



Research Article

SOFT POWER STATUS OF INDIA AND PRE-EMPTIVE STRATEGIES OF PROTECTING NATIONAL INTERESTS: TASKS AHEAD

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ABSTRACT

It is too dangerous to be too good, stated realistically in the aftermath of the sudden demise of M.K.Gandhi by none other than George Bernard shaw. In the 7 decades of Indian experimentation and experience with the democratic governance successfully heralded its national character at zenith. India's role in Korean crisis, Israel-Palestine, NAM, Afghanistan and other UN related peace-keeping Operations and specialized agencies' supports were highly regarded by world states men and political exponents. In the recent past, Trump, the American President also hailed India as role model that has to be followed by all other nations. Issue such as Kashmir, Bangladesh, Srilanka, Atomic explosions were studied with both positivities and as well as negativities. For the past years India did not involved in any type of war or aggression against any nation in the world. Albeit of Pakistan and China's military skirmishes in various phases of the 20th and 21st century, India's national identity never bowed down from the ideal status. As observed by umpteen scholars at the International level, all other neighbors of India face huge amount of stumbling blocks in its democratic history. That said, the situation persists at present gives a different picture, since the co-competitor People's Republic of China poses a great instable threat in the region. China's bulldozing billions in terms of infrastructural investment certainly creates divergence among the countries in the Asian continent. Further; South China sea is also serving as a factor which invites wrath from among the countries. The trilateral agreement between India, USA, and Japan proves quite conducive and strong enough to shield the interests of Indian sub-continent. The recent irking issues on Maldives also is an imbalance factor which invites trouble for India. To put it in a nutshell, India's soft power status is under constant threat due to various surfacing issues in the neighborhood. In this juncton, this piece of research article intends to portray the present status of India at international level along with the existing and futuristic issues that has to be resolved in prior to sustain the identity of the nation.

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INTRODUCTION

All along the centuries and millennium, India's national identity sustained by its unopposed trait. Monarchs, British Dutch, Portuguese, and French were the Colonial Empires which controlled Indian divergence community by their trade and imperialistic institution. It is only because of; the personalities who underwent education in western regions the fire of freedom got kindled, and the flames spread throughout India. Being an independent nation, India practised to portray itself as an ideal power to influence the other nations under the leadership of Nehru. The socialist inclination of Nehru made several initiatives including preamble and planning commission. Nehru's visits and travel are wide and

purposeful which dragged a number of nations in the ambit of non-aligned movement (NAM) the countries who neither joined with USA or USSR. India played a very vast and daring role in establishing third alliances by which the third world war was avoided. Indira Gandhi's leadership, albeit of emergency and other suppressive policies moved forward with the liberation of bangalash and Shimla agreement in improving the relations with its neighbors. She also had very cordial relations with both USA and USSR.

The automatic explosions, in 1974 raised controversies along the comity of nations. Instead of the opposition, India termed itself or a nuclear power silently along with the genius brains in the attempt of the establishment of liberalization policies, IPKF and ASEAN involvement. The Mohan Singh government and its endeavours towards maintaining a relationship with USA and Russia

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touched zenith with different development in economic, military and science technology. India as a subcontinent is surrounded by its neighbours with no clear-cut demarcation of borders. The soft power identity was established all along different era in a different manner. The British legacy played a pivotal role in demarcating the boundaries between India and other neighbours. Redcliff, without ever visiting India, got only 6 weeks only to finish the demarcation process. And the outline is very negative for India in the subsequent years that passed. That said, at present India does not have any clear cut boundaries having disputes with all its neighbours. Pakistan, China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Tibet are the bone of contentions to be tackled with. Indian approach needs all-effectivity in maintaining relations with neighbours.

One Belt One Road (OBOR) policy of China poses a real threat to the influence of India at the continental level. A further claim of Arunachal, Aksaichin, South China Sea and India Ocean sustain its suzerainty in getting and attaining the hegemonic status on par with the USA at the global level. China further invested a lot in the infrastructure around all the neighbours of India and it also endeavours to establish a naval base in the horn of Africa. The recent warning by Chinese government related with the Maldives is intended to establish supremacy in the Indian Ocean. It is due to the controversial “island issue” senkaku or Diyou, the trilateral agreement was signed between India, USA, Japan and Australia for in order to cease the “sea hegemony” of China.

The soft status of India is gradually and stubbornly turning towards hard recently by the strong policy decisions taken by the Indian government. It is due to the soft status, Pakistan endeavoured more times to attack and counter. Attack India and India didn't do except self-defence and safeguarding its territorial integrity. The cross-border terrorism and other military involvement, infiltration derail the relations between the two nations. Albeit of many warning from the side of USA, this persists, and India should prepare itself for any type of attack for the other side.

Indian involvement in African rehabilitation programme also is a major concern, of which 2 billion were bulldozed for peace maintenance. The daily massacres in Afghanistan, its leadership, were turning the nation into a panic state that has to be concerned, and resolved. Talibans are also a cause of concern since at any time they may capture nuclear arsenal and other hi-tech weapons. In the recent past, 100 civilians were dead due to the clashes and it serve as a severe warning for the Indian sub-condition to move in precaution along with the nation. The recent instable emergency status in the Maldives also posed a threat for the stability in the region and questioned “India's” soft power status. The opposition leaders seek the role of India in changing the

scenario for which china's warning signed a negative picture for India. The string of pearl theory substantiated the above-mentioned theses in a strong way and manner. The picture in Bangladesh also poses an unstable picture. After the leader's imprisonment, the present prime minister informed about the exodus of people from Assam to Bangladesh. The register of citizens is the cause for this exodus. Bangladesh shares more than 4,000 miles with India, and it is a highly porous one compared with other neighbours. Further, some 54 international reverses are passing in the border. All kinds of illegal events such as trafficking, drugs, and other anti-social and anti-national issues are happening in the 100's enclaves in the borders. India liberated Bangladesh in 1971 and now facing major imbalance and skirmishes from this nation. Whatever the ruling party takes stand, the opposition party opposes without any consideration. India's republic day 2018 was highly celebrated recently along with all the ASEAN leaders and this itself shows the influence and power enjoyed by the Indian leadership.

Indian policy towards Israel-Palestine is also changing, and it was recently witnessed by the famous visit of Netanyahu. Also, the visit of Indian government to Oman marked a great change and convened the Islam countries which produces oil in abundant level. This soft power status of India and other related pertinent issues were administered in a questionnaire to students of international relations to examine the opinions of the respondents.

Table 1 Student's perceptions

Education	PG		PHD		TOTAL
	L	H	L	H	
Soft states	8	12	5	15	40
Awareness	20%	30%	12.5%	37.5%	100%
World peace	5	15	16	4	40
	12.5%	37.5	40	10	100%
Regional security	5	15	14	6	40
	12.5%	37.5%	35%	15%	100%
National interest	6	14	16	4	40
protection	15%	35%	40%	10%	100%
India as global power	2	18	12	8	40
	5%	45%	30%	20%	100%
Total	20		20		40
	50%		50%		100%

The response classified on the basis of education. 20 students each from post-graduation and doctoral research are administered with questionnaire. For the awareness of soft status of India at international level, 20% of the students are less aware and 30% of them are at high level.

Table 2 Awareness

Education	PG		PHD		TOTAL
	L	H	L	H	
Soft states	8	12	5	15	40
Awareness	20%	30%	12.5%	37.5%	100%

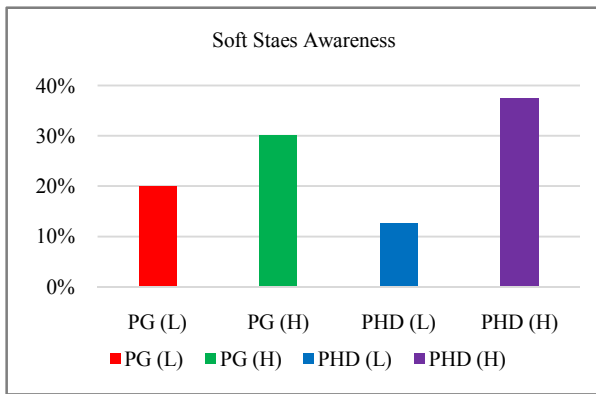


Fig 1 Comparative analysis of Education versus Soft State Awareness

With regard to the query of world peace in the 1st century 12.5% of the PG respondents opined at a low level and 37.5% of them at a high level. In PhD level category, 40% of them opined at low level and 10% of them at high level

Table 3 World Peace

Education	PG		PHD		TOTAL
	L	H	L	H	
World peace	5	15	16	4	40
	12.5%	37.5%	40%	10%	100%

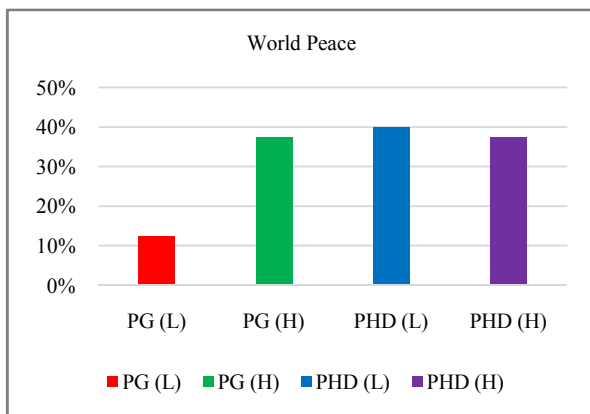


Fig 2 Comparative analysis of Education versus World Peace

With regard to the query of maintenance of regional security, 12.5% of the PG respondents opined at low level and 37.5% of them at a high level. In PhD category, 35% of them opined at a low level whereas only 15% of them opined at a high level.

Table 4 Regional Security

Education	PG		PHD		TOTAL
	L	H	L	H	
Regional security	5	15	14	6	40
	12.5%	37.5%	35%	15%	100%

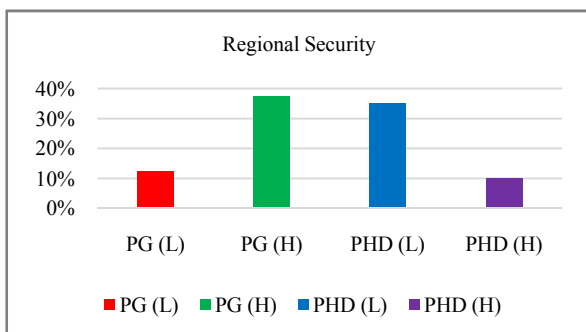


Fig 3 Comparative analysis of Education versus Regional Security

Regarding Indian's interest in protecting mechanisms and its role, 15% of the PG students opined of low level, whereas 35% of them at high level.

Among PhD Scholars 40% of them opined at low level and 10% of them at high level.

Table 5 National Interest Protection

Education	PG		PHD		TOTAL
	L	H	L	H	
National interest protection	6	14	16	4	40
	15%	35%	40%	10%	100%

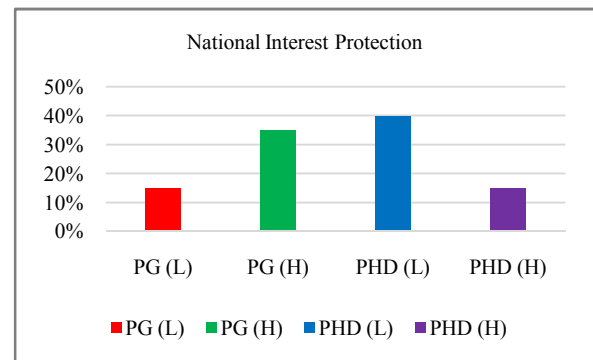


Fig 4 Comparative analysis of Education versus National Interest Protection

For the query of India as a global power. 5% of the PG category opined at low level and 45% of them at high level. Among PhD scholars, 30% of them opined low level and only 20% of them of them at high level.

Table 6 India Global Power

Education	PG		PHD		TOTAL
	L	H	L	H	
India as global Power	2	18	12	8	40
	5%	45%	30%	20%	100%

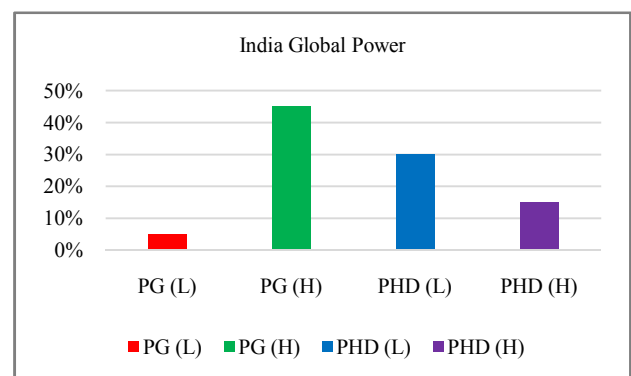


Fig 5 Comparative analysis of Education versus India Global Power

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