



"JAY BHIM"- THE ROAR OF JUSTICE AGAINST INJUSTICE, TORTURE AND EXPLOITATION

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ABSTRACT:

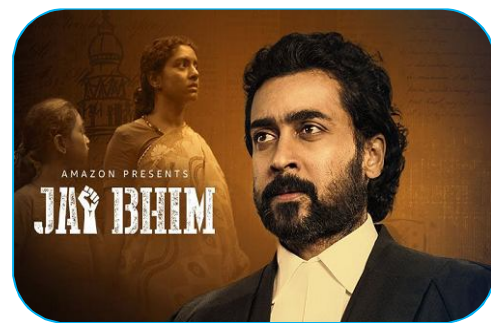
"Jay Bhim" film is based on the real story of police brutality on Adivasi Irular community and a case fought by retired Madras High Court Justice K. Chandru. When the actual incidence took place, he was working as an advocate. Gurumoorthy, the sub-inspector ordered to attack Irular Community and police did harsh tyranny against them.

The film "Jay Bhim" indicates how systems together work; the state government and the police to torture the marginalised community. "Jay Bhim" has its seeds in an incident took place in 1993. Suriya played the role of Justice Chandru, actually he was a former judge of Madras High Court who disposed 96,000 cases and fought legally for justice for socially depressed people. In the end he achieved success in his legal battle and released tribal people from police custody.

Sengini and Rajkannu is a tribal couple in the movie. Rajkannu was arrested under the charge of theft and tortured brutally by the police. Actually, he was innocent, didn't engage in single violent activity, his only crime was that he was from marginalised Adivasi community. Manikandan played Rajakannu in "Jay Bhim."

"Jay Bhim" is not a mere slogan but it has become a roar of every exploited mass. It is an alarm of resistance towards the mighty exercise of authority and all kinds of injustice. Even then this slogan does not provoke the exploited for violence. "Jay Bhim" is another name of resistance within 'Constitutional Framework'.

The movie "Jay Bhim" is not merely cry for justice. It underlines Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's teaching of not to tolerate injustice. The legal provisions within Constitutional Framework are capable to prevent mighty exercise of power, this is the message given by the movie.



KEYWORDS: *Exploitation, Depressed, Injustice, Marginalised community, Constitutional Framework, Police Brutality.*

INTRODUCTION

"Jay Bhim" the film in Tamil Language was released in 2021, later it was appeared in Hindi language. The film was directed by T.J.Gnanavel and star cast was Manikandan, K. Suriya, Lijomol Jose and Rao Ramesh. It is the story of Irular tribal people, their harassment, torture and unjust imprisonment of these people under the charge of theft. The film depicts social injustice, police brutality and crushing of innocent Irular's under cruel, brutal and illegal actions of the police. The marginalised

communities have been oppressed by different systems. These powerful systems are social, political, financial and systems related to religions.

The film is based on a real story, it is a legal case fought by Justice K. Chandru. In the film, the character of Justice K. Chandru was portrayed by Suriya, his performance was appreciated by audience and critics. Many flashbacks are there in the movie. According to critics some scenes are melodramatic to create emotional impact. But in reality, many incidents of brutality related to Dalits, Tribal people and Marginalised Communities are beyond thought and imagination. "Jay Bhim" is a powerful voice raised against social injustice and voice raised for human rights and human values.

Though "Jay Bhim" film is fictionalized but real events are portrayed. The film provokes audience to think deeply and to be empathetic to Rajakannu, Sengeni and oppressed Irular tribal people. "Jay Bhim" portrays police tyranny and exploitation. This film is a social commentary which incites us for thinking and take actions to unveil injustice. Rajakannu is the victim of custody torture by the police. This physical and mental torture is a tool of oppression by the police department. The department acts as a puppet in the hands of the ruling government and corrupt politicians. Yet a few exceptions are there and we have hopes from them. These exceptional dutiful and loyal police officers and judges had been targeted, tortured and imprisoned. Examples are Justice Loya and police officers Sanjiv Bhatt, S.M. Mushrif and Suresh Khopade sir.

"Jay Bhim" is based on factual incident happened in 1993, in Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu. The case was fought by Justice K. Chandru. It is a pathetic and heart touching story of Irular tribal couple, Sengeni and Rajakannu. Rajakannu and his friends from tribe were falsely accused of theft and were kept in police custody; there they were tortured brutally by the police. Rajakannu was injured horribly and was near to death, it was half murder by the police. He was unable to move and walk Rajakannu was taken out of the jail and was murdered by the police. The false encounter drama was played by the police to murder Rajakannu.

Sengeni, Rajakannu's wife became helpless yet she was determined. Suriya, a lawyer took up her case and fought for Justice on behalf of Sengeni. Lastly Suriya proved Rajakannu's innocence and revealed the truth of brutal behaviour of the police. He unveiled police and state bias, ruthlessness and violence against marginalised community. Suriya, a lawyer, loyal to his legal profession. He fought for vulnerable people and their rights as the human beings.

"Jay Bhim" film highlights exploitation, injustice and torture done by police on Irular tribal people in Tamil Nadu. The film is a strong testament of Justice and Human Rights. After watching this movie people became aware of their legal rights. The police department should know their honest duties as the protectors of common people and they shouldn't be the pawns in the hands of the politicians and ruling powers. In many cases the police department has been practising their arbitrary powers; and it is very deplorable reality.

The researcher (Dr. Mrunalini Aher) has gone through the following personal experience:

On the occasion of 'August Kranti Din' programme, researcher referenced the book, "Who was Shivaji?" by Com. Govind Pansare. After giving the reference, some students and religious fanatics tried to do her mob lynching, they vandalized her car. Researcher was pressured to apologize. Even Police officer insisted that she should apologize, threatening her with a false FIR if she didn't. According to them her fault was that she mentioned Shivaji Maharaj in a singular form. Actually, she just referred the title of the book as it is. Despite the pressure, she refused to apologize as she hadn't done anything wrong. The police officer, practising his policy power, arbitrarily, instructed college and management to take action against her. He sent letter to management. Its result was that the management took inappropriate action against her without proper investigation and inconveniently transferred her twice in a month.

Her family and she decided to fight this injustice in the High Court, Mumbai. In this struggle, they received support and guidance from the 'Lok Raja Lawyers Association', Kolhapur.

The Researcher won the case in the High Court. The court strictly ordered the police officer, "Learn and understand law" and "Read the book: "Who was Shivaji?"

This legal battle was a victory of constitutional values in the fight against cultural and educational terrorism and fight for freedom of expression. This legal battle become possible only because of guidance and action taken by 'Lok Raja Lawyers Association'. The High Court result and this fight both proved check on the arbitrary police power.

"Jay Bhim" film received Filmfare Award for Best Film in Tamil in 2022. The critics' have appreciated the roles played by the character, especially, Suriya's performance as the advocate and his fighting for justice. Film's technical aspects, direction and screenplay were admired by the critics. Powerful narrative and strong performances of the Characters led this film to excellence. Minor drawbacks can be neglected.

Maharashtra has been called as an advanced state, the land of great rebellion and reformers. Yet witnessed Dalit massacre in Khairlanji village in 2006. Four members of the Bhotmange family were brutally murdered, two women in the family, Surekha and Priyanka were raped by a mob of upper caste villagers. The Bhotmange Dalit family was self-reliant and hard worker. The self-reliant and self-respecting existence of the downtrodden Dalit family was something that caused discomfort in the eyes of the upper caste villagers.

They became jealous and decided to take revenge. The criminals in Khairlanji issue did grave crime but they were convicted too late. This Khairlanji incident spread outrage and public protested all over India.

Nitin Aage issue happened in Kharda Village, Maharashtra in 2014 Nitin, a college boy was murdered by the upper caste people. Nitin's only crime was his friendship with a girl from upper caste. During short recesses of the school, Nitin was taken out of the school. He was murdered and his dead body was hanged on the tree to spread terrorism. Nitin's teachers in the school perjured their witnesses and again there was acquittal of the accused in this case.

In Hatras, in 2020, 19 years old Dalit girl was raped by four men from upper caste. The accused in the crime weren't arrested in the first 10 days, in fact, they were protected by the politicians, Dalit politician and activist Chandrashekhar Azad protested over her death. The shocking thing was that the trial court in Hatras had acquitted three of the four accused. Dalit girl was raped and murdered inhumanly but the allegations of gang rape and murder were not proven in the court. All proofs were destroyed before presentation in the court.

In many cases of injustice, atrocities and rapes on women regarding Dalits, the accused, despite being proven guilty are released. Evidences and witnesses are coerced to change. Dalit's rarely get justice. Many times the perpetrators are upper caste Hindus and have political influence, therefore they are acquitted. The oppressed and marginalised have been crushing under injustice and upper caste people constantly conspire against them. So, it's need of time to have constitutional experts like 'Lokraja Wakil Mandal Kolhapur' and Justice K. Chandru, who can provide proper guidance and assistance in such cases.

"Jay Bhim", A symbol of resistance against injustice, exploitation, torture and centuries of deprivation. This is a thought related to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and his philosophy. It is a way of living life. "Jay Bhim" is a roar against discrimination. Indian hierarchical social system has been based on caste system: Upper Caste and Lower caste. Dalits have been humiliated as the untouchables. They were denied access to education and knowledge. Situation of women in Indian Social System remained very worst. Indian women have been, suppressed under male domination, patriarchy, orthodoxy and religious fundamentalism. The architect of Indian Constitution, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar fought the battle of humanity for the rights of Dalits, Women, Adivasi and all marginalised people. Hardas Nagrale (1904-1939) was founder of slogan "Jay Bhim". He was an ardent follower of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Also, he was the secretary of Samata Sainik Dal. Slogan "Jay Bhim" has motivational and emotional resonance. "Jay

Bhim" is a platform for Dalits to share their experiences, pains and also their stories of struggle against discrimination and exploitation. "Jay Bhim" glaringly lights up a call to act against oppression.

"Jay Bhim" is everlasting powerful echo of inspiration for human rights. This slogan is flambeau in darkness. The followers of humanity will hand-over the flambeau of "Jay Bhim" from generation to generation.

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