Egyptian Political Revolution and Role of Social Media

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Abstract- Social media is playing a critical role in today's age of information technology and this role is going to increase. Importance and nature of social media have been explained in this paper. The paper further elaborates on the importance of social media for giving the voice to the people and bringing in a revolution by taking the example of Egypt.

1. SOCIAL MEDIA REVOLUTION

Twenty first century is known as the century of Information Technology. While explaining the importance of information technology for a modern man, Dr Arjun Tiwari explains, "Education, entertainment and information are the basic needs of a modern man. Invention of computer and development of information technology are great achievements. Development of society is going to be greatly helped by the advancements in Information Technology. Besides, the thought of your choice can be promoted in the society." [1] It underscores the ability of information technology to make human life easy, comfortable and satisfactory with the perfect interaction of intellect, thinking, power, information and decisiveness.

In this connection, the social media in Egypt has tried to bring democracy to the country by establishing a proper connect with the people. Dr Tiwari talks further, " Combination of knowledge and technology has converted work into activity, medicine into health, entertainment into infotainment and education into learnedness. Similarly, the society has been transformed into a group of people with common

interest by transcending the boundaries of the countries. " [2] It means Facebook, Twitter, YouTube have become the buzzwords for youth across the globe. These websites have enchanted the youth.

There was a perceived notion that the young people do only chatting and networking for immediate interests through social media websites. Example of Egypt proved that the regime in a country can be changed by using social media. Of course, social media was not the only reason for this revolution. Discontent was already brewing in the minds of the citizens due to prevalent corruption, unemployment, atrocities, and abject poverty. But this dissatisfaction was vented through social media. About media and development, Dr D M Bhosle says ," social media is a tool for organizational development. Multiple ideas can be shared with others through social media. Since the mind of society can be mapped through these ideas, social media imparts developmental angle and creates awareness in the society. It also gives new dimensions to the thinking of the people. Thus, social media has emerged as the revolutionary medium amongst new mediums. "[3] It means that the youth in Egypt had well understood the power of this new medium.

2. EGYPTIAN REVOLUTION: WE ARE ALL KHALED SAEED

Amongst the Arab countries, Egypt has the maximum number of youths below 30, especially those using internet. That resulted into a widespread discussion about Facebook.

The progressive-looking, 30-year-old Hosni Mubarak regime had given unfettered powers to the police by the special emergency legislation. The Police and Army were victimizing the people in every nook and corner of the country. Due to terror instilled in the mind of the public, nobody dared to even utter a word against them. But then, a strange thing happened. After the death of a youth named Khalid Saeed, a new page appeared on Facebook. The name of that page was 'We are all Khaled Saeed'. This page was created by a human rights activist with the name of Al Shaheed. This is an Arabic word that means- the martyr.

The facebook page underlined the feeling that 'We are all Khaled Saeed', our life is as cheap as his. This page started receiving immediate responses. It won't be wrong that the page was inundated with comments Different pieces of information about Khaled Sayed started appearing on the page. Dhananjay Bijle says about it, " In Egypt, someone started sharing personal and family information about Saeed and someone else stared sharing his photos. Some people dared to narrate the incidents happened in the coffee shop that day. Al Shaheed, the page-creator was immediately responding to every response. By seeing the immediate response to their comments, Egyptian youth found a new space to register their frank opinions". [4]

It means the Egyptian men and women found the 'We are all Khaled Saeed' page as a conduit to express their dissatisfaction and all the anger was being vented through it. This page touched the raw nerve of Egypt. Youth started sharing the incidents of police atrocities on this page, ensuing online discussion about police brutalities. Some people published the photographs of police personnel who had beaten Khaled up. Some published the photos and videos of police personnel who had tortured Kahled. Some people got horrified by looking at these whereas seeds of revolution were sown is mind of many.

This page crossed membership of 50,000 within a week. Angry youth started talking about coming to street for Khalid. A call for protests was raised from Facebook. Youth started coming to streets within

no time and tthe   voice against police brutalities was being openly raised. Finally, the Mubarak government was overturned by using social media.

3. IMPORTNACE AND NATURE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Importance of social media in making the world democracy-centric is being explained time and again. But the possibility of social media jeopardizing the internal security of a country is a question for peace and security. So in countries like Egypt, the citizens proved the importance of social media in the real sense by bringing in revolution through it.

While explaining the nature of social media, Dr D M Bhosle says, "Social media is playing a vital role as catalysts for social change in the post-globalization period social milieu. Cultural ethos have changed thoroughly and the social system has been shaken by this information revolution which is described as a third wave. The three dimensions of the new language in the post-globalization period are based on time, space and price utility. The faster information, greater participation and significant change in the attitude of the people at large are the important characters of new social change. Due to social media, the process of socialization has been accelerated effectively along with political awareness. New social vision has been developed to look at contemporary social problems. "[5].

4. SOCIAL CHANGE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Currently social media websites like Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, YouTube, TikTok are highly popular among youths. As the nature of the social media changes, the number of people using these platforms is increasing at a rapid pace. Conventionally social media is being used for exchange of information and thoughts at the personal, organizational and certain-community level. Similarly, it is being used for social as well as political revolution. Therefore, this research examines the use of social media for internal security, facility of external security, changes in Egypt and its reaction in India. While researching on 'Role of Social media in Egyptian Revolution and its impact on global peace and security' the following matters were studied: How the Political revolution in Egypt took place through Social media; Impact of Social media on peace and security in Egypt and the world in general; positive and negative changes made by social media in India; how social media was used for political revolution in African and Arab countries including Egypt and Tunisia.

5. CONCLUSION

Social media in countries like Egypt, Tunisia and Arab countries have presented the positive and negative challenges to the world. In an autocracy, there can be a regime change through peaceful revolution (e.g. Egypt) and peace can be established through social media. Use of social media in a positive way strengthens the democracy and helps democratic values take deep roots at the global level. Social media has also played a pivotal role in conflict management.

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