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### RESEARCH ARTICLE

#### ARE WE REALLY INDEPENDENT? REAL PICTURE: INDIA

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#### Abstract

On eve of 75th independence day of world's largest democracy, let's take a moment to have an overview of real picture of India.

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#### Introduction:-

Our independence day, 15<sup>th</sup> August, the day our heart flutters with utmost patriotism, feeling proud to be an indian, being thrilled at the thought of being born in this glorious land of diversity. This is the day we feel obliged to our soldiers- but the irony in the situation, it lasts only for upto 24 hours, just one day in whole year, what about the other 364 days? Where is this nationalism when u bribe someone under the table? Where is this nationalism when you play prominent role in corruption?

Where is this nationalism when u see poverty stricken people struggling with their lives? When u yourself are promote child labour?

Just a single day to sing songs for our nation and shed a few tears? Just a single day when u post thousands of quotes on your social media handles, share the pictures of national flag, change your profile pics ?

Has anyone of us ever taken a moment to dive deep into the ocean of history of our freedom struggle, when did we actually thought of sacrifices of millions of freedom fighters, common men and their families over a long duration of 200 years to free our motherland from the cruel British rule?

NO, what we did was to blame government, what we did was to fight over pitiful religious issues.

We may have claimed our sovereignty from the foreign rule many years ago, but do we truly have freedom of living in a dignified manner.

Doesn't it shatters our heart when we peep into the window of past: just one such incident- the Bengal famine?

Everyday, we experience this disparity closely, but we have become so immune to it that we turn a blind eye towards it. In a nation, where manual scavenging is still a profession for many, no law against marital rape, casteism still rampant with many not having access to basic amenities like education and sanitation, we need to ask ourselves what does independence truly mean. Even after so many years of independence, women cannot venture out to pursue education or careers due to the fear for their own safety. They are not free to express their opinions without the fear of being attacked.

It's just a shift- earlier slavery was ruled by British now it's ruled by our own people.

We are being ignorant towards real picture of our nation.

Independence Day doesn't mean one day of nationalist pride, it means a commitment to serve the nation in a truly inclusive way. Understanding our history and culture. We salute the brave hearts and heroes who fought in the freedom struggle but they dreamt of a nation of peace and harmony where people prospered, not where there's a person who sits under comfortable conditions, cushioned chair, just signing a few papers claiming to lay foundation stones of development in our country is getting paid crores of rupees for his job, whereas a soldier boldly facing all the challenges on the border, sacrifices his life for his motherland gets paid not more than hundred rupees a day.

What he's given after he sacrifices his life for his nation? Some cash, award, what more? What's value of this for his wife who lost a husband? Children who lost their father? Parents who lost their son?

Then we have the audacity to call ourselves biggest democracy existing on this world. Enough of equality, you see.

Until unless we eradicate these social evils, intolerance and learn to accept differences and celebrate them, we don't have right to call ourselves independent.

I hope that someday, I will see young kids in schools unfurling the National Flag in their schools and not selling them on traffic signals which would be trampled upon by cars the next day. It is our duty to make the dream of a progressive nation with all citizens having equal rights to live with dignity come true.