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सुंदरराव सोळंके महाविद्यालय, माजलगाव

जि. बीड. ४३११३१

आयोजित

आंतरविद्याशाखीय राष्ट्रीय परिषद

“हुंडा- एक समस्या : आव्हाने व उपाय”

दि. ११ सप्टेंबर २०१७

मुख्य संपादक

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प्राचार्य

सहसंपादक

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Media and Dowry System in India

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Introduction :

In today's world, we are surrounded by media. Our lives are saturated by newspapers, radio, books, television, movies, the Internet, and many other aspects of media. These can be broadly classified into two types: news media and popular media. In India, both these types provide an insight into Indian life, which is filled with romance, tradition, and all the other day-to-day experiences and situations one might come across. But, even though they might seem the same, they both play very different roles in society.

Popular media represents and recounts a vast number of real life stories, and portrays them in a manner enjoyable for the audience. News media on the other hand, provides more facts and raw information for the audience to understand, with or without a firm opinion of its own on the matter. Popular media reaches out to a much larger audience, as both literate and illiterate people are able to access it, while news media only reaches out to the literate and wealthy people. This difference can become a problem in certain situations. Both these parts of media reflect society constantly, as they are shaped from and around experiences and stories of the people in the society. Usually, both these types concur with each other in the content and representation of society, but there are specific cases in which this ceases to be true. An example of this is the portrayal of the prominence and effects of the dowry system in India today. For a long time, both popular and news media reflected the aspects of the dowry system in the Indian society very vividly and comprehensively, and shared the same view on the topic. But over time, it was noticed that popular media deviated from this pattern and no longer reflected the prominence of the dowry system in society, while the news media continued to do so, thus creating an ideological difference between the two.

The problem of the dowry system is still prominent, and the news media continues to reflect this. But since popular media does not reflect society anymore, a majority of the society comes under the impression that there is nothing wrong in what they are doing. This can cause the dowry system to be persistent in the everyday lives of Indian families.

Dowry system in India and the role of media

The power of media in today's world is surprising. The media has the freedom to form opinions, and through this they can change the opinions of people. But, people forget that in the end, all media is doing is reflecting society. The stories the media covers, and the plots of the movies that are made (except fantasy fiction of course), all are based on situations which may occur in day to day life, or real life situations. Same was the case with the dowry system. The media clearly depicted the agonies and pain of Indian women as they were suffering from the cruelties of the dowry system. This can be seen from very far back in popular as well as news media.

Dowry-inspired murder cases received immense coverage by news media in the late 1970s and 1980s due to the active role played by women's organizations. The women's organizations played a very important role in increasing awareness and coverage of dowry related cases. A study done on the coverage of dowry related cases from 1979-1984 concludes that there was a noticeable improvement in the coverage of dowry in the national papers due to the women's organizations, although the coverage in regional papers remained the same. By 1979, one dowry related death received serious press coverage. A 24 year old bride from New

Delhi, Tarvinder Kaur, was set on fire by her mother-in-law and sister-in-law due to an insufficient dowry paid by her parents. Another significant dowry-related murder case was that of Tripti Sharma, who worked at the Ministry of Defense. She was burned to death by her husband and his family in 1986. A more optimistic and recent case is that of Nisha Sharma. In May 2003, she handed over her future husband to the police on the day of the wedding itself as he was demanding more dowry from her. This example shows what women need to do in cases of dowry abuse. Nisha refused to come under the pressures of the groom's family, and decided that she was not going to sustain it. These examples from news media are clearly reflective of the state of affairs in India at that time, and the case with popular media was similar.

Dowry system and Indian Cinema

In 1992, the movie 'City of Joy' depicted a family which had really high dowry demands. In the movie, the groom's father clearly states, "I am firm in requiring for my exceptional son the bicycle, 1000 rupees, and one ounce of gold." The bride's father responds by saying, "The child of a king might be worth that, and I'm not even sure of that!" (City of Joy) Another 2001 movie, 'Lajja', clearly displayed the consequences of the dowry system, its working, and how it may be a big burden on the bride's family. In the movie, Maithili (Mahima Chaudhary) is about to be married to a wealthy man of a family with a high social status. Maithili's parents give away everything they have in the dowry, including their land and saved money. Upon still falling short, they take loans from their friends, but they are still not able to gather the full amount. Maithili requests her future husband to convince his dad to let the rest of the money be, but he is too scared to do so. Seeing this, and seeing her dad beg in front of the groom's father to accept the money he has, she rebels, and calls off the wedding. She was not able to bear to see her father being humiliated in such a manner by the groom's father.

Both these movies showed that the bride's family has to struggle a lot in order to gather the dowry for the groom's family, and thus is a big burden on them.

The movie 'Lajja' was the last movie to clearly depict the pain inflicted due to the dowry system. The 2006 movie 'Lage Raho Munna Bhai' also had the concept of dowry, but it did not demonstrate the consequences of the dowry system, and only showed that the concept of dowry existed. Since then, popular media has not depicted any case of dowry related abuse or murder. This would have been perfectly fine if the society had transformed to this effect and there were no more dowry related crimes taking place, but this was not true, as news media still continued to report about such crimes taking place.

Dowry system and News Papers

'Number of dowry cases goes up' (The Hindu, January 2008); 'Dowry death after love marriage' (The Times of India, April 2008); 'Harassed for dowry, teacher ends life' (The Indian Express, November 2007). These are just three headlines from three of India's popular newspapers that show the persistence of the dowry system and its consequences in modern India. Dowry is still prevalent in modern India, in not only the illiterate section of the population, but also the educated elites in India's major metropolitan cities. Surprisingly in the past decade, the number of dowry related crime cases has actually gone up, despite dowry being banned since 1961 by Indian law. According to the statistics released by the National Crime Records Bureau, a total of 8391 dowry deaths were reported in 2010 itself, which means that a bride was killed every 90 minutes due to dowry related reasons. In 1988, this number was 2209; in 1990 it rose to 4835; in 2000 (a decade earlier), this number was 6995, and in 2007 it climbed up to an astounding 8093 (Bedi 2012).

According to other government records, Delhi itself records a few hundred dowry deaths every year, while women's rights groups estimate this number to be at 900 per year. This is a phenomenal increase compared to the numbers for the 1990s, which were about 300 per year

(Bedi 2012). It is important to note that these are just official records, and are thus immensely under-reported. 90% of the cases in which women are burnt are recorded as accidents, 5% as suicides, and only the remaining 5% of the cases are shown as murder. These shockingly high numbers clearly reflect the continuous increase in dowry related crimes and deaths in India.

This is due to the continued commercialization of marriages in the modern Indian society. India's economic liberalization has seen a proportionate rise in the levels of greed as compared to 1990, and a bride is now perceived by her future in-laws as a source of potential cash flow. A famous quote from former Justice Markandey Katju reads, "On one hand, people regard women as goddesses, and on the other hand they burn them alive. This is against the norms of civilized society. It's barbaric" (Bedi 2012). This is in response to an appeal filed by a husband who had just been sentenced to imprisonment for life by a Sessions court for burning his wife due to dowry related reasons.

The effects of the dowry system are so far and wide ranging, that they can even be traced back to the womb. This system is the primary cause for female feticide and infanticide as poorer parents get to avoid the lifelong burden of saving up for the dowry for their daughter's marriage (Krishnamurthy, 1981). The commercialization of marriage and female infanticide is clearly reflected in the movie 'Matrubhoomi', in which a reverse dowry system is depicted. The movie shows a society in which there are no women left due to excessive female infanticide, and the men have grown to be so sexually frustrated, that they are ready to pay large amounts of money to get a wife for themselves or their sons.

Nowadays, there are famous advertisements which have been put up in many of the rural villages, which read, "Spend 500 rupees today, save 5000 rupees later." This is a reference to the cost of abortion compared to the cost of the dowry which they might have to give. It basically encourages the families to get an abortion if their child is a girl, so that they don't have the burden of paying the dowry while getting her married in the future. This is the primary reason why India has a distorted sex ratio of 933 girls for every 1,000 boys.

As is evident, the problems due to the dowry system have only been rising over the past decade. Despite this, popular media has failed to reflect these problems. News media has continued to keep up with these updates, and report about them, but popular media has deviated into its own path. Since popular media has a much larger audience compared to news media, this results in the society getting a skewed viewpoint of what is happening in their world: an incorrect portrayal of society in which what they are doing is not wrong.

Conclusion:

- * Popular media represents and recounts a vast number of real life stories
- * The problem of the dowry system is still prominent, and the news media continues to reflect this.
- * Dowry-inspired murder cases received immense coverage by news media.
- * Indian movies showed that the bride's family has to struggle a lot in order to gather the dowry for the groom's family, and thus is a big burden on them.

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“ज्ञान, विज्ञान आणि सुसंस्कार यांसाठी शिक्षणप्रसार”

शिक्षणमहर्षी डॉ.बापूजी साळुंखे



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(Affiliated to Shivaji University, Kolhapur)

Re-accredited 'B' by NAAC (CGPA 2.50)

Web. www.rrcollege.org

Proceeding of

INDIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH (ICSSR)

Sponsored

Two Days National Conference

On

Goods and Service Tax (GST) in India

23rd and 24th February 2018

Executive Editor

Mr. A. H. Bogulwar

Co-Editor

Dr. S V. Kale



Organized by

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Raje Ramrao Mahavidyalaya, Jath.

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08

THE IMPACT OF GST (GOODS AND SERVICES TAX) IN INDIA

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Introduction:

GST the biggest tax reform in India founded on the notion of "one nation, one market, one tax" is finally here. The moment that the Indian government was waiting for a decade has finally arrived. The single biggest indirect tax regime has kicked into force, dismantling all the inter-state barriers with respect to trade. The GST rollout, with a single stroke, has converted India into a unified market of 1.3 billion citizens. Fundamentally, the \$2.4-trillion economy is attempting to transform itself by doing away with the internal tariff barriers and subsuming central, state and local taxes into a unified GST. Will the hopes triumph over uncertainty would be determined by how our government works towards making GST a "good and simple tax". The idea behind implementing GST across the country in 29 states and 7 Union Territories is that it would offer a win-win situation for everyone. Manufacturers and traders would benefit from fewer tax filings, transparent rules, and easy bookkeeping; consumers would be paying less for the goods and services, and the government would generate more revenues as revenue leaks would be plugged. Ground realities, as we all know, vary. So, how has GST really impacted India? Let's take a look.

What is GST?

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) is a value-added tax levied on most goods and

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tional cash flow observed of IGST in the first 3 months. As and when the final transaction of goods takes place, the credit for IGST is being utilized for payment of SGST and CGST and therefore, the inflow of new taxes are low.

2. Since the overall incidence of taxes on most of the commodities has come down under the GST, so that it affects on overall revenue collection observed low.

3. The GST is now based on the Self-declared Tax Return, here the assessee decides his own tax liability how much he has and claims of input tax credit as per his own calculations. Since implementation of some of the main features of GST such as, matching of returns, e-way bill as well as reverse charge mechanism has been postponed the compliance may not be up to the mark.

The government has pagged GST revenue for the current financial year at Rs.4.45 lakh crore, and for the 2018-19 year at Rs.7.44 lakh crores will be appear. After that the financial secretary Hasmukh Adhia said that the shortfall in GST collection has been Rs. 50,000 crore, this revenue shortfall appears under the indirect tax regime for the current financial year. It's due to some back lock compensation and settlement of states and central government.

Criticism On GST

1. The government should be maintain highest tax slab at 18 or 20 percent.

2. Petrol, Liquor and tobacco product should be not be include, it turn outside from the GST.

3. The GSTN should work with proper way without interruption and bill payment system should strong.

Benefits of GST for business and industry:

1. It is easy to tax payers because transactions are online and Transperant .

2. It provides Uniformity in tax rates and Structure as one nation one tax..

3. It has reduced the hidden taxes.

4. This tax regime improves healthy com-

petitiveness within industry.

Benefits of GST for Central and State Governments:

1. The uniformity makes this tax simple to State and Central Government due to One Nation One Tax.

2. It has closed the leakage in tax regime.

3. Increasing and spreading businesses and industries also work to higher revenue.

4. Transparency of taxes helps to attract new entrepreneurs and FDI in states. Means it is also a part of ease of doing business.

5. It has not the burden to State and Central Government but a relief.

Suggestion:

1. To increase the domestic manufacturing, trade and businesses, Import duty on Imported goods and services products, should be increase. It help to grow Skill India Mission, Make In India mission and increase domestic manufacturing as well as it is helpful to the increase revenue by the indirect tax collection.

2. States should support to allow GST for Petrol and Diesel in their region.

GST is now a new born child which will grow with the suggestions and opinions of researchers, economists, consumers, business man's and political parties.

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services sold for domestic consumption. The GST is paid by consumers, but it is remitted to the government by the businesses selling the goods and services. Also referred to as Value-Added Tax (VAT) in some countries.

GST (Goods and Services Tax) In India

The tax rate under GST are set at 0%, 5%, 12%, 18% and 28% for various goods and services, and almost 50% of goods & services comes under 18% tax rate. But how is our life going to change post GST? Let's see how GST on some day-to-day good and services will have an impact on an end user's pocket.

Footwear & Apparels/Garments:

Footwear costing more than INR 500 will have a GST rate of 18% from an earlier rate of 14.41 rate but rates for the footwear below INR 500 has been reduced to 5%. So, you need to shell out more for buying a footwear above INR 500/-. And with respect to the ready-made garments, the rates have been reduced to 12% from an existing 18.16% which will make them cheaper.

Cab and Taxi rides:

Now, taking an Ola or an Uber will be cheaper because the tax rate has come down to 5% from an earlier 6% for a cab booking made online.

Airline tickets:

Under the GST, tax rate for economy class for flight tickets is set at 5% but the tax for business class tickets will have a higher tax rate of 12%.

Train Fare:

There will not be much of an impact. The effective tax rate has increased from 4.5% to 5% in GST. But, passengers who travels for business trips can claim Input Tax Credit on their rail ticket which can help them to reduce expenses. People travelling by local trains or in the sleeper class will not be affected, but first-class & AC travellers will have to pay more.

Movie Tickets:

Movies tickets costing below INR 100 will be charged a GST rate of 18% but prices above INR 100 will have a higher tax rate of 28%.

Life Insurance Premium:

The Premium Amounts on policies will rise, with an immediate impact can be seen on your term and endowment policy premiums as the rates have been increased under GST across life, health and general insurance.

Mutual funds Returns:

GST impact on your returns from mutual funds investments will largely be marginal as the GST will be charged on the TER i.e. Total Expense Ratio of a mutual fund. The TER is commonly called as expense ratio of a mutual fund company, and the same is set to go up by 3%. The return what you get as an investor will be reduced to that extent unless the respective mutual fund company i.e. AMC absorbs it but that anyhow will be a marginal difference.

Jewellery:

The gold investment will become slightly expensive because there will be 3% GST on gold & 5% on the making charges. The earlier tax rate on gold was around 2% in most of the states and the GST is increased from the existing rate to around 2% to 3%.

Buying a Property:

Under construction properties will be cheaper than read-to-move-in properties. The GST rate for an under-construction property is 18% but the effective rate on this kind of property will be around 12% due to input tax credits the builder will avail of.

Education & Medical Facilities:

Education and Medical sectors have been kept outside the GST ambit and both the primary education & healthcare is exempt from GST. It means a consumer will not pay any tax for the money you spent on these services. But due to increase in the rate of taxes for certain goods & services as procured by these organisations, they may pass on the additional tax burden to the consumers.

Hotel Stay:

For your hotel stay, If your room tariff is less than Rs 1,000, then there will be no GST,

but anything above Rs 5,000 will attract 28% tax.

Buying a Car:

Most of the cars in the Indian market will become slightly cheaper, except for the hybrid cars because the GST rate will be 28% tax on all the vehicles irrespective of their make, engine capacity or model. However, over and above this 28%, an additional cess will be levied which can be either 1%, 3% or 15 %, depending on the particular car segment.

Mobile Bills:

People will have to pay more on mobile phone bills as GST on telecom services is now 18%, as opposed to the earlier tax rate of 15%. However, telecom companies may absorb this 3% rise due to fierce competition.

Restaurant Bills/EATING OUT:

Your restaurant bill would depend on whether you dined at an AC or Non-AC establishments which do not serve alcohol. Now dining at five-star hotels will be charged at 18% GST rate and the Non-AC restaurants will be charged 12% and a 5% GST will be charged from small hotels, dhabas and restaurants who do not cross an annual turnover of INR 50 Lakh.

IPL & other related events:

Events like IPL i.e. sporting events will have a 28% GST rate which is higher than the earlier 20%. rates. This will increase the price of your tickets. And the GST rate for other events like theatre, circus or Indian classical music shows or a folk dance performance or a drama show will be at 18% GST rate, this is lesser than the earlier tax rate.

DTH and cable services:

The money you pay towards your DTH (Direct-To-Home) connections or to your cable operator will reduce a bit as the rate is fixed at 18%, which is lower than the earlier taxes which were comprising of entertainment tax in the range of 10% to 30%, apart from the service tax of 15%.

Amusements Parks:

The ticket price for amusement parks and theme parks will increase as the earlier service

tax of 15% will become 28% under the GST. Here's is a list of some items which are completely exempt from the GST regime:

*The unprocessed cereals, rice & wheat etc.

*The unprocessed milk, vegetables (fresh), fish, meat, etc.

*Unbranded Atta, Besan or Maida.

*Kid's colouring book/drawing books.

*Sindoor/Bindis, bangles, etc.

Conclusion:

➤ These are just a few ways in which the GST will impact daily life.

➤ GST the biggest tax reform in India founded on the notion of "one nation, one market, one tax".

➤ The Goods and Services Tax (GST) is a value-added tax levied on most goods and services sold for domestic consumption.

➤ The GST is paid by consumers, but it is remitted to the government by the businesses selling the goods and services.

➤ The idea behind implementing GST across the country in 29 states and 7 Union Territories is that it would offer a win-win situation for everyone.

➤ Manufacturers and traders would benefit from fewer tax filings, transparent rules, and easy bookkeeping; consumers would be paying less for the goods and services,

➤ The government would generate more revenues as revenue leaks would be plugged. ground realities.

➤ The tax rate under GST are set at 0%, 5%, 12%, 18% and 28% for various goods and services, and almost 50% of goods & services comes under 18% tax rate.

➤ But GST on some day-to-day good and services will have an impact on an end user's pocket.

References:

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➤ A Hand book for GST in India (e-book) – 4th Edition – version Nov 2016.