



IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION IN POLITICS

By Aksha Tarannum

From GITAM (Deemed to be University), Vizag

India is a country where many people do not have access to facilities like education, hospital, hygiene food etc. Now there are a billion people in India. India is the largest democracy in the world. It has the biggest number of people with franchise rights and the largest number of political parties. Since independence, India has had many political problems. There were problems such as unemployment, poor educational standard, balance of payment deterioration, large budget deficit etc. Even after 72 years of independence India faces the same problem. The question arises who should be blamed for such a scenario. Are the policy makers to be blamed? Are the middle men to be criticized? Are the depressed class people should be blamed? Well the problem lies in the roots and in this case a significant portion of the blame needs to be apportioned to the leaders. Though there are problems in most sectors, we can change our country a lot better. We can do a lot better, it should start with the parliament, when elite educated people sit in the parliament and make policies, only then India will be the most influential country in the world!

The people we elect represent us in government. They not only have to carry our decisions, but also they should foresee that the decision should not have any harmful effect in future. No doubt there have been enough examples of amazing politicians like the great Kamaraj who are not very formally educated. But we cannot ignore the fact that there are more than 70% of politicians who

are uneducated and are dependent on their superior. India is the only country where politicians see parliament as a battle ground, ruling vs opposition, but they don't discuss problems together. Parliament is a place to raise the problems and accept inputs from all! But that's not happening, rather they blame each other, what's the point in blaming? Instead why don't they suggest or correct the opponent? By doing so it will ultimately be useful for India and its citizens. India is less progressive because of the government who thinks about their party before the nation as a whole. The minimum age to contest as an MP/MLA is 25 years. But the youth mostly concentrate on jobs, relationships, etc rather than participating in law making bodies. From our childhood we are being taught that 'study hard, get good marks, get a degree, and get a safe and secure job'. The young politicians have a distinct advantage of gauging the aspirations of their age group. The young blood stimulates them to be more sensitive to all sections of the society and their idealism makes them less corrupt. As they can easily develop functional relationships with people, it becomes much easier to work with people to bring necessary and popular changes in the society. But these are only the necessary qualities, not sufficient, that an ideal is expected to show in India. As we all know that in India there is more than 50 percent of young age, mostly in India there are lots of younger and innovative people who didn't get a chance to prove themselves due to some holes in our system because of some corrupt politicians. There should be such a politician who can understand the problems of people whether he is young or old.

For a growing nation like India human development or mechanical development is



important but education comes after hunger. At present after 65 years of independence hunger is not a problem but education is. Thus, not only the general people but also the politicians must be educated

According to Election Commission Of India Article 84(b) of Constitution of India provides that the minimum age for becoming a candidate for Lok Sabha must not be less than 25 years of age, must be a citizen of India, must be a voter for any parliamentary constituency in India but nowhere it is mentioned about the basic or minimum qualification required. The same things are required for the membership of Rajya Sabha except in respect of minimum age and representation. Article 75 of the Constitution of India provides that a Prime Minister must be a citizen of India, must be a member of the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha and if he or she is neither a member of the Lok Sabha nor the Rajya Sabha at the time of selection, he or she must become a member of either of the houses within six months, must not hold any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State or under any local or other authority subject to the control of any of the said Government, must be the age of either of two houses whose member he or she is. But in India qualification doesn't matter if a person is eligible based on above mentioned criterion. For example Indira Gandhi, who was considered as our best Prime Minister, was also not a graduate. She was the Prime Minister from 1966-1984 which shows that the agricultural growth was the highest it has ever achieved on the other hand industry's performance was the worst. If we see other Prime Ministers like I.K. Gujral or Rajiv Gandhi did not complete their graduation. The Prime Minister is the senior-most member of cabinet in the executive of

government in a parliamentary system. The Prime Minister selects and can dismiss members of the cabinet, allocates posts to members within the government; and is the presiding member and chairperson of the cabinet. But what if the Prime Minister itself does not have enough knowledge to select or to reject. Even today most of the MPs and MLAs are under graduate or illiterate. The importance of education for someone who represents a large number of people in Parliament cannot be overemphasised. About 75 per cent of MPs in the Lok Sabha have at least a graduate degree, while 10 percent are only matriculated. Interestingly, the percentage of MPs elected in 2014 general election about 13 per cent were of matriculated degree in comparison to the 15th Lok Sabha where the percentage was only 3 per cent. The current Lok Sabha has only one illiterate MP, a member of the Telugu Desam Party(TDP).

If we compare the education level of the two biggest parties in the Lok Sabha, the BJP and the CONGRESS. BJP has a few fifth and eight pass MPs, 2 percent each whereas Congress has none. About 10 percent of the BJP's MPs are 10th pass whereas only 2 percent of the Congress. In comparison the Congress has more 12th pass MPs (16 percent) than the BJPs (10 percent). When it comes to graduates, the BJP beats Congress. About 23 percent of the BJP MPs are graduates while the number for the congress is only 14 percent. On the other hand the Congress has more graduate professionals such as lawyers, chartered accountants, and doctors than the BJP. The Congress also has more postgraduate MPs(39 percent) than the BJP (25 percent).

In Maharashtra in 2009, highly qualified legislators are not very common. Only 87 out of 284 MLAs, who emerged winners, hold



graduate degrees while a merge 29 are postgraduates, as per the analysis conducted by Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), based on their affidavits filed with the Election Commission. This means only 31% MLAs are graduates and just 11% are postgraduates. The Delhi-based election watchdog mentioned that about 55 MLAs are matriculates (Std X passed) while 51 have cleared their Std XII. 1 candidate is illiterate while 4 have not even studied Std 5. 7 have cleared Std V and 11 cleared Std VIII. only 4 hold doctorate degrees. According to a 2014 survey, views on 21 most educated members of the 15th Lok Sabha, those with a PhD, did not reflect any better performance in promotion of literacy. Only 10 out of these 21 MPs scored above the national average when it came to better schooling in their constituencies. In terms of employment opportunities, even less-- 9 out of the 21 scored above the national average. By the above data we can easily understand the future of politics in India. Almost for every post in India, educational qualification of a person is required, then why should not be applicable for the politicians, who ultimately take decisions about the economy of India. Politicians become powerful administrators after winning the election. Then is it not necessary that they need basic knowledge and education to perform the works. If a minister has no capability to read and understand files then how can he take proper decisions. It is not good for our country, but these things are common in many developing countries. There should be some basic screening tests that must be conducted in order to examine the critical situation. They need to understand how the economy functions and runs. These knowledge can only be better acquired by education. They are the decision makers of the country and

education helps to take diplomatic decisions in any critical situation. Politics is a field that demands efficacious administrative skills. For that one should have a minimum knowledge about the country's different dimensions including it's culture, geography, law and order and so on. This itself implies the importance of quality education. They need education so that they understand the needs of people. They need to know current affairs, past events and relevant knowledge about their locality. Some leaders make their ruling by inheritance even though they are not having the education qualification. It should be avoided. Education is the vital tool for improving the economic conditions of our Nation. It's not about getting so many degrees. It's just a common sense every educated individual poses that should matter.

There are many ways by which we can improve procedure of election such as :-

- A descriptive written exam should be conducted by the Election Commission. Questions may be asked from India's history/culture, Freedom Struggle and Constitution.
- By bringing Manifesto under Section 420 of cheating. Candidates should be prosecuted if he doesn't fulfill the manifesto promises if he or she wins. There should be imprisonment of 2-5 years and debarred from next election.
- Papers should be published showing the assets value that the person owns and their family, debarring from contesting anymore if there is falsification of documents.
- The maximum age limit for MLA and MP should be 60. Every politician should support one another on the development issues.
- Ministers of any department should be chosen on the basis of knowledge and



experience not on the basis of his party seats.

- Every minister needs a business advisor who must be capable of being CEO of a 500 fortunes company.

For avoiding these problems we need to solve it from the root level by increasing local self-government by empowering the local institutions i.e. panchayat system and urban local bodies. The system exists but is severely hampered by lack of rights for these bodies to take financial decisions on behalf of the communities/regions that they represent. For doing so people should also think for whom they are voting and making them into power, should enhance some development in the lives of poor people. In my views Indian politics can be changed only when the politicians mind set changes. Frankly speaking, if they do corruption there is no problem but just do 1 percent of work for the people there will be more development in INDIA.

As Swami Vivekananda said, "Education is the manifestation of perfection already in man". No matter whether we are a politician or civilians, education is a right and mandatory process that every human should inherit.
