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Understanding Injustice

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Abstract:

Injustice is the negative attitude of mind which is considered against justice. In religious world injustice understood as unrighteousness or immoral acts. In this research article I would like to pounce meaning, and make some classification of injustice from different aspects including religious point of view also. Aim of my study to highlight what is injustice.

1. Introduction

Injustice is the negative attitude of the human behavior. It is considered as the unjust acts of human behavior. It is the part of human nature. Injustice arouse in the absence of awareness and in the presence of ignorance. Similarly, 'In Aristotle's conception man is a social and political animal and he alone has a sense of just and unjust acts.' To consider just and unjust acts gradually he developed some judgments like laws, rules and regulations. For just actions people rewarded and for unjust actions people punished.¹ We can find such examples of just and unjust nature of human behavior from pre historic times. We can find written record of injustice or negative nature of human mind in Indian religious tradition and Semitic religious tradition's scriptures. In all the religious scriptures of the 'World Faiths' described the two fold nature of human behavior which is considered as righteousness or unrighteousness, positive and negative. They further indicate us the righteousness leads a person towards just acts or positive behavior. On the contrary the unrighteousness leads a person towards unjust acts or negative behavior. In biblical literature the negative aspect of human behavior depicted as demon, devil etc. In Sikhism the unjust acts of the human behavior considered as against the 'Will of Lord'. And such person called *Manmukh* (ignorant). According to Buddhism injustice always took birth in the presence of ignorance and it is depicted in *Dhammapada* as negative aspect of human mind or behavior. In Indian religious tradition it is believed that there are two main cause of injustice in human behavior which are known such as *raga* (attachment) and *dawesh* (hate). According to Indian religious traditions further these leads man towards *Kām* (lust), *Krodh* (wrath), *lobh* (greed), *moh* (attachment) and *ahañkā*r (ego). These evils called the thieves who steal away man from righteousness and spirituality. Further these evils leads human towards *manmukhta* according to Sikhism and *avidya* (ignorance) according to Buddhism. Such kind of person considered as devil minded in *Srimad Bhagavadgita*. Therefore, where there is injustice prevailing, there the demand of justice is always founded by the lovers of justice. Therefore both are the co-existent at the same time into same society. Some-time justice leads to injustice. Contrary injustice leads to justice. This fact we can-not under-mine. Now we try to discuss origin of injustice and place where it takes birth.

2. Origin of Injustice

Injustice was not the problem of past. But it is the problem of human not of past, present or will be future. Injustice is generally pointed out into social, political, religious and economic, spheres of life. But it is the problem of mental more than above mentioned spheres. In actuality the most powerful agent which is fueling the fire is 'Mind'. The mind intends and the body acts, but the wisdom of subject sanctions the do's and bars the don'ts of actions. Hence wisdom is the most valuable aid that can gear the life to the right path.ⁱⁱ The wisdom is friend and the same is foe. It is friend when directed towards right path and enemy when directed to the wrong path.ⁱⁱⁱ It is therefore in wrong direction at that time the problems occur and wisdom becomes problematic. In this problematic situation wisdom may be divert into unjust acts like violence, discrimination, inequality and social evils like selfish ends, superiority, and attainment of power, supply of drugs, gambling, poverty, competition for wealth, rapes, and ego. But its origin place is in the mind of the individual as well as the more persons who want to assert everything for their own welfare, selfish ends and popularity. Therefore injustice in the outer world is mere reflection of what is taking place within our mind. As the famous proverb says "War is first fought in mind and then in the battle field". Hence the human mind is the center of concern. So here must be a fundamental change in the human mind. Change in society is of secondary importance and that will come naturally and inevitably when the human begins have brought about the vital chance in them-selves^{iv}. The seers of religions recommended for controlling mind alone to control everything. Now we explain meaning of injustice.

3. Meaning of Injustice

While we are talking about the meaning of injustice we have to talk about inequality, discrimination, parsality, unfairness, slavery, violation of human rights, untruthful, exploitation, violence, stealing, poverty, untouchability, social evils, rapes, gambling, and corruption and so on. It is very difficult task to describe the meaning of injustice in nutshell.

Injustice means according to the Oxford English Dictionary the term 'injustice' is opposite of 'justice' or 'unjust actions of human kind'.^v

The New International Webster's Comprehensive Dictionary concise the meaning of injustice, "In popular usage, injustice may involve no direct injury to person, property, interest or character, and no harmful intend, while wrong always involves both, one attributes another's truly generous act to a selfish motives does him an injustice"^{vi}.

In simple words we can say that Injustice is violence, discrimination, inequality, corruption, stealing, parsality, untruth, etc. injustice is denial of justice and an act that is contrary to equity. After the discussion of meaning of injustice we tried to make some classification of injustice for its better understanding.

4. Types of Injustices

There are some types of injustice which are considered as inequality, discrimination, violence, exploitation, corruption, robberies and stealing and violation.

- **Inequality or Injustice** - Inequality means difference between the two on basses of income and birth. It is used against equality. Inequality based injustice considered as such: caste and economics inequalities. Whenever we try to understand injustice on the be-half of castism, it means to considered some-one lower or very poor status on the behalf of his or her family's status and occupation, and birth. On that occasion we are doing injustice as considering others low or inferior and not accept them equal to us. Weather all the religions and the constitutions of every nation or law give stress all are equal and have equal rights to earn and lead their lives. Contrary such teachings are very less in practice. Some time such things looks nonsense and only written records. Castism we can see in Indian society. On the other hand economics inequality means dissimilarities between rich and poor people regarding the distribution of wealth such types of examples we can see in Indian social order which is bond from ages and further moving on^{vii}.
- **Discrimination or Injustice** - In general sense discrimination means to discriminate any one on the behalf of sex and race. Racial discrimination means treating people on the bases of their birth land, skin and cultural differences. Its examples we can see in American and European countries on the behalf of their skin black and white. This is also against the spirit of equality. Gender discrimination means the discrimination between man and woman on the basses of education, jobs, political power, policy discussion, for ownership of property etc^{viii}. Gender based injustice is existing in our society as a way of dowry, deaths, *sati*, rapes, fetus and infant feminize etc. are highlighted by media and some organizations of women's well-fare not only in India as well as abroad also. *When*-ever one goes about asserting one's rights in a social system based on inequality and steeped in discriminatory practices that creates disturbance in society. We are living in this world where few men receive their just deserts, mighty nation wage unjust wars against their smaller neighbors and the bounty of nature is unfairly distributed among the people of the earth^{ix}. Therefore they always tried to discrimination with others on the behalf of race and gender. Such kind of incidents we can easily find in our day to day life.
- **Violence or Injustice** - Both terms are synonymous. Violence means to act with great physical force to injure, damage, or destroy anything forcefully, unlawfully and grab others property or violation of human values. In other words violence means behavior designed to inflict physical injury on people or damage property or any observable interaction in the course of which persons or objects are seized or physically damaged in spite of resistance.^x Violence is therefore the use of great physical force to inflict damage.
- **Exploitation or Injustice** - Exploitation is another type of injustice. It means the act of exploiting and Selfish employment for one's own use or advantage is called exploitation. On the contrary the exploit is considered as a deed or act, especially one marked by heroism, daring, skill or brilliancy.^{xi} For example rulers exploit the people, businessman exploit whether it is of wealth, time, nature, physically and as well as mental is related with public or private properties are also come under the injustice in the sense of exploitive way.
- **Corruption and Injustice** - Corruption is also the part of social injustice according to Shorter Oxford English Dictionary corruption is a change for the worse of an institution, custom etc; a departure from a state of original purity. Similarly corruption is considered as a pervasion of a person's integrity in the performance of (esp. official or public) duty or work by bribery.^{xii} According to The New International Webster's Comprehensive Dictionary of the English Language define corruption the act or state of being corrupted, influence, as bribery. In other words corruption is a linguistic or orthographic change in a text, word, etc., to an incorrect form; also, an example of such a change. They further explain the about the corruption-ist is that person who is giver or taker of bribe. One is who guilty of corrupt practices while holding public office.^{xiii}
- **Robberies and Injustice** - Robberies are also the part of injustice. The meaning of robbery in general is the act of robbing; the taking away of the property of another through unlawfully, by force or fear. A robber seeks to obtain the property of others by force or intimidation: a thief by stealth and secrecy. Now days this phenomenon happen in banking field, governmental lands, forests and homes. Stealing is also under the robberies.^{xiv} It means to take from another without right, authority, or permission, and usually in a secret manner. To take or obtain in a superstitious, artful, or

subtle manner: he has stolen the hearts of the people. To move, place, or convey stealthily: with away, from, in, into etc. to commit theft.

- **Violation or Injustice** - Violation is the problem of human nature. It exists from ages into many forms such as violation of human rights, violation of forest and wild life, violation of water including sea, river and ground water etc. Violation is an activity against the law or order. The Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English concise the meaning of violation, an action that breaks a law, agreement, principle etc: human rights violation is its example they further said that violator is that person who disobey or do something against an official agreement, law, principle.^{xv}

The social problems in our midst today are in large part and their result considered as injustice, inequality and unfairness. It is related with our day to day life. These incidents happen into our surrounding areas directly or indirectly. A person who is receiving all his obligatory actions for his personal profits without performing his or her duty is also doing injustice with himself and others. A person who desires to take benefits from other such type of person is called cowardice member of society. The norms of social justice are broken by the criminal and powerful persons who want to appropriate everything for their own selfish ends. The descending process of morals, laws, spiritual, political values is also considered as the part of injustice. Corruption is another important event of injustice. Now we are going to discuss about from Jain point of view.

5. Religions about Injustice

In religions injustice means the decline of moral, truth, nonviolence and righteousness in conduct. Such kind of examples of unjust behavior of a person has explained from the texts of Indian Religious Tradition. From Jains *Uttaradhyayanasutra*-

"Man, who adhering to wrong principles acquires wealth by evil deeds, will be lost it, falling into the snares (of their passions) and being held captive by their hatred".^{xvi} In *Dhammapada* these lines describe for the fruit of evil conduct and about sinful man below

"If a man who commits sin, let him not do it again and again. Let him not set his heart on it. Sorrowful is the accumulation of evil conduct".^{xvii} Another example from Guru Granth Sahib

"If a person feels pleased and takes pride in terrorizing others due to his power, without realizing that this body is frail and transient but on for excessive indulging in vices he gets unvalued in worldly falsehood. Such type of persons do injustice first themselves and than others".^{xviii} So injustice is commonly against the justice.

6. Injustice in the Context of India

Injustice and justice both are the part of every society. In India injustice prevails in social, political, economic spheres of day to day life. We should being by acknowledging, first that there is an absence of two things in Indian society. One of these is equality based on privilege of graded inequality which means elevation for some and degraded of others on the bases of their caste, family status and occupation. Second on the economic plane we have a society in which there are some who have immense wealth as against to them mostly who are living in object poverty. Owner killing, dowry, gender discrimination, corruption and abortion are also considered some types of injustice which are prevailing in Indian society since from ages. Such type of examples we can see in villages, cities and towns of India. In addition, we can say that we have equality only in politics because of vote banks and we have not equality in our social and economic spheres of life.^{xix}

7. Conclusion

In conclusion we can say that injustice is against the justice. Both are the part of human nature. We can find it every sphere of life, weather it is social, economical, political and religious. It prevails in our society in some types like inequality, violation, violence, exploitation, corruption, discrimination and robberies. In religion it is also considered as a mental problem. So need is to change ourselves and control mind. It is necessary to control mind to control every - thing.

8. References

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