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Protest in 21st Century

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Protest is a statement or action expressing disapproval of or objection to something or to what someone has said or done.

INTRODUCTION:

The word protest was first used in 1913 to describe the march that Gandhi organized to protest the restrictions that had been imposed on the Indian population of South Africa, which was also the first massive civil disobedience campaign. As it happens, it was around the time that people started using the word protests with a direct object that they also started to think of protest as a kind of direct political action, aimed at mobilizing public opinion against a particular policy.

The history of protest has been very strong; this short article will be dealing with some of the massive and impactful protests which were carried in the 21st century. The protests carried in the recent years have been focused majorly on threat to Democracy, Economic and Educational crisis and Climate change.

PROTESTS IN 21ST CENTURY:

The Anti-War Protests Of Afghanistan and Iraq (2001); These protests lashed out with large number of people which started in the year 2001, these demonstrations were against the war which were mainly organized by anti-war organizations and was formed in opposition to the invasion.

Orange Revolution of Ukraine (2004-2005); These protests were carried because the elections conducted that year were considered to be fraudulent, also because of some events which took place during that period².

Gulabi Gang Movement (India); This particular movement was started in the year 2006-07, which was against all the crimes which were committed against the women of villages, these women were tortured with offences like mainly Domestic violence and other offence which was the rise of this movement, where women were also trained with self defense to defend

¹ Student At Karnataka State Law University, India

²The Orange Revolution And The Yushchenko Presidency, Britannica (18th March, 2020, 12:25)

<https://www.Britannica.Com/Place/Ukraine/The-Orange-Revolution-And-The-Yushchenko-Presidency>

themselves from such crimes and the movement slowly gained its momentum in all the villages of the country³.

Gezi park protest (turkey, 2013); this protest started with an opposition to the construction plans in that particular area, but later emerged into a series of protests against the government⁴.

The ferguson unrest (u.s.a, 2014-2015); these protests were carried out against racism, when a man was attacked by an officer in public which was also recorded in cameras, the officer had shot the person, people protested against it in small numbers initially but later lashed out in large number when the officer was not punished for his wrongful act⁵.

Umbrella movement (hong kong); these protests were carried on looking into the major changes which were brought to the existing election process which would benefit the existing government, the protesters were against it as it would affect the election process of their state⁶.

Women's march (u.s.a, 2017); which broke out in large numbers due to controversial statements delivered by president of U.S.A on women, and all these protests had the goals of women rights, gender equality, LGBTQ rights, labor rights, freedom of religion, racial equality and environmental protection⁷.

PROTESTS IN INDIA:

Major protests have occurred in India in 21st century, as mentioned earlier Gulabi Gang movement was started in the year 2007. Some of the other major protests are;

Anti-Corruption Movement, 2011;

When Anti-Corruption activist Anna Hazare began a hunger strike at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on April 5, 2011, the main aim or the motive of this movement was to alleviate corruption through Jan Lokpal Bill. The initiative brought together a huge number of people to fight against the corruption happening or which would happen in the future⁸.

Protests in Jawaharlal Nehru University, 2016;

³ Equality, Empowerment, And The Gulabi Gang, Ministry Of External Affairs (18th March, 2020, 12:45)

<https://www.mea.gov.in/in-focus-article.htm?23116/Equality+Empowerment+And+The+Gulabi+Gang>

⁴ A Year After The Protests, Gezi Park Nurtures The Seeds Of A New Turkey, The Guardian (18th March, 2020, 1:05) <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/may/29/gezi-park-year-after-protests-seeds-new-turkey>

⁵ Ferguson Riot And Ferguson Unrest, Black Past (18th March, 2020, 1:20)

<https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/ferguson-riot-and-ferguson-unrest-2014-2015/>

⁶ Hong Kong's 2014 Umbrella Movement, Quartz (18th March, 2020, 1:25) <https://qz.com/1714897/what-was-hong-kongs-umbrella-movement-about/>

⁷ Women's March Highlights as Huge Crowds Protest Trump, The New York Times (18th March, 2020, 1:40) <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/21/us/womens-march.html>

⁸ A Timeline Of The Anti Corruption Movement In India Under Team Anna, Youth Ki Awaaz (18th March, 2020, 2:30) <https://www.youthkiawaaz.com/2012/06/a-timeline-of-the-anti-corruption-movement-in-india-under-team-anna/>

A JNU students protest against the, 2013 hanging of parliament attack terrorist, Afzal guru blew up in the protestor's faces and generated outrage. The students were seen shouting slogans supporting Afzal guru and kashmiri separatism which led to counter protests by the ABVP members.

The Anti CAA Protests;

India has faced some of the major protests which happened in the history of the nation, in the form of opposition to the Citizenship Amendment Bill, which was introduced by the majority party in both the houses of parliament. The protests began with opposition to it by the Northeastern states of the country, where the people were protesting against it because of the threats which it would cause to their culture and their resources, these protests lashed out in numbers fearing the consequences of allowance of people to become the citizen of India from the three countries mentioned in the bill. But after a few days when the protests happened in the Northeastern part of the country, various protests began in other parts of the country as well, followed with major protests in Delhi, where people protesting against it, considered it as a threat to the minorities of the country, because the bill contained a provision to allow only the people belonging to the minorities of the three countries mentioned, because of which the people protesting it thought it would go against the preamble and constitutional values and objectives of equality of the Constitution of India. Thus along with the protests in Delhi in the educational institutions as well as protests outside, it busted out with many protests across the country⁹.

EFFECTS OF PROTESTS:

Out of all the major protests which were carried out in 21st century till now, some of the protests were in violation to Laws, Human Rights and Child Rights, talking about such protests, the JNU protest was controversial because of the Anti-National slogans which were raised by the people protesting inside the campus of JNU, all the slogans were attacking on the Indian government as well as the judiciary who had given death penalty to a terrorist who had attacked parliament, the people protesting were raising slogans in favor of the terrorists and of freedom for Kashmir from India, which led to sedition row on many of them protesting.

Anti-CAA protests; the protests began after a month of passing the bill, these started with the protests by the students of Delhi, where the peaceful protests eventually emerged into violent protests with slogans going on and pelting stones on the administration and police, later such

⁹ Anti Caa Protests, Economic Times (18th March 2:35) <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/Topic/Anti-Caa-Protests>

violent protests lashed out throughout the territory of the country, large number of people gathered to protest against the Act, where women and children were fooled into protesting there all day all night without giving them proper information about the Act and misleading them into the protests which certainly violated the child rights and also in various other cities children were made a part of such protests and were made to make slogans of azadi from India, also some of the comments led to offences like sedition and waging war, all these activities did effect the peace of the country and also led to various violations.

CONCLUSION

This short article has dealt with the concept of protests mainly during the 21st century, where many impactful protests have taken place to fight against Dictatorship, Crisis, Climate change and Inequality amongst citizens by the Government. Protests have the basic objective of achieving goals for which they have opposed the actions of any particular organizations or government, but these protests to achieve their goals or objectives have to be conducted in a proper manner and should not be misled by a group of people trying to do any wrongful act through these people protesting with proper objectives. The concept of protests has also evolved over the period of time. Protests play a dominant role in the society and are a form of dissent to any action taken primarily by the government, but such protests should not affect the Peace, Integrity, Unity and Dignity of the people and the Country.