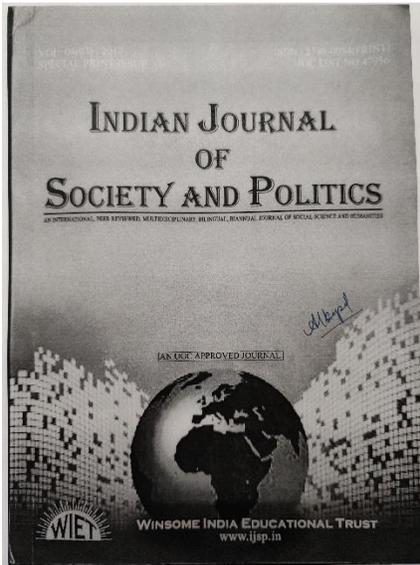


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THE DIALECTICS OF INSTITUTIONALISATION AND RADICALISATION IN SOCIAL MOVEMENT

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ABSTRACT

Movements in contemporary times are not radical at one moment and then institutionalised at another moment instead they are caught in a dialectic process of the two moments and sometimes the two process are simultaneously maintained. They are trying to maintain themselves at both the levels and that there exists a constant struggle between 'organizational' and 'radical protest' imperatives of the movements. There is a back and forth flow mechanism between the two moments. There is a cyclical relation between these moments, conceptualised as 'cycles of protest'. Movements oscillate between moments of institutionalisation and radicalisation, and thus they hold a dialectical relationship between them. And the various aspects of the dynamics of this dialectical relationship are: organizing, framing, networking and alliance making. Thus a period of 'visibility phase' of the movement is followed by a 'latency phase' where the movement exists in the form of 'hidden networks'. This can be understood in terms of 'struggle phase and dialogue phase' or as 'politics of contention and politics of engagement'.

KEY WORDS: Social Movement Organisation, Institutionalisation, Radicalisation, Autonomy.

In its beginning a social movement is amorphous, poorly organized, and without form, the collective behavior is on a primitive level, and the mechanisms of interaction are the elementary spontaneous interchanges. But, he continues, As social movements develop, it takes on the character of a society. It acquires organization and form, a body of customs and traditions, established leadership, an enduring division of labor, social roles - in short, a culture, a social organization and a new scheme of life. (Blumer, 1969, p. 99)

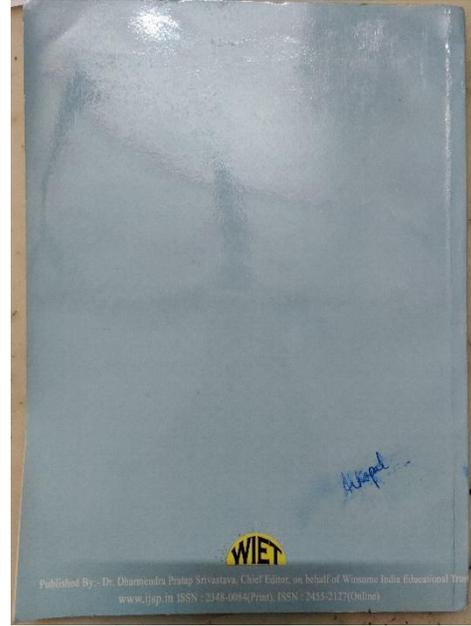
This paper basically tries to map the various theoretical dimensions of the interaction between social movements and institutions. The terrain is first laid out by the cross-fertilisation of the two sets of literature by bringing the concepts, categories, and logics used by them for analysing these interactions. The Social Movement literature has pointed out that the trajectory of their interaction with institutions can move in different directions, from being institutionalised with in itself to being institutionalised in the formal terrain of politics and most of the times maintaining both the dimensions simultaneously and still retaining its movemental and fluid nature by way of social movement organisations, coalition or alliance building, and movemental net working. The paper is divided into seven sections: The first section, tries to chart out the different trajectories into which a movement can unfold into.

The second section discusses those scholars who have tried to use the concepts used by the literatures on social movements to understand institutional change. The third section focuses on the aspect of movement as 'challenges' and movement as 'institutional processes'. The fourth section tries to evaluate the importance of social movement organisations. The fifth section focuses on the 'latency' and 'visibility' phase of movements. It argues that both the phases correspond to the 'institutionalisation' and the 'radical' phase or the 'latency' and 'struggle' phase of the dialectic of movements. The sixth one is a short section on two case studies of 'National Alliance of People's Movement (NAPM) and 'Tata Forum' (TF). By applying the theoretical foundations over the empirical observations made in all the sections and the case studies the last section tries to conclude the paper.

The source of the problematic from which this research work took its inspiration is based on certain empirical observation. On one hand we find that movements and parties are mutually supportive of each other and mostly what we observe is that, movements leading to some organisational structures (political parties) or that political parties leading to movements and sometimes the flow mechanism from party to movement and from movement to party to such that their boundaries become blur to the observer. This for instance the case of Indian National Movement which

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