

**Social Justice and Equality as Pillars of
Viksit Bharat@2047
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ABSTRACT:

India has set a national vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047, known as Viksit Bharat 2047. This dream cannot be achieved only through economic growth, industrial progress, or digital transformation. The true foundation of a developed India must rest on the strong pillars of social justice, equality, and inclusion. Without removing the deep-rooted inequalities in caste, class, gender, region, and religion, development will remain incomplete and unequal.

This paper explores how social justice and equality can act as guiding principles in India's journey towards 2047. It highlights the importance of fair access to education, healthcare, employment, and digital opportunities for every citizen, especially the marginalized and vulnerable groups. The paper also discusses the role of constitutional values, government schemes, and civil society in promoting inclusion and bridging social gaps. It argues that justice and equality are not only moral requirements but also practical needs for sustainable growth and national unity.

The study concludes that Viksit Bharat 2047 will only be possible when every Indian, irrespective of caste, creed, gender, or economic background, has equal opportunities and a fair share in the nation's progress. By placing social justice and equality at the heart of development planning, India can truly realize the vision of an inclusive, prosperous, and harmonious society by 2047.

KEYWORDS:

Viksit Bharat 2047, Social Justice, Equality and Inclusion, Marginalized Communities, Sustainable Development.



INTRODUCTION

India is celebrating 100 years of independence in 2047 with a dream of becoming a fully developed nation, called Viksit Bharat 2047. This vision is not only about economic progress or technological growth, but also about building a society that is fair, equal, and inclusive for all its people. A nation cannot be called truly developed if some of its citizens still face discrimination, poverty, or exclusion from opportunities. Therefore, social justice and equality are the real pillars on which the idea of Viksit Bharat must stand.

Social justice means giving every person fair treatment and ensuring that nobody is denied their rights because of caste, class, religion, gender, or region. Equality means that all citizens should have equal opportunities in education, employment, healthcare, digital access, and decision-making. Inclusion means bringing the marginalized and weaker sections into the mainstream of development, so that progress reaches every household and every individual.

The Indian Constitution has already given us strong values of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. Over the years, many policies and programmes have been made to reduce social and economic inequalities. Yet, challenges like poverty, gender discrimination, unemployment, rural-urban divide, digital gap, and social prejudices continue to exist. Unless these barriers are removed, India's growth story will remain incomplete.

As India prepares for 2047, the need is to look at development from a holistic perspective. Along with GDP growth, industrialization, and infrastructure, the government and society must focus on empowering the marginalized, ensuring equal opportunities, and strengthening social justice systems. This will not only reduce conflicts and social divisions but also build unity, trust, and cooperation among all sections of society.

Thus, this research paper studies how social justice and equality can act as the foundation of Viksit Bharat 2047. It will examine existing challenges, explore ongoing initiatives, and suggest ways to ensure that the benefits of development reach every citizen of the country. Only by achieving justice and equality for all can India fulfill its dream of becoming a truly developed, inclusive, and harmonious nation by 2047.

DISCUSSION

India's dream of becoming a developed nation by 2047 cannot be understood only in terms of economic growth, urbanization, or digital progress. Development is a multi-dimensional concept that must include the social, cultural, and moral upliftment of its people. A country is truly developed only when every citizen, irrespective of caste, class, gender, religion, or economic background, has equal rights and opportunities to live with dignity. In this sense, social justice and equality are not optional values but essential conditions for achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

1. The Role of Social Justice in Development

Social justice refers to a fair and just distribution of resources, opportunities, and responsibilities within society. In India, where historical inequalities have existed for centuries due to caste hierarchies, feudal systems, patriarchy, and regional imbalances, the need for justice is even more urgent.

The Indian Constitution, through its Preamble, clearly declares justice—social, economic, and political—as a guiding value of the Republic. The reservation policy for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes, along with protective legislations for women, children, and minorities, are steps taken to correct historical wrongs. These measures are not acts of charity but instruments of justice to level the playing field.

However, the question remains whether these efforts are enough for the future. Many communities still face exclusion, lack of education, poor healthcare, and limited economic opportunities. For Viksit Bharat 2047, justice must go beyond token policies and ensure actual empowerment. This means strengthening grassroots democracy, fair implementation of welfare schemes, and strict action against discrimination in any form.

2. Equality as the Core of Inclusive Growth

Equality means more than just equal rights on paper. It means ensuring that every citizen has equal access to quality education, decent employment, healthcare, technology, and opportunities for growth. In India, despite progress, inequalities are still visible in many areas:

» Educational inequality: Urban students often have access to better

schools, digital tools, and coaching, while rural children struggle with poor infrastructure and teacher shortages.

- » Economic inequality: A small percentage of people hold a large share of the nation's wealth, while millions still live below the poverty line.
- » Gender inequality: Women continue to face barriers in education, employment, and leadership positions despite constitutional guarantees.
- » Regional inequality: Some states and cities are highly developed, while others lag behind in basic infrastructure and opportunities.

If these gaps are not addressed, India's growth will remain one-sided. Equality must therefore become the central principle of policy-making in the journey to 2047.

3. Inclusion of Marginalized Communities

The vision of Viksit Bharat will remain incomplete unless the marginalized communities are brought into the mainstream of development. These include Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, religious minorities, differently-abled persons, migrant workers, rural poor, and women.

Inclusion requires more than welfare programmes. It means participation, representation, and empowerment. For example, women must not only be given education but also leadership opportunities in politics, business, and science. Tribals must not only be given basic amenities but also a voice in decisions about their land, forests, and culture. The differently-abled must not only be provided with financial aid but also accessible infrastructure, inclusive education, and employment opportunities.

By ensuring genuine inclusion, India can tap into the potential of its entire people, which will contribute to faster and more balanced development.

4. The Challenge of Digital and Technological Divide

As India moves towards becoming a digital economy, the divide between those who have access to technology and those who do not is becoming more visible. While cities are adopting AI, robotics, and advanced digital platforms, rural areas still struggle with internet connectivity and digital literacy.

For social justice and equality to be realized in the age of technol-

ogy, digital inclusion must be treated as a basic right. The government's Digital India programme is a good step, but much more needs to be done to ensure that villages, poor households, and marginalized students are not left behind. If technology is used wisely, it can become a tool for empowerment; if ignored, it can deepen inequalities.

5. Barriers to Justice and Equality

The road to social justice and equality in India is not easy. Some of the major challenges include:

- » Poverty and unemployment, which trap millions in cycles of deprivation.
- » Caste-based discrimination, which still exists in rural and even some urban areas despite legal bans.
- » Patriarchy and gender bias, which restrict women's opportunities.
- » Corruption and weak implementation, which reduce the effectiveness of welfare schemes.
- » Rural-urban migration, which creates slums and poor living conditions in cities.
- » Environmental inequality, where the poor are more affected by climate change, pollution, and displacement.

These barriers need to be tackled through multi-pronged approaches, combining law, policy, awareness, and social reform.

6. Pathways to Achieving Justice and Equality by 2047

To ensure that social justice and equality become the real pillars of Viksit Bharat 2047, India must adopt certain strategies:

1. Education for all – Universal access to quality education, with focus on rural schools, digital learning, skill-based education, and higher education for marginalized groups.
2. Gender empowerment – Equal pay, more women in decision-making roles, safety for women, and breaking gender stereotypes through awareness campaigns.
3. Economic equity – Progressive taxation, support for small businesses, fair wages, and targeted schemes for the poor and vulnerable.
4. Digital inclusion – Affordable internet, digital literacy programmes, and free access to online education and services for the underprivi-

leged.

5. Social awareness – Campaigns to challenge casteism, communalism, and discrimination, promoting unity and fraternity.
6. Good governance – Transparent, accountable, and corruption-free governance with citizen participation in decision-making.
7. Environmental justice – Sustainable development policies that protect vulnerable communities from displacement, pollution, and climate disasters.

7. The Role of Youth and Civil Society

India's youth will play the most important role in building Viksit Bharat 2047. With more than half of the population under 30, young people must be trained not just in technical skills but also in values of justice, equality, and social responsibility. Civil society, NGOs, and community organizations will also act as watchdogs and partners in ensuring that development reaches the last person.

8. A Holistic Vision of Viksit Bharat

Viksit Bharat 2047 should not be seen as merely a goal of high GDP or becoming a global superpower. A truly developed nation is one where justice is accessible to all, equality is a lived reality, and no citizen feels excluded from progress. India has the opportunity to present to the world a model of development that combines economic growth with social harmony and human dignity.

CONCLUSION

India's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 is not only about building strong industries, smart cities, or a powerful economy. A nation is truly developed only when its people live with dignity, fairness, and equal opportunities. This makes social justice and equality the real foundations of a developed India.

The journey since independence has given India many achievements—constitutional rights, democracy, reservation policies, poverty reduction programmes, digital expansion, and women empowerment schemes. Yet, challenges like poverty, unemployment, gender inequality, caste discrimination, regional imbalance, and digital divide continue to exist. If these issues are not solved, development will remain incomplete and unequal.

By 2047, India must aim for a society where no one is left behind—where the poor have equal chances to rise, women stand shoulder to shoulder with men, rural children have the same opportunities as urban children, and every community feels respected and included.

Thus, the dream of Viksit Bharat 2047 will be realized not just when India becomes an economic superpower, but when it becomes a just, equal, and inclusive society. Social justice and equality are not separate goals—they are the soul of India’s development journey. If these pillars are strong, India will stand tall as a model of true progress, harmony, and human dignity for the world.

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