



## CONTEMPORARY BOTH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SOCIO-LEGAL ISSUES

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### ABSTRACT

*National and international socio-legal concerns today are a reflection of the complicated problems that contemporary societies are dealing with. These problems are a result of the interaction between social dynamics, legal systems, and developing global trends, and they have a big impact on people, communities, and countries.*

*Socio-legal issues at the national level cover a wide range of subjects. As countries work to establish a balance between individual liberties and national security, the safeguarding of civil liberties and human rights is one urgent priority. <sup>1</sup>The prevalence of digital technologies and the internet has raised concerns about privacy, surveillance, and data protection.*

*Social justice and equality is a crucial topic of concern. In many nations, the fights for racial justice, LGBTQ+ rights, gender equality, and the eradication of discrimination are still going on. By passing and upholding laws that support equity, inclusion, and equitable opportunity for all members of society, the legal systems play a critical role in resolving these problems.*

*International human rights violations, conflicts, and the necessity for international collaboration are frequent themes in socio-legal concerns. Just a few examples include defending those seeking asylum and refuge, stopping human trafficking, and dealing with the problems brought on by climate change. Addressing these global problems, promoting international communication, and creating structures for responsibility and cooperation all depend on international law and institutions.*

*Modern socio-legal concerns require <sup>2</sup>multidisciplinary approaches that bring together legal knowledge, social scientific research, and public policy. To properly address these issues, cooperation between governments, civil society organizations, and international organizations is crucial. Societies may work toward a more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable future for all by tackling these concerns.*

**KEYWORDS** – Social, Organizations, Equity, Security, Societies

<sup>1</sup> Statement by His Excellency Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President, Republic of Indonesia at the opening of the Asia-Africa Summit 2005.

<sup>2</sup> The Text of the Declaration is available on the website of the Museum of The Asian-African Conference, note1. It has also been reproduced in the *AALCO Quarterly Bulletin*, vol. 1 (2005), pp. 140-45.

## I) INTRODUCTION:

Modern socio-legal concerns require multidisciplinary approaches that bring together legal knowledge, social scientific research, and public policy. To properly address these issues, cooperation between governments, civil society organizations, and international organizations is crucial. Societies may work toward a more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable future for all by tackling these concerns. Modern socio-legal issues represent the various difficulties that various nations experience on a national level. The defense of individual rights and civil liberties is a key area of attention. The balance between personal freedoms and national security becomes a hotly debated topic as nations struggle with these concerns. The rapid development of digital technology and the pervasiveness of the internet in people's lives have raised concerns about privacy, surveillance, and data protection that have become more prominent. To effectively protect rights while addressing valid security concerns, governments and legal systems must manage these challenges.

National socio-legal discourses frequently touch on social justice and equality. Societies all throughout the world are working to correct historical wrongs and establish more egalitarian systems. Many countries are still engaged in continuous conflicts over racial justice, LGBTQ+ rights, gender equality, and the eradication of discrimination. Legal systems are crucial in influencing public attitudes because they support equity, inclusion, and equal opportunity for all people in society. Legislative and judicial efforts to develop and enforce laws that safeguard marginalized communities and guarantee their meaningful participation in all facets of public life are ongoing. On the other hand, international socio-legal challenges transcend national borders and demand international cooperation and coordination. These problems result from the interdependence of countries and the common difficulties they encounter. The defense of

human rights is one urgent issue on the global scene.<sup>3</sup> Human rights abuses like arbitrary detentions, torture, and limitations on the freedoms of speech and assembly are still being recorded around the world. Addressing these abuses, promoting accountability, and offering forums for communication and cooperation among nations are all made possible by international law and institutions, including the United Nations and regional organizations.

Immigration, refugee, and asylum-seeker-related issues also require global attention. Unprecedented amounts of displacement brought on by war, persecution, and environmental reasons present difficult legal and humanitarian issues. The purpose of this essay is to examine some of the crucial contemporary socio-legal concerns that have an impact on both domestic and global contexts. We can find potential paths for advancement and change by investigating these problems in greater detail and gaining a deeper grasp of the legal and social factors at work.

## II) SOCIO - LEGAL ISSUES :

India is a cosmopolitan country. Numerous religions, caste systems, cultural traditions, dialects, civilizations, and a sophisticated social framework can all be found in India. Due to decades of being forced into servitude for foreigners, Indian civilization has been afflicted by a variety of evils. Our great country nonetheless has social and legal issues with casteism, women's rights, communalism, economic inequality, religious intolerance, and poverty and hunger in particular.

The legal system and legal empowerment are historical phenomena that have developed over centuries based on changing cultural circumstances. Social justice must therefore be considered in the legal justice system and its

<sup>3</sup> Kimon Valaskakis, "Westphalia II: The Real Millennium Challenge", *Pari Centre for New Learning*, available at: <http://www.paricenter.com/library/papers/valaskakis01.php> (accessed on 25 July 2009).

administration. The legal system is required to address and make an effort to handle a growing number of societal concerns as a community grows. Quite a few of the issues at hand have been addressed herein.

### III) THE THEORY OF RACISM :

All Indians are entitled to equality under the constitution in terms of their social, economic, political, and educational rights. All citizens are entitled to equal rights. No citizen may ever be the target of prejudice. In reality, the country is still a long way from enjoying this legal right. There is still some type of legal and societal discrimination against citizens even after 70 years of independence. The caste system in India originated in ancient India. The rules and obligations that applied to a person's existence, varna, or caste, were determined by his or her behavior in ancient India. All professions were equal. The caste system, which was initially put in place by the Mughals and then by the British, divided society but everyone was treated with respect.

Discrimination has a significant negative effect on lower castes. In a social sense, it is abusive. The following castes have also received reservations concurrently in the cause of social equality. The rights of the wealthy are constrained. This is a serious issue. If the upper class wants to abolish reservations, the lower class will demand stronger rights to resources given their history of discrimination. Despite the nation's seven decades of independence, there hasn't been a consensus at the national level on this issue. I believe that this is India's biggest social and legal issue.

### IV) INEQUALITY :

The constitution guarantees equal rights for men and women in all spheres. Following independence, women received a number of rights. Voting, getting married legally, inheriting property, getting a divorce, and receiving dowry are all examples of rights. In 1976, the Equal Remuneration Act was established in order to compensate men equally. Triple talaq is

currently increasingly rarely used on Muslim women. Despite having better legal protection on a social level, women nevertheless confront a number of sociocultural issues.

Only on paper does equal compensation for equal labor exist. In the private sector as a whole, women generally work less than men do. Even if she wins an election in a remote area and continues her job, her husband or other family members assume her obligations. The number of these Kurutis is still dropping very slowly. Equal rights to the property apply to women. But 80% of women in the country still do not inherit a portion of their parents' wealth. In rural areas, this number is greater than 95%. Only members of the family will object if a woman asks for her part. Women now have more options than ever before in industries like the defense sector and the military. However, there are a limited number of locations and women who can benefit from this opportunity. In rural areas, women still encounter obstacles to equal opportunity and education.

### V) FINANCIAL DISPARITIES :

Economic disparity is a complicated social and legal problem in India. 10% of India's affluent people are said to be in charge of 77.3% of the country's wealth, according to the Global Wealth Report. But just 4.7% of people, or 60%, actually own any real estate. Six percent of these people have a daily income of less than one rupee. Millions of people have been without bread for the past two days. The wealth of the country is currently owned by only 10% of the population. This injustice undermines the foundation of the country. poverty and unemployment rates rise. Social harmony is also destroyed by this injustice. The right to live a moral and legal life is therefore guaranteed to everyone. But the ground floor is full of punch diggers. On the ground, the appearance is different.

**VII) RURAL AND URBAN DIVIDE :**

Considering that 70% of Indians live in rural areas, the <sup>4</sup>country has a serious social problem. However, the number of facilities is not even close to 30% that of urban areas. Youth are moving steadily into cities while the rural sector continues to lag behind. Agriculture currently generates ongoing losses. The only people left to live in thousands of villages across the country are the elderly. Young people have emigrated from the villages in pursuit of better opportunities and amenities. The absence of facilities in rural areas is the cause of this. Young people who depend on farming for their living are disturbed. As a result, farmers are always fighting for more advantages and reductions. Farmers have recently been protesting around the nation against the support price and free market. The nation continues to bear a heavy societal weight from discrimination in urban and rural life.

**VIII) FUNDAMENTALIST IDEOLOGY IN SPIRITUALITY :**

In the past, all castes and religions coexisted happily and on an equal basis in India. But for a number of years, religious extremism has endangered the integrity and cohesion of the country. Maw leaching cases, religious riots, and terrorist incidents have all hurt India's reputation. Governments are legally required to deal with criminals who have been influenced by fundamentalist ideology, yet there are major barriers due to religious segregation in all 50 states. Another important issue is caste sharing. For instance, when the Supreme Court changed Section 3 a few years ago, there was a widespread uproar. Police have the right to make an arrest after receiving a Scheduled Caste Scheduled Tribes report without first performing an investigation. It wasn't the subject of an arrest prior to an inquiry. The reform was unpopular, though, and there were violent demonstrations all around the country. The nation's social and legal difficulties

continue to be numerous. India has also experienced an increase in social legal issues. Even today, issues with starvation, illiteracy, unemployment, the dowry system, and children's rights still exist.

**IX) VARIANCE IN LANGUAGE ACQUISITION :**

India is a very diversified country. There are around 121 important languages that are widely spoken. In addition to the languages included in the Constitution's Eighth Schedule, each state also has its own mother tongue. There are more than a million speakers of more than 60 different languages. This compromises the country's unity while also adding to its allure. India's official language is Hindi. But Hindi is fiercely resisted in parts of South India. There would be a commotion if the names of banks, government structures, or train stations are written in Hindi due to the intensity of the protest. Both North Indians and South Indians do not feel at home in the other country. The same holds true for people who reside in the states of North Eastern India.

Recently, it was proposed that when the national government created an education strategy, Hindi be taught in elementary schools. South Indian states replied swiftly. This has to be made explicit by the Centre as being voluntary. The Marathi of Maharashtra, the Bengali of West Bengal, and the Oriya of Odisha are all affected by this mindset. The linguistic states of Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu, and Assamese also exhibit linguistic radicalism. India's diverse linguistic heritage has never been able to come together.

**X) NAXALISM :**

I'm a native of Chhattisgarh. Chhattisgarh's primary issue is the rise of naxalism. Naxalism has a significant negative influence on Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Jharkhand, and Andhra Pradesh, all of which border Chhattisgarh. Naxal attacks have already claimed the lives of thousands of people. It is a social and legal conflict. The Constitution is not respected by Naxalites, even if they call India

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

home. They demand that the area's water, forest, and land be completely given over to the local inhabitants. There, make your choice. They should have access to electricity. The natural resources, in particular, ought to be under the ownership and jurisdiction of the tribal peoples. The Indian Constitution forbids it. As a result, only in Chhattisgarh does the Indian government have about 50,000 paramilitary personnel stationed. More than 30,000 soldiers are also on duty in border states.

Conflict between jawans and Naxalites results in the deaths of Native Americans. Numerous troops have fallen as martyrs and Naxalites have also perished up to this point. All of these deceased people were citizens of India. But this conflict has remained because of disagreements over the law. This social-legal problem still poses a serious obstacle to India's development.

#### **XI) THE THREAT OF TERRORISM AND THE PRACTICE OF SEPARATION :**

The terrorist act in Kashmir raises social and legal issues as well. Numerous natives there are hostile to India's influence. He never ceases pleading for the independence of his realm. However, since Article 370 was just repealed, terrorism in Kashmir has dramatically diminished. It is not completely under control yet, though. Due to hostility in some Northeastern states, small factions battle governments. They have local requirements. Additionally, they still seek complete social independence. Both the National Democratic Front of Bodoland in Assam and the United Liberation Front of Assam continue to demand the establishment of a separate state. Regarding their demands, extremist groups are active in a number of states, including Manipur, Tripura, and Nagaland. Based on linguistic, cultural, and geographic considerations, these communities see themselves as a distinct nation. Nonetheless, the central government has always permitted these organizations to communicate and utilize limited power. As a result, a number of extremist organizations have

devised a plan to carry out their objectives while still being present in India. However, the country is still dealing with difficult social and legal issues.

#### **XII) CONCLUSION :**

Over the years, it has become increasingly difficult to deal with global challenges that are related to international law. To avoid any form of global upheaval, all of the current difficulties have been brought under control and out of the public eye over the past five years. As a result, the world's actions have always been actively monitored and strived to be under control to avert further disaster. The typical person of a country is impacted by social issues, and because justice is a fundamental component of Indian democracy and the constitution, lawmakers and law enforcers occasionally need to take the initiative to address social injustice and inequities.

73% of the world's population, or 4.6 billion people, reside within the United Nations, which covers a region that is nearly half the size of the globe. This region's total Gross Domestic Product is \$9.3 trillion in US dollars.<sup>10</sup> The Asian and African nations had effectively overcome racism and the evil of colonialism together. One significant development in Asian-African cooperation is the end of apartheid. Currently, the continents of Asia and Africa are home to all independent, sovereign, and equal countries working to further democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. Despite having achieved these political successes, Asia and Africa have not yet made comparable advancements in the social and economic areas.

Social concerns could be found in our history, traditions, and cultural stereotypes. Every country on the planet faces a range of socio economic issues, including racism, illiteracy, inequality, etc., just like India does. India has distinct societal issues as a long-established civilization with numerous changes in the monarchy. Unfortunately, more than 29% of Indians today are living in poverty. Therefore,

upholding the genuine principles of social justice is everyone's duty.

Last but not least, if social concerns are not resolved, they can lead to unhappiness, disruptions, and violence. As we all shift to a new millennial generation where technology has become the new norm, social law issues will take on new forms and patterns. The same issues from before must be anticipated and prepared for.

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