

Political Parties, Alliances & Trade Union Organisations and Political Power;

Labour Attempts to directly alter the balance of state power, either

a} Through Alliances with Ruling Political Parties.

In Developing countries, Labour usually are in alliance with Political Parties. In this case let us take India as an example. Politics and Labour are in a critical relationship.

Basically India has two kinds of Labour Sector;

Formal Sector or Organised Labour

Informal Sector or Unorganised Labour

Both the Sectors are organised by Federations ; some big Federations are INTUC,HMS,BMS,AITUC,etc..Right now BMS or Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh is politically affiliated to Ruling Party BJP { Bhartiya Janta Party}.

Undoubtedly, India has the biggest man power in Labour after China, but Labour can not alter balance of state power. However it can suggest changes in the policy {Labour Policy}. It depends on the Ruling Party whether to give importance to the suggestions or not. If it is hampering the prospects of Capitalists it is not accepted at all. Labour Leaders of allied Unions with the Ruling Party are rewarded handsomely. They are deputed as Chairman, Members , Directors etc of State governed Public Sectors, Banks,Statutory bodies and Organisations for the period they are in power..

Following Federations have alliances with Political Parties like;

INTUC with Indian National Congress

BMS with Bhartiya Janta Party

AITUC with Communist Party of India...,etc

It is really unfortunate that Political Parties in developing Countries treat Trade Union Movement as a Platform to rise high in social life.....come in limelight.Most of the developing countries have adopted Social Democratic Form of Governments & system. Labour movements are mostly being used as Vote Banks.They are used to draw votes of labour sector to Political Parties to whom they are allied. After winning Elections they never care for the Labour Welfare or any Reforms.

An example from India will be appropriate to describe this.

Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh {BMS}, an affiliate of Ruling Party BJP, participated in the Nationwide Strike thrice organised by Forum of Federations against PPP,Privatisation,FDI,Outsourcing///etc. In short Ruling Party under the hegemony of Neoliberalism Framework competitiveness refused to accept the demands of their own Labour Alliance.

b} Through the Re organisation of Trade Union Organisations and Strategies;

In this era of growing challenges of neoliberal globalisation, trade union organisations of developing countries are exploring new strategies & reorganizing trade unions through Social Dialogues, help of civil societies,advocacy and many more.... In India Federations of different ideologies came together under one roof to form Forum of Federations. Main Agenda is to combat the evils of Neo Liberal Globalization & menace of Capitalism. such as PPP , FDI , Privatization and Out sourcing etc. This

Forum of Federations had successfully organised three historical Nationwide Strikes. and forced Government to fall back a little.

Trade Unions have constituted a different cell in their unions for advocacy. It helps and advocates labour issues & problems systematically in a planned way to the Government....on behalf of unions.

Overall, in developing countries, Labour of different ideologies are uniting to fight against the Evils of Disastrous Capitalism.

c} Through the development of alternative organisations and alliances with other movements in civil society,

Trade Unions in developing countries have developed the strategy of forming alternative organisation in order to directly alter balance of state power. They have formed various wings in their unions such as Ladies wing , Youth Wing , Health Wing etc, which work with civil societies and NGOs.

Women wing looks after the Empowerment Of Women. Especially it creates awareness among female employees about equal work equal pay, medical benefits, working conditions, and above all raise voice against sexual harassment ,if any, at work place...with the help of NGOs and civil societies.

Similarly Youth wing operates with NGOs & civil societies among young workers. It creates awareness regarding Wages, working Hours, Health Benefit, incentives...etc. Unorganised Labour in Informal Sector are benefited the most due to this alliance of civil societies and trade unions.

Implementation of State Labour Policies through this system is generating a lot of pressure on State for more Labour Reforms.

d} Through building movements that refuse to participate in the state, but are willing to pressure it for reforms;

A very good example of this is : " Shadow Unions" found in most of the developing countries. Mostly big Conglomerates, MNCs, and big Corporations have adopted this dominating policy of uprooting Trade Unions & Labour Movement.

These Capitalists select a few employees with bad reputation or shady background and form their union. This Union of bad guys is recognized by the management. In fact all of the office bearers of this trade union are on payroll of management. No law is violated in forming this kind of unions. Only the actual workers are missing. This makes STATE a powerful supporter of wrong doings of Capitalists.

Labour in developing countries are now organizing against the victimization by these " Shadow Unions" of Capitalists. Unfortunately STATE is playing a role of silent spectator in whole scenario, as no law is violated in forming " Shadow Unions". To summarize, Labour Movements in developing countries are combating inadequately with the problems of Neo Liberal Globalization with limited resources. In present scenario, Labour Movement in Developing Countries are acting as a

Legitimate Reforming Force.
International Advocacy & support of Global Trade Unions shall certainly catapult
Labour Movements in Developing Countries.

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SAMEER PANDEY