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# Supporting Documents for NAAC Self-Study Report (SSR) 1<sup>st</sup> Cycle

## **PERIOD 2017-22**

### Criteria-3

### (Research, Innovations and Extension)

### Key Indicator 3.3

### (Research Publications and Awards)

### Metric Number 3.3.1

*Number of research papers published per teacher in the Journals notified on UGC care list during the last five years*

  
Principal  
**S.R.COLLEGE**  
Kalain :: Cachar :: Assam

DR. BIJIT GOSWAMI (PRINCIPAL)  
SATYA RANJAN COLLEGE, KALAIN

## 1. Title of the Paper:

A THEORETICAL ANALYSIS OF INCREASE IN SOCIAL DEMAND FOR DISTANCE EDUCATION IN ASSAM

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### 3. Department of the Teacher: Manipuri

### 4. Name of Journal:

International Journal of Mechanical Engineering

### 5. Year of Publication: 2022

### 6. ISSN No: 0974-5823

### 7. Link to website of the Journal:

<https://kalaharijournals.com>

### 8. Link to Article/Paper/Abstract:

<https://kalaharijournals.com/ijme-vol7-issue-april2022.php>

### 9. Is it listed UGC Care list: Yes

International journal of Mechanical engineering is *Scopus indexed Journal*. This journal publishes scholarly articles. This journal is Scopus indexed from 2019 and also *UGC-CARE List Group II Listed* (Journals indexed in globally recognised databases)

# A THEORETICAL ANALYSIS OF INCREASE IN SOCIAL DEMAND FOR DISTANCE EDUCATION IN ASSAM

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## **Abstract**

In the fast moving present age education is the main key for personal growth and the development of an economy which is the prime reason behind opting for education in various aspects by every individual. Due to various reasons many individuals cannot acquire education in formal education system, for which distance learning or distance education fulfill their need. Distance education also known as distance learning primarily focus on the students who are not a part of the traditional education system. It can also be described as open education, open learning, e-learning, correspondence education etc. Distance education is embraced by the students as well as the teachers with good reasons. The present study is about the need of distance education in the society and to highlight the consequences of distance education towards the society. The study will be based on secondary data only and descriptive in nature.

**Keywords:** distance learning, education, social demand

## **INTRODUCTION:**

One of the most important aspects of human resource development is education since imparting education leads to the improvement in understanding, perception, attitude and efficiency of working population. It also helps in developing the quality of leadership among individuals, increases awareness among the people and helps in controlling population. Besides the most important education is the prime instrument for the improvement in the standard of living of the individuals. Distance education has different definitions and different names in different countries of the world. The distance education is an organized provision for learning opportunity on part time basis, outside the time table of formal education covering a person's life time in his own environment, more or less according to his own perception and at his own time. Thus it is a system as democratic as well as socialist in nature.

In the words of Prof. Broje Holmberg," Distance education is the various forms of study at all levels which are not under the continuous, immediate supervision of tutors present with their students in lecture rooms or on the same premises, but which, nevertheless, benefit from the planning, guidance and tuition of a tutorial organization."

NCERT(2007) has mentioned "Distance Education and Open Learning is a new system in the revolution of education with potential to bring about a major revolution in instruction and training using multimedia technology so as to take educational opportunities to places and people hitherto unreached, surpassing social, economic and geographical barriers for attaining the objectives of relevance, equity and excellence."

Distance education, simply and broadly defined as the system of education in which education is imparted to students from a distance. It contains two basic elements: (a) the physical separation of teacher and learner; (b) the changed role of the teacher, who may meet the students only for selected tasks such as counseling, giving tutorials or solving student's problems. (Manjulika and Reddy, 1996)

Distance education is considered as an effective alternative to formal education. It becomes a part of entire education system in our country as distance education has immense significance for the emerging learning society. It is very flexible education system where learner can progress at his own speed and is a source of inspiration for those who are unable to have formal education like service personnel, housewives, underprivileged people, disabled persons, school drop-outs etc. Development in IT sector provides new technologies which help in creating highly interactive environment. In the last few decades there is highly exploration of technologies in education. Mainly distance education increasingly uses different communication tools like radio, television, internet, email, Gmail, Google-Classroom and other types of instruments to enhance the abilities of teachers and students to communicate with each other.

**Features of distance education:**

**Correspondence education:** The simplest form of distance education is correspondence education. In this system, the complete course of study prescribed is broken up into a number of modules or lessons which are posted to the respective students and the students also attending the periodic contract classes which are organized near their places of residence.

**Distance education based on multi media:** In this form of distance education electronic media is also used along with posting of materials.

**Distance course on demand of the people:** it is one of the systems which breaks away from the conventional established syllabus and content of the educational institutions and innovates with new learning contents.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- I.To study the need of distance education in our society.
- II.To highlight the various effects of distance education in our society.

**METHODOLOGY:**

The present study is wholly based on secondary data. The secondary data will be collected from various departments of government, journals, magazines, newspaper, reports, websites, articles etc. The study is descriptive in nature.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Education and Society:**

Education often regarded as a perpetual process and a channel of social change. Evolution from nomadic society to modern society, education plays a great role. Education surrounded through the nomadic skills for survival like hunting and riding; in agricultural society education helps in organizing to develop agricultural sector, like animal care, plantation etc.; in case of industrial revolution education was organized itself addressed to develop an industrial man. Presently in the age information technology most of the technological implications were used in the field of education. Thus in the changing scenario, education is not the only activities, but it is for the responsibility to take initiatives, to service, to cope up with the changing environment of our society. All the educational activities aim to develop responsible human being who will create a society that is full of holistic thinking and compassion. In other words, it is education which can change the attitude of the people in the field of socio-economic life.

Assam consists 2.3% of the total geographical area of our country where agriculture is the main livelihood of majority of the people. Generally speaking, the society of Assam is underdeveloped in respect of education. Therefore distance education can be regarded as an effective alternative for formal education in the society of Assam. It has own philosophy, own goals and methodology which can cater rural people of Assam which either being located in far-flung remote areas or because of economic compulsion cannot take the advantage of formal education. It will also be fruitful for those who have dropped out of educational track or other.

**Role of media in distance education in the context of Assam:**

Media plays a very significant role in distance education. It helps in creating awareness about the national policies and programs to the people by providing information. By using audio-visual materials, print materials etc. help the students in the field of education. Besides, media help in creating a more dynamic environment of learning in distance education. A multimedia approach is required in the preparation and presentation of self –instructional materials. The basic aim of media in distance education is to create an environment to provide maximum help to learners to learn effectively, in fact, to comprehend and to gather knowledge.

**Scenario of Assam:**

In terms of literacy rate Assam is lagged behind as this state suffers from a deep-rooted mass illiteracy problem. The distance education may create a new opportunity and expands the scope of education in Assam. Therefore, the necessity of distance education will be analyzed.

**Table-1: Trend of Literacy Rate in Assam**

Category	Year					
	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
Total Literacy Rate	33.0	28.7	-	52.89	63.25	73.18
Male Literacy Rate	44.3	37.2	-	61.87	75.23	78.81
Female Literacy Rate	19.6	19.3	-	43.03	51.85	67.27

The literacy rate in Assam has shown an upward trend and in 2011 population census it climbed to 73.18%, of which male literacy rate is 78.81% while female literacy rate is 67.27%.

Again in Assam there are few private and public institutions that provide distance education facilities:

- IDOL (Gauhati University)
- Directorate of Distance Education, Dibrugarh University
- Krishna Kanta Handique Open University (KKHOU)
- Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)
- National Open School
- Centre for Distance Learning, Tezpur University

In Assam, distance learning, because of its cost effectiveness, flexibility, easy availability, has today become immensely popular. A look at the educational scenario of the state reveals that it in the above table -1.

#### **Distance education in Assam- a raising social demand:**

Social demand for education has been significantly increasing in India on account of various reasons. Distance education seems to be the important way to meet social demand of the people. Currently the National Policy on Education also gives utmost importance to the distance education system to spread all over the country. However, there is insufficient support in the form of human physical infrastructure. Thus, an adequate support is needed from the government. Although there has been tremendous growth of the educational institutions at all the levels since independence in India, the prevailing enrolment ratio is still about 4.8 percent which is much less than that of many developing countries.

Assam is a developing state where a large number of people are below the poverty line and deprived of various basic amenities along with access to education. Hence in this situation distance education can help the poor people since it is an economical method of teaching-learning compared to the regular education and also helps the socio-economically backward students to receive education.

In India the resources of government are inadequate to meet the highly increasing demand for higher as well as school education. Therefore, distance education has become an inevitable alternative to public efforts to overcome the budgetary constraints. Again, the insufficiency of infrastructural facilities in government sector can be solved by the system of distance education since it has low fees structure and the other factors are- distance education need not to provide high standard of laboratories, libraries, hostels, etc.

Distance education provides opportunity to those educated citizens and adults for further study while remaining at the place of work i. e. the persons who are employed in some government and non- government organizations. Because of less expensive in nature, the poor students are benefitted from it and in case of higher education the distance education makes it accessible to all the sections of society. Further, distance education has made the 'educational institutions go to the students' rather than the 'students coming' to the institutions, and the students are provided with the opportunity to learn according to their own pace and convenience.

Again, open and distance learning has the potential to generate new patterns of teaching and learning which is highly connected with developments in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). Thus it is closely related with development new learning needs and new patterns of information access, application and learning. It is evident that distance learning can lead to innovation in mainstream education, as well as may even have effects beyond the realm of education itself.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

Although distance education is described in different ways like correspondence education, open education, open learning etc., it is a system of non-formal education with its own goals and methodology. It helps peoples in various fronts. The growth of distance and open learning system has drastically changed the education scenario everywhere in our state along with India. Distance education being an important milestone in the development Higher Education and has great potential to equalized opportunities and take higher Education to the doorsteps of each and every one.

To conclude, it can be said that in the view of its manifold advantages distance education can surely serve as an effective alternative way to the traditional formal education. The concept of distance education that is relevant in the context of Assam, where the formal education system is not sufficient to cater the needs of entire student population of the State. In comparison to formal education the distance education is most suitable for rural youth, who depend mostly upon manual works for their livelihood and no time to take formal education, part-time workers, self-employed persons, drop out students, homeless child, disable persons, child labours etc. Thus it can be said that distance education in Assam at present a raising social demand for all round development.

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## **1. Title of the Paper:**

**Adolescence: Issues and Challenges: A Beginning from childhood to Adulthood**

**2.Name of the Author/s:**

**Dr. Abira Choudhury**

**3. Department of the Teacher: Philosophy**

**4. Name of Journal: Webology**

**5.Year of Publication: 2021**

**6. ISSN No: 1735-188X**

**7. Link to website of the Journal:**

**<https://www.webology.org>**

**8. Link to Article/Full Paper**

**[http://webology.org/data-cms/articles/20230608010958pmWEBOLOGY%2018%20\(6\)%20-%20125.pdf](http://webology.org/data-cms/articles/20230608010958pmWEBOLOGY%2018%20(6)%20-%20125.pdf)**

**9. Is it listed UGC Care list: Yes**

## **2Title of the Paper:**

**Crimes In Cyber World And Women**

**2.Name of the Author/s:**

**Dr. Abira Choudhury**

**3. Department of the Teacher: Philosophy**

**4. Name of Journal: Webology**

**5.Year of Publication: 2021**

**6. ISSN No: 1735-188X**

**7. Link to website of the Journal:**

**<https://www.webology.org>**

**8. Link to Article/Full Paper**

**[https://www.webology.org/data-cms/articles/20230303102040pmWEBOLOGY%2018%20\(3\)%20-%20150.pdf](https://www.webology.org/data-cms/articles/20230303102040pmWEBOLOGY%2018%20(3)%20-%20150.pdf)**

# Adolescence: Issues And Challenges: A Beginning From Childhood To Adulthood

By Dr. Abira Choudhury

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## Introduction

The origin of the word 'adolescence' comes from the latin word 'adolescere' which means 'to grow' or 'to grow to maturity'. Maturity means not only physical but also mental growth. Adolescence is a period which fills the gap between childhood and adulthood. Generally, this period is considered as 'Youth'. It is a stage of rapid psycho-physical growth and development. At this stage, there are so many changes take place in the life of adolescents like intellectual, moral and spiritual which can effect tremendously on the growth of their the personality. According to A.T Jersild, "Adolescence is a span of fears during which boys and girls move from childhood to adulthood mentally, emotionally, socially and physically" (Mohanty, 1997).

## Problems of Adolescence Period:

It is observe that if the needs of adolescents are not well cared, there arise different problems in their life. Some of them are-

**1) Problems of emotional instability:** Emotional development is very strong in adolescence. Sometimes, it is observed that adolescents become quite restless due to their emotional immaturity. They found emotionally highly unstable. They experiences intense emotional feelings (Chaube, 1999). Although, adolescents are inexperienced, they are unable to understand how to tackle the problems of practical life. Because of that, sometimes adolescents become very emotional when they fail to fulfil their needs according to their own expectations and approaches. Anxiety, suspicion, jealousy, frustration, anger, violent-behaviour, destructive nature, feeling of revenge are the result of emotional stress of adolescents.

**2) Problems of Identity crisis:** Problem of identity crisis or the problem of insecurity is the toughest problems of adolescents. In social life, adolescents are expected to behave like adults. Though in reality they are not adults but they are not ready to accept the fact (Chaube, 1999). Generally, at this stage adolescents are dependent upon their parents for the fulfilment of their various kinds of their physical, emotional, intellectual, social and economic needs. But sometimes parents cannot understand the needs of the adolescents. They fail to address the demand and desire of the adolescents. Such failure on the part of the parent causes to develop a sense of



insecurity in the minds of adolescents, a feeling that they are not looked after properly and because of that, they suffer from stress and trauma which starts questioning their minds who they are and what is their value. As a result, in most of the cases adolescents fail to make any correct decision of their life and suffer from identity crisis. The feeling of insecurity can create psychological problems in adolescents.

**3) Problems of Delinquency:** Delinquency is a state of behaviour expanded by the young people which is not in accordance with the accepted social standards and social law. In this earth, no child is born as delinquent, criminal and drug addicted. These are acquired gradually (Chaube, 1999). The reason behind it is due to maltreatment, broken home, improper care etc. All these things make a child unadjusted and slowly turn him to be a victim of emotional problems like inferiority, insecurity, jealousy towards others etc and consequently sometimes a child becomes an anti-social personality. The problem of delinquency is very tough during the stage of adolescents (Chaube, 1999).

**4) Problems of rapid growth and development:** At this stage, the rapid growth and development itself creates great adjustment problems for adolescents. Sometimes, adolescents feel awkward to cope up with others because of their noticeable sudden changes in bodily organs particularly in sexual organs. This transition from childhood to adulthood stage debars them to behave neither like a child nor like an adult. As a result, they face the problems of stress and strain, fear, anxiety, discomfort etc.

**5) Problems of proper adjustment:** Adjustment problems are very common in the stage of adolescents. An individual is required to adjust in the environment. For an adolescent, it means adjustment with parents and other members of the family, adjustment with their teachers, friends and other persons in the society etc. But sometimes, adolescents experiences a number of adjustment problems due to the generation gap between parents and adolescents, moral code prevailing in the society which are not sometimes acceptable to adolescents.

So, it is the parents who can help the adolescents to overcome his/her problems smoothly and safely which they are passing through. Parents can also help them to adjust with the environment. Parents must try to understand the psychology of their children. It is very important to treat and handle them properly and provide them proper environment as well as their basic needs and urges. All these require proper parental guidance.

Adolescence stage may be considered as the most crucial stage of life. In this stage, an adolescent boy or girl wants to learn new things and try to undertake new experiments because in this age, maximum number of adolescents develops a feeling of curiosity within them. Sometime it is observed that their level of curiosity becomes so high that they lose their thinking capacity to make the difference between rights or wrong properly. We may take notice on a vivid example while Blue Whale game was running in cyber world. This tearful game has attracted many adolescents who took part therein as per media report. If the parents of those ill-fated young would be careful

on their children, such undesirable happenings could be avoided. If we look at the parents living around us, we find that still today, a huge number of parents remain unaware and unconscious about their children. For instance, parents feel themselves proud enough when they provide a costly mobile set to their wards but they do not take any notice on use of hand set by their children which clearly show us that how curiosity could take the lives of adolescents. It is seen that many lives has been taken by this type of fear game. If parents are a little bit conscious about their child while observing their activities then the cases of unwanted incidents might be checked to some extent. But sometimes, it is found that several parents are not aware about the problems of their adolescents, they even cannot able to perceive whether there is any changes occur in the behaviour of their child or not. There may be various reasons for ignorance of parent's like illiteracy, poverty, too much busy life schedule or any other family problems.

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# Crimes In Cyber World And Women

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## INTRODUCTION

Women constitute almost half of the population in our country. But because of the dominance of masculine ideological attitudes, women are often neglected in our country. Till today, if we observe minutely we can see the status of women in our society. In many cases, it is seen that men often treat women as their property and nothing else. In today's age of modernisation, India is stepping towards the path of ultimate progress. But in spite of that it is quite shocking for us that, maximum cases of violent activities like rape, sexual harassment, wife beating are happening against women in India.

## CYBERCRIMES AGAINST WOMEN

Cyber crime is a global occurrence; with the advent of technology cyber crime and victimization of women are on increase posing a major threat to their security. Cyberspace has become a new prospect to be controlled by machine for information and any criminal activities where computer or network is used as a source, tool or target is called cyber crime

## TYPES OF CYBER CRIMES COMMITED AGAINST WOMEN

- 1) **Cyber stalking:** It is one of the most talked about net crimes in the modern world which involves following movements of the person across the internet.

Cyber stalkers target and harass their victims via websites, chat rooms, discussion forums, open publishing websites and email.

It is very similar to harassment through letters, it includes blackmailing, threatening, bullying and even cheating via email

- 2) **Cyber bullying:** Now a days, people from all over the world have the capability to communicate with each other with just a click of a button and technology opens up new risks

Cyber bullying is wilful and repeated harm inflicted through use of computers by sending messages of a daunting or threatening nature

India is the third country behind China and Singapore in cyber bullying globally. The numbers of cases of suicide linked to cyber bullying have also increased over the past decade.

- 3) **Morphing:** It involves editing the original picture by an unauthorised user. It has been observed that pictures of women are downloaded from websites by fake users and again re posted on different websites by creating fake profiles after editing
- 4) **Email spoofing:** spoofed email is one which misinterprets its origin showing its origin to be different from its actual source
- 5) **Cyber denigration:** cyber tort including defame and denigration is another common crime against women on internet
- 6) **Trolling and gender bullying:** It is observed that women are more targeted on internet. The troll posts are essentially related to provocative posting intended to produce a large volume of dizzy responses

## CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

### 1) Right to freedom of speech and expression

**Article 19:**Article 19(1)(a) of constitution provides fundamental right to speech and expression, but the right is not absolute and is subject to reasonable restrictions mentioned under the Article 19(2)

Information wants to be free: The advent of internet has expanded the reach of freedom of expression for millions of internet users, as the internet advocates for speech and expression for providing basic right

### 2) Right to privacy

The display of information on the cyber world has a close nexus to the right of privacy enshrined in Article 21 of the constitution

## LEGAL PROVISIONS

Indian Penal Code (IPC, 1860)

Provisions relating to obscenity have been included in section 292-294 of the Indian Penal Code, 1980. They deal with sale, hire, distribution, public exhibition, circulation, import, export or advertisement etc. of many matters which is obscene

**Section 354** of the Indian Penal Code provides for outraging the modesty

**Section 354A:** A man who commits any of the following events – a demand or plea for sexual services; or displaying pornography against a woman’s will; or making sexual remarks – commits sexual harassment may be penalized with stringent imprisonment for a period up to 3 years, or with a fine, or with both.

**Section 354C:** it defines ‘voyeurism’ as the act of photographing and/or publishing a picture of a woman engaged in a private act without her consent. A person convicted underneath this

section faces a fine and up to three years in prison on the first conviction and 7 years on successive convictions.

**Section 354D:** It added a stalking prohibition that includes online stalking. A man convicted of stalking faces up to three years in prison and a fine for the first offence, and up to five years in prison and a fine for successive convictions.

### **Information Technology Act, 2000**

Electronic obscene content

Section 67 of IT Act prevents publishing and transmitting obscene contents on the internet which disturbs public order and morality.

It is based on section 292 of IPC but the amount of punishment is higher in IT Act

Sending of offensive messages

Section 66 A provides for the offence of sending offensive messages through communication devices or computer resources.

Section 66A makes it an offence when it is send by means of a computer resource-

Any information that is grossly offensive

Any information that has menacing character

Any information which you know to be false but which is sent for the purpose of causing insult

Spam Messages

It is important that 66A tries to slightly cover the phenomenon of spam but this provision is not very effective.

Identity Threat

Section 66 C has provided for the offence of identity theft. The said offence is a billable offence where the accused even if arrested is entitled to bail as a matter of right.

Violation of Privacy

Section 66E has been added to provide for the offence of violation of privacy. The essential act which needs to be performed are-

Capturing, Publishing and Transmitting

### **MEASURES TO PREVENT CYBER CRIMES**

A scheme for Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children (CCWC) has been formulated by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the proposed scheme was examined by National

commission for women (NCW), the commission has made following recommendations for effective implementation-

- 1) **Online Women specific Crime Reporting Unit** -Interlink with NCW should be made in such a manner that if a woman wants to make a complaint about cybercrime to NCW, it should be sent to MHA Crime Reporting Unit with acknowledgement to NCW and a copy to the complainant. It will encourage quick disposal of the complaints that too with the assistance of the IT professionals
- 2) **Monitoring Unit for Cyber Crimes**-Monitoring unit should provide monthly reports on the complaints received through NCW
- 3) **National Forensic Laboratory**-Investigations of crime against women are delayed due to pending reports from forensic laboratories so NCW also advocated for its establishment
- 4) **Capacity Building**-It should include capacity building of protection officers appointed under Domestic Violence Act, 2005.

## **NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

Cyber crime is a new kind of crime. As our country is growing fast in the field of technology, we are constantly depending on computers and internet. In each and every field, men prefer to make digital world by cashless transaction, online banking services, online classes etc. There is no doubt about it that our country is developing day by day by following the path of information technology but the most dreadful fact is that the instances of cyber crimes are also increasing in number. Moreover, women are the major victims of cyber crimes in our country. The aim of this paper is to find a way to minimise cyber crimes against women.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- 1) To find out the root cause of cyber crimes.
- 2) To develop the sense of awareness among the women about cyber crimes.
- 3) To make women more conscious about the violence committed against them.

## **METHODOLOGY**

Methodology refers to the general strategy followed in collecting and analysing the data necessary for solving the research problem. In every educational research, the choice of research method rests on the purpose of the study. This present paper may be characterised as exploratory in nature because it is an initial research into a hypothetical or theoretical idea. In fact, it may be considered that exploratory research design which does not aim to provide final and conclusive answers to the research questions but can explore the research study with varying levels of depth.

## **FINDINGS**

It is sometimes observed that women face the challenges like getting fake offers, information theft, trolling, cyber bullying, romance & dating and link baiting while using social networking sites. Generally most of the female users are not aware of the legal protection available for cyber crime incidents in social networking sites. Women are not aware of the mechanism/authority to whom they have to make compliant about cybercrimes faced.

## **CONCLUSION**

Women as an individual should be more cautious while communicating in Social Networking Medias and they should be equipped with necessary tools to prevent cyber crimes and they should strong and bold enough to resort their rights and dignity if they are sullied. To conclude women who are users of Social Networking Media should be trained and equipped with cyber knowledge, preventive measures, do and don't, password protection, privacy setting, security and privacy

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Webology (ISSN: 1735-188X)  
Volume 18, Number 3, 2021

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [Internet]. United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime.[cited 2022 Nov 28]. Available from: <https://www.unodc.org/>



**1. Title of the Paper:**

**“Oneness of Humanity” with reference to sree Narayana Guru and M.K  
Gandhi**

**2.Name of the Author/s:**

**Happy Khan**

**3. Department of the Teacher: Philosophy**

**4. Name of Journal: Manavayatan : The Humansphere**

**5.Year of Publication: 2020**

**6. ISSN No: 2249-0612**

**7. Link to website of the Journal:**

<http://www.manavayatan.com/journal.php> ( page no 19-23)

**9. Is it listed UGC Care list: Yes**

ISSN 2249-0612



# MANAVAYATAN

THE HUMANOSPHERE

A Peer-reviewed International Journal on Humanities  
of Centre for Studies in Humanities  
Volume IX, 2020



**Editor : Jagadish Patgiri**  
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**Centre for Studies in Humanities**  
**Jiban Krishna Path, H.N. 16, Hengerabari**  
**Guwahati-781036, Assam, India**

**MANAVAYATAN**  
**THE HUMANOSPHERE**  
**A PEER-REVIEWED INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL**  
Journal on Humanities of Centre for Studies in Humanities

**ISSN : 2249-0612**  
**Volume : ix, 2020**

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**MANAVAYATAN**  
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Bilingual (English-Assamese) Multidisciplinary Research Journal  
on Humanities

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© Centre for Studies in Humanities

ISSN : 2249-0612

Volume : ix, 2020

Price : 500/-

Cover design : Manjit Rajkhowa

Printed at

North-East Printers

North Sarania, Lalmati, Guwahati-781003

Tel : +91-361-2663803, 09435551528

Published by

Secretary

Centre for Studies in Humanities

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Hengerabari, Guwahati-781036, Assam, India

E-mail : Jagadishpatgiri@gmail.com ; ritwikajpatgiri@yahoo.in

Website: [www.manavayatan.com](http://www.manavayatan.com)

ISSN : 2249-0612

Volume : ix, 2020

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## **“Oneness of Humanity” with Reference to Sree Narayana Guru and M.K. Gandhi**

**Happy Khan**

**Abstract :** The social organisation of the Hindu society has many oppressive and undemocratic aspects. The caste system is one of them. The curse of untouchability emanates from this caste system. However, India has given birth to some great personalities at different points of her history who dedicated themselves to do away with the inhuman practice of untouchability. This paper attempts to analyse the role of Sree Narayan Guru and M.K. Gandhi towards eradication of this problem.

**Keywords :** Caste system; untouchability; Constituent Assembly; Indian Constitution; chandala; varna; varnasrama dharma.

**Introduction :** “Ask not, say not and think not caste” - a famous quote of S.Narayana Guru. The problem of untouchability is one of the major problem of Indian society. It is a dangerous disease in our society. In the constitution adopted by the constituent Assembly of India in 1949, the use of the term ‘untouchable’ were declared illegal. “Untouchability is the hate-fullest expression of caste-system and it is a crime against God and Man”- (Gandhi). Since untouchability is a very old concept, therefore, untouchables were identified by the different names and different periods.

In vadic period, they were known as "Chandala". In mediavel age, they were addressed as "Achhuta". In the British period, they were known as "Exterior caste".

In the present time, they were addressed as 'scheduled caste'. According to B.R.

Ambedkar, caste-system is a menace and social evil associated with a traditional Hindu-Society. It is being practised since time immemorial and despite various efforts made by social reforms. Ambedkar fought during his whole life against social discrimination ; the system of Hindu-untouchability and also against the Hinducaste- system. Eventually Ambedkar worked out a compromise with Gandhi.

According to Dr. D.N. Majumdar, "Untouchables are those who suffer from various social and political disabilities. Many of which are traditionally prescribed and socially enforced by higher castes".

According to Manu Smrits, the people who follow the lowest kind of occupation include scavenging, leather work, removal the carrion etc. are to be regarded as untouchables.

Mulk Raj Anand has been described as a novelist with a deep-Social commitment.

Anand strongly believes in the dignity of man and equality of all men. He is deeply hurt by the inhuman treatment of the untouchables by the people of superior castes-especially by the Brahmins or the so called "twice born". The degradation and humiliation inflicted on the unfortunate section of society is high-lighted through the oft-respected refrain . He also expressess the opinion that all public wells, temples, roads, schools and Sanatoriums must be declared open for the low-caste.

#### **Impact of Caste System on Sree Narayana Guru:**

There were some rare and amazing persons in the history of mankind, whose greatness was recognized in their very life it-self. They were admired as living legends. You need not wait till their death to praise their glory, they have eternal life and never die. Sree Narayana Guru was one such persons. He redeemed the downtrodden human from the curse of casteism. "oneness of humanity" was his dream.

At the time of his birth, Kerala was under the domination of different caste, all of them pretending-superiority over the other. Under the horrible caste tyranny, the lower caste suffered in every area of their life. Temples, streets and Educational institutions remained closed before them. They could not draw water form public wells. Men and women belonging to

lower caste were not allowed to wear clothes, on the upper part of the body. Those who failed to follow these inhuman practices were given brutal punishment including death.

S.N. GURU was born on August-20, 1856 in a middle class family of the untouchable Ezhava caste, at chempazhanchy village in Thiruvananthapuram. S. NARAYANA GURU had strong abhorrence toward the caste distinction and untouchability and he always protested against injustice, "Ask not, say not and think not caste" - was his motto. He had deep sympathy towards the ill-treated people and he decided to clean the vulgarity crept in the Hindu society. And he started his revolutionary mission.

M.K. Gandhi visited Kerala during this time to support the vaikom satyagraha and met the S.N.GURU at sivagiri Ashram. And the two sages had interesting discussion on the issues of caste and untouchability. Guru made a temple- "Murik- Kumpuzha" - the words - "Truth duty, kindness, love". Hindu and non-Hindus are allows. In 1921 conference at Aluva his famous message- "One caste, One Religion and one God to Mankind."

#### **Impact of Untouchability on M.K. Gandhi :**

In the history of India, many attempts have been made to remove untouchability from our society. M.K. Gandhi and the most significant personalities of India had devoted their hole life for the eradication of this age-old-evil. Gandhi was interested to establish an ideal society through peace, prosperity and real happiness on earth. On 16th August 1932, the British P.M. Mac Donald announced the communal award. This statement of the government had poisoned on the communal issue guranted sperate electorates to the depressed classess. At that time, he was in jail. He was scared, that the seperate electorates would result in vivisection of Hinduism. He was Preventing members of the depressed classess from ever-becoming part of the maintream of India life.

After this sattlement had been reached, Gandhiji began to devote himself more and more to the cause of the Harijans or children of God, as he called formers untouchable. Through the effort of Gandhi and others, wells and temples were opened to Harijans. A new twist to the civil disobedience movement came in sep. 1932, when he was in jail, went on a fast as a protest against the segregation of the so-called "Untouchables" in the electoral arrangement planned for the new Indian constitution. The fast dramatized the issues at stake; ostensibly it



suppressed reason, but in fact it was designed to free reason from that mixture of inertia and prejudice which had permitted the evil of caste system, which condemned millions of Hindus to humiliation, discrimination and hardship.

The news that Gandhi was about to fast shook India from one end to the other. Gandhi does not approve of the present day-Hindu-caste-system. Varna does not mean that some body is born high and some body low, varna does not give superiority to any body simply by birth. Varna is a class not a caste. The original varna distinctions were based not on the distinction of high and low, but on the capacity .

skill and power inherent in an individual, and also on the principle of division of work. Caste prescribes duties and obligations only, it does not confer any privileges on any varna or individual.

**Conclusion :**

Lastly, I would like to say that India is not completely free from the disease of caste -system as many dispicable acts of discrimination against the lowest classes till occur. We should have a soften heart filled with Love and respect towards them as well as we should aware that they can enjoy their right properly without the violation of any right.

The social organisation of the Hindu-society had many oppressive and undemocratic aspects-caste system is one of them. In the ancient Hindu-society, a section of the Hindu was seperated from the mainstream by considering them as "untouchables" or "lowest" or "Dalits" of the caste order. They had to live their lives in a very worst situation. They were not allowed to use same weels, temples, education, burial ground. They had no right to have any property. Thus, in preindependence the so-called untouchables were social exclusion and economic discrimination.

That is why Gandhi invariably relates the doctrine of varna to that Varnasrama Dharma. The notion of Dharma is emphasized very much Dharma stands for duties and Gandhi says that every varna has specific and definite duties attached to it. To the four-fold division of class are added the four-fold divisions of the life of an individual the four Asramas. Gandhi believes that if these divisions are understood properly and their implication are fully realized, a strong and moral society can be built on their basis.

However, there is no definite and final solution to this deep-rooted evil which seems to have sppilt the caste-ridden Hindu-society. Now, we can take steps to kill the virus that eats away the vital of our nation,

and to materialize it. we may quote the effective line of Tennyson- "To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."

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