in the field of healthcare system and the like. It is universally admitted that India’s educational heritage is one of the richest in the world and many scientific innovations have had its origin from pen of ancient great Indian sages. To name a few who revolutionized the field of science, mention be made of Aryabhata, master of astronomer and mathematician, Acharya Kanad, founder of atomic theory, Nagarjuna, wizard of chemical science, Acharya Charak, father of medicine, Acharya Sushrut, father of plastic surgery, Varahmihir, eminent astrologer and astronomer, Acharya Patanjali, father of yoga, Acharya Bharadwaj, father of aviation technology, Acharya Kapil, father of cosmology and many others. The ancient Nalanda University which was not just a centre of learning but a symbol of India’s commitment to education and dissemination of knowledge is now a UNESCO World Heritage site. By a special act of the Indian Parliament in 2010 it has been recognized as an institution of national importance and renamed as Modern Nalanda University. All these exercises are really revolutionary in nature. And reforms designed to make education more flexible, inclusive, and aligned with the needs of the globalised world the government of India has introduced the New Education policy (NEP) 2020 recently. This is another revolutionary step in the field of education. Through rapid growth of Digital and Online Education, especially after the pandemic all over the world total education system has now been revolutionized. In the Indian perspective in supersession of earlier policies like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (2001) that aimed at universal primary education, and the Right to Education Act (2009) that made schooling a fundamental right, The National Education Policy 2020 explores something more to cater the needs of all. The observation of Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat, is quite relevant in this regard and may be seen from the following—

“India’s education system has seen a continuous evolution, with each phase marked by distinct socio-economic and cultural influences. The introduction of the new National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 represents a significant turning point, aiming to revitalize education in India by adopting a more holistic and flexible learning environment that prepares students for the challenges of the 21st century. With a renewed focus on early childhood care and education, the policy seeks to address historical disparities and provide all students with the tools they need to thrive in an increasingly complex global

landscape. NEP 2020's potential to revolutionize education in the country lies in its holistic, inclusive, and forward-thinking approach. By tackling key challenges, embracing technology, and promoting a flexible and learner-centric education system, NEP aims to prepare the nation's youth to excel in the global ecclesiastical landscape” [4].

Revolution in the field of commerce and industry is also notable. Online business has made its entry in almost every sector of trades and industries. Even the tea stalls on the footpath carry paperless transaction through scanners pasted on the walls. In the Indian perspective never ever, the commoners were seen using online services like Amazon, Flipkart, blinkit, Zomato etc., sitting on their drawing rooms and availing the facilities of online deliveries as they are doing now. People are now no more required to carry cash with them for shopping. Their handy digital mobile phone is sufficient to cater their needs. People can now communicate face to face through their screens on all important topics both of professional and educational importance through a video conference meeting sitting in different locations, thereby saving both time and money. With advancement of science and technology as well as strong social Medias like face book, you tubes, whatsApp people are now seen earning lakhs of rupees through selling/promoting contents on these virtual platforms, often staying at home and using their free time. The concept of trades and commerce has thus been changed radically from the one a few decades earlier. According to Dr. G. Manoj, this development is really revolutionary in nature. His observation in this regard may be seen from the following–

“India has started transitioning to a digital economy, where credit/debit cards, digital wallets, e-payments, and digital transactions are becoming more common. The idea has gotten a boost from the ambition of a digital India. Virtual shopping, e-cash, e-commerce, exchanging electronic monies, and other terms have become part of India's new lexicon. Digital technology which is being widely used by individuals, companies, organizations, communities and government every day to make decisions, make products and provide services faster and more efficiently. The digital economy applies both to digital goods and services access and to the use of new technology to help companies. Digital economy is a concept often used to describe this operation but it is difficult to define. The GDP estimates do not take into account the digital economy's economic benefits, such as time saved, increased option and lower product costs. Technology would revolutionize industries, transforming nearly every aspect of society and economy. The digital economy is the latest innovation tool which some analysts consider as the third industrial revolution” [5].

Health care systems have undergone through a series of epoch-making changes with innovations of gene editing technology, wearable technology and telemedicine. Nowadays transplantation of organs has become very easy. Once incurable diseases are now cured within very short period by using regenerative therapy treatment. Using MRI therapeutic efficacy can be achieved to treat deadly diseases once thought incurable. The application of nanotechnology and 3D printing have done

miracle in treating these challenging cases. Nowadays with the latest discovery of extremely useful antibiotics and vaccines, longevity of human beings has been increased beyond imagination. Surgical operations have become less dreaded unlike of the olden days due to use of doctored anesthesia. Besides with numerous latest medical inventions, lifespan of individuals has enhanced considerably coupled with lesser pain, infection and bleeding even during major operations. All these have revolutionized the entire health care system. The following may be seen in this regard–

“Recent years have seen a revolution in the domain of medical science, with ground-breaking discoveries changing health care as we once knew it. These advances have considerably improved disease diagnosis, treatment, and management, improving patient outcomes and quality of life. These innovations range from the creation of novel medications and treatments to the utilization of cutting-edge technologies. For instance, gene editing technologies like Clustered Regularly Interspaced Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR-Cas9) have opened up new treatment options for genetic illnesses, while the development of mRNA vaccines has offered a desperately needed response to the corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Moreover, wearable technology and telemedicine have improved accessibility, convenience, and personalization of health care, whereas 3D printing and nanotechnology breakthroughs have made it possible to create individualized implants and drug delivery systems” [6].

3. Conclusion

In fine, not only medical science, every branch of science has had its tremendous breakthrough in its respective field within the recent past. With almost precision weather report released from Meteorological Department, people are now greatly spared from the scourges of vagaries of weather. Revolution in the fields of space science and robotic engineering is astounding. The latest and most debatable development in the history of human civilization is the emergence of a technology called Artificial Intelligence that enables machines and computers to perform tasks requiring exclusively human intelligence. Revolution or a radical change, is therefore, does not necessarily be of political order in favor of self rule or equality or justice but also of the fundamental change from the long and outdated concept to the newly and time demanded exercise to take the civilization onto the roads of progress with smiling populace all around.

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