A study of socio-economic status of the masses with reference to Indian Constitution

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Abstract –
The fundamental MDGs are eradication of poverty and hunger, universal primary education, gender equality and empowerment of poor and environmental sustainability. India is bound to execute these goals by the year 2015. The Indian Constitution is a great theorem of inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development of the masses. It is a covenant of people of India adopted on 26th January, 1950. It includes fundamental rights of citizen, duties and directive principles for state policies. It gives the appropriate directions to the government to convert India’s caste-based society into an egalitarian society, secular, democratic republic based on the principle of equality, equity and justice. Therefore the constitution provides the special provisions to establish and promote interest of the Indian masses to achieve their socio-economic upliftment. Hence, it becomes the ultimate duty of the rulers and administrators to implement the constitutional provisions effectively to achieve the predetermined goals of the constitution.

Key-words –
Millennium development goals, Constitution, poverty, empowerment, Inclusive and sustainable development, socio-economic change.

Introduction –
The Constitution of India is adopted on 26th January 1950. Bharatratna Dr.B.R. Ambedkar is the artificer and architect of the Indian constitution. The Indian Constitution sets forth a systematic programme for the transformation and reconstruction of India’s traditional, hierarchical, and caste-based society into an egalitarian society based on equal opportunity for all irrespective of caste, race or religion. It is a carefully crafted instrument for state action to perform effectively to eradicate inequality, discriminations, poverty and hunger. The principle of equality permeates through the Constitution of India. The government of India has adopted new economic policy in 1990. It seems anti-constitutional and proved the Constitution invalid and useless. The liberalization, privatization and globalization (LPG) has created a rich man and poor man and distance between them is increased. On this background the upliftment and empowerment of the Indian masses is the need of the hour.
Objectives of the study –

1. To take in-depth review of Constitution for establishing and promoting equality amongst the poor people of the India.
2. To know various social problems and issues of the Indian masses and human development index of Indian masses.
3. To review the views and opinion of experts on the implementation of Indian constitution.
4. To conclude about the socio-economic status of the Indian masses.

Hypothesis –

Implementation of Indian Constitution is not done properly by various responsible authorities

Research methodology –

Researcher has used and referred books on the Indian constitution, for analysis other reference books, journals and other publications are referred. The secondary data is used for analysis and interpretations.

Period of study –

The period of study is since 26th January 1950 to 31st dec.2015. India got independence on 15th August 1947. The Constitution of India was adopted on 26th January 1950. The NEP has been adopted in the year 1990. The period of sixty five years has been over from the date of adoption of Constitution to the year 2015. But still India is a developing country of the world. Hence it would be obvious to know the socio-economic Status of the masses.

Analysis –

The Constitution of India is one of the greatest on the globe. It is a great theorem of human liberation. It is a soul and heart of the India. It gives directions of the state to perform the operations efficiently. It starts with a preamble as a covenant of its citizens. The preamble states the source (people) of the constitution and clarifies the objectives to establish and promote their interest. The part 3 (Article 14 To 32)of the constitution guarantees the fundamental rights of every citizen of the India such as the right to equality , right to freedom of religion, cultural and educational rights, right against exploitation ,right to constitutional remedies. Whereas part 4A (ARTICLE 51 A) deals with fundamental duties of the citizens of India. More over part 4 of the constitution (articles 36-51) contains the directive principles of state policy. Part 6 article 243D speaks about reservation of seats. Article 330,332,335,334 contains special provision for reservation to SCs and STs While article 338 mentions about the establishment of special machinery to establish & promote the interest of the masses. Thus the Constitution of India has become a covenant between state and people of India for their overall Upliftment and development. The politicians and administrators are
responsible persons, they are the trustees of the nation. Being the trustees, they are responsible to perform their role effectively and implement the constitutional provisions effectively. For the interest and welfare of the masses. But unfortunately the fact is different. The socio-economic indicators state that a lot remains to be done to bring the equality, equity and social justice in India. The following fact exhibits the socio-economic status of the Indian masses.

Table – 1 Number and Percentage of Poor in India.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Poverty line in RS.</th>
<th>No. of poor million</th>
<th>Poverty ratio (percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>Rural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-05</td>
<td>446.68</td>
<td>578.80</td>
<td>326.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>816.00</td>
<td>1000.00</td>
<td>216.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source :Neeti Aayog estimated by Tendulkar method)

The above table (based on survey of NSSO) suggests that over a span of seven years the incidence of poverty declined from 37.2 percent to 21.9 percent in 2011-12 for the country as a whole, with a brighter decline in the number of rural poor. But the fact is different. In addition to the above fact the figures of global HDI are also loquacious. The following table clears the India’s position in global HDI.

Table -2 Trends and India’s position in GLOBAL HDI-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>HDI 2013 Value</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>GNI per capita 2013($)</th>
<th>LEB (year)2013</th>
<th>Mean year of Schooling (year)2012 a</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>0.944</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>63,909</td>
<td>81.5</td>
<td>12.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>0.914</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>52,308</td>
<td>78.9</td>
<td>12.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shri lanka</td>
<td>0.750</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>9,250</td>
<td>74.3</td>
<td>10.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>0.586</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>5,150</td>
<td>66.4</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World</td>
<td>0.702</td>
<td>13723</td>
<td>70.8</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source : HDR 2014)

Notes : $ GNI ( gross national income ) is based on 2011 dollar purchasing power parity ( ppp ) LEB is life expectancy at birth.
Human development : International Comparison

The above table 2 displays the 2014 HDR suggests the HDI values and ranks for 187 countries regarding three basic parameters such as income, health and education. It clarifies that India’s HDI value for 2013 is 0.586 and status is 135 out of 187 countries of the world. India’s position is improved by just one rank in five years between 2008 and 2013. Thus massive efforts are required to bridge the gap and improve standard of living of the Indian masses.

The Constitution of India being a great theorem of socio-economic amelioration requires effective implementation of its provisions by the trustee of India. Constitution is not implemented effectively hence the socio-economic status of the masses of India is not improved still today. Many experts have expressed their negativism in this regard. Velusamy (2012:12) noted the regret of K. R. Narayanan (2001) former President of India who expressed his regrets on ineffective implementation of Constitution against Advancement of the Indian masses in the following words: “Law has abolished untouchability but shades of it remain in the ingrained attitudes nourished by the caste and varna system. Though the provisions of reservations in academic institutions and governmental services flow from our Constitution, these provisions remain unfulfilled through political, bureaucratic and administrative deformation or by narrow interpretations of these provisions”.

Thus the attitude of the politicians and administrators is adverse about the advancement of the masses. Hence the socio-economic status of the masses has remained unchanged and lot remains to be done to improve their happiness.

Conclusions:

The largest Indian masses live in villages and slums. Thus as compared to developed countries, the socio-economic status of the Indian masses is gloomy and pitiable even after sixty five years of adoption of the Constitution. Due to the caste and varna system the attitude of politicians and administrators is adverse in respect of overall development and upliftment of the masses. The welfare measures are not properly, fully and honestly implemented. Therefore politicians and administrators will have to change their attitude towards the advancement of the masses and implement the constitutional safeguards effectively for the socio-economic upliftment of the Indian masses.
Reference:

6. Economic survey of India 2015