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Q5(e)

Elaborate the 'Me Too' Movement and its impact in India.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2018 · Sociology GS 2 · 10 marks · Social Movements in Modern India

Social Movements in Modern India: Peasants and farmers movements; Women's movement; Backward classes and Dalit movement; Environmental movements; Ethnicity and Identity movements.

Core demand of the question

- Elaborate the 'Me Too' Movement and its impact in India
- Keep the note to a 10-mark length

Revision summary

Me Too in **India (2018)** was mass public testimony against sexual harassment.

It built on older women's law and movement, using digital media.

Impact hit newsrooms and films more than informal work.

Process versus naming became the liberal dilemma.

Class and caste limited who was heard.

Introduction

Me Too in India, loud in 2018, was a public naming of sexual harassment by women, especially in media, cinema, and offices. It turned private honour-silence into a digital and journalistic archive. Impact was real in speech, uneven in justice.

Body**What it was**

- A wave of testimony that used social media when internal committees and police had failed.
- It sat on older Indian women's movements, workplace law, and campus codes, not only on a Western import.
- Seed-and-Earth honour had made the accuser the problem. Me Too reversed the shame for a moment.

Impact

- Powerful men in newsrooms and films faced loss of work, a fourth-pillar story that also exposed the pillar's own abuse.
- **Due process debates followed:** naming versus trial, a disharmonic clash of dignity and procedure, including Ambedkarite concerns about fair process.
- Informal women workers barely entered the hashtag. Caste and class split the voice.
- Some institutions tightened committees; many did not.

Limit

- Backlash, defamation, and fading news cycles can restore silence.

Flow diagram

Me Too 2018 India -> Public naming
Public naming -> Elite media cinema office
Public naming -> Informal poor women less heard
Public naming -> Speech some accountability

Conclusion

Me Too's Indian impact in 2018 was to make workplace and cultural-industry harassment a public fact. It empowered some women to speak and showed that law without a change in male honour is slow. It did not equalise all women; it opened a crack in elite patriarchy.

Facts & figures

2018 Indian wave

The year Me Too became a national media event in India.

Workplace harassment law

Pre-existing statute whose weak committees helped push speech online.

Newsroom cases

High-visibility naming that showed the fourth pillar's internal patriarchy.

Class limit

Domestic and farm women rarely accessed the hashtag public.

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