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HUMAN EXISTENCE AND IDENTITY CRISIS IN CONTEMPORARY WORLD: REPERCUSSION OF DEGRADATION IN POLITICS

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ABSTRACT

Politics plays a major role in evolution of society and has been the harbinger of the social-political and economic changes. It commands our way of lives, standards of living, shapes as well as manipulates the thought process and the way people think. From colonialism to modernization to post truth era, human kind is made to behave in a way which pleases the elite. The existence of masses in today's scenario is nothing more than a vote bank, who by voting to political masters keeps providing them legitimacy to be a decision maker. Anthony Giddens expresses: "What to do? How to act? Who to be? These are focal questions for everyone living in circumstances of late modernity – and ones which, on some level or another, all of us answer, either discursively or through day to-day social behavior" (Giddens 1991: 70)

KEYWORDS: *politics, existential crisis, political socialization.*

INTRODUCTION

Human life is sacred and dignity of the human being is the foundation of a moral vision for society. Poise is the nature of being fair, honorable, astounding or commendable. With a human regarded as the most supreme living creature, dignity, in its appealing sense, is better referred to as human dignity. It is the conceptual basis for the formulation and execution of human rights and is neither granted by the society nor can it be legitimately granted by the society. An imperative implication of human dignity is that every human being should be regarded as a very invaluable member of the community with a uniquely free expression of their right to life, integrated bodily attributes and their spiritual nature (Chapman, Audrey R, 2010). As we are witnessing that society is changing significantly through processes of modernization and these changes are affecting the way individuals build up and develop their self-identities. The pre-modern societies were centered on survival; individuals behaved according to the rules and traditions, the family and environment provided people with social supervision and guidance on how to get through the life. Individuals had very little choice about where they preferred to live, which line of work they chose and whom they wanted to marry. Anxiety and guilt arose if people wanted to do something they were not meant for or if they behaved in contradiction to society's standards.

With modernization, the living conditions have improved drastically and people's choices and freedom about what to do with their lives have increased. Yet at the same time, stability has decreased and traditions and traditional support systems, such as the family are losing their importance. Individuals today do therefore have multiple options and freedom, but little guidance on which options are the right ones or how they should behave. Anxiety and shame arise if people feel they have not made the right choices or if they believe they are not doing as well as they could be. In modern society individualism is dominant and the development of the self-identity has become the centre of all. Everything is subject to change, and the changes happen much more rapidly than ever before in human history. Individuals therefore need to be constantly reviewing and modifying their identities in accordance with the changes within society and all

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decisions, no matter how small, affect the development of the self-identity. This can lead to great distress and make it difficult for people to create a single, coherent identity. Even though people have much more choice and freedom than before, their lives are subjects to social control and even more than before, because in modern societies people are dependent upon many institutions and situations which they themselves have no control over. All consequences of modernization are ambiguous and have major impact on the individuals' lives, the development of their self-identities and the relationships between people. A clear example of the effect of the individualism and increased importance of the personal freedom and identity is the increased rate of divorce: in a modern society people need to find the perfect balance between living one's own life and being there for others.

Kant's humanistic request to seek emancipation through enlightenment by getting rid of self-incurred immaturity and to see others as ends and not as means has been forgotten. There is fast paced rat race going on to achieve the prescribed and approved notions of development, progress and hence success. The underlying idea here is to follow the prescribed versions of success, which included leaving ethics, morality and values behind. Education which was earlier a mean to empower and emancipate the thought process has now become tool of earning money. A small survey was conducted by my students about the awareness of political rights where they asked about basic Fundamental Rights of a citizen. The respondents were Dean, Professors, Associate Professors and Assistant Professors. The same people who keep on boasting about the ideals of nationalism these days were unable to utter their fundamental rights. This is the topic which is being taught in schools in civics books at an early age. They all went to the prestigious colleges and universities of India and abroad and have earned honors and degrees but when it comes to their rights and duties as citizens, they fail to pronounce even one. In the name of religion, these people are ready to kill their fellow human beings, keep on discussing about mythological achievements of the past and have gone to the extent of normalizing mob lynching. Such examples prove that education is being taken as a tool to earn money and not remove the immaturity of the masses. Sense of security is compromised, ideals are manipulated and technology is misused to make human being a slave. The way use of internet is manipulated by the market forces to support the political elite is an example of this systematic manipulation. People are politically socialized to form the groups on identity basis and agendas are set for them by political masters for them to make them behave like herd of sheep. They stop analyzing the differences between right and wrong and give the strings of their lives in somebody else's hands. Instead of real ideals they run after the ambitions set by others and when they fail to achieve those set targets they get into existential crisis. An existential emergency is characterized as a minute that an individual inquiries the significance of life. In all actuality, to be in an emergency is to address significantly more than life itself, it additionally implies addressing connections, choices, inspirations and different pressure actuating situations. It causes anxiety. Most often than not, anxiety is created due to political socialization and political culture in the society. It is generally seen that this process of political socialization starts from childhood quite unconsciously. Children often learn about political parties, especially about their symbol and slogans in the family. And, this process continues when children enter school. By the time children finish school and college education, they develop political attitudes that shapes their political behaviour in adult life.

Political socialization also takes place when political parties organize formal training program for their members. In such programs, lectures by their seasoned leaders and renowned ideologues are delivered, necessary literature pertaining to their ideology is distributed and films relating to their ideology are shown.

Later on, this process of learning continues through audio and visual mass media, which reinforces childhood socialization. Thus, family school and media play the role of principal institutions in one's political socialization. It is the duty of government to make such policies which are mandatory to provide a good life to its citizens, like maintenance of law and order and guaranteeing the fundamental rights, but government starts behaving like a centre of power which intends only to retain and maintain power. Selfish power relationship between government and public result into anxiety in common man. Anxiety is caused by multiple factors like when citizens fail to get the suitable employment, when they are unable to lead their

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lived as per their preferences and when policies are not made for the common man etc. Such conditions lead towards anxiety and very clearly politics of the country is to blame here. For instance in India existence of Khap Panchayat (Kangaroo courts) is one such example which dictates the social terms of human lives like what should they wear or who should they marry? Those who try to defy the dictates of such institutions are murdered mercilessly by their own family members. Cases of honor killing are rampant in Indian society and most of the times the guilty goes scot free as nobody is ready be a witness against them. Government instead of declaring such institutions as aberrant provides patronage to such people as they help in creating vote banks for the political masters. As return of favor politicians maintain these dangerous institutions in the name of tradition and culture.

For the individuals who don't experience the ill effects of an existential emergency, life appears to be truly direct and bright. Individuals like this appear to concern themselves more with what they need for supper, what they need to do with their companions throughout the end of the week et cetera. Individuals like this are more joyful than individuals who stress and stress each day over their own reality, yet not more shrewd. All things considered, as is commonly said obliviousness is euphoria. Most often than not these people belong to elite classes who do not have to struggle for getting basic amenities. Such people are most of the time apolitical in nature.

Mostly the youth who is unable to get good education or employment due to irresponsible attitude of political masters get into anxiety and identity crisis. Instead of blaming the problem they start getting into depression by blaming self for everything bad. They try to find solace in things which take them away from the crude reality.

1) **Spending too much time on social media**: Social media is a good platform to connect with people and keeping in touch with friends. Be that as it may, web based life isn't the most ideal approach to invest your energy, as this is the place we discover the individuals who endure the most. Truth be told, the more they question reality, the more they carelessly peruse web based life. What they're doing is searching for importance in any capacity or shape that they can discover. Rather than discovering meaning, be that as it may, they are looked with correlations which builds their nervousness manifolds. Governments monitor the use of social media to check if anti-government propaganda is going on or not but never check the well being of users.

2) **Confounded about mingling:** Those who experience the ill effects of an existential emergency are befuddled about investing energy with family and companions. In spite of the fact that they truly need the organization of companions and friends and family yet they likewise need to be distant from everyone else. Some of the time, this is synchronous which makes relations with others stressed and troublesome. This characteristic is unmistakable in the individuals who endure, as they endeavor to discover some parity in their contradicting sentiments. We do not find rehabilitation or guidance centers for these people to deal with their anxieties.

3) **Questioning everything:** This is an undeniable sign. There are individuals who appreciate spending the whole day scrutinizing a wide range of things, swimming in their most profound ruminations and after that dissecting feelings on things. Those individuals are enduring, and their intense inquiries are things that are annoying them. The condition of their lives, the significance of their connections – every one of these things won't disregard them and frequent their fantasies around evening time also. You will realize they experience the ill effects of the fixation they have with continually needing to know more.

4) **Losing personality, losing home:** There are individuals experiencing character emergency, who appear to be vacant, drained of their identity and what they need. Amid the throes of this ailment, individuals ponder who they truly are and their past personalities begin to blur away, and their past sentiments of "home". They appear to be befuddled about a big motivator for they and what they like, as they are progressing starting with one type of themselves then onto the next. Maybe they are really transforming from a caterpillar to a butterfly.

5) **Drinking heaps of espresso:** People who experience the ill effects of an existential emergency drink a lot of espresso amid the day. There are a couple of explanations behind this. Coffee=productivity, it's only a

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general information. The individuals who endure need to persistently feel inspired. They likewise utilize espresso drinking as a brace to begin their day. Nothing can complete until the point when the espresso is prepared, or you're never completely alert until the point when espresso hits the scene. On the off chance that you are lounging around considering the significance of life, you require that espresso to give the appropriate response. For a few people, a bit of the appropriate response is at the base of the container. In extreme cases, some people who suffer from crisis get into the abuse of drugs, alcohol and cigarettes as their crutch and solution.

6) **Low inspiration:** Contradictory to being propelled by espresso, this emergency can cause low inspiration. Individuals who endure have practically no inspiration, can't be gainful, and nearly in a condition of misery. This psychological weakness additionally changes into physical exhaustion, which is another little marker of persevering through an existential emergency. Now and then, they simply surrender seek after significance and reason.

7) **Dwelling on death:** People in an existential emergency consider demise, discuss passing and even make bleak pictures in their work of art. This is on the grounds that they know well about their up and coming passing. Indeed, we're all mindful that we will kick the bucket sometime in the not so distant future, yet the sufferers can't carry on with their existence without the shadow of death remaining over them. They stress, each and every day about when they will pass on. This influences the dimension of life's delight for them.

8) **Crying is normal:** People who experience the ill effects of this ailment cry effortlessly. Motion pictures cause a torrential slide of feelings, as the abuse of creatures, and vagrants. Indeed, even the pity of others have a similar impact. Everything that can be viewed as passionate is more enthusiastic for them.

9) **Becoming a hypochondriac:** Another indicator of this illness is the transformation into a hypochondriac. A self-tormentor is somebody who fears being wiped out and they visit specialists out of dread. Ordinarily, they aren't wiped out by any means, they are just neurotic.

Human dignity is a sense of self-worth. Therefore, dignity is a sense of pride in oneself that a human being has with them. This conscious sense makes them feel that they deserve respect and honor from other human beings. Many scholars argue that if a human being is in a humiliating or compromising situation then this is a major threat to their dignity and society itself. However, other human persons may still assert that they have dignity even though they find themselves in such situations. All in all, humans deserve dignity not because of their lifelong achievements but by the fact they are already human beings (TerMeulen Ruud, 2010). The deep philosophical roots of the term human dignity were articulated by Emmanuel Kant, who is considered as the source of the now contemporary concept of human dignity. He holds that the fundamental principle behind moral duties of human beings is a categorical imperative. According to Kant, imperative means that it commands us to exercise our wills in a particular way. As a result, "human beings with respect for human dignity should not possess any irrational wills against their fellow human beings and the generally acceptable societal norms and values". Governments are made of people and are dependent on common men's will for legitimacy but most often than not they are indulged in self-aggrandizement and perusal of power. There are treatments available for people who are suffering from existential anxieties. A standout amongst the most remarkable medicines would be arranged as existential-humanistic treatment. In contrast to routine brain science, this type of treatment centers around customized worries for future and the things that are keeping down the individual rationally. The role of government and policy makers becomes very important here as the problem is not just mental but political too. It is the responsibility of the government to provide healthy and inclusive environment for its citizens, where they are failing resulting into degradation of human lives and existence.

According to Emmanuel Kant, the only thing we should will about is our happiness as human beings. Once we have happiness we'll be able to enjoy good health and nourish proper relationships (Sensen Oliver, 2011). Human dignity should operate on the basis of volitional principles or maxims. Hence, the basic rational requirements and morality should be the primary demands that apply to these maxims which

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motivate all our actions. The political masters and governments should take their role and responsibility in a sincere manner to keep its citizenry away from moral and mental degradation.

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