

P R E F A C E

Constitution of a country is considered to be the highest embodiment of the ideals and aspiration of a nation. It is regarded as the 'vehicle' for social revolution. It a mechanism through which changes in the society are brought about. That is why it is held that a constitution has 'a life' of its own – it grows with the passage of time.

Not only that, a constitution should have the capability and flexibility to change with the changes in the society. A Constitution which fails to change or adopt itself with the changing circumstances cannot survive – it lies. That is why adoptability, flexibility and responsiveness – these three elements are considered vital for the survival, growth and maturity of a Constitution.

The present study is an attempt at exploring the nature and working of the Constitution of India both from theoretical/philosophical prospective and its operational dimension. The study also seeks to explain the underlying socio-economic foundations of the Indian Constitution, the point of reference being the Directive Principles of State Policy. Contextually speaking, the Directive Principles of State Policy, as has been observed by the makers of the Constitution, constitute the central theme of socio-political as well as economic issues of the philosophical foundations of the Indian Constitution.

(ii)

As has been revealed from the present discussion, the whole of the Constituent Assembly did attach greater significance to these Directives and in place of Social Policy as is obtained in the Irish Constitution, the framers selected the words a State Policy. This change in the title shows that they wanted the state to take up the task of implementing these principles for greater social cause.

It is true that there had been a section of opinion which sought to explain these principles simply and strictly from the formal-legal perspective, pointing out its non-justiciable character. But as will be seen from the following discussion in the present study that at points even the legislature – executive and also judiciary explained it from a wider perspective. This is the strength and justification of the Directive Principles in the Constitution of India.

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