

QUESTIONS AND CHALLENGES OF SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AS INDICATORS TO AMELIORATE EDUCATIONAL PRACTICES

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Abstract

Social movements and education are closely intertwined. The ideologies that are prominent in the educational world serve as the foundation for philosophical, psychological, economic, political, and sociological notions of social movements. Changes in Educational Practices lead to the shift in practices of Social Movement. The present paper makes an attempt to investigate the questions raised by social movements in order to comprehend the educational practices that need to be examined or thought about. On the other hand, the research also makes an effort to draw attention to the challenges that arise during social movement. Twenty university students with a history of being active in social movements provided the information. The study showed that educational practices need to stimulate students' minds to understand the reasons behind their social participation, examine those reasons from all angles, follow social norms, and consider many other factors. The social movement faces obstacles that have to be overcome in order to succeed without abandoning its fundamental tenets. The study will help educators to change the way they educate to encourage social responsibility among their students.

Keywords: *Social Movements, Educational Practices*

INTRODUCTION

Social movements are those when there are organized groups working together to achieve a shared goal. The goals could include the incitement of change against any change that is thought to be detrimental to civil rights. When there is a dysfunction in the link between systems, social movements can merge. The genesis and perpetuation of inequality is the

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subject of another perspective.

It discusses how systematic inequality fuels social movements and how transformation in society is ongoing, quick, and inevitable. Social movements can also be viewed from an interaction viewpoint, wherein the daily interactions among social movements, the meanings people associate with their participation in them and the personal experiences of social change are explored.

A social movement researcher may discuss social movement norms and strategies in addition to individual motives. Social movements, for instance, may be sparked by feelings of deprivation or discontent, but individuals may join them for a number of reasons unrelated to the movement's cause. They might want to feel important, or they know someone in the movement they want to support, or they just want to be a part of something. Through the positioning of grassroots social movements as a substitute to bureaucratic state procedures and non-governmental organizations in the design and implementation of education reform, political change can serve as a catalyst for the transformation of an educational system (Madan et. al., 2019).

Praxis is significant in the learning process from an educational standpoint. If social spaces are to fully realize their potential for learning and change, the action-reflection cycle and communal construction of meaning might be emphasized as pedagogical instruments to be supported. These praxis outcomes can be seen in the nature of practices related to social movements. Consensus is given as another strong pillar. Diversity, respect, and support inside the group all enhance the negotiation and decision-making processes, therefore social movements should include these contextual factors where social justice and democracy prevails to empower them (Melero et. al., 2019). The specific historical circumstances shaped the social movements. Alliances between people of different social classes, genders, and races also shaped organizational and educational methods. The economic situation has a very direct impact on the movements' agenda-setting over time. Class is so entangled with other social categories, it is impossible to isolate its impact on the pedagogy and politics of social movements. However, the members' social standing and relative levels of wealth or poverty will undoubtedly have a significant impact on their awareness, which will influence the problems they pursue and the groups whose interests they organize (Walters, 2005)

In social movement, dynamic interplay and reciprocal evolution of individual meanings and shared meanings would be examined through a theory of collective learning. Research on a theory of communal learning would take place in a local setting, such as one of the numerous

distinct social movements. It would look at how people of a community develop their individual identities while understanding and contributing to the development of a group identity. Additionally, it would provide explanations of how communities foster and preserve a sense of collectiveness that further encourages people to take part in group social acts motivated by a common sense of social justice. Understanding the internal dynamics among members of the local learning community would depend heavily on differences. Progressive social transformation does not only come from educational practice. However, if we wish to remain relevant, we must comprehend and engage in learning communities that cope with societal change. The main concepts of the learning theory for progressive social change should be social justice, collective identity, and solidarity (Kilgore, 1999). To assess the degree to which a particular education is truly capable of fostering the reproduction of social movement agendas throughout society, it is useful to apply the concept of free space to education. Understanding how internal dynamics of self-determination and "autonomy" as well as exterior dynamics of surveillance and social control, in this setting, either encourage or prevent the development of strategic linkages to social activity, is a crucial problem for the researcher (Heidemann, 2019).

Social movement and Education are related, none of them cannot be seen in isolation. Social movement practices get informed by Educational practices and vice-versa. These movements raise questions or concerns for change whenever the change happens. These questions call for switching of educational practices and it vary from time to time. To uncover those practices which these movement calls for, this study was proposed. On the other side, also aimed to study the challenges faced while social movement.

RESEARCH QUESTION

How do recent Social Movements act as an indicator to ameliorate Educational Practices?

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the questions posed by Social Movements to ameliorate Educational Practices
2. To understand the challenges faced during Social Movement
3. To provide the suggestions to ameliorate Educational Practices

SAMPLE AND SAMPLING PROCEDURE

Twenty university students who met the following requirements for participation in the study provided the data:

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- For the study, a sample of students who were enrolled in or finished from a master's program was selected.
- In addition to meeting the above conditions, the sample must be studying or have studied at one of the central institutions in the Delhi region and have engaged in one of the main recent social movements in the Delhi region exclusively.

Purposive sampling was used to gather the data. Four groups of those twenty students were created for the focus group discussion, depending on their availability and convenience.

TOOLS & TECHNIQUES

Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Schedule was prepared by the investigator to carry out focus group discussions to study the research question.

PROCEDURE OF THE STUDY

The researcher interacted with four different student groups, of which two have completed their postgraduate (PG) degrees and two are in the final year of their PG degrees. There are five participants in each of the four groups, and the investigator met each group to conduct FGDs and collect their responses. After the data was collected gathered, responses to each objective's elements were grouped into themes, and the results were then interpreted.

ANALYSIS & RESULTS

Findings related to the questions raised through Social Movements on Education:

The themes listed below can be used as an indication to determine which practices need to be reviewed in order to improve learners' social abilities in the setting of social movement in particular and overall social domain in general:

Education for Social Movements to trace and dissect the cause

Social movements that allow for an understanding of various systems and how they function (such as working organizations, society as a system, or the government as a system) as well as protest against the state are indications of a global mass movement on education. First and foremost, we need a reason for the movement, and a reason doesn't just happen; it involves awareness, knowledge, and understanding of behaviors that need to change as well as conduct or behavior in the social movement. These questions raises the concern of Education involve in social movements.

The goal of social movement education is to understand why social movements begin. What should we do if we disagree?, Understanding the subject to analyze the for and against

positions in social movements, the cause's history, its social, political, and economic foundations, and the impacts on the cause that lead the general populace to act in favor of or against the social movements are all important. If a person is violating or not abides by the cause of the movements and its laws then it questions the Education.

Social Movements questions the socialized nature of the human and provides scope for socialization

Human is not socialized by birth. A newborn is unconcerned with its surroundings. As each year goes by, one accumulates things under the guise of traditions, rules, rituals, etc. Socialization is the process through which an asocial human becomes a socialized member of a group. The process of socialization helps a person to control their emotions and understand their obligations. Sites for social movements give individuals a space to encourage interpersonal interaction. Participants engage with one another and gain knowledge from them.

Social movements do carry the body of the knowledge and knowledge of the particular group, with the passage of time, one meet and interact, share bond, but as an educated and aware member of the movement, one should stop other to create nuisance, their action reflects their level of education and humane aspect.

Social Movements question collectiveness

One must exhibit collective conduct or a sense of collectiveness in order to be a part of the group. This also trains one to learn how to adapt to and follow the norms of the group or the masses. It encourages group behavior or a sense of community and prepares individuals to learn how to blend in and adhere to social norms. Education for group dynamics in movement asks for:

- don't follow blindly
- don't harm others
- tolerant to others opinion
- keep respect but don't compromise or sway away
- read, share, listen the successful histories of non-violent exemplary protest
- don't be the anti-social

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The nonviolent stance taken by Gandhi's supporters during successive movements reflects the depth of their movement knowledge. One might feel a sense of collective power by using solidarity and strength in numbers.

Social Movement wants awareness and generates it as well

One was made aware of their rights that had been taken or tried to be taken. This promotes respect for human rights and promotes learning about a range of other important issues. Shared knowledge is how the movement's flame spreads from one person to the next. We can see the establishment of a library during the Shaheen Bagh (Delhi) CAA protest; the library offered books to raise awareness and develop the mindset among the people to read about the movements' leading examples and learn from those in order to act in a peaceful but effective manner.

Social Movement unmask the prevalent practices of society

Social movements expose the pervasive misconduct and disclose the real essence or secret side of society. It exposes the numerous levels of exploitation, inequality, oppression, and discriminatory treatment. The acceptance of roles allocated based on caste can be used as an example, and it still exists as it has become firmly established in society.

Social Movements are meant to develop or create leaders

Those who are well-informed with sound knowledge of the cause, the theoretical underpinnings, the follow-up consequences and the skills to establish emotional relationship, having sound well-being will emerge out as leader from the movement. Through these movements, one can learn how to express one's thoughts in front of others, how to persuade people with persuasive arguments, and leadership abilities.

Social Movement allows one to articulate their grievances

People raise an issue they disagree with because of the negative impact it has on them. As a result of the same, it bring pressure on the state/unit enable them to learn how to keep a check over the authority to maintain a healthy democracy. Better governance is something social movements strive towards, but it depends on the current framework as well as other contextual factors. It is possible to learn the concepts and nuances of improved governance. At various levels of operating units, transparency and accountability can be appreciated.

Social Movement questions citizens

A social movement examines citizenship and self-identity education in order to increase citizen engagement and voice. If one does not participate or express no opinion, whether in favor or against, it appears that either the person is not contributing as a citizen or that their education is in doubt. One needs to stand up and speak out against the problem. Education creates a responsibility to work for humanity, society, or the country, not just to satisfy selfish goals. The questions posed by the general public force those in authority to reconsider their choices.

Social Movements creates Activism

Activism can't be evoked in isolation. An inclination for activism calls for a solid knowledge base, a hunger for knowledge, excitement, courage, and awareness. Social movement activism helps people comprehend social concerns, disputes, and inequities as well as how to interact in logical, stimulating, critical, and rational ways and change their behavior. Activism is necessary to bring about social change since it sparks thought on the topic at hand based on theory and research that is currently available, how people feel about it, and the range of viewpoints they hold. It informs participants about the effectiveness of demonstrations, agitations, demands, and other civic initiatives.

Findings related to the challenges of Social Movements:

Social movements can aid in the reformation of practices that may not be appropriate in the current context. These can also be used to demand that the entire structure be changed or to halt any changes. There are numerous challenges to overcome when pursuing social movements, including the following:

Lack of Resources

Resources might be thought of as one of the challenges that arise while engaging in social movements. People who are protesting in large numbers need temporary lodging and very basic facilities to maintain personal hygiene and living. To survive, they need food, water, and other necessities. The lack of resources may or may not be a problem for those participating in social movements because they may be supported by organizations or wealthy members of the community. The families of protesters, meanwhile, are struggling to make ends meet because their primary source of income has been closed for a while and a member of the family's earning unit is involved in a social movement. In this way, having enough resources can be difficult for protesters and their families.

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Maintaining Cohesiveness within the group participating in Social Movement

Another challenge is keeping the group's cohesiveness while engaging in social movement. Conflicts do arise inside the group when members can't agree on specific rules or practices. This causes the group to break up and, occasionally, to form new subgroups. Due to one another's lack of tolerance and patience, the unity is shattered. As a result, it is important to listen carefully to one another and attempt to resolve problems or disagreements through active listening.

Misguiding the members of the groups involved in Social Movement

If there is a minor dispute among the group members, outsiders will try to use it and attempt to influence the individual in question in order to gain their favor. It is possible to promise financial or professional favors. The person who has attempted to distance themselves from the group occasionally discloses information to those who are opposed to the group, then misuse it.

Awareness or lack of knowledge

People who are actively participating in social movements frequently lack a thorough understanding of the issues they are raising. They have only heard the hearsay, which they are continuing to spread. The real meaning of the information is lost in the transmission process, which can occasionally lead to peaceful protests and a lack of trust among the protestors.

Non-adherence to the Social Movement's central goal

It has frequently been seen that people join the social movement for their own secret agendas. It has also been noted that few people make an effort to become famous or give wings to their ambition to garner public support in order to establish themselves as emerging leaders and pursue politics.

Challenge to maintain non-violence nature of Social Movement

People from many backgrounds, types, and personalities are involved in the social movement. Any form of external stimulus causes people to become aggressive and enraged, which fuels violence in social movements. It is incredibly difficult to handle those who lose control and become hostile so rapidly; other people must constantly be alert to prevent such things from happening. It could lead to riots, assaults, and tense situations.

Detrimental effect on well-being

Social movement participants are at a greater risk of contracting infectious diseases. In addition, poor hygiene and sanitation practices can lead to infections or disease in humans. It has an adverse effect on the mental health of both the protester and the person who is related with them when it comes to psychological well-being. Stress and anxiety about the future of their families contribute to a large number of suicides and mental strains.

Track down any intruders among the participants

Sometimes those who support the motion of the cause join the opposition group merely to keep tabs on the supposed demonstrators' activities and deeds. It was done on purpose to suppress the protesters and foil their schemes.

Breaching of law and order

It might be challenging to keep the peace at times. Since approval from a variety of levels of officials and departments is required to move forward with social movements. The government's orders cannot be disregarded, and if they are violent conflict will be the result.

SUGGESTIONS TO AMELIORATE THE EDUCATIONAL PRACTICES

The following are some suggestions to enhance educational practices:

- It is necessary to provide education that enables students to critically assess issues using reason, logic, and logic-based reasoning. It is necessary to take other aspects into account while analyzing cause and effect.
- Opportunity to socialize where tolerance, acceptance, respect, and criticism must be encouraged. Assigning group duties and ensuring their cohesion and solidarity will help to instill group dynamics. Anti-social tendencies should be restrained in daily life. In actual fact, personal and social motives must coexist.
- Give individuals the chance to be aware of current events so that their knowledge can continually be expanded. Social issues should be brought up in learning, and students should be informed about how to address them.
- Allow children to freely share their opinions and engage with the community to have a deeper understanding of issues.
- To create a sense of responsibility for one's nation, society, and community. To safeguard one's own and others' rights, one must be aware about them.

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- Students need to be pushed to demonstrate their leadership qualities and develop an activist mindset by taking charge of situations.

CONCLUSION

One can learn through social movements as they challenge the idea of universal mass education by posing issues related to knowledge, group dynamics, tolerance, social development, citizenship, role and contribution to society, organizational and system check, citizen activism, collective power, leadership abilities, transparency, accountability, solidarity, and other aspects. Social movements are crucial to society, but they do more than just advance agendas or change laws; they also give people a place to congregate, voice their ideas, and bring attention to both their personal problems and those of their community.

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