

Critical Evaluation of 'Me Too' Movement

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Abstract:

The widespread notion that men are more powerful than women in every conceivable way may be found in every region of the world. There are a number of women's movements that are now operating in an effort to struggle for justice. Men frequently attempt to establish their dominance over women and attempt to keep women in control. The consequences for a woman are quite negative if she makes an effort to speak out against injustice. As a result of Me Too movement, women in all walks of life now have a voice. In the majority of the sections, the movement has resulted in the creation of some pressure due to the fact that the full act of wrongdoing has frequently been covered in news reports. This phenomena appears to cause a great deal of discomfort for males. Huge number of women across the globe suffer abusive relationships. They are under such intense pressure that it is difficult for them to recognise when they are being mistreated. Awareness was raised regarding sexual harassment in the workplace as a result of the Me Too movement.

Most of the times when women raise her voice against sexual harassment, she suffers a lot from infamy, criticism, insult and blame, Original motto of me too movement remained ignored due to horripilation created by allegations on famous personalities in film industry, politicians and in the field of journalism. Me too movement plays a very important role all over the world. Women received a platform to raise their voices against sexual misconduct at the workplace. When this movement started, it gained viral global momentum in social media. 'Me Too' movement will be successful only when certain positive steps are taken in the proper direction. Aim of this movement is to stand firm and get justice for those who are often afraid to speak.

Keyword: Me Too, Social Justice, sexual harassment, workplace, sexual abuse, social media, women's voice, Social Media

Objectives:

1. To study the meaning and emergence of the Me Too movement.
2. To study the role of social media in the movement.
3. To observe the need of the Me Too movement
4. To observe the status of movement in India.

Methodology:

Secondary sources, such as articles from newspapers, journals, and other websites, were used to compile the information for this study. Secondary sources are utilised in order to compile the necessary information.

Meaning of Me Too movement:

It is very challenging and hard to prove women herself at any place. While women try to do their best at the workplaces, they are often subjected to kind of misbehaviour or disorderly conduct. This injustice women face at global level brought up through social media as the 'Me Too' movement.

The Me Too movement began in areas of the film industry, the media, government offices and business hubs. Initially this movement gained prominence through twitter by using Me Too tag. Once started it gained viral global momentum quickly. The hashtag caught like wildfire when women from across the globe spoke out about their survivor stories.

This movement is not against any gender. It is the movement against those people who brush their mistakes under the carpet. Often these people use their power of fame and money, political connections to hide their serious misconduct. Me Too movement is seen as on independent outgrowth influenced by the international campaign against sexual harassment of women at workplaces. This movement began on social media first and most importantly provided women a platform to report the injustice at workplaces

.Beginning of Me Too movement

During the early years, Tarana Burke, an American social activist, began to use the phrase “me too” on the social networking platform Myspace to highlight the occurrence of sexual harassment, particularly as it targeted women of color. Burke argues that the Me Too movement works on empowerment through empathy by showing the world just how common sexual harassment is and by telling survivors that they aren't alone — and are supported. But it began as much needed social phenomenon in Oct.2017 as a hashtag started by American actress Alyssa Milano who shared her story of sexual assault against Oscar winner actor Harvey Weinstein. After allegation made this actor, number of female actresses and co-workers in film industry shared their stories of sexual harassment against him. Because of these allegations the result was his fall from Hollywood's heights and facing criminal charges.

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Isa Dick Hackett, an American producer and writer for Amazon, shared her story of sexual misconduct by Harvey Weinstein in 2017. Hackett shared injustice to the Hollywood Reporter that Roy Price, the programming chief at Amazon had sexually harassed her. Due to these allegations Roy had to step down from his top executive post.

With reference to all such incidences, 2017 was a very important year for women power. The attempt to draw attention to sexual assault and harassment, Hollywood actress Alyssa Milano used her twitter account to share her story of sexual harassment during a concert. For this she used the Me Too hashtag. When Alyssa Milano started a conversation, women replied, we have a voice and it's time to speak up. Within 24 hours, her post generated thousands of replies, comments and retweets' and inspired thousands more original posts on social media.

Many women who were nurses, teachers, engineers, waitresses, students, mothers, daughters, sisters and wives spoke out of # Me Too movement. Milanos' story went global and she has been awarded as 'person of the year' due to her stand as silence breaker.

U.S. Gymnast team doctor Larry Nassar worked for more than 30 years with the team. In a statement posted to Twitter, Olympic gold medal winner U.S. Gymnast McKayla Maroney in Oct. 2017 has alleged that she was molested by Larry Nassar, a gymnast team doctor. This doctor is currently awaiting sentencing after pleading guilty to federal child pornography charges.

In Oct. 2017 allegations were made by Athne Rap towards Oscar Winner Actor Kevin Spacey of sexual assault and harassment. These allegations were made with # Me Too hashtag. With reference to this many women and child actors used their voices to talk about their sexual harassment.

In France creative movements like Balance Tonnies and women Roar were in practice to empower women to share their stories through storytelling, inclusivity and collaboration. But these movements did not gain any popularity amongst women. But the Me Too hashtag came in practice and became very popular within a short duration globally.

Roll of Social Media Social Media in Emergence of 'Me Too' Movement:

Social media is basically a means of communication. At global level this particular medium plays a very important role in developing social networks. This medium of communication is easily available in the hands of people to share content quickly, efficiently and in real time. Any person can use this tool, the way he desires.

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The motive of using this social media is to bring people closer together to share their ideas. At the same time, it is very important to understand the limitations of using social media.

Me Too movement is the movement run by social media. It runs with the help of blog, twitter, facebook and other Smartphone applications. But during this entire communication process there is no boundary till what extent a specific thing should be opened and discussed. Most of the women across the globe suffer from sexual misconduct at workplaces. This particular fact never gets reported. When women started raising their voices against sexual harassment at workplaces through social media like twitter, this social awareness campaign converted to Me Too phenomenon. In a very short time this movement was welcomed by all women across the globe. It gained viral global momentum in social media.

‘Me Too’ Movement in India :

The movement against women sexual harassment started in India little late. Me Too began gaining prominence in India with the increasing popularity of international movement, Later this momentum reached a peak when actress Tanushree Dutta accused Nana Patekar of sexual harassment. This led to many women in Indian films, news media and even within government to speak out and bring allegations of sexual harassment against number of perpetrators. But the movement fizzed out as fast as it arose.

In Indian entertainment industry, many singers, producers, directors and actors blamed by women of sexual harassment. A junior minister in the Indian Government stepped down when more than dozen women accused him of sexual harassment. Journalist Tushita Patel with other women journalists also raised their voices against this minister. Here Me Too movement gained momentum.

When the Me Too movement in India gained viral global momentum, the central government ordered a committee of senior judges to look into the matter. Accordingly the committee should resolve the matters of sexual harassment of women at their workplaces suitable steps are to be taken to solve these problems government added.

When Me Too movement gained viral global momentum, the men against whom the allegations were made of sexual harassment of women denied the charges due to their fame and financially strong position in society. Some of them accepted the allegations and stepped down from their positions, accepting moral responsibility, few of them left their jobs due to

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pressure created by society. But still some of the accused men are still trying to garner publicity.

Present scenario of Me Too movement in India :

The Me Too movement started in the year 2017 and gained viral global momentum in social media. This movement started in India in the year 2018. Actress Tanushree Datta accused a famous male actor for sexual harassment at workplace. Immediately women from the film industry, female journalists raised their voices against sexual predators. This has created a panic situation in the entertainment industry due to which artists, singers, producers and directors went under mental distress. Women from all over the world responded to the Me Too movement but it is likely to end just a dying campaign nowadays.

Actress Tanushree Datta's experience in this movement was found herself as heart burning and insulting. She also faced a lot of criticism. In addition to this the entire case took a very long time to make a decision and relevant justification. Social movement failed to bring justice.

When the Me Too movement caught fire in social media, most of the accused from the entertainment industry like artists, singers, producers, directors, journalists did not get any work. They were stepped down from their existing position. But nowadays these accused are again resettling at their positions of workplace. The main reason is there is no proof for their misconduct yet. They are back in the entertainment industry as if nothing has happened. This supports the fact that human sensibility is replaced by practical trends. Whenever the cases of sexual harassment are reported and the matter goes in court for justice, it takes very long time for the result to come out. A group of lawyers works on the criminal charges of the accused so that no charges should be proved and the accused will be free from any blame. All accused now have their presence in the society as if nothing has happened.

In 2021 Akbar was among the most high-profile people to be named in India's MeToo Movement. He lost a defamation case against journalist Priya Ramani in February 2021 that was seen as a boost to the movement in India. However, he appealed the decision, and in August 2021, the Delhi High Court issued notice to Ramani on his appeal.

The founder of The Asian Age and former Minister of State for External Affairs, Akbar, who was accused of sexual harassment, assault and rape by multiple women in 2018,

was reported in August 2021 to have made his comeback in the media industry by joining WION as an “Editorial Consultant”, according to Exchange4Media

Legal Provisions in India for Controlling sexual harassment :

Sexual harassment is said to take place when one person subjects another person to an unwelcome act of physical intimacy. The sexual harassment of women at workplace (prevention, prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 is a legislative act in India. This act seeks to protect women from sexual harassment at their workplaces.

According to this act, sexual harassment includes physical acts of sexual assault, requests for sexual favors, jokes referring to sexual orientation, unwanted touching or physical contact, unwelcome sexual advances, discussing sexual stories, feeling pressured to engage with someone sexually, unwanted sexually explicit photos, emails or text messages.

In this legislative act of sexual harassment no difference is made for men, women and third genders. Workplace is confined to the traditional office set-up where there is a relationship as employer-employee. Hence the act is applicable to organizations, department in public and private sector, organized and unorganized, hospitals, educational institutes, sports institutes and any place where the employee visits during employment. At international level the meaning of this act is more or less similar.

Success of Me Too movement:

The Me Too movement started in the year 2017, but it would be courageous to say that the movement gained success. Me Too movement was proved to be a movement of survivors and their supporters, powered by courage, determined to end sexual violence and harassment all over the world. The movement gained attention at global level. This shows how powerfully the movement worked.

The Me Too movement gave justice to those women who have been afraid to speak up. This movement helped women to solve their problems and get their honour back. It also has changed the mindset of women survivors and got the courage to live with dignity. Women gained courage to raise their voices against sexual harassment. This movement helped women to stand confidently and firmly in adverse circumstances. One has to take into account the success of the Me Too movement.

One must think of various aspects related to the Me Too movement, as it has gained widespread media coverage within a short time. This movement has not only given survivor women a strong voice but also provided a social platform to fight against injustice. From this

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social platform when voices were raised by women against sexual misconduct by men, the effect was that most powerful men stepped down from their jobs. Some men are fighting legal battles and waiting for justice to come out from prison. The success of Me Too is most of the accused are facing criminal charges and long time imprisonment. Without doing any wrong thing, women would suffer harassment at the workplace, the movement supported survivor women with strong voices.

Me Too has helped women across the globe to raise their voices against various forms of sexual misconduct.

The Me Too hashtag gave respect to women with respect to trust, safety and wellbeing. Due to Andrea's voice other around 60 women raised their voices against injustice and the matter of campaign for daily Newspapers. Most of the times rich and powerful are worshiped and their serious mistakes are brushed under the carpet, this prevents any social movement to get justice. But Me Too succeeded in bringing real facts in front of society.

Shion Ita, a journalist who has become a feminist icon in Japan for being one of the few women spoke about sexual assault. After a police investigation, the court ordered the survivor to pay 80,000 dollars for this sexual misconduct. This is one of the success stories of Me Too. Number of sexual harassment cases were reported through Me Too movement against other High profiles. Hence Ito's case became notable in Japan.

Two time Oscar winner star Kevin Spacey from Hollywood industry charged of sexual assault waiting for court order for punishment when actor Anthony Rapp raised voice against Spacey of sexual assault, many women and child actors came forward for justice against sexual misconduct by Spacey. This is the success of Me Too platform.

Larry Nassar, the former USA Gymnastics team doctor sentenced to a lifetime in prison for sexually assaulting his patients. Olympic gold medal winning US Gymnast McKayla Maxoney made allegations against Nassar of sexual harassment and assault first time. Under protection of children from sexual offences Act (Posco) Nassar is facing a jail term.

Amazon producer, Isa Dick Hackett reported through Hollywood Reporter about sexual harassment against Roy Price, the programming chief at Amazon. She took help of Me Too movement. After this claim Roy Price suspended Amazon. Here also Me Too platform made a major role in social media.

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For decades women suffered abusive relationships at workplaces for not daring to speak about. Even though late, women started raising their voices against sexual misconduct through the Me Too movement. This became the appreciated platform worldwide. Women got social justice and empowerment through this movement. There are legal provisions made through number of laws and acts, against sexual harassment, still there are number of sufferers of sexual misconduct. Hence Me Too movement has to become very strong and active. In Indian social media, the movement has now just as news.

Not only women from entertainment industry but also from other fraternity raised their voices against sexual harassment at workplaces by using Me Too platform. But still there are certain questions raised about the success of the Me Too movement.

Nowadays it has been observed that very few women raise their voices through Me Too platform for justice against sexual misconduct in the workplace. Those women who are literate in information and communication technology, could use the facility of mobile and internet access to speak out through Me Too. To use this platform, after online access is required whatever is posted, the reply should be immediate. In addition to this the post should be to the point and confidently stated. Accordingly the responses are posted. There should be continuous tracking of posts very often.

Women from backward class, tribal community, rural background do not have confidence and have financial dependence. With social and family pressure could not speak against sexual misconduct through Me Too platform. If the Me Too movement itself considers the problems of these women to defend, the movement becomes a social concern. The movement lags behind the voices of women against sexual misconduct seems to be unsound and deadly.

In developed countries like Europe and America, people are integrated extensively. In India 50% of the population lives in village areas and are unorganized. Whenever any injustice on women about sexual misconduct takes place, Me Too fails to raise their voices.

Companies like Google, Apple, Amazon and Microsoft have a healthy work culture with respect to male-female relations. On the official websites of these companies the information about the acts related to sexual harassment grievance redressal cell, the way it works is displayed. In India also in most of the companies similar type of mechanism is made available but it did not become of social concern is important to note.

The fact of sexual harassment of women at workplace is not new. For the financial stability of our family, many women prefer to go, for any type of service available for them based on their education and skills. The number of women suffering from sexual misconduct at the workplace is increasing day by day. This is a very serious matter. To stop this horrible crime, Me Too must succeed and have viral global momentum.

Even though women have courage, brilliance and strong capabilities, she suffers being a woman at the workplace. Most of the women do not dare to talk about injustice due to fear of insult and also prevention of job promotion. This in turn hinders motivation and morale for them. They prefer to keep quiet. The situation in developed countries like Europe and America is more or less same.

In spite of being a sufferer of abhorrent act, women show power to declare Me Too publicly. This courage they have obtained due to Me Too platform. Me Too movement has given awareness for women to get honored but still the matter of sexual harassment at workplace is deep rooted in reality socially. Sparkling media like film industry and broadcasting media have border of obscurity.

With reference to Me Too, gender equality balance is very important to consider. This movement becomes the reason for male hatred is another question which has been raised. The subject of gender equality bias is very complicated. One of the objections raised was using this movement for false reporting of the cases. Because of this fear, it would be injustice to cut off this movement. Basically gender equality is the word only on paper.

It is very important that the Me Too movement must succeed for gender equality.

Nowadays it is very easy to blame a woman for her character. Making a question about a woman's character is a very serious matter. This attitude in male dominated society is very dangerous and deadly. To raise a voice against sexual harassment needs very powerful mind. It also needs favourable circumstances. Social media has created a positive environment for women to relax by taking the burden off, but the proportion is limited.

In a civil society, to raise a voice against injustice is like thievery. Even if in spite of odd circumstances, women speak out and demand justice, it takes very long time to see the light of day. In all such cases women suffer a lot due to defamation, notoriety and restraint. In a society strong measures should be taken for gender equality. To establish equality in society, along with ethics strong legal provisions are to be made. While people

work in public or private sector, there should be healthy and friendly relations beyond gender bias.

Wherever women raise voice against sexual misconduct, the case gets reported, the time to get justice is too long. During this time it is very hard for women to keep morale. During this period women face blame games, stigma, condemnation and unnecessary discussions. Most of the people raise questions about women's character. Under all these circumstances it is very important to take the Me Too movement platform to the root level of society. But the picture is such thing did not happen. This is a very serious matter, one must think.

Number of legal provisions are made by the government against sexual harassment at workplace. Instead of giving attention to the scope of sexual misconduct, its seriousness, it is often wrongly interpreted by male dominant society. This in turn brought the hypocrisy of male in front of society. When a woman raise her voice against sexual harassment at a place, the women from the same organization do not support her. Not giving support to survivors is very serious showing insensitiveness towards women.

Me Too movement is often taken sarcastically whenever it gains viral global momentum. The movement is often interpreted as only used to get publicity. In social media whenever cases of sexual misconduct are reported, often they are from Hollywood, Bollywood high profile communities. Everybody responds to these cases as mere gossiping matter to keep public attention. Hard luck of women is, often the discussion goes on raising the questions on her morality and character.

It takes too long time to come out from the shocking experience of sexual harassment. Psychologically and emotionally every woman is different. Whenever women demand justice against sexual misconduct, she goes through a number of hurdles. The workplace, support after shocking experience, proof to be produced at the time of enquiry, status of women at workplace, getting witnesses are few of them. Finally the mindset of women prefers to keep quiet. Basically women are not safe in their own families due to domestic violence. It becomes very difficult to remain safe at the workplace. According to survey taken in India in 2007, not only women are exploited but children also suffer from sexual discrimination. But the question remains, how many men raised their voices against injustice. Not all male are exploiters and of violent behavior. But in cases of sexual

harassment, they remain inactive. This in turn affects the social health is the picture often seen.

In whichever field women work, she has the right to get self respect. If certain steps are taken like punishment to the accused, scope for improvement in behaviour problems will help to have a healthy society. For this to happen, it is the responsibility of every person to support voices of survivors facing injustice. This in turn will help women to express through Me Too movement. It is necessary to stand Me Too's movement with strong potential.

In India this movement gained a viral global momentum when actress Tanushree Dutta accused a famous male actor for sexual harassment that took place a decade ago. This exceptional case disappointed many and found the matter to be worried. But still everybody experienced the power of social media to demand justice.

Even though Me Too seems to have created a big storm, one should look at this movement with a positive attitude. Due to this movement women got courage to talk openly about sexual harassment at workplace. Film director Kabir Khan expressed his views about Me Too movement by saying that how indispensable the movement is. When women do not get respect at the workplace from co-workers, it's time for them to get punished.

Conclusion:

Even if in western countries the movement is partly successful, it is a universal tradition that women must keep quiet in any case. Me Too movement exposed number of incidences of sexual harassment at workplaces. Now it is time to wind up the trend of laughing out on the matter without ascertainment. The analysis of this movement should never take place as male versus female. The focus should be on gender discrimination. The greatest misfortune of our society is, the survivor takes 10 to 15 years to speak out on the shocking experience of sexual harassment. It is not quite easy to raise a voice in a society against sexual misconduct for both male as well as female.

The discussion often takes place on use and disuse of social media to bring particular matters into play. It is improper to raise questions on use of social media to discuss the matter of sexual harassment. In the USA the Me Too movement is strongly supported by sportsmen as well as film industry artists. These people remain united to fight against mindset of men with reference to sexual harassment at workplace. But in India this movement did not receive the expected response. The answer to this question lies in the case of actress Tanushree Dutta, When she raised her voice against sexual harassment, she

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suffered a lot from infamy, criticism, insult and blame. Actress Tanushree Datta struggled a lot, kept tolerance and stood firm to get justice. More or less the same has been experienced by other survivors in society. This is the reason most of the women prefer to keep quiet.

Today also women do not feel secure to make use of social media against injustice. The insecurity behind this is the thought of making private matters public. Whenever private matters go public, the response from society may not be every time positive. This may create personal infamy, family pressure, false prestige.

In male dominated society, there is no acceptance of women with independent personalities. By making use of money and power, women are harassed. In the 21st century, this mindset has not changed.

Original motive of the Me Too movement remained ignored due to horripilation created by allegations on famous personalities in the film industry, politicians and in the field of journalism.

Indian society does not respect the fact of raising voices by women against injustice. The situation before tea to fifteen years back was in favour of keeping silence by women in any case. All over the world the situation was more or less the same. The position of people is in danger, who do not give respect to women. Under all these circumstances, the Me Too movement plays a very important role.

Women from all over the world received a platform to raise their voices against sexual misconduct at the workplace due to Me Too. Correct and suitable direction to speak out against injustice is the need for women today.

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