

When you go into court you are putting your fate into the hands of twelve people who aren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.
Norm Crosby

Vulnerability of Aadhar

The Government wants India to transit to a cashless economy, to a digital economy. The cornerstone of this exercise is the Aadhar card. Since its introduction a few years ago the Government has been insisting that the Aadhar card is unhackable and the personal data contained in the Aadhar card cannot be accessed by anyone. And from the very beginning, Aadhar cards have been hacked again and again. Since the Aadhar card is a must for getting a large number of services like getting a mobile phone, opening a bank account, getting a domestic gas connection and many other things, wily-nilly the people have been forced to apply for and obtain their Aadhar cards. And once the Aadhar card number is accessed, every bit of personal information of the card holder becomes available.

There are more problems. The Government says that information contained in an Aadhar card is confidential and even the Aadhar card holder cannot reveal it. But it is the Government which requires that the Aadhar number is shared with banks, gas distributors, mobile service providers and a whole host of others. So the Aadhar number ceases to be confidential from the very beginning. The number is known to many people. This makes the Aadhar card very much vulnerable to hacking. That the Government's claim that even if an unauthorized person is able to access an Aadhar card number, he will not be able to have access to personal details of the citizen concerned is totally untenable has now been conclusively proved.

The Chairman of the Telecommunication Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), R. S. Sharma, revealed his Aadhar card number online and dared anyone to get at his personal information. Hackers accepted the challenge and within hours they accessed all his bank accounts, his PAN number, the flights he had made and their destinations and a whole lot of other personal details. This has conclusively proved how easily every bit of personal information of a citizen can be accessed once the Aadhar number is hacked. It is time for the Government to take a fresh look at the UIDAI system and at least not insist upon the linking of Aadhar card to such basic facilities as operating bank accounts, getting cooking gas connections, etc. If the Government cannot protect the citizen's private data, it cannot ask him to provide such details. The privacy of a citizen cannot be allowed to be compromised so easily and so flagrantly.

Life Skills Education for School Children

REFLEX ACTION

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process till a positive outcome of the problem is achieved. In all, it is identifying problems, exploring alternatives and making rational decision. For developing these skills, one needs to have information-gathering skills, evaluating future consequences of present actions for self and others determining alternative solutions to problems.

Effective Communication is ability to express ourselves both verbally and non-verbally in an appropriate manner. This means being able to express desires, opinions, and fears and seek assistance and advice in times of need. Skills include-Verbal/non-verbal communication, active listening, expressing feelings, giving feedback without blaming, receiving feedback. Interpersonal Relationship Skill that helps us to understand our relations with others and relate in a positive/reciprocal manner with them. It helps us to value and maintain relationship with friends and family members and also be able to end relationships constructively. It helps in working with others and understanding roles and constraints of others. Coping with Stress is an ability to recognize the source of stress in our lives, its effect on us and acting in ways that help to control our levels of stress. This may involve identifying stress, time management, positive thinking and taking action to reduce some stress for example changes in physical environment, life styles, learning to relax etc. This is the important skill to be developed in children of the present world. Coping with Emotions is ability, which involves recognizing emotions in others and ourselves, being aware of how emotions influence behaviors and being able to respond to emotions appropriately. It helps to understand that there are a range of emotions and the expression of emotions may be different for different people in response to the same situation. It may include managing anger, dealing with grief and anxiety, coping with loss, abuse and trauma. Household related skills are needed to carry out our day-to-day activities in the house. It includes skills like cooking, balanced diet, washing clothes, sweeping and cleaning, kitchen gardening, health and hygiene, mending, stitching, thrift and household remedies. Family related skills that are related to management of all the family affairs. All the family related skills such as planned and responsible parenthood, AIDS/HIV/STD awareness, drug abuse, sex education, menstrual management, handling and stopping family violence, verbal and physical abuse, child abuse, sexual harassment, first aid (burn, injuries, snake bite drowning, poisoning etc.) home nursing, health and nutrition are included in it. Accessing Public Services skills relate to knowing and understanding of accessing and operating the existing public services for day-to-day functioning of life thereby benefiting family, community and society for improving the quality of life. It includes

skills like post and telegraph services operations, rail/bus services, banking operations, accessing health and sanitation service, traffic rules and regulation and computer literacy including internet ticket booking. Environmental Awareness relates to protection, conservation and preservation of environment, understanding the close relationship between human beings, their activities and the surrounding in which they live. The environmental related skills are: protection of environment, identification of pollution hazards and polluting agents, conservation of resources, recycling of bio-degradable materials for daily use, love and care for plants and animals, use of eco friendly techniques and disaster management (floods, earthquake cyclone etc.). Legal Literacy is important that children are made aware about laws that govern human life. These laws are essential to combat conflicts arising out of continuing deep seated inequalities of caste, class, religion and above all gender inequalities. It is important to build in our children, good understanding and commitment to human progress through the content and process of school education. The key to all human development lies in ensuring observance of laws and not enforcement by external agencies. This includes skills related to constitutional rights and duties, right to education, consumer education, human rights, rights of the child, right of women, personal and social laws, labour laws related to crime against women and public interest litigation. Forms of life skills are Yoga, Sports and Games, Karate, Dance and Music, Art and Craft, Dramatics/ Theatre, Community Service, Excursions & Adventure Camps, Competitions and Celebrations and Special Events etc.

Curricular and Co-Curricular Activities can include knowing Myself, Healthy Community, Love for Animals and Birds, Nutritional Snack Competition, How to Protect Myself, Know Your Rights, Managing Stress, Social Sensitivity, Water is Precious etc. The IGNOU provides such life-skill education to parents, teachers through PG Certificate in Value Education (PGCVE). The moral education, life skill education are part of value education. Value education has been designed to indicate the importance of value education in teaching learning process among teachers, teacher educators, graduates, NGO's and professionals from corporate and other sectors. To orient the target group of teachers (mostly elementary) for integrating values in their transactional process of teaching and learning. To generate awareness and interest for inculcating positive values among teachers, professionals, students, parents and the community and to develop awareness and social responsibility among NGO's Government servants and civil society organizations.

- Value education contains
- Over view and perspectives of values
- Social Dynamics and Value Development
- Pedagogy of Values
- application and support skills

To train our young ones, such professional qualifications or relevant education is highly essential. It is more true for nuclear family set-ups as compared to joint family system. Let us all try to communicate and transfer our acquired life skills to our school children.

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A boy plays in a fountain to cool down at a park during a hot summer day in Tokyo, Japan—REUTERS

Attack on social activist Swami Agnivesh

It is a strange coincidence that on a day Supreme Court ordered the Union and state governments to come up with a law against "the horrendous acts of mobocracy", the Hindu vigilantes were busy thrashing Swami Agnivesh and making him immobile in Jharkhand's Liti para. This was happening just as the SC said that "the recurrent pattern of violence cannot be allowed to become the new normal".

The apex court was so out up at the recent lynching incidents that it virtually censored the Union government. The order made it apparent that the court was not happy at the way the governance was being administered. It said, "There has been an unfortunate litany of spiraling mob violence and agonised horror, presenting a grim and gruesome picture that compels us to reflect whether the populace of a great Republic like ours has lost the values of tolerance to sustain a diverse culture. Besides, bystander apathy, numbness of the mute spectators of the scene of the crime, inertia of the law enforcing machinery to prevent such crimes and nip them in the bud and grandstanding of the incident by the perpetrators of the crimes, including in the social media, aggravates the entire problem. One must constantly remind oneself that an attitude of

morbid intolerance is absolutely intolerable and agonisingly painful." Agnivesh, the 79-year-old Arya Samaj scholar and social activist spearheading a campaign against bonded labour system, was laid and brutally thrashed by Hindutva vigilantes for accusing the BJP government of "acquiring tribal land by displacing them and giving it to corporate houses".

Though Jharkhand chief minister Raghubar Das ordered a probe into the incident, Swami on his part alleged that the attack was carried out at his behest. He alleged that the attack was "pre-planned" as "there cannot be an attack without rhyme or reason". He also alleged, "As soon as I came out of the venue, BYJM (Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha) and ABVP (Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad) activists attacked me. They alleged that I was speaking against Hindus." He was in Pukuro to attend an event of the Akhil Bharatiya Adim Janatiya Vikas Samiti, a body of tribals. The vigilantes raised the slogan: "Ione wants to live in India, he has to chant Vande Mataram". Though the state BJP denied the involvement of its activists in the crime, its general secretary Deepak Prakash, nevertheless, advised Agnivesh not to play with the sentiments of other religions. Earlier Agnivesh had accused the Jharkhand

government of not providing even minimum wage to workers under the MGNREGA scheme and reducing the number of employment days from the mandated 100 to only 42-43 days. He said primitive tribals constitute the bulk of the bonded labourers. He was to discuss the issue of the tribal people with the Governor Draupadi Murmu. The leaders of almost all the parties condemned the attack.

They included Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan, CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechuri and RJD's Tejashvi Yadav. They demanded stern action against the culprits. Senior lawyer and activist Prashant Bhushan tweeted it happened on the day when the Supreme Court had passed a judgment to outlaw for stringent laws against mob lynching and public vigilantism. Since 2014 Jharkhand has been witnessing "sweeping" incidents of lynching as "an affront to the rule of law and to the glorious values of the Constitution". The Raghubar Das government has not initiated any

stringent action against these vigilantes. In fact, a recent survey revealed that Jharkhand tops the list of lynching incidents. That the Hindu vigilantes enjoy the blessings of the Union government was evident from Union minister Jayant Sinha honorific the lynching culprits who were awarded jail sentence. Lynching was used to silence the critiques of the government and also to terrorise the tribals from raising the issue of land rights. For the past four years the poor adivasis have been resorting to peaceful agitations and bands to press their demands.

But the Das government has been crushing the agitations. The problem would not have spiralled out of control if the Modi government had acted decisively against these elements. Modi simply issued one-liner assurance that the government was alive to the situation and would take action. He never sounded serious. That the action would have gone against the interest of the Sangh parivar. Now the Supreme Court has asked

governments "to ensure that the machinery of law and order functions efficiently and effectively in maintaining peace so as to preserve our quintessentially secular ethos and pluralistic social fabric in a democratic set-up governed by rule of law... In times of chaos and anarchy, the State has to act positively and responsibly to safeguard and secure the Constitutional promises to its citizens". The Centre and states have been given four weeks to ensure compliance and file reports. The court warned that "lynching has become a recurring pattern of threats that may gradually take the shape of a Typhoon-like monster as evidenced in the wake of the rising wave of incidents of recurring patterns of frenzied mobs across the country, instigated by intolerance and misinformed by circulation of fake news and false stories".

The three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra and comprising Justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud also recommended to Parliament to create a separate law for lynching and provide adequate punishment for such acts. At least 97 per cent of cow-related violence (61 of 63 attacks) in the period between 2010 and 2017 occurred after May 2014, when Modi came to power. (IPA Service)

FOCUS

Arun Srivastava

Conventional Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32	33	34	35

- ACROSS**
1. Move about
 2. Prayer ending
 3. Beverage
 4. Party
 5. Bring upon oneself
 6. Lubricating
 7. Agreement
 8. Jump rope
 9. Moves into a statue
 10. Transgression
- DOWN**
1. Punishment
 2. Daybreak
 3. Resting
 4. Staying
 5. Cloth
 6. Old cloth measure
 7. Tavern
 8. Widespread
 9. Relations
 10. Country
 11. Hermit
 12. Little devils
 13. Soft
 14. Sister

SUDOKU: 2272

5			2					
1	9	3	8		7			
8	4						6	
9		5	3					
		4						
				7	8	7	5	4
3				4	2	6	1	9
					5			2

Yesterday's Solution 2271

4	1	9	2	7	6	8	5	3
7	2	5	4	8	3	6	9	1
3	8	6	9	1	5	4	7	2
9	6	2	8	5	4	1	3	7
5	4	1	3	2	7	9	6	8
8	3	7	6	9	1	5	2	4
6	7	8	1	3	9	2	4	5
2	5	4	7	6	8	3	1	9
1	9	3	5	4	2	7	8	6

Yesterday's Cross Word Solution 2260

I	T	E	M	D	Y
C	I	D	R	O	L
I	D	O	L	E	R
C	L	E	D	E	F
L	E	N	D	O	W
R	O	M	E	R	I
B	O	W	E	R	M
E	L	A	N	T	A
T	N	T	A	R	M

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