



Sociology of Mob Lynching

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During the past few years, India witnessed an unusual intensifying trend in crimes related to mob violence in the name of caste, color, religion, etc. This trend spread like a forest fire in the form of vigilantism against cow slaughter, which soon took a communal angle that target minority communities attacked and lynched based on false allegations, rumors, and propaganda through the use of social media. As per the unofficial assessments so far more than 120 people have been killed throughout the country.

If we search for the definition of Lynching (Britannica.com), then it says, it is a form of violence in which a mob, under the pretext of administering justice without trial, executes a presumed offender, often after inflicting torture and corporal mutilation. The term lynch law refers to a self-constituted court that imposes a sentence on a person without due process of law.

With the obligation of the ban on the purchase and sale of cattle for slaughter at animal markets in the whole country (India), by Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Statutes (May, 26th 2017) by the Indian Government ignited a new wave of cow vigilante in the country. And even when the Supreme Court of India later suspended the ban on the sale of cattle in its judgment in July 2017. This judgment gives relief to the multi-billion-dollar beef and leather industries. Besides, this several states where beef was one of the primary foods, there was a steep rise in attacks on Muslims accusing them of cow smugglers. Dozens of Muslims were killed in such mob attacks or were mob lynched just over suspicion of possessing beef.

To communalize the society, some groups or organizations of spiteful people instigated mob lynching as per a common pattern. Usually, incidents like these appeared to be irregular in nature and generally on a spontaneous response from some who are furious over the reports of cow slaughter and smuggling. However, it is misleading as it shows planned attacks just before the elections period.

The bureaucracy and the political class silently ignored the incidents even though mob lynching can seriously threaten the peace of the country. The current political class appears to be behind the rise in mob lynching as there is virtual inaction against the culprits of these crimes. Either no cases were booked against them or they were let off without any charges. They appear to have tactic approval from the ruling class making the mobs feel strong and reassured. Political leaders



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and party members avoid visiting the victims or their families so as not to disturb or hurt their core vote bank. They showed total insensitivity and lethargy towards the victims or their families.

Another proven source of mob lynching was rumors of child kidnappers and traffickers, where false and fake social media posts were spread in several states like Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tripura, West Bengal, and Telangana. Again this claimed numerous innocent lives through several mob attacks. As per the newspaper reports, at least 20 persons have been killed and several injured in such instances of mob lynching ignited by rumors of child traffickers and kidnappers in 10 states for the past few months.

The instances of mob lynching about child kidnappers are the product of a lack of public trust and confidence in the police. In the eye of a common man, police lack the ability and will to track down the criminals and recover the kidnapped children. As per the figures given by the home ministry, in 2016 there were 54,723 child kidnappings, in 2015 there were 41,893 cases, and in 2014 there were 37,854 cases. Also, in 2016 police only filed complaints in only 40% of cases and around 23% of the cases were decided in 2016.

Guidelines By Supreme Court to Curb Mob Lynching

- Supreme Court of India ordered all the states to appoint officers of SP rank and other nodal officers in order to control mob-related violence.
- Instructions have been given to center and state governments to broadcast on television, online, and on the radio a warning that mob lynching and mob violence might end up calling serious consequences.
- FIR (First Information Reports) to be filed against the person who spreads fake messages and fake videos.
- Public and district administration who fails to obey the Supreme Court instructions will be deemed cautious carelessness and action will be taken against them.
- Supreme Court also ordered the states to draft compensation schemes to give interim relief to the victims of lynching or violence next to kin, within 30 days.
- Fast track court to try cases of lynching and shall be concluded within 6 months.



Government's Stand

For stopping this hideous crime, the government has put several restrictions on it nationwide, a high-level committee headed by Rajiv Gauba, Home Secretary was established, later on, the central government instituted a board headed by the home minister, to submit its report to Prime Minister according to the guidelines of the Supreme Court.

No matter what the reason is, the incidents of mob lynching show that society is showing reduced tolerance and sensitivity. They are susceptible to false propaganda and fail to see reason backed by a political class who have ulterior motives. People lack sympathy and the feeling of 'they' versus 'us' is replacing the social unity that keeps the community together.

Moreover, as alternative various sub-sections in the bare acts of the country, this national crime should be dealt with in the present sections, and the present administrations should focus more on bracing the lost faith and trust of the people on this judiciary and police system.

Reference

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