





SECTION A

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A GLOBAL CITIZEN?

It was summer of 2020 when a big protest rocked United States of America. On a localised issue where ~~polish~~ police killed George Floyd, the protest #Blacklivesmatter spread to whole of USA and then Europe and other parts of world.

Similarly, a strong global movement #Fridayforfuture to save environment, mostly led by new age 'Gen Z' spread to whole world in 2019 drawing millions of teenagers into protest.

The main conclusion or inference from above two incidents is that there was a strong sense of global solidarity on a truly global issue which transcended all national boundaries.

But, what are the factors behind formation of global solidarity? Why protest against racism in America became launchpad for raising voices against racism and police brutality across the world? These what does it mean for us to be a global citizen and participate effectively in global affairs? These are some issues on which we will ponder upon in this essay.

The forces of globalisation, i.e., rapid interconnectedness and integration of world, 'dissolving' national borders, cosmopolitan 'citizenship' and emergence of international institution are the fundamental feature of contemporary world. Trillions of dollars passes through global financial network every second, Billions of messages passes through social media every

minute and thousands of people travel across national borders every hour, this is the reality of today's world. These developments have given rise to a 'global citizen', stripped of its national identity, which shares concerns with global issues rather than narrow national interest.

This global citizen has not only given rise to transnational movements cross-cutting all national identities but also has weakened nation's power to regulate flow of ideas across their 'porous borders'.

TOWARDS A NEW ERA

The idea of global citizen has produced ethos in many fields of life, be it social, economical or political. This has altered global landscape in a significant manner.

Today, social movements spread across the continents. From Arab Spring to Hong Kong protest, a global consciousness against social and political wrongs has taken birth. Feminist movements raising women issues ~~such~~ is evident in slogans such as 'personal is political', 'personal is international', global workers movements such as Yellow Vest have made strong impact. The issue of Refugee crisis has shaken countries such as Greece to Bangladesh and advocates for their rights are found in every nook and corner of this world.

Furthermore, the rise of Multi-national companies has significantly altered the way in which economy used to function. A global citizen

in economic sphere deals with company's issues from Africa to Oceania. This is well evident in significant boom in business tourism and visits across the world.

Moreover, In political sphere too, a global citizen would have some basic 'cosmopolitan rights'. United Nations Declaration on Human Rights (UNDHR) has ensured some basic rights to citizens across the world. Especially, in the post cold war era, there is growing global consensus over some global rights such as freedom of movement to a global citizen. However, the rise of authoritarian and communist regimes has significantly reduced basic rights and liberties of a global citizen. Not only authoritarian regimes, but also the tactics of 'democracy promotion' by west has hampered global civil rights movements.

Furthermore, the growing interconnected world has resulted into altering social demographics of every country. United Nations estimates that by 2050, every third person of world would be a migrant. This has resulted into demands for multicultural rights.

Having said that, the conflict between local and global culture is also growing in the world often taking shape of Xenophobia.

Similarly, a global citizen today is more concerned about 'tragedy of commons'. Global environmental problems such as climate change knows no boundary and can be tackled only through global movements and cooperation. Rise of NGOs such as Greenpeace and international organisations such as UNEP has resulted into renewed fight against environmental issues.

For a global citizen, it is important to keep idea of Mahatma Gandhi who said "there is enough in this world to satisfy human's needs but not greed". A true example of global citizen was evident when famous hollywood actor Leonardo DiCaprio expressed concerns over Climate change while receiving his first Oscar.

Furthermore, there is growing consensus in world against terrorism which has resulted in loss of life from Asia to America. Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself says "terrorism has no good or bad face, terrorism is terrorism". A truly global crusade against terrorism was evident when a global coalition defeated ISIS in Middle East. However, America's 'War on terror' after 9/11 attack was criticised on imperialist grounds. Thus, as a 'global citizen' would

share concerns with use of violence anywhere in the world and would stand united ~~eg~~ in fight against terrorism, as evident during adoption of #Christchurch Call for Action declaration.

Not to mention, there is growing global cooperation between citizens across the world in Science on technology. The idea of global citizenry is ~~was~~ most evident today when an Indian company Serum Institute collaborates with Oxford university to make a vaccine to fight a global pandemic.

Moreover, in the sphere of Media, the coverage of Al Jazeera is no more limited to Arabian world ~~and~~ resulting into free flow of news and information to a global citizen residing in India.

On a more broader view, global citizen would mean a person living under a kind of world government which would have more power than national governments. However, despite having many advantages of world government such as a global fight against climate change, this idea has not materialised due to national interest and issue of national sovereignties of individual states.

Similarly, there has also been some backlash against the whole idea of global citizen. Former Prime Minister of Singapore Lee Kuan Yew propounded idea of Asian values and termed ~~as~~ western attempts to create a world government or Universal idea of human rights as cultural imperialism and Ethnocentrism

However, the extent to which today's world faces global problems such as terrorism and climate change, it is right time to consider ourselves as a 'global warrior' against fight with global ~~citizen~~ problems'

As Mahatma Gandhi said, "the difference between what we do and what we can do would suffice to solve most of world's problems".

Thus, let us come together to fight problems which knows no borders, no race, no identity, no caste, no religion.

let us come together as 'global citizens' to formulate what Marshall McLuhan said, a 'global village'.

let us come together as 'global citizens' to realise the dream of Woodrow Wilson and Mahatma Gandhi for 'Global peace'

[SECTION B]

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES ALONE ARE NOT ENOUGH TO ENSURE WOMEN'S SAFETY

Sudha, 26, a newly wed bride was being harassed for dowry. She complained to local police station, but of no use. She then complained to Superintendent of police and then only a FIR was registered. However, due to tepid police action, the case remained pending in court for ten years. Meanwhile, due to social stigma and pressure from family, she committed suicide.

The story of Sudha is not new in India. Hundreds of Sudha commit suicide every year and it goes un-noticed, but leaving behind a wide array of questions on women issues and safety.

Why women like Sudha face problems such as dowry and harassment? Who all are responsible for ignoring issues of women safety? What needs to be done, other than making laws, to prevent another sudha from committing suicide? These are the questions on which we will ponder upon in this essay.

The struggle for securing safe environment for women is not new in India. From later Vedic period, when social customs like Sati and dowry emerged to today's globalised world when women face new issues such as cyber bullying to stalking, the insecure environment for women has been a perennial feature of society.

Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar, way back during our independence struggle very famously said, "I measure

the progress of any society by the amount of progress women have achieved in the society".

However, In today's Era, Women from different sections face problems of different types having different consequences requiring different interventions.

On the forefront of women's safety, has always been the ~~issue~~ menace of rape, downy, ere-teasing and trafficking.

Moreover, the social menace of witch-hunting and downy has remained even when we have entered twenty first century. Not to mention, the issue of prostitution carries not only risk of health problems but also social stigma and more severe problems such as human trafficking. New problems such as forceful domestic work and Marital rapes are also emerging.

With the dawn of twenty first Century and growing interconnectness in the world, Globalisation has opened several new opportunities for women in economic sphere such as in IT companies.

Having said that, women's safety has taken new forms in shape of harassment at workplace, Unpaid overtime work, gender pay gap and insecure environment of transportation, as evident in dreadful Nirbhaya Case.

Thus, the central question here remains - why are these issues propping up? Is there no legal framework to ensure women's safety? Surprisingly, India has one of the most elaborate legislative framework to deal with women's safety. Sexual Harassment at workplace happens despite having Sexual harassment at workplace act. Minor Girl Childs are

being brutally raped despite having Protection of Children from Sexual Offences act. Eve-teasing is a 'normal' phenomenon everywhere despite having Section 498A and 504 in Indian Penal Code. Women like Susha continues committing suicide despite having family courts and fast-track courts in every states.

Yet, the safety of women in both private and public sphere is not guaranteed. The reason behind failure of legislative framework is many. The sheer apathy among political elites along with red-tapism has festered the issue of women safety. Moreover, women are never considered a vote-bank in elections due to which there is lack of political will among leaders to take up women's issue.

Another key thing to remember here is that even when the culprits get strictest punishment possible, as evident in Nirbhaya case, there has been no significant positive impact on women's safety. While, at the other end of spectrum, the failure of legislative mechanisms to ensure women's safety results into anger in public which may have non-desirable consequences. Most glaring example here is of Hyderabad Encounters, which by no means will solve the issue of women's safety.

TOWARDS BRIGHTER FUTURE

women's safety can only be ensured by complementing legislative framework with social, economic, political initiative having multi-pronged outlook.

In the social sphere, strategies such as giving recognition to women's efforts such as SEWA would work. Moreover, more residential schools for girls such as Kasturba Gandhi school need to be opened. Furthermore, awareness campaigns against dowry and women's issues need to be organised. One such successful example is Beti-Bachao-Beti Padhao which resulted into increased child sex ratio in Haryana.

In the sphere of Health, women's safety becomes too more important due to their reproductive role. According to NHFS-4, 50% of women in India are anaemic. Thus, the need is to implement adequate programs such as Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojna to ensure both Maternal and child safety.

Furthermore, in Economic sphere, Self-Help Groups can become torch-bearers of change in Rural Areas. Examples such as Unnat Papad and SHG women making solar lights in rural Jharkhand are some successful stories. Strengthening women economically will make them not only independent but also will give them much needed voice in both public and private sphere.

Moreover, in the political sphere, women should be given voice inside decision making bodies to formulate adequate laws for women safety as well as keep a check on their implementation. There is need to formulate political consensus on women reservation Bill in parliament by taking inspiration from Bihar which already has reserved 50% of Panchayat seats for women.

furthermore, we need to bring women specific reforms in administrative and judicial field. Organising 'Janta Darbar' specifically for women issues, starting initiatives such as 'administration on wheels' would make administration more citizen and women friendly.

In Judiciary, about 2 crore cases are pending in courts all over India and 50 thousands alone in Supreme Court. Thus, there is need to adopt innovative mechanisms such as 'virtual court' for fast-track trial of cases involving women safety.

Similarly in the field of police, reforms are most needed to make police system more empathetic to women issues. Reorientation to women, sensitization training, establishing women PCR and Police station are the steps that are needed.

furthermore, Education system needs to be reformed to reduce drop out rates, increase gross enrollment ratio of girls in higher education and imparting value education in schools. As Albert Einstein famously said that 'education is what remains after ~~we~~ one has forgotten what he has learned in school.' Thus, the need of the hour is to mould character of student through schools rather than making ^{them} only job-ready.

Last, but not least, at the individual level - mental revolution is required to support issues for women's safety. Dalai lama said that if you think you are too small to make a change, try sleeping with a mosquito. Thus, we need to change our patriarchal mindset to egalitarian one which is more responsive to issues of women's safety.

Nothing is impossible in this world,
and so is ensuring safe environment
for women. Having said that, we need to
keep in mind what Lord Krishna said
to Arjuna during Mahabharat

सुखे दुःखे समे कृत्वा लाभालासौ जयाजयौ
ततो युद्धाय युज्यस्व नैवं पापमवाप्स्यसि ।

(Holding pleasure and pain, loss and gain,
victory and defeat alike; gird yourself for
the battle)

Today's battle is to ensure safety for
women which can only be achieved by
individual efforts to usher ~~ourselves~~
ourselves in a truly twenty first
Century.