

## **CRIMINALIZATION OF POLITICS IN INDIAN DEMOCRACY: CAUSES AND REMEDIES**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The increasing tendency of corruption and violence in Indian democracy is a big problem. To fulfil their narrow interest and for vote bank politics the corrupted political leaders make alliance with the criminals and they have been doing illegal activities day by day with the support and help of the political parties. Now a days, politics becomes a field of the Criminals. A major number of politicians including of M.P and M.L.A have criminal records and most of them were became famous as a convicted criminal. In this situation it is very difficult to save democracy from the evil clutch of the criminals. Judiciary is helpless due to the infrastructural problems and it is unable to prevent it. Single initiative is not enough to prevent it from this type of evil practices. It needed both Government and citizens combined initiatives. This article attempts to analysis the causes of criminalization of politics in Indian democracy and gives some way out.

**Key words:** Criminalization; Politics; Democracy; Corruption; violence; Political

### **Introduction:**

Democracy is of the people, by the people and for the people is a famous speech by former American president Abraham Lincon. In a democracy people participation in the electoral process is an important part because peoples are the main sources of power in a democracy. our country India is also a democratic country and hence, people participation in electoral process is also an important subject. But there is a tragedy of Indian politics is that past few years there have been emerge a new term which defame our pride as the biggest democracy in the world. In this way the political leaders make alliance with the criminals and it endangering the nation's growth progress and prosperity. As a result of criminalization of politics murder, rape, violence, threat is becoming the headline of the daily newspapers. The evil effects of criminalization became a dangerous issue to Indian democracy. There are various reasons for emergence of criminalisation of politics like moral degradation of the people, political apathy, Negative role of

the civil society, Poverty and unemployment, Lack of political awareness etc. are the main causes of it.

Politics is a game of power and in that case the negative role of the civil society and the media is most vital important. They both are equal responsible for emergence of criminalisation of politics. Political apathy of the people is also responsible for these evil practices in the society. The extreme form of criminalisation of politics become a threat to the nation. For that reason, in a verdict supreme court says, "...the progressing trend of criminalization of politics that has the proclivity and propensity to send shivers down the spine of a constitutional democracy". In this perspective Chief justice Dipak Mishra once says "the country feels agonised when money and muscle power become the supreme power ". But it not be true that the role of the judiciary is in active in that perspectives. Most of the time the judiciary became active and give verdict to prevent criminalization of politics. For an example we can mention the case of Ramesh Dalal Vs. Union in India the supreme court verdict that a sitting MP OR MLA may be disqualify to contesting the election if he or she is convicted and sentenced for imprisonment for two years or may by a court of Law.

**Meaning of Criminalization of politics:**

Generally, by criminalization of politics we mean the situation in which the interrelationship between the political leaders and the criminals are inter linked. It is such a situation in which the nexus between political leader and the criminals where they inter linked with each other .according to Wikipedia , "Criminalization of politics is a political buzzard in the United states used in the media , by commentators , bloggers as well as by defenders of high ranking govt. officials who have been indicated or have faced criminal or ethical investigations .It is used to understand the correction and illegal activities done by the criminals who are interlink with the political leaders of a country .It became a popular word and it is used in the various countries in the world .

House	MP / MLA	Who have allegation of criminal offence	Who have very important allegation of criminal offence
Lok Sabha	542	179 33%	114 21%
Rajya Sabha	228	51 22%	20 9%
All legislative Assembles(states)	4083	1355 33%	891 22%

SOURCES: TIMES OF INDIA, KOLKATA,26THSEPTEMBER,2018

### **Causes of criminalisation of politics in India:**

There are various causes of criminalization of politics in India which are discussed one by one in the following points:

#### **Illiteracy and lack of political knowledge of the people:**

Illiteracy is one of the major causes of criminalization of politics of India. In India majority percent voters are illiterate. For that reason, they cannot judge quality candidates. Lack of political knowledge. they cannot participate in the electoral process actively. Most of the time they cast their valuable vote knowing or unknowingly the candidate's political image, their character, their educational qualification their past criminal record etc. The corrupted and Hippocrates political candidates of the party easily influence the voters by using various evil ways and get their political support.

#### **Alliance between the political party with the criminals:**

In our country there is a strong alliance between the political leaders and the criminals in politics. They help each other interchangeably. In the electoral process the criminals help the political leaders in various way by giving them three M' (Man power, muscle power and money power). On the other hand, they get political support from the political parties. In this way the criminalization of politics became active day by day.

#### **Poverty and un- employment problems:**

Poverty and unemployment are another reason of criminalization of politics in India. It is not a new event There is a proverb that poverty makes man dishonest. Due to poor economic condition the people sell their vote to the criminals instead of quality candidates to get financial benefit from them.

#### **Delay in judicial system**

Delay in judicially is one of the major reasons of increasing political criminalization. It is a true fact that Indian judicial system is very lengthy. Maximum time the people cannot get justice. There is a proverb that justice delay is justice denied. For that reason, the criminals of the an-social people get special opportunity to spread their network and to full fill their vested interest. They cannot get punishment in time and get enthuse to do evil works.

#### **Political apathy:**

Political apathy is one of the causes of criminalization of politics. Due to complexity in politics. Many people cannot get interest in politics. They avoid politics more or less. Thus, politics

apathy becomes the indirect causes of criminalization of politics. Due to the political apathy in political participation the criminals get a golden opportunity to contesting in the election without any strong competition.

**Vote -bank politics:** Vote bank politics is one of the major important causes of criminalization of politics. The greedy and Hippocrates leaders of the political parties do this and they try to stay in power. Due to the vote bank politics, they do this randomly.

**Negative role of the civil society:**

The negative role of the civil society is a vital cause of criminalization of politics. Politics is a game of power and most of the time the civil society plays in active role and they avoid to join in politics. Lack of good candidates in the electoral candidates list the people compel to cast their valuable vote to the corrupted candidates Thus.

**Regionalism:**

Regionalism is one of the major causes of criminalization of politics. Due to narrow interest of the regional leaders many times they play with the emotion of the local people and do narrow politics which is harmful for the country they do politics for a particular region and try to full fill their regional interest. It is a negative effect of regionalism which is against the national development. The harmful effects of regionalism are a fatal disease.

**Negative role of the media:**

The negative role of mass media is another indirect cause of criminalization of politics. Due to security reasons many reporters of the mass media cannot present authentic news to the people and thus the criminals get opportunity from this reporter and continue their duty.

**Weak Government:**

It is true that weak Govt. cannot to do better work for the development of the country and they cannot take firm and strong decision. As a result, the criminals get opportunity to do illegal works without any strong administration.

**Corruption:**

Corruption is one of the important causes of criminalization of politics. Today Indian politics and corruption became some meaning. Top to bottom level of politics the corruption spreads all over India. Politics is the game of power for that reason the criminalization of politics became powerful day by day.

**Lack of good and strong leadership:**

Lack of good and strong leadership is another cause of criminalization of politics. In India corruption increasing day by day and due to good leadership, it became dangerous. . Really is an important cause of criminalization of politics. Good and strong leaders easily tackle this problem.

**Negative role of religion:** In India religion plays a negative role to spread criminalisation of politics. It gives opportunity to the criminals to do illegal activities in the name of religion. Thus, religion plays a negative role to spreads criminalization of politics.

**Remedies:**

There are some remedies which can reduces the criminalization of politics. These are given below one by one:

**Making good citizens:** It is important to make good citizens. A good citizen is an asset of the country. He or she has an important role to develop the country. Our country India much needed this type of good citizens. Good citizen is a responsible citizen. A good citizen love and respect his country, and do his duty and enjoy his as a citizen they respect law and regulation of the country, promoting peace and communal harmony.

**Spread of Education:**

Education is the weapon to reduce criminalisation of politics in India. The objective of education is to al round development. Spread of education increase the knowledge of the citizens, improve their rational thinking and creativity etc. Only education can prevent this type of evil.

**Active, strong and bold administration:**

There is no doubt that effective, bold and active administration can reduce the criminalization of politics. If the administration strictly maintains the law and order naturally if will reduce criminalization of politics.

**Separate religion from politics:**

To stop criminalization of politics in India one of the major important suggestions is to separate religion from politics. Really this is an important issue. It will reduce the fifty percent problems instantly.

**Active role of judiciary:**

To stop criminalization of politics the active role of judiciary is very important. To develop the infrastructure of the judicial system; to recruit more judges, to transparent the judiciary more active etc. can prevent criminalisation of politics. The time taking process of the judicial system in India should be solved by reforming judicial systems .

**Effective role of mass media.** In a democracy the role of mass media is very important. Mass media should be impartial, transparent and active. If the media provide reliable and authentic news it makes easy to control this type of problems.

**Electoral reforms:** There is no doubt that electoral reforms can stop criminalisation of politics. The Election Commission of India took some preventive measures to eradicate it but it is not enough today. It need more reforms such as online voting, online nomination filling, introduction of minimum standard of qualification for the candidates, ban of criminals to participated in the elections, all votes in one time etc.

**Effective role of civil society:** Political apathy of the civil society is an important cause of the criminalization of politics. Due to the non -participation of the civil society or their inactive role in political fields it is a good opportunity for the anti-socials or the criminals to express themselves to the people and they easily manage it by getting their support.

**Conclusion:** Lastly, it may be said that, the recent trend of criminalisation of politics is no doubt a big challenge to the democratic structure of our country. Not a single initiative is enough to stop it. it needed collective initiative not only from the Government initiative, but also from the citizens' initiative otherwise the future of our democracy will be in danger. The government should take legal and bold action as well as possible to prevent this worse situation. otherwise, all attempts would be in vain.

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