



Modi-Fication or Justi-Fication

- Pallavi Singh • Surbhi Goyal • Khushbu Kumari
- Vinita Priyedarshi

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Corresponding Author : Vinita Priyedarshi

Abstract : *After the landslide victory of Mr. Narendra Damodardas Modi in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, he has emerged as a dynamic, decisive and development oriented leader and also a ray of hope for the dreams and aspirations of billions of Indians. So, this study tries to analyse the policies, accomplishments and issues of the present government in approximately 3 years of governance and reach the conclusion as to whether one can term Modi-fication with Justi-fication or not. The study deals with the role of environment, personality, structural and operational constraints and*

psychology limiting the decision-making process of a leader.

Key words: *Decision-making, Modi-fication and Justi-fication, environment, personality, psychology, structural-operational constraints.*

Pallavi Singh

B.A. III year, Political Science (Hons.), Session: 2014-2017,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Surbhi Goyal

B.A. III year, Political Science (Hons.), Session: 2014-2017,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Khushbu Kumari

B.A. III year, Political Science (Hons.), Session: 2014-2017,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Vinita Priyedarshi

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science,
Patna Women's College, Bailey Road,
Patna – 800 001, Bihar, India
E-mail : av0308@gmail.com

Introduction :

A man beside a movie theatre throws a packet of lays and a child of about 6 years picks it up and throws it in the dustbin and says-'SWACH BHARAT SHRESHTHA BHARAT'. A joint family after completing all their daily duties, forgets to switch off the lights and a child of about 7 years, by switching them off, says-'BIJALI BACHAO DESH BACHAO'. The above two examples are not directly connected with the economic growth and development of the country but they create an atmosphere of awareness, communication and emotional connectivity of the present Govt. (particularly Prime Minister Modi) with the masses. Can this identification of the masses with Prime Minister Modi be termed Modification? Justi-fication is the declaring of a person to be just or reasonable. It is a legal term signifying acquittal, a fact that makes it unpalatable to many in our day.

Every work of an individual cannot be completely justified because humans often tend to commit mistakes as there are human errors that work as an obstacle in identifying an individual's behaviour. Vilfredo Pareto, a political sociologist from Italy, in his monumental work *Mind and Society* claimed that almost 90% of human actions are guided by impulses which are logically justified by false arguments. These arguments are called Derivatives. Man, by his very nature, is impulsive and only 10% people exhibit reason in making decisions. So, they are the real rulers.

The term Modi-fication was first applied after the landslide victory of Mr. Narendra Damodardas Modi in the 2014 election by the media, as he emerged as a dynamic, decisive and development-oriented leader and also a ray of hope for the dreams and aspirations of a billion Indians. People's participation at the time of elections is a general phenomenon but participating in such a huge manner shows that they have an inclination towards some kind of ideology, and if any person's or party's ideology is connected with their dreams and aspirations then this automatically leads to their commitment in electing the representative, which ultimately shows their political participation.

In reality, however, there are some factors that affect decision-making abilities and cause people to make irrational decisions – for example, to make contradictory choices when faced with the same problem framed in two different ways. Apart from these constraints which act at the individual and group level in the decision-making process, there are constraints which are inherent in the system itself thereby restricting the choices available to the individual or group. There are some structural and operational constraints which operate in decision-making. The political system operating in a given country in itself acts as a limit to the decision-making capability. In a Parliamentary form of government, both cabinet and Prime Minister set limits to the decision-making capacity of the government. The personality of a leader, charismatic and persuasive, could act as a boon in the decision-making. For example, the charismatic personalities of Indian Prime Ministers like Jawaharlal Nehru, Mrs. Gandhi, Atal Bihari Bajpai and Narendra Modi have acted as a boon in overcoming the differences that might have been otherwise visible in the rank and file of the council of ministers. Democracy, with the multi-party system

where the opposition plays an equally vital role in the decision-making process also sets limits to the decision-making. The structure of the international system also sets limits to the choice of the states. Defensive realists argue that structural factors limit how much power states can gain, which works to ameliorate security competition. Offensive realists, on the other hand, maintain that the system's structure encourages states to maximize their share of world power, to include pursuing hegemony, which tends to intensify security competition.

Review of literature :

A lot has been written about the various factors affecting the decision-making choices of a leader. Smith is of the view that personality can be extremely helpful in adding to our understanding of foreign policy decision-making, provided that the environment and systemic conditions allow for propensity of individual ambition (Smith 2012). Other scholars also are of the view that, since the foreign policy of a nation is made and implemented by leaders, statesmen and diplomats, naturally it bears an imprint of their values, experiences and personalities as well. The differences among the leaders are also influential inputs of a foreign policy. The Indian foreign policy till 1964 was often, and rightly so, described as Nehru's foreign policy. The support at home and the popularity that Prime Minister Nehru enjoyed acted as inputs of foreign policy. The foreign policy of each nation is influenced by the personalities of its leaders. The change in leadership often produces a change in the foreign policy of a nation. Marcus very beautifully explains that the study of emotion in politics has been active, especially as it relates to the personality of political leaders and as an explanation for how people evaluate significant features around them (Marcus 2000).

In India's Foreign Policy, a book written by Kanti P. Bajpayee and Harsh V. Pant it is stated that, "Though previous US administration had tried to improve ties with India, they were reluctant to move ahead on the nuclear issue, thereby preventing US-India bilateral ties from achieving their full potential. The Bush administration's decision to engage India as a rising global power meant that the deadlock over the nuclear questions had to be broken." The change was reflective of the change in leadership (Bajpayee and Pant, 2013:321).

Contrary to Smith's view, Rao in her article "New Strong and Clear Outreach", which was published in the year 2016, states that cognitive processes, including perceptive reasoning, have a role to play in decision-making, but it is equally true that the existential constraints of the domestic and international system as well as political structures have a bearing on the decision-making. According to Rao, the foreign policy of a country is the product of both geography and history. Changes in leadership or government do not essentially alter its basic and underlying premises (Rao 2016). Even Michael Nicholson in International Relation says, "Realism is a beguiling and seductive theory, though pessimistic in both assumptions and conclusions. It stems from the view of society that was most clearly articulated by the English political philosopher Hobbes in the seventeenth century. He argued that, if there were anarchy, life would be 'nasty, brutish, and short', not because human beings are necessarily aggressive, but because they fear the possible aggression of others and are thus in a state of armed insecurity, which could overflow into violence. Government is necessary within a society, in order to provide order and security, including basic physical security against violence" (Nicholson, 2005:91-92).

Nicholson further states, "The independence of India was determined by the structure of the international system, the structure of India, the structure of Britain and the events that had taken place in the previous years. The most decision makers could do was flow with the tide." Structuralists hold the view that instead of looking at actors, such, as states, one looks at structures such as wealth, population, trade patterns and so on. Within such a structural framework, the actors, whether states or not, have very little freedom of manoeuvre. Structuralists are sceptical of the influence of organisations making much impact outside the structural constraints. They are even more sceptical of the influence of individuals (Nicholson, 2005:101-102).

Likewise, Mishra and Miklian in their article, "The evolving domestic drivers of Indian foreign policy", which was published in the year 2016, deals with India's core friction between domestic function and foreign policy. They have explored the effect of domestic influence on Indian foreign policy by outlining the growing links between domestic dynamics and India's international aspirations (Mishra and Miklian

2016). Chatterji too argues that, while the mind-set of the decision makers influences the decision they make, actions taken on the basis of decisions consist of the manifest behaviour of the actors (Chatterji 2010).

Significance of the study :

While reviewing the existing literature in decision making and the factors affecting it, one found lack of work dealing with the actual relationship between the two. This work, while presenting a comprehensive study of the decision-making procedure and its deciding factors tries to evaluate the working of the present government under the leadership of Mr. Narendra Damodardas Modi to highlight the various constraints (structural and operational) that have a bearing on the outcome of the policy making apart from psychology. Empirical study, to substantiate the above relationship assures project's relevance. Personality plays a vital role in the decision-making process. Environment also plays a vital role in the working and implementing of policies. This work makes an effort to highlight the actual effects of the personality of a leader in the decision-making through empirical research to open a new vision of understanding of the role of personality and environment in the decision-making process for readers and researchers alike.

Statement of the problem :

Ever since the Modi government came to power, the cabal of mainstream media and opposition parties, led by Congress, backed by the Anti-Modi lobby, has consistently tried to point everything done as Indian black. Every achievement has been run down. Every initiative undertaken ridiculed. As different mouths have different opinions, perspectives differ on what our Prime Minister Modi has achieved so far. His charismatic style of governing is a mixed bag of results. This project titled 'Modi-Fication' or Justi-fication aims to study the working of the present Modi government in the light of the factors that have a bearing on the decision-making process, that is, structure, environment and the personality of the office bearer, to find out the contribution of each of these factors in making an atmosphere of awareness, communication and emotional connectivity of the Government with the masses. By evaluating the working of the present government, this project will try to highlight the linkages

between the decisions taken by the leadership and the various constraints (structural and operational) that have a bearing on the outcome of the policy-making, apart from psychology. The above linkages will be evaluated to substantiate the hypothesis given below :

Objectives :

To evaluate whether the functioning of the present government marks a paradigm shift or not.

Hypothesis :

1. Policy-formulation and its implementation are dependent on the personality of an individual.

Research Questions : On the basis of the above hypothesis, the proposal aims to study the research questions given below :

- (a) What is the role and impact of environment on decision-making?
- (b) What is the role of psychology in the environment?
- (c) What is the role of leadership?
- (d) Can Modi-fication be termed as justi-fication?

Methodology :

In the preparation of this project the sources used were both primary and secondary. Primary source comprised of empirical study based on schedule consisting of 15 close ended questions. Interview covered politicians, administrators, professors and common people. Sample size (N) used was 50. Secondary sources comprised of books, articles from journals, newspapers and internet.

The methodology adopted for testing the hypothesis and related research questions was comparative and deductive. The method of Scheduled Interview was used for the purpose of compiling primary data.

Universe : The area of study for our project was Boring Road, Patna. We selected this place because available a number of politicians, bureaucrats, academicians stay there and it was convenient for us to reach our respondents.

The findings and recommendations derived from this project are summed up in the paragraphs given below.

Findings :

- **Both Leadership and Environment need to be moulded to suit the decisions.** Personality needs to be moulded in conformity with the environment to bring positive feedback. At the same time the leader should be flexible enough to tackle the whims and fancies of his citizens and to fulfil their aspirations Otherwise, he will be outdated.
- **Modi-fication is not Justi-fication rather Modi-fication in itself is modification.** Whatever, he is doing is for the betterment of the country but a person alone cannot be justified. Modi-fication does not need justification rather he needs to justify his party as a whole.

Recommendations :

- **While taking decisions, environment should be taken into consideration,** because it is necessary for the political leaders to take the decision which is favourable in a particular prevailing environment. Taking into consideration the necessity of the environment, decisions are made.
- **Logical reasoning capacity of the decision-maker, should be well tested,** because the more logic as a person puts his thinking, suitable is the decisions he takes.
- **The present government should take at least the minimum possible steps to steer the country towards the dream, as promised by them in their campaign.** Promises like: drafting a uniform civil code, committed to the abrogation of Article 370 on Kashmir, mandate digitisation of all government work to reduce corruption and delays, etc. should be discussed by the government in the light of systemic and structural constraints, which will give the electorate a justification as to why decisions can't be taken on these issues despite the presence of Modi's strong personality.
- **The decisions taken need to be redefined in the light of public feedback.** The present

government should know that the designs of the schemes and the programmes should be for solution and not for throwing up more problems. For example, how can the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan become successful without ensuring the dignity of the safaikaramcharis who have been highlighting manual scavenging, sewer deaths and poorly paid non-secure contract jobs.

- **The government should not focus only on presenting ideas, slogans and plans. Rather, it should make a positive shift in their implementation.** For example, 'Make in India' remains merely a slogan. No programmes have been made on smart cities fronts.
- **Modi government have been named as the masters of repackaging** as many schemes have been renamed and repackaged like Planning Commission has been renamed as the Niti Aayog, Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan to Swachh Bharat mission and Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) to Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) etc. Instead, the government should focus on being called as masters of new initiatives.
- **Decision should be taken according to the needs of the changing environment.** The needs and the challenges of the environment vary from time to time and from country to country. A leader should be persuasive enough to make a consensus within his party. He should not take decisions alone but rather consult his ministers in formulation of policies.

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