
The Photographic Coverage Of Farmers Protest In India 2020: An Aesthetical Perspective Of Published Photographs

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Abstract

The world is very fast especially after the COVID 19 Pandemic take over the charge to rule the daily lives of society all over the world. People spend most of their time during lockdown watching mobile phones , uploading pictures , clicking pictures as smart phone is become one of the most powerful tool to click pictures & upload it on different social platforms instantly. Picture actually speaks more than a text whatever we eat or drink, wherever we go, family selfies, whosoever joins us is all on digital platforms. Even the big Industries of Modern Media, also do's the same reason is simple, the impact the photographs on society on daily basis. The researcher will study the impact of photographs being published by considering various aspects of aesthetical impact of ongoing farmers protest in India, against the farmers' bill proposed by the Govt. of India. Researcher used the Comparative analysis of 7 different profiles & publication houses to establish the research to analyze a different perspective in it.

1. INTRODUCTION

Art is having different forms & techniques from early man stage to modern era of human kind. We can divide art in two forms, Performing & Visual arts. Arts also develops with the innovations developed time to time in science & technology .Photography is one of the techniques which discovered as an scientific invention but developed itself as an technique of Visual art. Picture is tells the story more than words & the developments in the field of photography makes this technique one of the most commonly used domain in all routines these days either professional manner or in personnel too. Especially introduction & developments of good camera quality in smart phones & fast internet speed makes photography as one of the most powerful tool of visual communication in modern era.

Farmers Protest in India 2020 : The ongoing farmers protest in India is because of 3 farm acts passed by the govt of India. These 3 farm acts was passed by the Indian parliament & President of India gives his consent on September end 2020. The three acts is based on farmers Trade & commerce , price assurance & essential commodities according to the Indian government but all three acts has been denied by the different farmers associations due to some insecurities in the mind of farmers & from September all farmers associations doing protest to cancel the bill of farmers Act 2020.

Photography & Farmers Protest 2020

Since the outbreak of this protest from September 2020 all the borders of delhi is sealed as farmers want to enter in new delhi & protest against the famers act. Is also observed that people those who don't even know regarding famers bill they are going there to get a picture of themselves for this historic moment happening & on the other side photo journalist captured some of the mesmerized pictures to get the actual form of story & perspective in it.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The Article published in the photographers gallery by David Hoffman suggested that Clicking photographs of protest is the extreme form of street photography. Photographer must have the idea that what is the motive of protest & idea behind that as such photographs can fertile a social impact or change into it . it is all about capturing emotions with your aesthetical & technical skills both as sometimes you have to work like an undercover. You have to work on dramatic pictures sometimes you get easily sometimes you have to create it with your ability & skills of creating compositions[1]

An Article published in document journal .com Alex hodar suggested another angle of protest photography that does it needs to show the sharp faces of protestors . what is the idea behind to showcasing the photographs of peoples who are participating in protest. Sometimes the portrait you clicked in your pictures might cost that protestor to his life later on. So what if the photographs should be published in a blur manner. Because most importantly the main focus is need to be showing the courage to protest rather than making someone a face of the protest. Symbolism might not work in a mass protest. In total the crux of the article was the ethics in photography while covering any protest[2]

A essay from John Edwin mason published in National Geographic about the worldwide renowned protest against the relentless murder of George Floyd who was handcuffed and was unarmed & being murdered by a police officer because George was a African American. Peaceful protest was started in USA and so much of pictures came out of the protest. The concept of john edwin was that every protest is not a violent protest but sometimes violence can grab your attention that that could be the frame in front of news papers

Magnum Photos crated a exhibition in USA & they have explored the relationship between the protest & photograph. Its an exercise of street photography which is working with a history making moment. There are numerous examples that how an simple image become the symbolic message to the society . Tank man from stuart franklin is one of the example where he captured a lone man standing in front of the moving tanks somewhere in china

One of the most difficult things to photograph is an action scene or a situation where a lot of things are happening at the same time. This is why not a lot of photographers – amateur or professional – are not so keen about photographing protests said by Michael Gabriel. He suggested that clicking photographs of a protest allow photographers to experience a different kind of raw expressions emotions. It is not even easy to get pictures in a protest as so many things are going on in a same time , people doing protest are very high on their emotions so its not easy task to get good pictures from a protest.[3]

Published article of Johnathan Ma suggested that it is impossible to deny that photography has had a major impact of social life of societies. The technology developed in last 25 years

through which it impacted more in dominant way. The usage of digital platforms impacted the daily routine of peoples. Development in smart phones also helps the developments in photography's social impact to the society.[3]

3. OBJECTIVES OF RESEARCH

The researcher will study the quality of photographs being uploaded on all digital platforms of major News Agencies related to Ongoing farmers Protest in India . researcher will also analyze the other perspective of the protest from the pictures published on social platforms and same can be be aesthetical angles too

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

To accomplish this research, the researcher will use observational analysis method and check the quality of photographs with its capability of Aesthetical impact. The selection of Photographs is taken from the digital platform from Leading Media houses. The researcher will study the compositional and aesthetical aspects of photograph. Apart from this observatory approach will be used to study the effect of these photos to show the other perspective of photography taken during farmers protest.

5. DATA ANALYSIS & FINDINGS

According to a report from Geeta pandey of BBC new Delhi a photograph was viral through all social media & other domains which actually defines the whole protest of farmers against the farmers act. Where a paramilitary troop hitting his baton to a old Sikh farmer. Such kind of photograph viral very quickly on all social platforms it also gives an spark to the slogan quoted by former PM lal bahadur Shastri ‘ Jai Jawan Jai kisan” which determines the importance of farmers along with the soldiers. Such kind of photographs actually pumped up the whole community to stand with the farmers



Image source; BBC New Delhi

Channel News 18 has published in their photo gallery section some of the most powerful photographs of farmers protest where a old sikh person is in aggressive expression to show his

aggression against the bill . The photograph is clicked perfectly & collects a lot of sympathy as the photograph is taken at the time of clash between the policemen & farmers. The protest gone violent only when the farmers tried to enter Haryana borders & moving towards delhi



Image Source – news18network

Getty images also featured some of the most powerful & aesthetical images of farmers protest while looking at the the images where a young farmer is shouting with the slogan. Camera angle & the other compositional elements are almost perfect for the shot. Such kind of photographs also can be a symbolic face of the protest it is not even necessary to showcase violence only. Even this protest wasn't violent until the farmers tried to enter delhi & they are having some small episodes of face to face with police & paramilitary. And for being a photo journalist or a street photographer, one should know how to get good images without taking any risk



Image Courtesy – getty images



Image Courtesy – Outlook Magazine PTI

Researcher found a photograph in outlook magazine website where some protestors having a letter written from their blood to PM of India regarding the agitation of against the farmers bill . now is that really required to do it or what kind of impact such photographs is giving to the society. It may be grabbing attention socially or this can be taken on the other side of the protest also



Image Courtesy – Outlook Magazine PTI

Image taken from the same magazine shows other silence words of the protest where a farmer is reading news paper during ongoing protest sitting in a tractor trolley . gaining the knowledge learning & observing what is exactly going on what kind of coverage is in the news papers. Silence protest photographs or such photographs may not be grab attention but can be helpful to showcase the other side of the protest.



Image Courtesy – Outlook Magazine PTI

A series of photographs published through PTI where the photographer just emphasized on the strength of the farmers showing even in dipping of the temperature in north India. Now these kinds of photographs can have social impact to encourage the sympathy of society to the farmers or the volunteers taking participation in protest. It is simply the perception of photographer it is not necessary to showcase pictures of violence all the time it's all about how you perceive the historical moment which is happening in front of you & which is going in a peaceful manner.



The wire published the series of photographs from the farmers' protest showcasing their day-to-day normal routine where a photograph depicting the sat sang where a Raagi is doing satsang on a tractor trolley. The facility of mic & light is connected through the battery of tractor. Similarly, some pictures are showing some youth farmers with slogans in their hands that stop the political propaganda that farmers are terrorists. Now this can be shown in any aggressive manner by a photographer, but the photojournalist took a peaceful camera angle to depict the peaceful reply to serious allegations against the farmers. The role of a photographer is more important than the role of a photograph as it can be used for any political propaganda, so the ethics of a photograph should not be compromised. Another fact is that it is required all the time to capture a single face in a protest photograph; it might vary upon the event. A researcher also shared the fact in the review of literature where a digitally manipulated image can be useful to show a protest where the faces of the protestors were blurred. But photojournalism, especially street photography, does not favor manipulated images to be published instead of real pictures [4].



Image Source: Alt News

Alt news fact checking article depicts how images can actually used for the propaganda where Indian Youth congress shared some of the old photographs of farmers rallies from 2018 & relating that images are from the current protest which was published on twitter. The images shows the water canon used on farmers where farmers try to up fold the body of farmer in a flag depicting association of farmer. So photographs can be used for political aspects whenever its required but thanks to the IT that you can check the fact check even on photographs.

Instead of pictures of Old & young male farmers photographs of female & children's who are participating in the event is also captured & used for the socio sympathy from all across the north India. Images shown very perfectly how ladies sitting there very peacefully & giving their full support when it comes to mass cooking of food, leading from the front shouting the slogans & supporting in peaceful manner. Such photos are the grabbing attention of the society.[5]



Image Source; the Wire.in

6. CONCLUSION

In nutshell after studying the series of photographs where it was a comparative analysis of different digital & social platforms it was concluded with a remark that perspective of a story teller is always shown in the visual form of storytelling. Photographing the protest is also one of the domain of street photography so a street photographer or a photojournalist have to be work very fast & also check the fact that how this image can define the whole story of the event . what should be best perception of this is it required to pt only violent picutes showing the fights between the protestors & troops or some kind of photos where you need to capture the expressions of the individual or mass or blurring the face but showing full intensity of Doesn't matter that photographs taken from a professional camera or from mobile camera, it's giving an information, world is seeking for & urging for. The basic concept of Photojournalism is hereby justified & one can strongly say that photography is very powerful tool of Visual communication

7. REFERENCES

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