

SWARAJYA AND WELFARE STATE

- Is India's Swarajya moving out of Patriots vision?

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Abstract: The present paper deals with Bal Gangadhar Tilak and his views on Swarajya. His vision for India is as Nation but how the country as a state moving out of patriots dream is a main part in this study. In this study how state is going towards to capitalistic approach is another part. As patriots they have great dream for our nation as Swarajya in terms of welfare state but the present scenario seems as capitalistic Nation which is out of Swarajya concept. Further the study deals with the freedom for state or freedom for person, in this both which is most required for welfare state is analyzed.

Key words: Swarajya, Welfare state, capitalistic state, Freedom, Exclusion

Introduction:

The meaning of the Swaraj can be understood in different ways, but Bal Gangadhar Tilak has given broader concept of Swaraj in 1916 at Ahmednagar public meeting. It means self rule, free oneself, getting natural rights or freedom¹. In his opinion, that we want swarajya means we want a good political system, our own government. Tilak therefore wanted to suggest that, swarajya must function as per the aspirations of the people. Tilak clearly understood that total exclusion of the masses from the political process resulted in apathy among them against the British imperialism. In his words swarajya means freedom from the state and it is natural right.

Theoretical concept building:

To understand Bal Gangadhar Tilak broad concept of Swaraj as he noticed, the researcher would like to make few question as follows: what do you mean by self rule? Is it getting freedom from Britishers only or getting own government which is really working for people? Is swarajya is talking about India to be free from British? Or it is really mean individual freedom? What do you understand by birth right? Is it swarajya which is talking about only Sovereign state? Or welfare state? These are the few theoretical concepts which will deal in later part of this article.

¹ His speeches in Belgaum and Ahmadabad led to his arrest on charges of sedition. But the court ruled in his favor in 1916

Objectives:

Welfare state is broader concept which talks about minority welfare, goal oriented policies, peoples participation, government to the people, and responsible state or government. In this context how Swarajya can be fit in to welfare state needs to find out by few objectives as follows:

1. To assess after independence India got swarajya or freedom from the State
2. To find out 69 years of Swarajya has given free oneself from fear itself
3. To evaluate Swarajya in present scenario as a Sovran state or welfare state
4. To understand Swarajya as a global phenomenon

Research Methodology:

In the present study the researcher used comparative method to find out how Swarajya is related to welfare state. The related secondary data has been collected and analyzed Also elaborated with question and answer pattern.

Analysis and findings:

Above mentioned four objectives or the main subject to explore in further study. Regarding the first objective Swarajya means self rule which India got in 1947 but that is Nation freedom which is talking about sovereignty of the state. The welfare state in Aristotle words as follows: "the state comes in to being for the sake of mere life; it continues to exist for the sake of the good life."² As welfare state how far India reached? In recent publication 'Red Tape' Akhil gupta argue in page no. 1, first paragraph that why has state whose proclaimed motive is to faster development failed to help the larger number of people who still live in below poverty line. In another form he asked that after more than 69 year of the development efforts by the post colonial state, why do so many of Indian's citizens continue to be subjected to the cruelties of endemic hunger and malnutrition and to be deprived of such basic necessities as clothing, shelter, clean water, and sanitation etc. further, being the fourth largest economy in the world, India ranks extremely low to the Human Development Index (134th among 182 Nation- states). The infant's mortality rate is around 56% per 1000 live, adult literacy rate around 40%, fully half of the Mumbai live in slums and other degraded forms of housing, health and education in 2007-2008 amounted to less than on tenth of the national budget, and one hundred million women are missing in India. It describes that India

² In the book of Comprehensive Political Theory by N. Jayapalan mentioned in page no. 357; welfare state is for the welfare of the people. The state must maintain strong sufficient machineries for the welfare of the state. Welfare state promotes moral welfare of the citizens. "Prevention is better than cure" is the good saying which is carefully followed by the welfare state. The primary function of the welfare state is to remove poverty, disease, unemployment and ignorance. Social security must be provided in welfare state. It needs to eradicate social evil like untouchability, dowry system, discrimination etc.

got swaraj in terms of sovereignty but not welfare. As Akhil Gupta says 'the scandal of the state' we need to think India nation was capitalist or socialist?

According to R.M. Maciver in his famous book 'The Modern State' says that "it (state) commands only because it serves; it owns only because it owes. It creates rights not as the lordly dispenser of gifts, but as the agent of society for the creation of rights. The servant is not greater than his master." In this context the nation is servant to the people. The broad concept of swaraj is talking about people development. The swarajya concept vision is the Nation as socialist or welfare state not as capitalist.

Second objective freedom oneself from fear itself, the Swarajya is talking about self rule in terms of more people participation, power distribution, or more democracy. But in reality what is happening countries like India is selecting one rowdy among three rowdies. We have very less choice like congress or Bharatiya Janatha Dal Party or Communist party. We have to choose among these three, no option left to the voters. According to the Harold Laski "the essence of the state is its power to employ coercion in order to enforce the will of that group or groups which control the government, for it is by the government that the authority of the state is brought in to operation. The will of the government is, in its turn, finally determined by the character of the class- relation in society.... It is the supreme coercive power used to protect the consequence inherent in the postulate of any given society. That power is exercised by the government in the name of the state; of course the latter can act only through person."³ In this context it is clear that Nation power exercise by government, government is lead by elected party which means few members of the political party. So those who are in the government they enjoy the power in terms of Nation. Now in India political parties who are in the top position or establishers of that party is carrying by same family members one after another who is enjoying the Nation power as capitalists. To notice in simple example up to now 69 years of independence how many weaker sections became chairman to the Congress party or BJP or CPI party? The India as Nation state or capitalist state or social state power will enjoy by the Government. Related to the present objective is religion or castes are fearless? Is there any precaution with state to stop mass killings? Or state just let them simply die and watching? In his book Red Tap, Akhil Gupta tried to give difference between **tragedy** and **disgrace**. In natural calamities like earthquake and tsunami people will lost their properties and lives as it is tragedy but still it is the state responsibility to be ready to give fast relief. Second subject is disgrace or allowed to die, for

³ Jayapalan.N, (2002) *Comprehensive Political Theory*. Published by Atlantic Publishers, Page no. 365

example seeing the death of the poor as inevitable. As far India concern there is no social security and even it is not yet reached to solve tragedy settlements, disgrace and its prevention is very far.

Third objective is Swarajya in present scenario as a Sovran state or welfare state? The idea of Bal Gangadhra Tilak as Swaraj is to bringing freedom from the state, he wants people to decide how they wish to carry out their everyday governance. He wants welfare state not capital state. He believed that political freedom will permit the development of the domestic economy, education, democracy and social upliftment of weaker section of the society. But in present scenario the political power has kept in three national parties which is enjoying terms vise. In India the nation as state enjoying in different form covering with democracy. As our great patriots dream or seen vision for India as welfare state but it is going towards to nation state as capitalist in invisible form which is not good for society.

The fourth objective of the study is to understand swarajya as a global phenomenon. In the present era the globalization, liberalization, and privatization which open doors for easy marketing in world so that nation can create more opportunities to develop its citizens and get quality products and time saving etc. at the same time the negative aspect of these three terms are creating capitalists and billionaires who control the market. Bal Gangadhar Tilak oppose a blind imitation of the westerners must be avoided while effecting social change. He was opposed to the establishment of a western order at the cost of the Indian institutions. All social reforms in India must take in to consideration its ancient culture. Not all traditions and customs of India are wrong and evil. The process of social reform must not trample on the good customs and traditions.

Conclusion:

Patriots in India like Bal Gangadhar Tilak had contributed a lot to country as a fearless leader he oath that "Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it." His vision is clear as Swaraj, his vision towards India as welfare state, freedom for individual, giving natural rights to its citizens, he wants good political system, and especially he wants freedom from state to its citizens. But in present scenario India and its capitalistic steps which is leading away from our great leader's vision. It is suggested that inviting responsible government is needed which can be responsible even after elections. It is citizens who select servants who serve his master better. In one sentence we can conclude that Tilak vision as The vision for the Global Humanitarianism.

References:

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