



The Hindu English Newspaper And The Social Problems

C. SHEELA, Ph.D (Part-Time) Research Scholar, PG. & Research Department of History, H.H. The Rajah's College (Autonomous B+), Pudukkottai , (Affiliated to Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli) Tamil Nadu, India

Dr. J.PRINCELY ISAAC CHRISTUDOSS, Assistant Professor, PG. & Research Department of History, H.H. The Rajah's College (Autonomous B+), Pudukkottai , (Affiliated to Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli) Tamil Nadu, India

INTRODUCTION

Man is a social animal. He cannot live without an organization. Therefore, the collectivity that man has created during the long course of his revolution is known as society.- Parsons.. Amid many promises to deal with social problems, Media acts as a powerful tool that brings consciousness among the masses. Media plays a very beneficial role these days, especially in escalating public awareness and accumulating views, information and stance towards certain issues. It is the most influential apparatus of communication in the emerging world and replicates the echo of society.

Amongst many forms of media, 'Newspapers' have their special place amid the educated and intellectual citizens. The Hindu, the English daily newspaper, might be the one in the midst of many but has a singular position. It plays an imperative role with its indomitable spirit to inform, to educate people on significant Social issues.

SOCIETY - DEFINITION

According to Parsons, Man is a social animal. He cannot live without an organization. Therefore, the collectivity that man has created during the long course of his revolution is known as society.

SOCIAL PROBLEMS

A Social Problem is an issue that negatively affects a person's state of being in a society and social problems are common to all societies. Social problems particularly mean, when social condition disturbs the social order and hinder the smooth working of social institutions that come to be identified as a social problem.

At the initial phase such conditions are neglected since they do not have any serious adverse effects on the social system but gradually, they get accumulated and begin to affect normal social life. Then such a condition is recognized as a social problem. Once a social problem takes roots and develops beyond the bounds of

tolerance, there arises resentment against it and there is a demand for remedy in the interest of social harmony.

The Hindu, the English daily newspaper is playing a very important role with its indomitable spirit to inform and to educate us on important Social issues. It extensively covers the social issues and makes them known to us such that we are aware and we can take steps to collectively eradicate the problem effectively.

ROLE OF THE HINDU ENGLISH NEWSPAPER TOWARDS PROMOTING THE SOCIETY

Print Media play a significant role in transferring a message and shaping public opinion. Newspaper is the most popular kind of Print Media. It is responsible for mass reporting than any other news source. The Hindu English Newspaper has played a major role in promoting a society in every possible way. It has always exhibited its role in society as a guardian of democracy, as an agenda-setter, as a watchdog and as a reflection of society. It has also helped and voiced out many social issues and stood up with the crowd against social issues. Communication is a social movement. It is one of the exercises that each person perceives.

THE HINDU - PROVIDING INFORMATION

The primary aim of any newspaper is to be a source of information. Information forms the basis of human existence especially in this era of the technology-driven scenario being updated with the requisite knowledge and information has become a prerequisite for every human being not only to excel but also to merely exist in his own field. The Hindu has been consistently and continually providing ample news in a few sheets of paper which have become a favourite for many households to open and read every morning.

The Hindu also publishes news articles that bring to light and also appreciate discoveries, inventions and the service of individuals to society. This in a way is again service to society as it throws light on the recognition received by individuals thereby motivating the readers and kindling more of the same kind of behaviour.

The main aim of The Hindu has always been to cater to the needs of society. In dealing with Social Problems 'The Hindu' keeps its readers fully informed on all aspects. Issues that are going to be discussed in this chapter (with respect to the news feeds from The Hindu) are: Violence on Female Children, Dowry, Child Labour, Sanitary issues, Health Issues, Problems faced by Fishermen and Farmers, Alcoholism issues etc...

Child Marriage

During the 18th century, a very common practice among the Hindus and Muslims was child marriage. At the age of 7 or below 10 was considered as their age of marriage and if a female child did not get married before 10 years was considered as a disgrace to her family. This evil practice was recognized as a custom to determine their social status.

Leaving the harassment aside there are much more prejudices happening in our social system which now is reaching the common man with the help of media.

CHILD MARRIAGES WERE STOPPED

A volunteer from a private trust informed the Collector that 13 child marriages would take place in Chikka Manju village in Thotta Manju Panchayat between 7 a.m and 9 a.m on Thursday and the officials were asked to visit the village Chikka Manju in Thotta Manju Panchayat immediately and all the children were rescued.

This news brought such practices to the limelight and made readers conscious of the ill practices that are followed even in the 21st century. This also brought to the notice of those people who still indulge in such practices. By making this news' a priority 'The Hindu' is firm on making the public know the ill effects and un-favourable consequences of such traditional practices, which only shows the immature mindset of the society. Here, The Hindu not only reflected the societal injustice to women but also made readers aware of the swiftness of the government in reaching the culprits and the consequences of the action.

Dowry

Dowry is giving money, costly things, gold, ornaments to the bride's family by the bridegroom's family during the time of marriage. The other name of the dowry in the Hindu society is called as 'Kanya Sulgam,' 'Sreedanam,' and 'Vara Thatchanai.' Not only in the olden days but also it has been prevailing nowadays.

It causes and creates so many social problems in the bride's family. Some of the offences include physical violence, emotional abuse, and sometimes the murder of brides. Because of all these atrocities society started hating the female child.

The dowry was "Every hour, one bride perished." This was a headline from the 1980s, The women in the headline was slaughtered because they did not bring in enough dowry. Yes, in "Incredible India," the giving, taking, and killing for dowry is still going strong. During the 1980s, when the anti-dowry campaign was at its peak, one could read about brave young ladies who turned down dowry proposals. A women's organisation staged a protest outside dowry-giving marriage halls, In the media, there was a lot of criticism of the ritual.

In the recent decade, there has been a significant increase in the number of dowry-related cases. Most notably in Dowry Prohibition Act cases (300 per cent increase) and later in 498-A cases (135 per cent increase), but only a 30% increase in the number of dowry death cases. These three rates are significantly greater than the average rate of rising in all cognisable instances, which was 21%. between 2003 and 2013. Dowry-related offences were accounted for over half of the increase in crimes against women.

The petition against the dowry marked fall in down. In Tamil Nadu, the rules of The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 were framed and implemented in 2004. Data received

by the department show that in 2016-17, a total of 6,083 petitions were received, of which 4,696 were settled after counselling by the respective District Social Welfare Officers (DSWOs), while 949 cases were referred to the local police.

It is an article published by The Hindu, which marked the 'Fall in Dowry harassment Petition. Dowry has still been a gigantic devil that devastates the women masses. The government has been taking multiple efforts to deracinate the dowry system. Strict laws have been passed to rip up the practice and actions are taken on those who ask for dowry. The Hindu, here showed the reduction in Dowry Petitions and indirectly propagates and appreciates the Incredible Job of the government preserving women rights.

FEMALE INFANTICIDE

The practice of Female Infanticide had been followed in India over centuries. Over a period of time, those cultural attributes became an obligation and the entire progression had been commercialized. In most of the Indian families, the dowry symbolizes a huge financial burden. During the 19th century, the British reported the continuation of female infanticide in Tamil Nadu among certain communities, After independence also that societal iniquity was very frequent in certain places like Usilampatti in Madurai District, Dharmapuri, Namakkal and Salem of Tamil Nadu. The Government of Tamil Nadu had initiated many schemes to stop this social evil and severe punishments are declared on those who practice. One of the schemes is 'Cradle Babies,' launched under the then Chief Minister Ms J. Jayalalitha in the year 1992. They were also arrested by district police, predominantly in Salem, of families who had committed female infanticide.

Startling still, female infanticide was practised by only a few communities. While in Salem, Dharmapuri, Namakkal and Theni districts, there were less than 900 girl babies for every 1000 male infants. In six other districts - Karur, Madurai, Dindigul, Erode, Cuddalore and Vellore - the juvenile sex ratio is between 920 and 940 female infants per 1000 male babies.

The Government, which pioneered the Cradle Baby Scheme in the 1990s for the protection of newborns, should take appropriate steps to ensure that they did not come to harm. Female infanticide is the inevitable fallout of the failure of the state in India to realise the constitutional mandate to enhance the status of women in society. The country had achieved considerable progress in the area of women's education and consequently, there had been significant reductions in fertility in many States.

It appeared that some of the incentives and disincentives associated with population control policies encourage a tendency in families to eliminate girls who were not either first or second born. These regional dimensions need to be considered in the global fight against female infanticide and feticide.

The Cradle baby centres would be set up for Rs. 47.45 lakh and each centre would have a superintendent, an assistant nurse, an assistant and other workers. The

centres would have adequate stock of milk powder, medicine and clothes. Besides, cradles would be placed at hospitals, primary health centres and children homes to receive girl children. Twenty four babies have been taken under the foster care of the Cradle Baby Scheme over the past four years.

A daughter lives, not by law alone is an article by The Hindu that gave an insight into the historical events that tried to abolish infanticide and also brought awareness to the public. Such social evil could be exterminated only with the support of the public. So a rally was organized to create awareness among the people against female infanticide. Students, doctors and the general public participated. All praised the event and also encouraged such activities in abolishing these kinds of social evils. In Madurai district, four children have been sent to the two approved adoption centres in the district through the scheme since January 2020.

CHILD LABOUR

Child Labour is another problem that very seriously endangers Indian society. Children are employed in the quarries, matchbox and fire-cracker factories and beedi-making industries in Tamil Nadu. Instead of being educated, they are employed in some industries and even in hotels children are employed in large numbers. Child labour is less expensive and free from labour problems. The exploitation of the citizens of tomorrow who are underpaid has become a lucrative business in these highly unhealthy, unhygienic and insecure factories and industries.

In these cottage industries, female children are preferred to male children. They are not free from accidents, for which the proprietors do not own responsibility or provide compensation for the loss of lives. Instead of getting an education they get employed in some companies or cottage industries and are paid poor wages. The company owners utilize their poverty and suck their blood in extracting more works from them. In companies are expected to work for more hours for less pay and are treated as slaves by their masters.

Amidst efforts by the Union Labour Ministry to bring in certain amendments to the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 and to allow children below 14 years of age to 'help' in family enterprises, activists demanded that the government should not pass the bill in Parliament. In the run-up to Anti Child Labour Day on Sunday, activists made it the focus of their campaigns this year. The Child Labour Act of 14 years to be amended to 18. The children must be allowed to complete schooling. So, the definition of child in the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 and the Right to Education Act must be amended.

LEGAL BATTLE FOR REGAINING STUDENT LIFE

The Hindu focussed on the fight for the legal right to education. A police case was filed against Kamala Kannan in 1996, who belonged to Mannargudi Town in Thanjavur district. During his second year, following an allegation that he submitted

a fake class XII Improvement Exam mark sheet for admission and he was dismissed. He fought a 15-year-old court battle to rejoin Government Siddha Medical College in Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli.

A police case was filed against him in 1996. After enquiry, the court acquitted him at the end of 2006. While proving his innocence, he then submitted a petition to the Tamil Nadu Dr M.G.R. Medical University to permit him to continue his studies from the third year. The Directorate of Indian Medicine and Homeopathy declined his claim to rejoin college. So he filed a writ petition at the Madras High Court in 2007 praying that he would be permitted to join the third year and pursue his medical education. The Court directed Tamil Nadu Dr M.G.R. Medical University to permit him to rejoin Government Siddha Medical College in Palayamkottai and continue his studies.

RIGHTS TO THE DISABLED

The Hindu expresses its happiness for equal treatment on upholding the rights of the disabled. The Supreme Court had recognised the difficulties faced by disabled individuals in obtaining education or work, regardless of their social standing, by ruling that they were entitled to the same benefits and relaxations as Scheduled Castes applicants. Despite being recruited from all walks of life, persons with the various types of disabilities recognised by the legislation had always been an under-privileged and under-represented group, as evidenced by previous government studies.

The Supreme Court recently concluded that the Delhi High Court made the correct decision in 2012 when it said that "those with disabilities are also socially backward, and are, therefore, at the very least, entitled to the same advantages as Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes applicants." As a result, it was decided that if SC/ST candidates receive a specific percentage of marks in order to qualify for admission, the same relaxation should apply to disabled candidates as well. A university allowed a 10% concession in the minimum qualifying criterion for SC/ST candidates and a 5% concession for disabled applicants in a 2012 case before the High Court.

The High Court decided against the discriminatory treatment and declared it unconstitutional. The bigger idea underpinning this was that "there cannot be any real enforcement of their rights" under the Constitution and the then-current 1995 Act on giving equal opportunity to the disabled and defending their rights unless they were given sufficient education. It can only become more applicable now that a new law, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act of 2016, has been enacted with the goal of having a stronger.

The low literacy and job rates among people with impairments were mentioned by the Delhi High Court. The disabled had a substantially greater rate of illiteracy than the general population, according to educational indicators gathered in the 2001 Census. The percentage of impaired children who were not in school was significantly

greater than that of other main social groups. According to the 2001 Census, 51 per cent of disabled people are illiterate.

There was also evidence of their underrepresentation in the workplace. The 2016 law attempted to solve this by increasing the disability quota from 3% to 5% and providing incentives for the private sector to hire them as well. This must be properly implemented so that this important part of the population is not left behind in terms of social and economic progress.

CONCLUSION

The printing of various news related to problems and changes in society is the primary responsibility of newspapers. The role played by the English daily The Hindu in promoting society with a consistent motto of journalism for the public.

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