Twitter Thread by Tanoj Meshram



Tanoj Meshram
@MeshramTanoj

1) Caste discrimination & atrocities
2) Caste based inequality in education, land, housing/other assets, income, health, etc.
3) Social structure based on Varna & Jatis

As social movements/activists, how do we prioritize & how much time & energy we devote to each of them? 1/n

In a society with inequitable social structure and caste based inequalities of above kind, discrimination might be -& as ex-untouchables like us know-it is every day affair.

So where do I put my head and heart on? 2/n

Do I shout & cry every day when I see discrimination or with a 'cool' head strategize & work for changing social structure & removing/reducing those inequalities?

At a societal level, who should do what? 3/n

If I don't shout, cry & protest, I might be seen as insensitive & perpetrators might take it for granted but if I keep doing it, where do I stop because discrimination of various kind in any geography internet society is every day affair & like happening in my own house 4/n

Why I am speaking loudly on these issues is being active on Twitter/FB for some time, I got an impression that what matters most or perhaps what is made more visible is discrimination than the root causes. Is my impression wrong? 5/n

In the Phule-Ambedkarite brick & porter type ideological movements I worked, we always tried to prioritize change in social structure over discrimination & even inequality. & that often was a contested decision as it alienated some people who wanted to work on discrimination 6/n

I'm not sure if there is clear cut answer abt prirotisation & allocation of time & energy as there are pluses & minuses on both sides. To me discrimination needs immediate attention, inequality could be addressed in medium term & change in social

structure is a long term work 7/n

And I am wondering if there are individual (preferring immediate vs long term results), class (middle vs working) & mode of working (virtual vs on ground) differences in priroritization & allocation of time, energy & resources 8/n

Jyotiba Phule was thrown out of the wedding procession in Pune, so was Babasaheb Ambedkar from the houses in Baroda. Both decided to work almost entirely in their life on the inequalities & social structure: discrimination acting as trigger for long term changes in structure 9/n

For ex. will/did George Floyd moment trigger long-term changes in racial & economic relations & structures? Will farmers protests lead to similar changes in agri/economic, land, caste relations in rural & urban society or shall we keep going through the cycles of protests? 10/10