

I do not agree with what you have to say, but I'll defend to the death your right to say it

Outline

1. Introduction

2. People do not always disagree because the view of another person is wrong, but they also do for degrading or discouraging others. Understanding the various motives of dissent.

3. What is the importance of dissent?

On individual level:

3.1 - Fosters divergent thinking

3.2 - Enhances the quality of decision making

3.3 - Encourages open communication, leading to stronger relationships

On the societal level:

3.4 - Helps in formulation of effective and public-centric policies

3.5 - Develops an enlightened and empowered society

3.6 - Improves and uplifts economic well-being of a society by encouraging better innovations

4. Importance of freedom of speech in a society

4.1 - Increases effectiveness and efficiency of institutions

4.2 - Leads to enactment of legislations that drive social progress

4.3 - Prevents flagrant violation of human rights

4.4 - Lays a fertile ground for accountability and transparency

4.5 - Promotes forbearance and tolerance

5. How dissent can be encouraged in societies

5.1 - By developing a culture of appreciation of dissenting voices

5.2 - By educating individuals about the sweet dividends of dissent

5.3 - By establishing platforms of healthy debates and discussions

6. How freedom of speech can be protected

6.1 - By ensuring independence of media

6.2 - By enacting unassailable laws to safeguard freedom of speech

6.3 - By seeking an increased and active role of civil society

7. Suppression of dissent, resulting in the 1971 tragedy: A case study

8. Conclusion

Centuries ago, disapproving the established dogmas and notions in a society was deemed as a severe crime; therefore, the dissenting person would be punished miserably. When Galileo, for the first time in human history, floated the helio-centric theory, he was put behind the bars and subjected to gruesome punishment. It was because he challenged and ridiculed the ubiquitous belief that earth was superior and that all other celestial bodies orbited around it. However, societies evolved with time and advancing education. Though dissent still faces backlash, it, somewhat, has managed to receive some acceptance in the present-day world, which understands the fact very well that it is an essential requisite for individuals' and society's growth and betterment. On an individual level, dissent provides cherished dividends such as divergent thinking, better quality of decisions and stronger interpersonal relationships. In the same way, it extends laudatory boons to a society as well. It leads to formulation of public-centric policies, emergence of a well-enlightened and empowered society, and culture of new and better innovations. Similarly, freedom of speech is

also as important as dissent for individuals and a society. It enhances the effectiveness and efficiency of a country's institutions, and leads to enactment of public-centric legislations. Moreover, it prevents flagrant violation of human rights and promotes the culture of accountability and transparency, thus resulting in a robust progress of a nation. However, the real challenge for societies is to promote and encourage dissent, and safeguard the right of freedom of speech. For the promotion of dissent, culture of appreciation for differing voices must be evolved, along with educating the public about its significance. Likewise, freedom of speech can be protected by making media independent and seeking the active role of civil society. In fact, dissent and freedom of speech are two essential ingredients for a comprehensive and robust growth and betterment of not only individuals but also a society.

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First and foremost, dissent is very important for individuals as it fosters in them divergent thinking. Basically, dissent arises as a result of creative ideas, which leads a person to adopt divergent thinking. In absence of dissent, an environment emerges where individuals feel compelled to agree to majority opinion, which kills creativity and capacity of generating innovative ideas in them. As a matter of fact, allowing individuals to freely express their dissenting views enables them to cultivate in themselves the seed of critical thinking since they need to validate their opposite stances. Moreover, dissent inculcates the stamina of risk-taking in individuals, which encourages them to explore every possible avenue of a problem or a matter, thus helping to brainstorm novel and unique ideas. Considering this upside of dissent, organizations, such as Google, are creating an environment within to encourage employees to express their difference of opinion freely. To sum up, creative thinking gets birth in individuals as a result of dissent.

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Apart from divergent thinking, dissent encourages open communication in individuals, which leads to stronger relationships. There is no denying the fact that communication is a cornerstone of healthy relations. When a person feels free to easily express his differences, it increases the trust factor in relationships. Similarly, healthy dissent brings forth prevailing issues, which may go on to attenuate a bond between two persons, thus enabling them to resolve those at priority to salvage their ties. Furthermore, it removes doubts, suspicions and element of hypocrisy as individuals do not hold back their paradoxical and contradictory opinions. Aurangzeb, the Mughal king, killed his all ~~the~~ brothers under the fear of them becoming threat to his reign, which transpired because of lack of open communication and dissent in them. In a nutshell, relationships become long-lasting through dissent and unrestrained communication.

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In the same manner, dissent enhances the quality of decision making, which is its another important benefit for individuals. Decision making is a very delicate practice in a person's life as a flawed decision can engender many disastrous outcomes. Basically, disagreement of opinions in the process of decision making helps in digging out other possible alternatives and their better evaluation. Moreover, dissent can aid to detecting and correcting flaws that may go off the board in the contrary scenario. Above all, dissent leads to emergence of such a culture where people share their differing perspectives freely, which ultimately translates into more effective and profitable decisions. For instance, Muhammad Bin Tughloq, the Sultan of Delhi, completely ignored the objections of his courtiers before ~~to~~ shifting the capital from Delhi to Devagiri, which proved extremely catastrophic decision later. Hence, difference of opinion is very essential for making quality decisions.