

23.02.21

Judge Population Ratio

Currently India has got 19 judges per million population. The Law Commission as far back as in 1987 had recommended 50 judges/million population. U.S has 100+ & U.K has around 51 judges per million population.

NALSA

Issue of Undertrials

Machang Valung, 54 years

Rudal Shah & B. Thakur, more than 30 years.
spent in jail without conviction.

As per NCRB, there are around 4 lakh prisoners, $\frac{2}{3}$ acre undertrials.

Bail is a rule, Jail is an exception, is a legal doctrine laid by Supreme Court in Balchand Case (1974).

Supreme Court in 2014, ordered to release all undertrial prisoners who have been detained in prisons for at least half the maximum sentence.

charged with.

- Accountability & transparency
- Corruption
- Judicial Overreach
- Endless Amendments
- Habit of taking regular adjournments by lawyers.
- The system is inaccessible & ineffective for the poor.

[2017, Law Commission Recommendations] ↗

1. Police should avoid needless arrest
2. The arresting officer should inform the person about the available legal remedies including applying for bail.
3. If the investigating officer finds that

to pay the surety then the person should be allowed bail without payment.

(poverty is the main reason for undertrial prisoners)

70% undertrials are either poor, adivasi, dalits, minorities etc.

Malimath Committee says bring changes in Article 20(3) in the constitution.
Modify this article.

- proof beyond reasonable doubt gives very unreasonable burden on the prosecution & hence suggested that a fact be considered as proven if the court is convinced that it is true.
- Does not favour death penalty.

Development Process & Development Industries

1. Pressure Groups :-

Pressure group is an interest group which exerts pressure on the govt. or the decision maker for the fulfillment of their interest. They are strictly structured, pressure focused, must influence the policies of the govt., harsher in attitude & are protective & promotive.

Interest group may or may not influence the policies of the govt., is softer in outlook & is more or less protective.

All pressure groups are interest groups while all interest groups are not pressure groups.

They seek to promote, discuss, debate & mobilize public opinion on major public issues. In this process they educate people & widen their vision & enhance their democratic participation.

To achieve their objective they adopt various methods like appeals, petitions, demonstrations, picketing, lobbying etc. They also write in media, distribute pamphlets, issue press releases & chant slogans

Broad Classification of Pressure groups

1. Professional Pressure groups :

FICCI, ASSOCHAM, CII. etc

2. Associational Pressure groups :

Trade Union, NSUI, ABVP. etc

3. Socio-Cultural Pressure groups :

YMCA, YWCA, SGPC, AIMPLB, R.S.S. etc

4. Institutional Pressure groups :

C.S.I., IPSA, IASA

5. Pressure group ad-hoc :

Narmada Bachao Andolan

6. Anomie Pressure Group:

Naxalite, NSCN, ULFA.

Issues of Pressure Groups :-

- Narrow Selfish Interest (unjust demands)
- Misuse of Power
- The powerful groups manage to get their demand fulfilled while the weak are not even heard of.

Pressure group activities :-

- Lobbying → (Highly organised, have agents who are skilled in persuasion & public relations.)

Unlike India, in U.S. lobbying is a routine practice & it is regulated by the Lobbying Disclosure Act, 1995.

India currently does not have a law to regulate lobbying but requires it desparately.

Finance Act has made changes regarding the political funding, the limit of 7.5% for corporate donations to political parties have been removed. Now corporates are free to donate any amount & are not liable to declare the recipient of their donations. Now even a loan making companies can fund a political party.

Electoral Bonds have opened the doors to unchecked, unknown funding to political parties. Amendments have also been done to FCRA [Foreign Contribution (Regulation), Act 2010] which allows foreign companies with subsidiaries in India, that subsidiary can fund political party parties. These changes exposes the Indian Politics & Democracy to International lobbyists.

Q. How do Pressure groups influence Indian Political Process? Do you agree with this view that Informal Pressure groups have emerged as powerful as formal pressure groups in recent years?
(2017, UPSC)

Q. What are the methods used by farmer's organisations to influence the policy makers in India & how effective are these methods.? (2019, UPSC)

Self-Help Groups (SHGs)

The SHGs are small, informal & homogenous group. It is a mechanism of mutual self help, it is a method of organising the poor & the marginalised to come together to solve their problems.

M. Yunus
↓
Grameen Bank
↓
Micro credit

Evolution of SHGs →

The 1st organised initiative in this direction was taken in Gujarat in 1950s when the textile labour Association (Ahmedabad) formed

to organise the women belonging to households of mill workers in order to train them in primary skills like sewing, knitting, embroidery etc. In 1972, it was given a more systemised structure when SEWA (Self-Employed Women's Association) was formed under the leadership of Ela Bhatt.

The formal beginning of SHGs in India is credited to MYRADA (Mysore Resettlement & Development Agency) which started organising rural people especially women into small SHGs for micro-financing. Major experiments in small group formations at local level were initiated in Tamil Nadu in 80s & 90s. These experiments gave a firm footing to SHGs movement in these states.

e.g. Tamil Nadu Women in Agriculture Programme 1986

Tamil Nadu Women's Development

Participatory poverty reduction Programme
— kudumbashree; 1998 .