

Civil Right Movement: Movement that raise United States

Vipul Singh

D.Phil. Research Scholar
Department of Defence and Strategic Studies,
University of Allahabad

Abstract: In order to uphold group rights, civil rights movement emerged in United States. This movement ensured the protections and preventions of the constitutional rights of marginalized groups of America weather of blacks, women's and immigrants. It was a movement that makes political correctness in which blacks became African Americans, housewives become homemaker and immigrants became hyphenated Americans.

The preservation of these rights makes exercise of not abolishing private and public acts of gender, racial and ethnic discrimination. It was this rights after which one who feels discrimination expect judicial remedies. American political system has given enough space for civil rights and makes agendas for various major parties. To raise such issues the civil right activist always helpful by initiatives, legislation, and Referendum and court verdicts.

But this rights have left Americans with socially divide by nature. Though such riots between two ideologies have no longer any more, but racially inspired hate crimes increases a lot.

Civil rights give United States on driver seat as no other rights can do such mass action anywhere. The conflict of urbanization, industrialization and modernization was not the case with American civil rights as other countries have, and that's make the difference of development in between American and non American societies.

Key words: Referendum, liberty, equality, privileged, violation

Introduction

What Mahatma Gandhi has contributed for civil rights it is beyond anyone's doubt. The deprived section of the society always uses the tools of non cooperation and civil disobedience over privileged section of society. Gandhian philosophy was more discernible in United States and Martin Luther King Junior, who was highly inspired by Mahatma Gandhi, led the movement of African Americans through non violent methods. Civil rights have many differences with civil liberties. It denotes the rights of individuals in order to protect their laws of land and equal access to public domain and services. On the other hand, civil liberties marked with freedom and speech and expression and others where possible violation of the government took place. Civil rights make their voices for racial, religious and others who were not treated equally by government or society. It was away from personal freedom and this movement runs on the terms of equality.

Discrimination

We have mention that the entire history of civil right movement in United States is on the equality. The United States have given enormous right to their individuals. It may be or freedom of expression, speech, assembly, religion etc. but all the Americans were not exercising this freedom. There were many like Native Americans, women, African American, Asian American and many others who sustain a long struggle for achieving social and political rights in the birth of the republic. After long struggle these groups achieved legal terms of equal protection of laws, access to public amenities and equal rights to vote, as US laws do not discriminate on the basis of race, gender and religion. But the civil right movement allocates rights to African Americans as legal equality did not translate into de facto equality until civil rights movement achieved their goals. It was an American history that without any struggle the disadvantage group rarely achieved equality on legal basis. Powerful sections are always acting a resisting force in order to giving equality to deprived sections of society.

African Americans

At the time when framing of constitution was taken place there was thousands of African who were slaves in US. The first written constitution of the world not recognises them as equal as whites and does not grant citizenship. Slaves trading were allowed until 1808. After all being engaged in civil war in the period of reconstruction which ended in 1877, black people were debarred from public facilities and educational institutions with white ones. Racial segregation took place in schools, hotels and public transport system.

Supreme Court too makes side of whites and ruled that separate facilities did not violate constitution as facilities were equal to them. After in 1930, there were some reliefs happen when Supreme Court verdict that if no facilities existed for African Americans, then they should permitted to use the facilities reserved for the whites. A long battle of school education on separate basis was fought and ultimately in 1971 Supreme Court to end school segregation. It was an attempt to integrate schools. Also racial integration of schools of district makes possible through transportation of children by school bus in a different areas of the district. This method not fulfilled so much as familiar of whites avoid sending their children to far off or black people areas. The desegregation busing of schools has been decline from 1980 period.

Civil Rights movement of Black

After the judgment took place by Supreme court, the leaders of African Americans started political movements for the civil rights of their community. It was Martin Luther King Jr., one of their leaders who actively involved in peaceful marches and demonstrations and raises his voice in favors of their people to improve the socio economic conditions and civil rights. This movement faced enormous antagonism and often suppressed through heavy handed tactics.

One of the cruel signs were happen when one of the march leaded by King Junior in Albama in 1963. The peaceful march and demonstration were attacked by demonstrators including dogs, cattle prods and fire hoses. This brutal action watched by entire country. A large number of white Americans came in favour of blacks and this movement after this incident took place.

Same year on 2nd August King Junior organised massive march in Washington where he said that my four children one day live in a nation where no one can judged them by their colour, but through their deeds and character.

In 1964 after being challenges done by racist and conservatives, the United States enacted civil rights act which has given equal access to public life and facilities and prohibits discrimination in jobs on racial grounds. But such enactment could not end the feeling of racial superiority among white peoples. After many hurdles with active leadership of Lyndon B. Johnson, US congress passed voting rights in 1965 to end racial barriers in elections.

Consequences of the movement

There were many minority communities apart from African Americans who face the problem of social, political and economic discrimination. But no other groups except African American communities sustained in the movement too long and this makes them the pivot of the civil right movement in United States. However, the minority community derived benefits resulting from civil rights directly or indirectly. The encouragement and support received in this movement by other minority communities are importantly stated below:

1. Native Americans

When white settlers from Europe came to America Native Americans about 10 million in numbers. White settlers conquered their territories through deception, diplomacy, ethnic cleansing and war. By about 1900, there was less than a million Native Americans left in the country have no civil rights as other minorities.

Influenced by the nationalist of third world and home grown civil rights movement of America they turned aggressive in 1960's and 1970's Restoration of land and water rights movement launched by them in this two decades. The American Indian movement (AIM) was the organisation of Native Americans civil rights movement founded on 1968. Confrontation between Native Americans and government were routine in this time and mainstream Americans were sensitized with their rightful demands. It makes to force government for equal treatment of Native Americans.

2. Asian Americans

Asian Americans and Hispanic Americans also assert their rights in the wake of civil right movements. These races are migrated to the United States in search for jobs but they never returned to their home state nor do they acquire the citizenship of US. These aliens suffered discrimination in the hands of employees as well as society. It was civil right movement and legislative measures in 1960 that passed the Immigration Reform and Control act of 1986 which offered citizenship to illegal immigrants who have their residential proof of 5 years.

Hispanics on the other hand continue to live illegally but also refused to learn English and assimilate into the mainstream American society. Asian Americans, mainly from Chinese and Japanese origin have brought to US for the work in coal mines and rail road construction and faced severe racial discrimination. US legislative were also discriminatory against them. In 1921 US enacted a law to restrict immigration and introduced a quota system in which Asians got little quota as compared to Europeans. It was 1965 immigration Act that makes quota in favour of discriminated races.

3. Movements of women's in civil rights

During colonial times as well as after independence the women's were debarred from exercising their vote as well as to hold the public offices. The constitution of US makes discrimination against the women's. Britishers common law has influenced so much in US that women after marriage lost their identity as well as considered the property of the husband. This makes them debarred from their individual identity. Such discrimination against women also reflected in the Supreme Court verdicts.

In the year 1848, the first ever women convention for their rights was held in New York, in response to the prevention of two of the women leaders who were attending for anti slavery convention. The movements of women were quite vigorous and this makes the success quite late. The struggle against the denying from the 'right to vote' on account of sex through Nineteenth Amendment Act in 1920 forbade laws for women. The plead for equal demands as equal rights with men, equal pay for equal work, removal of discrimination in granting financial credit, as well as ending sexual harassment on work place. In 1973 after a long struggle US congress approved equal rights amendment only to be rejected during its ratification by requisite three fourth of the states.

But movement had continued against discrimination against the women. The congress passed equal pay act of 1963 in the wake of civil right movement, 1964 civil right act prohibited gender discrimination and 1974 equal credit act which makes similarity on financial credit. Women rights acquired new dimensions after debating over the issue of abortion in 1970s, making complete control over her sexuality and pregnancy. The 'pro choice' movement has emerged a lot in safeguarding and highlighting the movement. These movements were drew strong reaction from Roman Catholic church and conservative protestant groups.

Democratic and Civil rights

Democratic party were always on forefront in the civil right movement. Civil Right Act (1964) and Voting Right Act (1965) were passed by President Lyndon B. Johnson who was a democratic leader. These acts make blacks a political weightage. They hold political offices in large numbers and the fine example of that the former president of America Barack Hussain Obama. The majority of these black leaders were democrats. Democrats also give full inclusion to gay and lesbian families in society with protection, benefits and responsibility on top priority. Democrats also oppose English as a compulsory language. Only the opponents wanted to ban non English users only. Democrats wanted second and multiple language system on priority level. They also supported bilingual education. They also supported 'pro choice movement' in a matter of abortion.

Republicans and Civil Rights

After the abolition of slavery by the hands of President Abraham Lincoln, the Republican cannot make electoral support to them. Black support Democratic Party as Democratic Party always gives prime importance to political empowerment than social emancipation. Black community leaders always portrayed Republicans as racist. Republicans never found them forefront of the Black civil right movement. America articulated and supported church opposition to homosexuality and same sex marriage which makes assault on the traditional family. Republican Party opposed the maintained bilingual education and promoted English and supported bilingual education.

Conclusion

This movement marked during the period of 1954-1968. It can greatly talk about actions of activities in 1960's phase. It was a battle of blacks getting equal rights and opportunities in the nation as their white colleagues enjoyed. The mass action of protest including boycotts and struggles in a peaceful and non violent ways. Gandhian approach has high lightened in the west in a very rigid manner. Americans brought about equal opportunity and economic equality for which they fight for. The American society which was a home of different races and tribes has lay behind the policy of segregation, racism and discrimination in American society. Black people through this movement enforce their economic spheres. It makes the development of democracy of the American society. It was a right method of blacks to expressing their oppression against the disanimty approaches of black. This makes them accessible to the education, unemployment, industry and livelihood. Mahatma Gandhi pupil Martin Luther King Junior search their way through non violent way as Gandhi done in India.

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