A DECAYING TREND OF ETHICAL VALUES INSIDE THE INDIAN PARLIAMENT

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A representative parliamentarian governance structure, the pride of Indian governance has lasted over 70 years with strong strides towards the general welfare of people. One cannot, therefore, say that –

*“The Indian parliament is not effective”.*

To say the above statement would be to deny all the work, strengths and strides harnessed and taken in by each generation into the governance structure. This, however, is not a shared opinion, some intellectuals accredited or otherwise believe that the true consideration that needs to be given, to our current parliament is thorough bashing. It is right to say that the parliament itself is the true representation of the citizenry and for that very reason, the public perceptions about the concerned parliament and subsequently the parliamentarians are equally important. This public perception, in recent years, has seen a tragic decline, in respect, esteem and confidence in the parliament and by extension all institutions and people that run them.

The general public, including both the academic and civil society, has now termed this “the decay of the parliament”. The question comes before us, a constitution and by its extension the institutionalisation of all organs which we call the governance structure or system of India, what would happen if the people for whom the system was created, lost faith?

This question, whose answer remains disturbing brings in disturbing facts. When considering the recent trends of the Lok Sabha meeting each year, one can notice a declining trend in attendance and output. Long gone are the days when the houses met to hold civilized debates, marking true intellectuals and leaders towards public policy and the welfare of the people. The current status, however, is disastrous. The number of times the houses meet has gone down to a mere 13% in the last few years with reasons either being the ruling party or the opposition. It does not extensive study to create and narrow down the points which cause this. The common consensus is that the people who do make it to the top are not qualified to be at the top. Governance as the concept was once reserved for those who prove themselves worthy. This worthiness did not come from education, caste, creed, sex or wealth but from the confidence of the people itself, hence the representative nature of our governance itself. It was a point of pride and honour to have people, established intellectuals and the bravest of leaders run the country. However, in recent years the following traits seem to take precedence over the confidence of the people –

1. corruption,
2. Nepotism,
3. insufficient and dishonest representatives,
4. lack of people’s participation,
5. lack of political education and awareness,
6. unaccountability and irresponsibility,
7. lack of strict and stringent rules and
8. election malefices

WHERE DID WE GO WRONG?

Apart from the incompetency of many people in power, there is also the lack of general cooperation. The old years saw people who united themselves under the oppression of the English and therefore had a similar ideology towards running a free country called India. There was a sense of liberation that they felt as all of them had at some point felt or lived with the repercussions of the British.

Today, however, the story is different. Party members and respected parliamentarians follow the fool’s road when it comes to due diligence to their posts. They scream, shout, boycott and even engage in questionable behaviour to secure that paycheck and its many perks. One can say that a general rule of thumb now, is to get to the top and make sure no one ever comes back. An absolute irresponsible way to run the country, considering that they are the direct representatives of the people themselves. A few good people still reside but they are so few that change comes at the highest price, one that they alone cannot pay.

Until the year 1977, just about 30 years from independence, we had the strongest opposition parties with great impact and even greater potential. This can be called a byproduct of the quality of members the party had representing it. This largely led to a very stable government and secured the right leadership to both accept and accommodate the views of all that were present.

Debates between Rajaji and Nehru often made for comical tales between the wise parliamentarians with each questioning the logic and majority consensus of another but was always followed with good laughter and general respect to the other side. They saw an India that our current parliamentarians fail to see and perhaps will never see. An India where the concept of discourse is as free and unique as a baby’s laughter.

There has been a distinct change in the content, campaign and culture of debates right from the first Lok Sabha [days. In](http://days.in/) the earlier Lok Sabha, there was a much greater emphasis and discussion of national and international issues. But today, increasingly more regional and even local problems are coming to gather evidence and become subject of importance to our members. We are more and more looking at National problems from regional, communal, linguistic or otherwise parochial angles rather than the other way round.

There has been talking over recent years across the country question the capacity of all authority that is currently in power. deterioration in the quality of members, poor levels of participation and the like. The unending debate on the failed attempts to upkeep the standards promised by the constitution and by the authorities alike. Poor quality of debates, niggardly attendance in the legislatures, unruly behaviour of members, scenes of pandemonium and the like. Legislatures having members of criminal records, the role of money and muscle power in politics are common topics of popular discussion today.

The modern consensus on political nature is simple, a person who has realized economic gain can harvest, siphon and/or grow using a system created for the general welfare of the wall. people feel that the new breed of politicians in all parties is selfish, power-hungry, greedy, dishonest hypocrites and power merchants for whom the nation comes at the last cause while the welfare of the people is but a mere echo is their long list of ambitions.

We must, therefore, deliberate on the highest priority basis why things have come to such a pass and what can be done to restore the legislatures and legislators to their old glory and bring about a Renaissance of democratic faith and parliamentary culture.

CONCLUSION

As we know, Indian Parliament is declining day by day, the people of India are losing their faith in representatives and even in representation. Perhaps, it may take another century for the Parliamentarians to grow up, understand and be responsible in this largest democracy. Though there is a Parliamentary Supremacy in India always, there is also a tug of war between the legislature, executive and judiciary. Ultimately parliamentary decisions will prevail over all the institutions. They emerge as heroes.

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