

IASE
Department of Education
University of Delhi, Delhi – 110 007

Name of the Coordinator/s of the Programme : *Dr. Pankaj Arora*

Type of Activity : *Symposium*

Title/Theme of the Programme : *Students Politics, Social Media and Political Education*

Objectives:

1. To understand the theoretical underpinnings focusing on the growth and development of Political Education with the help of discussion with experts in the field of Political Science Education.
2. To get a sense of the views and experiences related to Student Politics, Social Media and Political Education of various student political body leaders
3. To explore the views of undergraduate students regarding the role of Social Media in Student Politics and Political Education
4. To understand the Pros and Cons of the use of Social Media for sharing and posting matter on socio-political issues.

Concept Note

Political education can be described as the process of imparting knowledge and understanding about how the power relations are formed and maintained in a society. It helps an individual in understanding how the system of governance operates in a society and what role the individual plays in it. In today's time, Political education is not only promoted in the four walls of a classroom but also through various informal means of education, political activism, socio-political movements and protests being some of them. When individuals take part in various socio-political events they get a chance to observe, question, debate, discuss and seek clarifications. This becomes an educative journey for them as in the process they get to learn about the functioning of the government and about various socio-political processes.

In current times Socio-political events, movements and protests have become rampant and with the advent of technology and mass communication these movements are becoming widespread and popular. The Anna Hazare anti corruption movement, protests for Arushi Talwar murder case, the Nirbhaya case. The LGBT marches and parades have also become popular in our country. It is also observed that Strikes, protest movements have become widespread in our educational institutions and students are actively taking part in various movements and protests which are being organized to highlight various significant socio-political issues. Some Student Movements also have political affiliations and backing from political parties. These movements run on ideological basis and aim at spreading their own ideology.

Recently institutions like Jawaharlal Nehru University, Film and Television Institute of India, Hyderabad University etc. were in the limelight for their student's activism. Debates have been going on regarding the spread of the movements run by the students of educational institutions. Some see these movements and student activism as mere hurdles of societal order, peace and harmony and some favour them on the ground that such activities keep the spirit of democracy alive by giving individuals the chance to question and to fight for justice and protection of rights.

With the growth of technology, leading to changes in the way people work, to the way in which they communicate and the ways in which education is being imparted are, also, changing. Educators are using creative and productive ways to restructure education, to respond constructively and progressively to the technological and social changes, now encompassing the globe and social media and internet technology are playing significant roles in promoting education and awareness, concerned with socio-political issues.

The aim of the proposed symposia is to explore how in the present digital era the Political Education of the youth is taking shape by their participation in socio-political processes and how social media is providing a platform where they are able to come together and collectively work for a cause, raise questions and demand for change or continuity.

In order to have a holistic understanding of the relationship between student politics, social media and political education we would like to invite Political Science Experts, Leaders of Student Political bodies and few undergraduate students. This Symposia will be a platform where they can share with us their knowledge, experiences and insights on the growth and development of social media, role of social media in socio-political processes like elections and social protests and revolutions and how political education is imparted in the age of social media and student activism.