

INDIAN LEADERSHIP: A STUDY OF BEFORE AND AFTER INDEPENDENCE

Bhawna Madhok¹
Dr. Renu Sharma²

Abstract

India is the land of great political leaders who ruled the country in an effective manner. As there is a great change in economy of India, leaders played a significant role for it. This paper is an attempt to understand how the concept of leadership affects India. More and more organizations are facing adaptive challenges around the globe and also forcing them to clarify their values and learn new ways of operating. Most important task for leaders in the face of such challenges is mobilizing people to do proper work. Some of the questions like “how the concept of leadership grown”, “how different leader's thoughts affected India” are to be examined. A study of different leaders before and after Independence is to be covered. Secondary data like books, magazines, research papers are to be considered. At the end, this paper is to be concluded as the leaders have a great role in Indian economy.

Keywords: *Indian society, Ideal leaders, Independence, leadership*

Introduction:

Leadership is the ability to secure desirable actions from a group of followers without the use of coercion. It is an important element of directing in which capacity of an individual to influence and direct group effort towards the achievement of organizational goals. Leadership is the driving force which gets the things done by others. The essence of leadership is 'followership'. It is the followers that make a person a leader. Leadership is the ability to build up confidence and zeal among people and to create awareness in them to be led. An individual who possesses the attributes leadership is known as 'Leader'. A successful leader gives the necessary encouragement to his followers in their work performance rather than pushing them in doing it. There is a difference in opinion about the qualities of a leader among various scholars. According to some scholars leaders are born not made. According to

¹ Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, Sanatan Dharma College, Ambala Cantt, Email: bhawnamadhok0003@gmail.com

² Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, Sanatan Dharma College, Ambala Cantt, Email: rrenugau@gmail.com (Corresponding Author)*

this point of view these qualities are inborn and that they cannot be acquired. On the contrary, some scholars are of the opinion that leaders can be made. Thus, we can say that leadership is the practice of influence that stimulates followers to do their best towards the achievement of desired goals. A leader plays a significant role in building of a nation.

INDIAN LEADERSHIP: BEFORE INDEPENDENCE:-

India has very different political leaders from all political parties. The Indian Independence movement was a series of activities with the ultimate aim of ending the British rule in India. The movement spanned total of 90 years starting from 1857 and ending with 1947. Leaders like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri and Indira Gandhi played an important role in changing the perspective of world towards India. Here are some leaders who contributed for growth.

Bal Gangadhar Tilak (1856-1920)

Bal Gangadhar Tilak was one of the most prominent freedom fighter of India who inspired thousands of the people with their slogan - "Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it". As a form of protest against the British, Tilak established schools and published newspapers. He was one of the prime architects of modern India and strongest advocate of Swaraj. He was universally recognised as the "Father of Indian Movement". He was famous as one of the trios - Bal, Pal and Lal. People loved him and accepted him as one of their leaders and so, he was called Lokmanya Tilak.

Bipin Chandra Pal (1858-1932)

Bipin Chandra Pal was one of the key members of the Indian National Congress and a prominent freedom fighter. He advocated the abandonment of foreign goods. He along with Lala Lajpat Rai and Bal Gangadhar Tilak spearheaded many revolutionary activities. For this reason he is called as the 'Father of Revolutionary Thoughts'. He was one of the main architects of the Swadeshi Movement. He stood against the partition of Bengal by the colonial British government. He was one third of the Lal, Bal and Pal triumvirate. He was also a writer and an Indian Nationalist.

Dadabhai Naoroji (1825-1917)

Dadabhai Naoroji also known as the "Grand Old Man of India" and "Unofficial Ambassador of India". Credited with establishing the Indian National Congress, Dadabhai Naoroji is remembered as one of the most prominent members to have participated in the Independence movement. In one of the books published by him, he wrote about the colonial rule of the British which was precisely aimed at looking

wealth from India. He was also a member of the second international along with Kaustsky and Plekhanov. He was also the first Indian to be a British MP.

Sukhdev (1907-1931)

Sukhdev was son of Ram Lal and Ralli Devi. He played a major role in the India's struggle for Independence. One of the key members of Hindustan Socialist Republican Association, Sukhdev was a revolutionary and a close associate of Bhagat Singh and Shivaram Rajguru. He too, was involved in the killing of John Saunders, a British police officer. Sukhdev was captured along with Bhagat Singh and Shivaram Rajguru and was martyred at the age of 24. He along with other renowned revolutionaries started the 'Naujawan Bharat Sabha' Aat Lahore that was an organization involved in various activities, mainly gearing the youth for the freedom struggle and putting an end to communalism.

Chandra Shekhar Azad (1906-1931)

Chandra Shekhar Azad popularly known as by his self-taken name Azad, was an Indian revolutionary. One of the close associates of Bhagat Singh, Chandra Shekhar Azad is credited for reorganizing Hindustan Republican Association. Azad, as he was popularly called, is known as one of the bravest freedom fighters of India. At the time of being surrounded by British soliders, he killed many of them and shot hmself to death with the last bullet of his Colt pistol. He did so as he never wanted to be captured alive.

Shivaram Rajguru (1908-1931)

Shivaram Rajguru was an Indian revolutionary from Maharashtra, who played a major role in the India's struggle for Independence. A member of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association, Shivaram Rajguru was a close associate of Bhagat Singh and Sukhdev. Shivaram is mainly remembered for his involvement in the assassination of John Saunders, a young British police officer. With an intention of killing James Scott, the police superintendent who had assaulted Lala Lajpat Rai just two weeks before his death, Shivaram mistook John for James and shot him to death.

Bhagat Singh (1907-1931)

The name Bhagat Singh is synonymous with sacrifice, courage, bravery and vision. By sacrificing his life at the age of 23, Bhagat Singh became an inspiration and a symbol of heroism. Along with other revolutionaries, Bhagat Singh founded the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association. To remind the British Government of its misdeeds, Bhagat Singh hurled a bomb in the Central Legislative Assembly. By embracing death at the young age, Singh became a symbol of sacrifice and courage, thereby residing

forever in the hearts of every Indian. He is credited with popularizing the catchphrase "Inquilab Zindabad".

Lala Har Dayal (1884-1939)

Lala Har Dayal was a scholar who dedicated himself to the cause of Indian freedom. A revolutionary among Indian nationalists, Lala Har Dayal turned down a lucrative job offer and went on to inspire hundreds of non-resident Indians to fight against the atrocities of the British Empire. In 1909, he served as the editor of *Bande Mataram*, a nationalist publication founded by the Paris Indian society. He was the General Secretary of the *Gadar* party and was a prominent leader in the *Gadar* movement. He travelled to many parts of the world and helped to spread the freedom movement.

INDIAN LEADERSHIP: AFTER INDEPENDENCE:-

The Independence from the Britisher left us with two countries India and Pakistan and Pakistan was further divided into East Pakistan and West Pakistan which later on led to the formation of Bangladesh. While India found itself independent from the British, it was still to find independence from social, economic and political problems that had started to become a rock in the way of its growth. From time to time different leaders played a significant role for the growth of Indian economy.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee (1924-2018)

Atal Bihari Vajpayee, was an Indian politician and a poet who served three terms as the Prime Minister of India. He was the first Indian Prime Minister who was not a member of the Indian National Congress party to have served a full five year term in office. Vajpayee ji sought to improve diplomatic relations with Pakistan. He not only improved the economy of India but also introduced social reforms to uplift the unprivileged section of the society. His government introduced a revenue sharing model under New Telecom policy which helped telecom firms to get away with fixed license fees.

Manmohan Singh (1932-)

Manmohan Singh is an Indian economist and politician who served as the Prime minister of India from 2004 to 2014. During his tenure as the Finance Minister from 1991 to 1996, he was widely credited for carrying out economic reforms in India in 1991 which resulted in the end of the infamous Licence Raj system. He has continued the peace process with Pakistan initiated by his predecessor, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and also under his supervision the government has continued the pragmatic foreign policy that was started by P.V.Narasimha Rao. Exchange of high level visits by top leaders from both countries have highlighted his tenure, as has reduced terrorism and increased prosperity in the state of Kashmir.

P.V.Narasimha Rao (1921-2004)

Pamulaparthy Venkata Narasimha Rao was an Indian lawyer and politician who served as the 9th Prime minister of India from 1991 to 1996. He led an important administration, overseeing a major economic transformation and several home incidents affecting national security of India. He is referred as the 'Father of Indian Economic Reforms', and further it continued by Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh. He was also referred as 'Chanakya' for his ability to steer economic and political legislation through the parliament at a time when he headed a minority government.

Rajiv Gandhi (1944-1991)

Rajiv Gandhi was an Indian politician who served as the 6th Prime minister of India from 1984 to 1989. Rajiv Gandhi is referred as the 'Father of Information Technology and Telecom Revolution of India'. He is rightfully known as the architect of digital India. He promoted science and technology and associated industries. The Indian Railways was modernized after introduction of computerized railway tickets. As Rajiv Gandhi was young himself, he sought to give empower the youth and lowered the voting age from 21 years to 18 years. He is credited with laying the foundation of Panchayati Raj institutions in order to take democracy to the grassroots level. Though Panchayati Raj was created by the 73rd and the 74th Amendments to the Constitution in 1992, a year after Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated; the background was prepared during the Congress government led by him.

Narendra Modi (1950-)

Narendra Damodardas Modi is an Indian politician serving as the 14th and current Prime minister of India since 2014. He has reached out to the world with his idea to 'Make in India' and it has generated positive response from foreign companies. Modi's foreign policy is currently focused on improving relations with neighboring countries and getting the world to invest in India. When the flood created devastations in Kashmir valley, response from Modi government was immediate and genuine as he decided constant monitoring system for flood affected areas and people of Kashmir. He also announced Jan Dhan Yojana which aims at reaching every household to provide credit facility, pension and insurance to account holders.

CONCLUSION:

India is a land of great political leaders, who played a very significant role for economic growth. As it was not an easy task to accomplish, keeping in view the changes taking place in the world political scenario. Leaders like Mahatma Gandhi Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Bal Gangadhar

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Tilak, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, P.V.Narasimha Rao, Rajiv Gandhi, Indira Gandhi and Narendra Modi played an indispensable role in changing the perspective of world towards India. The far-sightedness and pragmatic characteristics of the leaders can be assumed from the fact that they framed the Constitution of India by inducing the best possible clauses of the world. They led the country from the front without being showing any inclination to either of the power blocs.

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