

India's struggle for freedom and its reflection in Modern India

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Abstract

The history of India shows the great importance of the Indian national movement and its freedom struggle. The modern structure of Indian society shows a reflection of the legacy of the struggle for Indian independence. The national movement of India against the colonial rule of the British is recognized for modern society as the biggest mass movement. The current condition of India such as its political structure, its constitutions, and its diversity is a glimpse of Indian culture that regains after lots of struggle of Indian freedom fighters. Indian national movement and its struggle help establish social and political revolution. The impact of Democratic and semi-democratic political structures could be identified through the history of the freedom movements. The struggle in the formation of the Indian constitution shows the effective result in establishing equality among diverse cultures and communities. The modern society of India is an effective result of national movements performed for getting freedom. The context of the paper highlights the impact of India's struggle in getting freedom from British rule in its modern society. The present study helps describe the revolutionary changes that occurred due to the independence of India which is still helpful for modern society.

Keywords: Indian National Movement, Modern India, Freedom struggle, British Rule, Diversity

Introduction

Background

India was under British rule for 200 years and the struggle for Indian freedom began after the Second World War (Reddy and RAM 1989). The struggle of India started to get their independence from the colonial rule and that movement was recognized as the biggest mass movement for modern society. Modern India has some key features such as its diversity, a future that shows interaction across the world, shows culture depth, and land for all. The structures of politics, constitution, individual rights, freedom to follow own religions, etc are the reflection of India's struggle for independence. Indian independence and movement played an important role in the establishment of modern India. The present study helps acknowledge the reflection of the freedom struggle in modern India.

The objective of the Study

The study is objected to the fulfillment of the following objective:

- To discuss the struggle of India in becoming independent after 200 years of slavery.
- To identify the importance of the struggle faced by freedom fighters and its result in the present time.
- To describe the movements of India performed by Indian freedom fighters.
- To highlight the impact of the struggle for freedom in modern India.
- To justify the reflection of India's struggle in socio-economical up-gradation.
- To evaluate the social, political, and economical challenges that occurred after the independence of India.

Significance of the Study

The study is significant to determine the impact of Indian Independence on the establishment of modern India. The study is important to highlight the struggle of Indian freedom fighters and different moments performed. The significance of the study could be measured as it plays an important role in fulfilling the previous knowledge gap by describing the role of each movement in modern India. Present India shows the reflection of past struggles in the form of the political or socio-economic structure. The study shows the modern structure of Indian society that reformed due to the struggle for freedom. The study is important to highlight the impact of India's struggle as the result of being diverse, having a deep culture, land for the minorities, and more. The significance of the present study is to provide information about the freedom struggle of Indians and its key features in the establishment of modern India.

Literature Review

The Beginning of India's Struggle from the Revolt of 1857

The struggle for India's freedom began with the Revolt of 1857 which is considered an important landmark for the history of the sub-continent (Mukherjee 2010). The revolt was a war that fought against the colonial rule of the British. The main motive of the revolt is to get rid of the domination of the British rule that was ruling for more than 190 years. The revolt of 1857 has a specific role in describing the freedom struggle for India as it was the first effective step against British rule. The movement is also termed the Indian Mutiny, Indian Rebellion, and Indian Revolt too. The prime cause for the war was to solve the different issues of politics, religions, economics, the army, and society. The main struggle begins with the failure of the revolt due to several reasons such as disunity, lack of central leadership, discrimination, parallel jealousies, and more. Failure of the war shows the strength of unity and the importance of central leadership.

The war was limited to some specific areas of India such as Delhi, Meerut, Lucknow, Kanpur, Bihar, Jhansi, Gwalior, etc, and not throughout the country. The war began on 23 January 1857 due to the refusal of using grease to cover the cartridges as the grease was made from the fats of pigs and cows. As per Guha (2013), the revolt of 1857 was pointed out by most of the Europeans that the major cause of the war was the refusal of using greased cartridges by Indian Soldiers. The war was not considered as a national movement as it was performed by the people specific regions and a large area of India like Punjab, Rajasthan, Sind, etc remain unaffected. Patriotic Indians wanted to get rid of British domination and hence they showed their effort and courage in this war. Revolt of 1857 was not successful yet it is recognized as a glorious landmark in uniting two communities (Hindu and Muslims) of India.

Serial Number	Year	Name of Indian National Movement
1.	1918	Mill Strike of Ahmedabad
2.	1917	Champaran Satyagraha
3.	December 28, 1885	Foundation of Indian National Congress
4.	1906	Foundation of Muslim League
5.	1930	Movement of Civil Disobedience
6.	1913	Movement of Gadhar
7.	April 1916	Movement for Home Rule
8.	1905	Resolution for Swadeshi and Boycott
9.	1917	Satyagraha of Kheda
10.	February 1919	Satyagraha of Rowlatt Act
11.	1920	Movement for Non-Cooperation
12.	1942	Movement for Quit India

Table 1: List of a national movement of India before Independence

(Source: Guha 2013, P. No. 118)

Table 1 shows the list of Indian national movements performed before the Independence of India. The main motive of all these Indian national movements is to get freedom from British rule. According to Singh (2014), Indian national movements that play an effective role in showing the struggle for freedom are the Mill Strike of Ahmedabad (1918), Movement for Quit India (1942), Movement for Non-Cooperation (1920), Satyagraha of Kheda (1917), and more. The pressure on the British administration was built through the action of the national movement in 1930 as the Salt March.

Three prime campaigns were launched by Mahatma Gandhi for the independence of India such as Satyagraha for salt and movement for civil disobedience (1930-31), noncooperation movement (1920), and Quit India movement in 1942 (Heehs 1998). The freedom struggle of India shows its effective result as its independence and the father of the Indian national movement was termed Bal Gangadhar Tilak. India became independent from the struggle and

contribution of multiple freedom fighters and the unity of the whole nation. Injustice, political corruption, discrimination, etc were eliminated with the freedom of the nation from colonial rule (Mukherjee 1990).

Challenges of Indian Independence and Shaping National Politics

According to Chopra (2016), the independence of India is considered as the end date of the British rule in 1947 and the day for the establishment of freedom in the nation. Before the freedom from the colonial rule two nations, India and Pakistan were united this later participated at midnight of 14 and 15 August 1947. The movement of self-rule was launched by Mahatma Gandhi while staying active in the Indian National Congress. After the end of the freedom struggle for India, three prime challenges occurred that are political, economic, and social after independence. The social challenges occurred due to the participation of two nations in the form of mass mobilization, discrimination against religions, and communalism (Chatterjee 2001).

The issue of country participation remains in the form of discrimination against religions among alienated communities and tribal groups. Political challenges could be recognized through unequal participation of the public from different communities. Lack of strengthened democracy required to practice franchise of universal adults. India is required to be integrated at distinguished levels and states for a centralized government. Baru (2009) stated that, the difference in languages occurred as a major challenge for national politics and it was spread more after the opposition to Hindi from southern states.

Making Hindi an official language of India was not accepted by whole nations that resulted in carving out new states linguistically in 1960. India is required to take part in international politics and for that, it is seeking pressure from its neighboring countries by different territorial problems. Economic challenges after the independence of India have occurred in the form of unemployment and poverty. The economic development of the nation required a complete increment in both the private and public sectors. For more than 75% of the population who are engaged in agricultural activities, the economic challenge occurred in the form of land reforms (Chandra et al. 2016).

Several other challenges could be noticed in the form of a huge illiteracy rate, education, quality medical treatment for poor sections, poor health services, etc. Indian politics are reconstituted constantly for both institutional and non-institutional. The major challenges of social, economical, and political issues were overcome with constant upgradation. Discrimination against caste, communities, class, gender, race, etc is vanished through the formation of the Indian constitution. Equality among all is provided through the same fundamental rights and the differences between communities are overcome (Pant 2009).

Serial Number	Religions or communities	Number of reserved posts	Percentage of Occupied posts (in %)
1.	Anglo-Indians	3 out of 15	17%
2.	People from Depressed Class	2 out of 15	13%
3.	Non-Brahmin Hindus	6 out of 15	44%
4.	Brahmins	2 out of 15	13%
5.	Muslims	2 out of 15	13%

Table 2: Community reservation as per the government order of 1927

(Source: Created by Author)

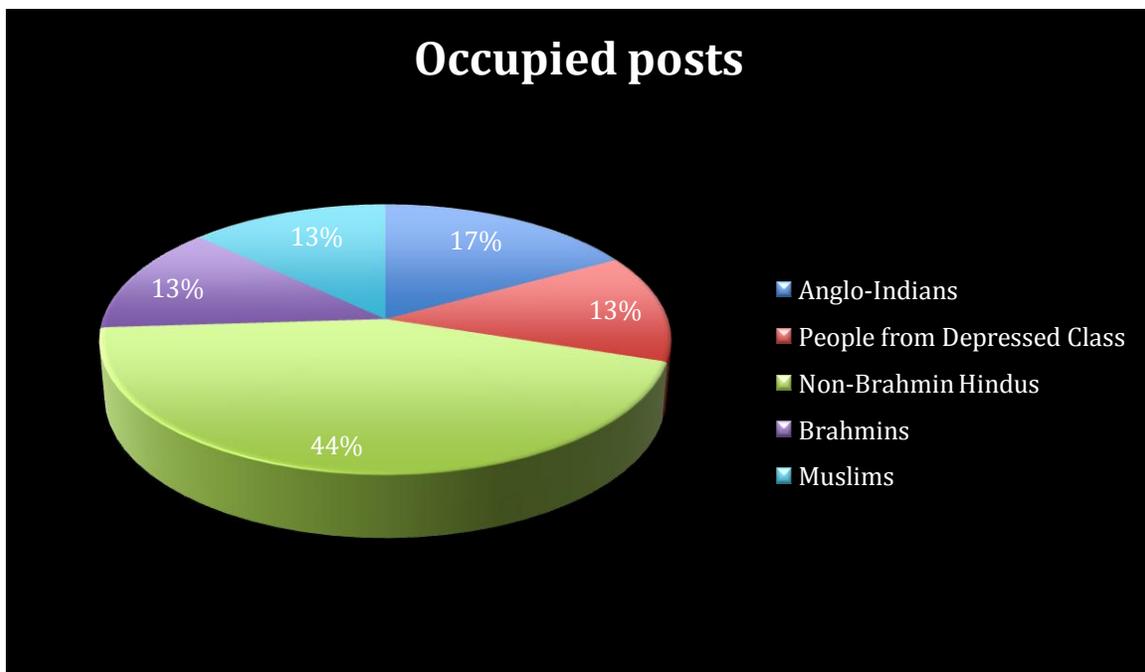


Figure 1: Graphical representation of community reservation by communal government

(Source: Created by Author)

Table 2 shows the community reservation scheme of the Indian government through the order passed in 1927 (Dash 2010). The scheme of reservation in the communal government as per the order of 1927 shows the maximum reservation for non-Brahmin Hindus. 6 posts out of 15 were

reserved for non-Brahmins Hindus that was near about 44% of the total. 13% reservation in communal government was provided for people from the depressed class, Muslims, and Brahmins. Reservation for Anglo-Indian people was provided 17% that is 3 posts out of 15 (Bajpae 2017). The data of the above table shows that caste, language, and religions of community play an effective role in the mobilization of politics. The term communal referred at present time to the division based on their religions such as Muslims and Hindus. The meaning of communal changes in the southern part of the nation refers to the division based on the caste groups or castes such as Brahmin and non-Brahmin Hindus and the division is shown in table 2.

Reflection of Indian Freedom in Modern India

Modern India is the result of a crucible struggle done for getting freedom from the colonial rule of the British government (Chandra 2008). The present condition of modern Indian society seems to be enshrined by a constitution that continues to enlighten judicial and political discourse in the nation. Independence of India required lots of national movement and efforts which could be considered more as an exercise to build a nation despite the struggle. Nation movement of India does not only lead to the replacement of colonial regimes as it helps in delivering secure political power to Indians. The social, economical, and political condition of the nation is rebuilt and constructed as per the requirement of modern society. The national movement of India shows the strength of unity and the effective result of being united working for the same aim. The formation of diverse politics and ideas at present could be effective for continuing political hegemony and overall ideology (Huntington and Dunn 2004).

Modern India or independent India shows a reflection of the freedom struggle for the legacy of the national movement. Indian people are morally possessed to the highest order of integrity and the man who is behind all the struggle is Mahatma Gandhi. The broad political and socio-economic vision of Mahatma Gandhi shown through his leadership leads to the secular and liberation of India. The present freedom for education, fundamental rights, equality for all communities, self-reliant, independent foreign and social order egalitarianism is the reflection of the freedom struggle performed for India (Engerman 2017). The freedom struggle that occurred in the Indian national movement could be developed to provide an outlook for the nation as a broad international based on opposition to colonialism. Fighting for independence shows the unity of the nation to the other countries. The reflection of the Indian freedom struggle in modern Indian society could be recognized as the social and political securities from international borders.

Modern India shows the reflection of the freedom struggle through its five key features. The features are diversity, cultural depth, international level interactions, coexistence, and a mix of poverty. Other features are modernity, and spirituality in rural and urban areas of India, and land for the minorities. These features all together are the center for understanding modern India.

Mohan (2007) stated that the respect for all religions and 33% reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions could be identified as the effective result of the Indian government. The nation as a modern society could be considered a land of poverty as well as the land of plenty. Modern India is a reflection of combined weak, ancient, powerful, and climatic dramatic and for its contracts.

Yashar (2005) stated that, the main sources for the establishment of modern India are identified as sources of literacy such as manuscripts, books, scrolls, documents, etc. Other sources for the development of modern India could be considered as sources of monuments and archaeologies as well as other sources such as reports, radio, printing, broadcasting, etc. The history of India as its struggle for freedom plays a significant role in the establishment of modern India. The maker of modern India is considered Raja Rammohan Roy who provided his effective contribution in vanishing the old cruelty of Indian society (Kaur 2013). The Father of modern India is well recognized for his work in reforming the social, political, and educational structure of the nation. The work of Raja Rammohan Roy could be understood through his struggle in introducing the western education system in India and the addition of the English language in the course of primary education. The history of British colonialism, sprawling government, and active media reflect the freedom struggle and are important for the creation of modern society.

Discussion

The study summarizes the reflection of freedom struggle in the reformation of modern India. The study provides information that describes Raja Ram Mohan Roy as the father of modern India as he contributed to the social, political, and educational reformation of the nation. The beginning of the freedom struggle started with the Revolt of 1857. Revolt of 1857 could not be considered as an Indian national movement for freedom as majorities of states like Rajasthan, Sind, Punjab, etc are unaffected with the movement. The study acknowledges the social, political, and economical challenges occurred after independence of India.

The study shows formation of modern nations based on some major factors such as language, culture, communities, and caste. The issues arising due to the independence of the nation could be solved with the reformation of political and social structure. Unity in diversity, land of minorities, depth of culture, international level interactions, etc are the prime features that show the reflection of the freedom struggle in the formation of modern India. The context of the paper shows gender equality in politics in modern India with 33% reservation for women in Indian politics. The effectiveness of historical struggle for the freedom of nation could be identified as its independence and equality for all (Rockwell 2010).

Conclusion

The study concluded that the struggle for Indian freedom shows its reflection in modern India in the form of socio-economic and social structure. Equality for all, unity in diversity, women empowerment, freedom for the selection of culture, religions, education, etc are the impact of the freedom struggle that began in 1857. The study concluded that effective factors for Indian politics are caste, religions, community, and language. Unity in diversity, land of minorities, central and state government, and more are key features of India's freedom struggle that could be visible in modern India. Democracy, social freedom, and the same law or rule for all citizens shows its effectiveness in proper management and maintaining peace. Securities from international wars and safety for individuals are provided in modern India that shows the effective result of the Indian national movement. Raja Ram Mohan Roy is recognised as the father of Modern India that provides contribution in reforming the educational, social, and political structure of India.

Recommendations

The present knowledge gap of the study could be fulfilled with the provided suggestions. Development of the study could be done by following the recommendation of the present paper. Recommendations of the study are as follows:

- The present knowledge gap of the study could be fulfilled with the description provided for the advantages and consequences of Indian freedom.
- The study is helpful for scholars and researchers working on similar topics such as the impact of independence on modern India and the role of the national movement in the establishment of the modern social and political structure of India.
- Further study based on the base structure of modern India could take help from the present study for the description of existing literature.
- The struggle of India's freedom could be acknowledged to every citizen of India and for that government should add Indian political history as an important subject.

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