

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini membahas upaya Ram Nath Kovind, Presiden India ke-14, dalam mengatasi diskriminasi kasta terhadap komunitas Dalit selama masa jabatannya pada tahun 2017–2022. Meskipun sistem kasta secara konstitusional telah dihapuskan sejak tahun 1950, praktik diskriminasi dan marginalisasi sosial terhadap Dalit masih mengakar kuat di masyarakat India, terutama di sektor pendidikan, pekerjaan, dan pelayanan publik. Kovind, sebagai presiden yang berasal dari kasta Dalit, membawa simbol harapan baru bagi masyarakat yang terpinggirkan ini. Melalui berbagai kebijakan, pidato kenegaraan, dan dukungan terhadap program afirmatif seperti penguatan skema reservasi, pengembangan pendidikan vokasi, dan inisiatif reformasi hukum, Kovind berupaya mendorong peningkatan akses pendidikan, pemberdayaan ekonomi, dan keterwakilan politik bagi komunitas Dalit. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah kualitatif deskriptif dengan teknik pengumpulan data studi pustaka. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa meskipun peran Kovind lebih bersifat simbolik karena keterbatasan fungsi eksekutif presiden di India, kehadirannya secara signifikan memutus stigma negatif terhadap Dalit dan meningkatkan motivasi generasi muda Dalit untuk meraih posisi-posisi strategis dalam struktur sosial India..

Kata kunci: Ram Nath Kovind, Dalit, Diskriminasi Kasta, India, Hak Asasi Manusia

ABSTRACT

This study discusses the efforts of Ram Nath Kovind, the 14th President of India, in addressing caste-based discrimination against the Dalit community during his tenure from 2017 to 2022. Although the caste system was constitutionally abolished in 1950, practices of discrimination and social marginalization against Dalits remain deeply rooted in Indian society, particularly in the fields of education, employment, and public services. Kovind, as the first Dalit president in decades, became a symbol of new hope for this marginalized community. Through various policies, state speeches, and support for affirmative action programs—such as strengthening the reservation scheme, developing vocational education, and advocating legal reforms. Kovind sought to promote access to education, economic empowerment, and political representation for the Dalit community. This research uses a descriptive qualitative method with data collected through literature review. The findings indicate that although Kovind's role was largely symbolic due to the limited executive powers of the Indian presidency, his presence significantly challenged the negative stigma against Dalits and inspired the younger generation of Dalits to pursue strategic positions within India's social structure.,

Keywords: Ram Nath Kovind, Dalit, caste discrimination, India, Human rights