

Knowledge Politics

Outline of Article(s) for the English Book

-Sunil

1. Knowledge Politics

With the farmers movement emerges the possibility of a Radical Knowledge Politics. It is the politics of emancipation of the Lokavidya Samaj. Farmers have had a hurting relationship with politics so far. Every time the movement became political in the sense of building a political party and participating in the elections, it faced huge defeat and damage. Almost always their candidates lost their deposits. It has been argued that there can not be a political party of the farmers because farmers do not constitute a political society, they are not a class in any, even very liberal, concept of class.

Farmers constitute a very very large majority in the villages. They as if by themselves, constitute the village social formation, Gram-Samaj. If they cannot have a political party of their own then what is the option available to them to intervene in the mainstream social/economic/national process which could be in their interest and in the interest of other oppressed/exploited/deprived. For this they must harness the greatest source of strength they have, namely, knowledge, their knowledge, lokavidya. So let us first proceed to get a reasonable hang of lokavidya episteme. Then we shall be equipped to develop the markers and the points of departure for a radical knowledge politics.

2. Lokavidya

Lokavidya is knowledge in society with the people. It has its own values, logic and the body of knowledge (information, skills, competencies, etc.).

3. Lokavidya-Samaj

Lokavidya Samaj is constituted of farmers, artisans, adivasis, women, retailers on the pavements, those possessing a variety of skills, service providers of all kinds, loka-kalakaars etc. In short lokavidya-samaj consists of people who live by lokavidya, generally speaking, knowledge obtained outside the university, in the loka.

4. Loka

Loka includes all our world. The earth, the skies, clouds, climate, rivers, mountains, plants, trees, living beings, humans, all.

5. Lokaniti

As opposed to Rajniti (power-politics), Lokaniti is the Knowledge Politics that is referred above. It is the popular will of the lokavidya-samaj, expressed and represented informed by lokavidya. It draws its inspiration from the Santa-parampara (To mention a few names - Kabir, Nanak, Ravidas, Meerabai, Tulsi, Tukaram, Basavanna, Annamayya,...) and has the goal of serving the loka.

6. Swaraj Panchayat

Swaraj-chetna is a key concept reflecting the reality of consciousness in the Loka. This is an amalgamation of moral, social, epistemic, spiritual and political consciousness. Based on such consciousness is to be developed the main instrument of Knowledge Politics, namely, Swaraj-Panchayat – to be seen simultaneously as organisation, process and event. Some programs are listed below, which may serve as points of departure for a knowledge politics that this country (and the world) is in urgent need of.

- Campaign for Nyaya, Tyaga and Bhaichara
- Gyan Panchayat where lokavidya and university-knowledge are treated on equal footing.
- Bauddhik Satyagraha
- Local Market