

Event: Taqreer: Inter College Debate Competition on Judicial Activism Bane or Boon?

Organized by: Civil Society of Department of Political Science

Date: March 12, 2021

Number of Participants: 35-40

The civil society of Department of Political Science organized a virtual inter-college debate competition, Taqreer, on the issue of, 'Judicial Activism: A Bane or A Boon.' The event was illuminated with participation of numerous students from different colleges. Considering the diversity of students, the society provided a platform, where students can compete in their comfortable medium. Since, it was competition, rules were pre-specified in both Hindi and English, timer was provided to the students on their screen itself, along with prescribed time period for questions. Participants competed choosing one ideological stand as per the topic either bane or a boon.

Considering the fact that theme was highly debatable with diversity of opinions, event covered innumerable arguments ranging from judicial populism, benefits of PIL in delivering justice to the vulnerable sections, arguments on the validity of separation of powers, disturbance in balance of powers, development of society, accountability, transparency, curbing corruption, debarring of laws, creating spaces for prejudices, to justifying how its giving direction on the necessity of taking actions on required occasions. Participants came up with countless ideas, thoughts, and arguments which fruitfully served the purpose of debate.

Further, after once all the slots were over, stage was opened for informal discussion. The students questions were entertained by the respective faculty and were provided with valuable suggestions. Dr. Gopinath Pillai took over the discussion and argued, in his perspective judicial activism is a boon and not a bane. He emphasized, on the concept of balance of power, and refer to the pandemic, where states have become powerful. Though it was for the good, for curbing the pandemic. But this event has also realized us about the power of state. Referring to a saying, that power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Dr. Pillai mentioned that presence of judiciary gives solace. It was stated that someone has to interpret the constitution, the law makers may not always be successful in doing so. Besides this, it was pointed that we may not know how many people are languishing in tihar jail. Sometimes even judiciary has failed to come up with the

solution. As human rights are a severe concern, and there is blatant violation of human rights at times by the state itself. It is a state machinery which is violating where will you go in that case. So, we need to think hard whether it is a bane or a boon. Of course, judiciary should not overstep as excess of everything is bad. But judiciary certainly has a role in protecting the constitution of this country. And if we look back from the past itself, we might feel doubts over the legislator's integrity and competence. In this context, we need to examine the role of judiciary.

Furthermore, taking over the discussion, Dr. Indrajeet Singh, argued, when judicial activism started there was lot of excitement about it. Judicial activism has so positively contributed. And we need to read more on the separation of powers. He emphasized when executive becomes weak, judiciary has to intervene. In this background we have to think. Dr. Singh pointed when we read the constitution it says, we the people, so, people have the right to go to judiciary, if they feel decision need to be corrected, because executive is not sovereign. If you are not satisfied you go to judiciary. In a context like India, democracy is a gift.

Concluding the discussion, participants were given suggestion on enhancing their intellectual skills and capabilities. Dr. Singh suggested, participants need to focus on conceptual and factual clarity. They need to focus on articulation along with command over language. Reading habits needs to be focused because it will enrich intellectual capital. Continuing the point, Dr. Pillai, suggested to read on right to life and how it has been moved in years, and on justice Krishna Iyer, as this will enhance, their knowledge and argument articulations.

In the end, participants were encouraged with the fact that this platform respects the right of people to have their opinion either as a bane or boon and wished luck for their prospective endeavors. The event was concluded with vote of thanks and announcement of the names of winners.