

Ishaan Ranjan 0:00

I'm a sophomore, yeah, I'm a junior, so I'm 11th grade, yeah, okay, and we're joining from Arizona right now. Yeah, Oh,

Prem Pariyar 0:05

awesome. I'm I'm from uh, California, oh, San Francisco. Yeah,

Anay Pruthy 0:10

perfect. It's a nice place. Um, do you want to, like, kind of introduce our project, yeah,

Ishaan Ranjan 0:15

do you want, like, a, like, a quick introduction of our project? Please, please, please. Okay, our product is essentially aimed towards the criminal trial. Criminal tribes act of 1871 but for like context, in our project, we start way back in, like, the time of like, the holy books, such as the Bhagavad Gita, and we talk about and the Rigveda as well. And we talk about how there's a separation, but not really, like a caste based system that's like instilled. It's the Varna system. And in the Varna system, we explain how there's different sections, but there's not really inequality in the sense that one's more superior than the other. And then we link that into the Manusmriti texts which come and later reinterpret the holy texts the Rigveda. Then

Anay Pruthy 0:55

what we kind of move on to is like how British colonization started, right? And how there was the seaport rebellion which kind of pushed the British to put in still their divide and rule strategy with the criminal tribes act of 1871 and what we're looking at mainly is how that, how that act itself had like, kind of long lasting effects into the current world, including, like on Global Diaspora, um, which we have a lot of questions about. And along with, like, how, even India, yeah, exactly how it affects people in India, like, people try

Ishaan Ranjan 1:26

to treat it as, like a low issue that's already like faded away, but it's like a big issue, and that's like our big focus that we want to highlight in our

Anay Pruthy 1:32

project, right? We think that, like we've seen, that a lot of people try to justify the work that the Indian government has done in so far as they've helped through affirmative action, but we have, like, seen a lot of data and evidence, yeah, maybe that's not enough, and that there should be additional steps, and so we'll kind of like just to, like, shape that perspective.

Ishaan Ranjan 1:52

Um, do you have any questions so far?

Prem Pariyar 1:54

So, yeah, I'm good. Okay, yeah, you can you start? Okay, great,

Ishaan Ranjan 2:03

yeah, sure. Um, so I was looking through some articles when we had since, like, we just finished final exams, right? So I came across this LA Times article Los Angeles, and then, so after you arrived in California, after the incidents in Nepal, you were segregated in worker housing once the colleagues, when your colleagues learned about your cast, right? So could we learn like about that episode and what exactly happened?

Prem Pariyar 2:28

So

yes, so let me begin this way, like you know,

so I was born and grown up in

in in in like, you know,

in remote place in central southern part of Nepal. So I was born and grown up as untouchables. So this is my life, you know, lifelong experience being discriminated so I I decided to become a teacher like, you know, to educate my students like you know about this unfair system, but within almost almost a decade long experience in teaching Learning Activities as an educator like you know, I, I tried my best, but, like it is, it is very difficult to challenge the system, right? So I thought, like, I need to, I need to be involved in policy change, decision making. I involve myself in like, you know, political activism and like they're also, like, you know what happened? So the dominance is from the higher caste, or so called higher caste communities. You know that in South Asia, in

in Nepal, in India,

so there, like

in the capital city of Nepal, my family was physically assaulted, though I was in like, you know, activism. So I tried my best for the justice, and justice was denied because the case, police was not ready to file the case, and so I need to ask for help to the. The Human Rights agencies, journalists and different human rights organizations.

So at the end,

the case was filed, but justice was denied.

And during that time like, you know, I got a lot of threat. I got a lot of I received so many calls to withdraw the case, but I did not, because that incident happened in the capital city of Nepal, not in the remote area, and even educated people they were involved in that incident. So after like you know, I felt myself as well as my family, like you know, felt insecure because I was vocal. I was the target. And I flee, you know, I came to this country to flee to like, you know, to protect

myself. And I'm the first generation to go to school. I'm the first generation to come to this country. I never thought of coming here, but

I came here and

nobody like you know. I did not have any like family members

like you know, here,

and I thought that

caste system is only the problem in Nepal or India. Yeah, not, not in in America, because people are highly educated people, and this is the like. You know this this country advocates for human rights, social justice. For sure, this country is the global leader for social justice and human rights. So I thought like people are highly educated and they don't practice like, you know, caste system, at least caste system, because we all are immigrant. South Asians are immigrant, right? So, but I was wrong at my workplace. Now I am coming to your questions. So it was very difficult for me to find the job, because my last name is, was the barrier, my last name was the barrier. If I were from dominant caste, it, it would be very easy to get jobs, housing, making friends, very easy. I realized that that was proved when, when I had very hard time to find job.

Very hard time.

Luckily, I got one job in one Indian restaurant in

in California.

So what happened that time my co workers, they were from one of them, one of the co worker was from Nepal, and rest of others were from India. So the person who was from Nepal, he was from domain caste, and I never hid my identity. I never hide my caste identity. Why should I agree? Right? So the person who was my coworker, he was always he. He always tortured me.

Anay Pruthy 9:03

He always, oh, torture, okay, that's very right, right?

Prem Pariyar 9:07

He always, like, you know, mentally harassed me.

Because

the person used to say like, you know,

that was none, none of his, like, you know, business like he was, like, talking always like he was talking about the reservation system in Nepal and India, especially Nepal, he used to say, like,

you know, Oh, you came here Because of reservation. Oh, like that, okay, you know, because of reservation and so in Nepal, you know, reservation is very bad people. They need to work hard, yeah, you know, they need to have, like, Brahmins are like, you know, they, they. Deserve more because they work hard and like, you know, untouchable, like you know, these people like always, they demand for like. They demand for like, you know, something without working so without like, you know, their contributions I never asked. I never say anything. I never ask him anything.

Just I was I had,

like, you know, very traumatic life experience. I had very hard time to exhaust. I spent more time to find the job. There was exploitation before that job, also I worked in like, grocery store, and what happened that there, like, I worked 15 days and I did not get job, like, you know, my ways, oh, wow, oh, that's, I didn't 15 days I worked. That was grocery as well as, like, you know, legally store. I had to lift very heavy loads of that beer, like, you know, and wine, right? I did because I need to adjust myself here without working. I cannot, like, survive here, so I work very heavily. But after 15 days, what happened? The Lady of that liquor store, she told me, Oh, you know, you guys are very like, lose lazy you you guys are very like, you know, you are not worthy. Like, okay, don't come next tomorrow, okay, don't come tomorrow. I will call you. And she never called me back. She never received my call. She never paid my like, you know, salary. That was the like, you know, experience before the restaurant job, and I was very like, you know, I was very stressed, and the guy was starting to, like, you know,

torture me, saying, like, you know,

I never talk about, like, reservation. I never talk about, like, you know, any privilege at the work I was I used to work very hard just to adjust myself at that work, workplace situation. But he never understood he was the manager of that restaurant, and always like, you know, he used to use air for, oh yeah for, and, like, you know, he used to tell me, like, oh, you You guys are so like, you know, lazy does not work and like that.

Ishaan Ranjan 12:56

Oh, wow, that is, yeah, I gotta commend you for, like, coming out. Like that must be very trauma. Yeah, that was very admirable. And being vulnerable like that that really surely that just shows, like how much, how bad it is, yeah, and

Prem Pariyar 13:07

not only that, so the owner provided shared housing for us. See a room at his house, and what happened? The guy told me, please don't, don't. So you stay in you, you please don't come in the room. Oh, well, don't come to the room. So you stay here at you, you please sleep at there was RV van. Oh, you know, when, when are we when? And that was not at work. I mean, like, you know that that did not have the door was, did not work, window, like, did not have, like, you know, glass. It was like, you know, I don't know what to say, garbage, kind of, you know, so I used to sleep there. And he said, he told me, when I leave this restaurant, then you can come to

that room. You stay here. And I didn't have choice. And I told him, okay, that's fine. This is my destiny. This is my, you know, love, bad love, so and I used to work more than 12 hours, and my salary was just \$1,200 monthly.

Anay Pruthy 14:32

Oh, wow, that is, yeah, that's not livable, okay, for sure. That is, that was,

Prem Pariyar 14:38

if I were from dominant caste, I would not have that experience, right?

Anay Pruthy 14:43

For sure, that shows, like, a disparity, right, right, okay, and like the fact that, like, you know, he kept bringing up the reservation system, when, even right now, it hasn't helped, like, lower castes as much as it should.

Ishaan Ranjan 14:55

That's like, womanize that, right? Yeah,

Prem Pariyar 14:58

yes, you know, um.

Ah, I never got that reservation facility in my whole life. I never took that facility.

I never took that facility,

and I never told him, like, you know, Oh, you are Brahmin and you are privileged because of your last name. You are privileged forever, many generations to generations, you are privileged. I never say that, but the guy said, oh, there is now, there is law, there is reservation. Because of that, you are here.

Ishaan Ranjan 15:40

They unjustly made that assumption about you, right,

Prem Pariyar 15:42

right?

Anay Pruthy 15:45

Perfect. Okay, we had a couple

Ishaan Ranjan 15:47

other I mean, yeah, now, like, Oh, I think our meeting's gonna end soon, but that's fine. Um, yeah, we could create a new meeting and then send you the link for that too. That's good, right? Sorry, the meeting will end in 10 minutes, because, like, it's 40 minutes only, right? So we can send you a new link in like, 10 minutes. That's fine. Minutes. That's fine. No problem. No

problem. Okay, perfect. Yeah, sorry about that. So sorry about that. Like, anyways, like, after, like, going on such a sad note, we're probably going, like, a more positive note, like, even though all of these like negative experiences that you've gone through, like, we could talk about, like, all the like achievements that, like in policy making, you've had, right? Like, in the we saw in this article, right, right? Yeah.

Anay Pruthy 16:19

So now we kind of want to ask you about, like, the change that you've started, you've started in America, right? So we saw in the LA Times on equality labs, um, that you helped persuade the 23 campus, Earth campus, California State University system to add caste to its non discrimination policy in, uh, three years ago. So what were kind of the key organizing moves students that we could, like, replicate to kind of do that. And also, how, like, how did that happen? How did you do that? Like, what was the process to kind of achieve such a great mind and your experience in it,

Prem Pariyar 16:51

right? Yeah, definitely. Thank you so much for this question. So what I thought, like, you know, as a social work student in the classroom, we mainly had intense conversations about like, you know, racial injustice, right? And like, gender like, you know, gender based injustices. And like, you know, people having like, you know, different people's stories we need to hear. We used, I used to hear in the classroom discussion

like inequalities, social inequalities. We've heard

Ishaan Ranjan 17:33

this in our in school as well. Yeah, for sure,

Prem Pariyar 17:36

yes, but I never hear

about caste system,

Anay Pruthy 17:42

we totally agree,

Prem Pariyar 17:44

right, which has very longest history, more than

3000 years long history,

right? And that that that system is never discussed. And racial injustice, racial discrimination that does not have that much long history, but we talk most of the conversations in racial discrimination and other other different discrimination, right? But

this has the longest history,

and I had that experience. And I one day, I I talked, I I shared. I asked my professors, who taught, who who was, who is in academia, like, you know, more than three decades. And I asked her, who we have been teaching social justice more than three decades. I asked her, for my professors, have you ever heard about caste system? And she was so amazed. She was very like, you know, surprised. And like, Oh, what is this caste system? She is like, African American professor. And she was like, like, See, she had like, you know that surprise, and she asked in the classroom, what is this caste system supreme just talked about caste system. Have you ever heard about caste system class? And in my class? Very interesting is one of them was from Nepal, from my hometown. So we were two Nepali students in the classroom. And so around five to six South other South Asian, including, like, you know, Indian Fijian. So none of them said, Oh yeah, I heard, I know about caste system, even. Police also said, Oh, I don't know. I never heard about this. Maybe I was drawn here and like, you know I never heard but I know their parents practice caste system. Oh, wow. I know that. I know that. Wow. And so I what I felt like that was strategic ignorance, strategy, strategically. They were ignoring the issue. Then I thought like, you know, I shared my experience, what happened back in Nepal. I did multiple presentations in different classes about caste system, my personal experience, my community's experience. I did presentation in the classroom, and what happened when I shared when I presented in the classroom as a caste, oppressed person, my South Asian friends, they started to distance with me.

Ishaan Ranjan 21:04

That's very you know, that's disgusting.

Prem Pariyar 21:11

So wherever I go in the school, like school premises, like when I introduce myself as Prem per year, that per year made my friends like, you know, felt disappointed. They used to Jaws me, you know, looking from me down to, you know, top to down. I felt very like, you know, sad, and I shared this with my advisors. I used to use my office hour. I used to talk about, like, you know, my personal experience with my professors. So professors, they had so many questions. They used to ask me, you know, why you are interested in like, you know, making this presentation. Why are you interested making research on caste equity, caste system. I shared my, my, you know, my pain, my sorrows, my, you know, feelings with my professors and what happened in my classroom, why my my colleagues are distancing with me. So all these things also like, you know, made disappointed to my professors. Then they my professors. They suggested me, they suggested me like

and I started to make research.

I started to make research. Is there any US universities having that policy? And there I found there was like blindness University, edit cast as a protected category. Which one blind ice University? Okay, in East Coast. So then I realized, like, Okay, why not? Like, we need to have

that caste in that like, you know, because this is intersectional issue. Caste intersect with other other categories, right? It casts intersect with color. Caste intersect with class,

right? Caste intersect with gender,

sexuality. Then why caste is missing piece in those conversations? Then I started that advocacy, at least we need to have that caste protections and caste addition in the policy, in our non discrimination policy, we need to have caste, at least caste oppressed person like me, like me. We I need to have like you know, if I report any incident, if I report any cases, then university does not have that mechanism to understand my pain, my you know,

discrimination that I face, right?

Ishaan Ranjan 24:09

The system itself prevents you Right, right? Then

Prem Pariyar 24:13

I started to talk with my professors, and professors, they also supported me. Finally, my university, my department edit cast as a protected category. So after that, I felt very happy. I started, I thought like, Oh, this is the social justice issue. And so Department of Education, Department of Sociology, Department of like, you know, psychology and department so anthropology, they talk about this is not only the issue, a matter of matter for social work, this is the issue. This is the discussion matter for other department, also anthropology, education, like you know, sociology, this is the social issues, right? That makes sense. Then I start. Started communicating with other department. So during that time, what happened? My professors connected me, introduced me with equality lab Executive Director tanmori Sundaram. I did have conversations with her, and she told me, you know, Prem, you are not alone. I'm also cast oppressed student, many other cast oppressed students faculties. They are having these kinds of pain. They are having these kinds of

Anay Pruthy 25:32

the meeting is about to end. Sorry to cut you off, but we'll send you the new link. We'll send you the new link right now. Okay, okay. Thank you so much. I'm so sorry. Yeah, okay, someone

sent her that. Can we well, it's

still recording. What are we doing? Kill me.

Ishaan Ranjan 26:02

Kill me. Kill me. Are we doing? I sent it dog.

Wait, what? How do I Oh, you send it to me? Yes, like you can. How do I send it to him? Oh, yeah, a copy, link, copy. Okay, I know how to copy. I know you don't just send it command me. Just so slow, just shut up, lock in.



Anay Pruthy 26:25

Can you stop? Okay, oh, you know that

Ishaan Ranjan 26:28

thing your sister sent you is not gonna be. There

didn't be where I'll make you i

Oh, Mickey, it's good, though. This is good, yeah, this is really good. Really powerful. Yeah. I.

Transcribed by <https://otter.ai>

Speaker 1 0:01

Time I can hear something, I can hear him that sounds like our mind. Can you see it? It's going to scream for

Speaker 2 0:16

myself. No, honey, can

Speaker 2 0:18

you give me home sweet? Where is he?

Speaker 2 0:21

I way. I don't know how to

Speaker 1 0:33

it's for how to stay calm. She

Speaker 1 0:36

used to join. He just sent you an email saying I didn't let him in. What?

Speaker 2 0:55

Gonna ask him about the

Speaker 1 0:59

hunger strike, and then we can look at we

Speaker 3 1:05

can Hello, hi, uh, hello. Can you hear me? Yes, okay, sure. So, um, here. Do you want to Okay, so we can just catch up where we Yeah, okay, we can just continue where you left off. So you were talking about, um, how you, like, kind of felt a sense of achievement after obviously making like, other great progress, yeah, finding other people, and how you helped, like, find someone else. So if you could just continue, yes.

Prem Pariyar 1:31

So I started, like, you know, advocating for other departments. I started emailing and like, you know, having one on one conversations. Why this? This caste protection is important in other department also. So one of the professors in other departments, so they suggested me, they suggested me to reach out. They are they, they said they were very positive. This is, like, you know, new things for them. So they told me, like, what happens if you reach out to dei committee, like, you know, dei

team, so that, like, you know,

they could have, like, you know, caste resolution. So that was very, like, interesting. I did not realize that before. So then I communicated with dai team, and dai team was also very positive, so they drafted the cast resolution, and it was discussed in the Academic Senate. So in the Academic Senate at CSU is doing I was the only one like cast of students and my professors. They were in the meeting to join that like, you know, to support me. So and in the academic senate meeting, the professors are the academic senators who are from Indian background. They were rejecting that fast resolution. They Their argument was, oh, wow, yes. So the Indian professors were from dominant caste. Yeah. They were, they were. Their argument was, this is Indian issue.

Speaker 3 3:21

Yeah, we've heard that one a lot. Yes,

Prem Pariyar 3:23

this is Indian issue. Caste does not exist here. And this is like, you know, just wasting, like, you know, wasting time. So then the EI committee did not have any answers. They were like, you know. They did not like, you know, they could not say anything. Then what happened? They were they asked me, Prem, do you want to say something? And I told them, like, definitely, I have so many things to share. And I told them, though I look like Indian, I am not Indian.

I am Nepali Dalit.

I am Nepali Dalit, and I have been experiencing caste discrimination from my childhood. And so caste is not Indian issue. It is in Nepal, in exist in other South Asian countries. So India is not South Asia. It's more than that. India has so many countries, including Nepal. And my experience is, can be different from dominant caste people. I have been experiencing this discrimination from my childhood. Those who are from dominant caste people, they can say caste does not exist. They can say they never experience caste discrimination. That's true. They How can, how do they experience caste discrimination? But I have experienced this in California. I have experienced at my workplace, in my communities. I think that. In at the place of worship, I had experienced that discrimination people, they discriminate me because of my last identical, last surname, and even at my university, when I shared my experience, my friends, my colleagues, they started to distance me, and you are saying, this is Indian issue.

This now this has become global issue. This has become global issue because South Asians are migrating, for

Speaker 4 5:33

sure, and that's a big problem,

Prem Pariyar 5:37

right? For sure. This is Indian issue. This is like, people are South Asians. People are the fastest growing based on data, based on statistics, we can see that. We can see that. And you are saying, this is like, you know, only this. It happens in the remote part of India. This is wrong. So we passed protections. We need cast protections at our university.

Speaker 4 6:06

That's great progress. Can I say that?

Prem Pariyar 6:09

And all the academic senators,

all the academic senators, they voted yes, and the solution that caste resolution was passed. Then I did not remain quiet after that, also, I felt very like, you know, energized and so equality lab helped me, like you know, to reach out to other student leaders from other universities at CSU system and Tsu system, like they invited me in other conferences, also, like, you know, like Student Leadership Conference and like they're like, you know, here my my experience as an undocumented student, as an like, you know, immigrant like, as An like, you know, cast oppressed immigrant. My experience. So there I received a lot of like, you know, support from professors from other universities, for example, California Faculty Association, they hosted conference, and I was one of the panelists, and I shared my experience in that discussion. And so many professors, they were, they were expressing their ignorance about caste discrimination, caste system. And they were very positive, oh, we need to have, this is the social justice issue. And California Faculty Association, they added cash as a protected category, and which is the like you know, use labor union organizations. So after that, like you know, they made this bargaining tool for CSU system and California Student Association, California State University Student Association. They also, like, you know, we showed up. Many student organizers. They supported this cause. So many like, you know, communities now this it wasn't now that fight for justice was not limited within South Asians or not within Nepalese, not within Indian this has become like, you know, the common voice for everyone, South Asian, non South Asian, all the genders, people, they, they came and they supported. And there were also, like, you know, some dominant caste, professors, some parents, they they showed up and they were rejecting. Oh, this is, you know, this is very bad. This is like, you know, if we have these protections, so, you know, this is, this is very bad. This is supported by terrorist organization. This is supported by terrorist all these students are terrorists, and so many like that's success. That is gross, yes and I Yes. Many students, they shared, even dominant students also, they said, No, I did not experience caste discrimination, but I witnessed some of my friends, they have been experiencing caste discrimination. That's admirable,

Speaker 3 9:31

that is, yeah, just respectful, exactly that

Prem Pariyar 9:35

is, that's why I say this is not the win for only caste office people, for everyone who loves social justice, right for human rights for sure, who loves equality, right, right, right

Speaker 3 9:47

for sure. That makes, that makes a lot of sense. Thank you for that powerful and impactful message. Yeah. I mean, your rhetoric was very like, yeah, inspiration. That was extremely inspirational. That's something like we completely agree with, like we want to. End up and see, I mean, we've taken, like, so many interviews, but this is probably the most like, powerful and impactful one, especially the examples. Yeah, exactly the examples. And it just shows us how this, like, carries over worldwide and in today's world. Um, do you want to ask a question? Or should I you can ask? Okay, sure. Um, I just wanted to ask you. So, like, last year, right? Obviously, you know, Donald Trump got elected, and he kind of made, like, some changes to the DEI system. And like, kind of like how the entire government operates on dei along with, like, how private institutions, such as universities, like operate on that. So what I kind of want to ask you is, how did that impact your fight for caste equality in the United States, and how like, because you wanted to use the DEI system to kind of, like influence it towards, like, a cast equality system, right? But Trump is repealing a lot of these Dei, like, a lot of these di reservations and stuff. So how would you say that that's like, negatively impacted your kind of fight for equality? So

Prem Pariyar 11:01

what I feel similar to my professors, who are ignorant, who did not know about caste system earlier. So when I shared my stories in the classroom, my professors, they they got educated. They started to make research. They started to read Isabel Wilkerson's book. They started to read many literatures, many articles. So I hope so. I know, like, you know, this is, this is, like, you know, a little bit difficult time, but, you know, well, very difficulty. I see there is opportunity, right? So this is the opportunity to educate as an educator. I just think, like, you know, this is my role. This is my role as an educator. I need to educate people. This is the like, you know, billions of millions of people, they are impacted by this caste system, then we are not asking for reservation, just we are asking for equality. We are not asking for like, you know, any, any kinds of privilege we know, we have to work hard. We are doing that, but we need to have dignified life. This is fight for dignity. This is not fight for like, you know, free money. We are not fighting for free poor,

Speaker 4 12:30

right? For sure, that's powerful. That's a dignity, that's very true. Yeah, okay, you want to ask, yeah? We actually interviewed, uh, Jessica Dutt, I'm not sure if you know her, and we learned a lot about similar

Speaker 3 12:41

experiences, right? Yeah, she's kind of like a Dalit author who wrote like a book about her experiences, yeah? So that that was also like, we totally see the link between the two, if you want to Yeah.

Speaker 4 12:52

I also have a question. So on doing some research on from cow matters, and then, as am news, I found that you did a hunger strike. You call it a statewide hunger strike with and urged Governor Newsom to sign SB 403. Could you tell us about your experience doing that?

Prem Pariyar 13:08

So, yeah, this is, this was the for the first time, like you know, when Senator isa who have introduced that bill. So she failed us. She realized the importance of that bill, like right caste bill to stop caste discrimination, because that was the for the first time in in diaspora history, like, you know, caste oppressed people, and even some, some, like, you know, dominant caste people who love social justice, they came out together to fight for caste equity for the first time, and it was passed by the Senate and Assembly with majority board, right? So what happened? We had that doubt earlier. So it could be like, you know, it could be vetoed by because some, some dominant caste, like, you know, lobbyist, they were involved and like, you know, so it could be vetoed. So we realized that earlier, so thought, like, you know, hunger strike can be like, you know, can be the means like, can be the way to get to like, you know, to educate that is also another way of educating governor, right? But Governor did not realize he did not feel us right. He did not feel us like, you know. So there are some leaders in the world like you know, who are hunger of power right for his political ambition, like you know, he just vetoed the bill, even though he vetoed the bill, but Right? He accepted that caste is protected under ancestry, and it was for the first time in in the global history. Be right. He accepted that, he accepted that, but honestly what I wanted, he had nothing to lose, just to eight cast as a protected category in that anti discrimination policy, but because of his greed because of his political ambition. He, just like you know, diluted that that part right? He just like you know, ignored the majority voice. He ignored those people like you know, who showed up at his at his office more than 30 days like we were there in Hungary strike, just to like, you know, to educate him to like, you know, we wanted to convince we want to. We wanted to like, you know, inform him that we are here. We are like, you know, we are, we are here just to educate you. People are like, you know, their people are hungry for dignity. People are hungry for social justice, right? He did not even. He did not like, you know,

he did not realize, like, you

know, the to hear the voice from my minority community.

Speaker 4 16:26

Yeah, it's a sad part about politics.

Speaker 3 16:28

Sometimes, yeah, exactly No. We've oppression. So we see that, like that corrupt, that corruption in like, Indian politics and Nepalese politics, yeah, like a similarity,

Prem Pariyar 16:37

very similar, right,

right. Sure, parallel. Um, do you we are waiting, you know, Annie, we are waiting for the right time, right? We so in, in US history, not only US history, in the global history, there are some civil rights, some, some, some, some bills like, you know, that is like, you know, focused for like, you know, people, they were vetoed. This is not for the first time. There is a way so many bills were vetoed. But after some time, legislators, they realized, and become like, you know, law, right? So we are pretty optimistic. We are not pessimistic. We are optimistic. So the day will come, right? Yes, definitely, like, you know, Judgment Day. We shall overcome one day, right,

Speaker 4 17:40

right, for sure. And then this entire thing about, like, you know, it, like, it just burns, like, my heart too, yeah, entire, like, active, like, activism, like, it really

Speaker 3 17:49

touches. It's very and it's so inspirational. How you kind of, like, you had those experiences in Nepal, and then you had, like, how far you've come, right, yeah, and how much progress, and how you, like, you didn't just take it and you kind of just, yeah, and then you worked hard. That is very admirable, inspired, relating to

Speaker 4 18:05

this entire talk about activism, we were wondering if, like, we could somehow become a part of it and, like, help this fight for like, yeah,

Speaker 3 18:11

equality, yeah. Like we saw with equality, yeah, exactly. We saw your work with equality labs, and how, like, you know, you kind of helped organize the hunger strike and like, pass the bills with equality labs. So we're kind of wondering, like, how we could also like, join like, or even support those organizations, maybe independently, or maybe join like through an internship,

Prem Pariyar 18:27

definitely, definitely. So you This is being curious is also kind of support. So you are curious, you wanted to learn. So now as an as a student or as an educator, you can educate more and more younger generations. So you are not educating, you are not teaching them to discriminate like you know this is, this is social justice issue, right? And we need to come together, and we need to fight for dignity, we need to fight for social justice. People are, like, having these kinds of problem, and some people are trying to block, like, you know, the marginalized voices, right? And we are not demanding any, any kinds of like, you know, like prosperity. We are not demanding for like, you know, any kinds of like, three free things, right? We are just demanding for social justice. We are just demanding for like, you know, just, we want to be human being.

Speaker 4 19:36

So do you like, know, of any specific organizations that we could like,

Speaker 3 19:39

join, yeah, like, we kind of want to, like, amplify our education. Like, right now we're educating, like, we're trying to go for like, educating people on the national level, right like, with our with our project, because we got to Nationals, so like, we kind of want to amplify our

Speaker 4 19:50

voice. So like, everybody in like, DC, when we present it will see this, but we do something

Speaker 3 19:54

more than that, yeah, but that's not that's not enough for us, because we see the amount of like impact this had, like, on your life and on all the. People's lives, not only in India and Nepal, but also across the world. And so, like, we really need to, like, kind of find, like,

Speaker 4 20:05

a specific organization, yeah. Like, we wonder if you know any so

Prem Pariyar 20:09

and I and each one. So what you can do? I'm, I have started, like, you know, doing that. Like, so I'm encouraging, motivating. Like, for example, if you have friends who are artists, you can ask them to center cast oppressed boys in their art. If you have friends who, who, who are like you know, like you know, theater artist students who are interested in theater artist or, I mean, like you know, performance, performing art, they can, they can center their user, like project, like, you know, in a cast of like, you know, sewing, just how to make this visible people. They are just stop racing some people, a group of people. They are suppressing this voice now as an educator, as a as a young learners, so your part can be like you know, making a group of educators, making a group of young learners, and like you know, preparing them in in their project. They can make visible. They can visualize this issue to the global audience, right? Maybe that can be through arts. Maybe that be through like you know, research. Maybe that can be through like you know, postal presentation. Maybe that can be through like you know, performance art. So you know, there are many different ways to educate, to educate, like even Trump administration or many like, you know, different state governments. They can, like, you know, educate in that way. So that people they they start to realize, Oh, see, millions of people. They are like, you know, they are being vulnerable, right with with this, with this able system. So that's what I did. You know, as a cast, oppressed person, I could remain silent, I could remain I could be in comfort zone, but I did not choose that. I did not choose to be in comfort zone. I need to lead. I need to speak up. I need to educate people that as an educated, educated people, this is my responsibility to advocate for my voiceless people, my community, my my majority of community members, they are not educated. I am from that illiterate community, so this is my responsibility to educate, right? For sure, global people, global society.

What you know

Speaker 4 22:55

makes sense, so on terms of like research, so we actually mean an A we started writing a research paper, and it's like, halfway done, but we were like, Do you have any suggestions on how we could publish it, like, once we finish it? Or do you have any experience with that? Because I know you've written a research paper

Prem Pariyar 23:10

yourself, right? Yes, definitely. Like, you know, there are many journals like, you know, different, like you know,

academic, like, you know,

publications so you can, you can do that, like, for example, I can, I can recommend J cast journal. So J cast journal, this is, like, you know, this is the publications of pranash University. Yeah, you can find my article there also my, my article published in J cash journal. So, yeah, you can try there and, like, you know, many universities, like, they have, like, you know, different social justice like journals, so you can reach out to them and publish it. That sounds great.

Speaker 3 23:59

That is, that is very something we'll work on. Well, yeah, okay, oh, that's pretty much it. Thank you so much for this opportunity and sharing and being vulnerable. And we really like, it's very inspirational. That was one of the most powerful messages we've ever Yeah. And because, definitely motivating me to, like, do more. Yeah, yeah, exactly. And like, we, like, personally, of course, like, have had our own experiences. I mean him especially, right, his family. But like, that was that was really, really powerful. And how you kind of, like, showed, like, how, you know, there was, like, some translation between Nepal and America,

Speaker 4 24:28

and it was very educational. So, like, I learned a lot in this meetings. Yeah, thank you so much, so much.

Prem Pariyar 24:34

Thank you, Ana and isan for your time. And one more thing I can recommend you, so if you are interested in this social justice issue, so you can start volunteering with equality lab and, like you know, some other organizations. But now this is like you know, this is very like, you know, leading civil rights organizations. So. Of agents, civil rights organizations. You can work with that. With with EO, we can volunteer as a volunteer, you can learn. You can thrive and like you know, you can contribute yourself. And so equality lab does have, like you know that students affinity group, monthly, students affinity group, so you can join that and like you know, you can request in that email thread. You can request equality lab, like you know, to join in different like you know, we have signal group or student organizer. So not only you, there are many other university students who are from dominant caste people. They are also organizing at their



campuses, at their schools, about this issue, like you know, so definitely resistance is there. But like you know, they are very bold and they are moving forward for this issue, because truth is truth. No you can hide the truth, right?

Speaker 3 26:04

Yeah, that's powerful, yeah? And that was also very helpful.

Speaker 4 26:07

Thank you, yeah, we'll definitely reach out to reach equality labs, yeah, um,

Speaker 3 26:10

okay. Well, thank you so much for your time and for giving us this interview. We reached out to you, and we were really hoping that you would, and you'd certainly like did so much more than we could have asked for. So that was that was wonderful. Thank you so much.

Prem Pariyar 26:22

Thank you. I feel so proud. Like you know, seeing your interest and like you know, all these stories, like you know, please keep up the good work and so, yeah, definitely, I love to see you both, person someday. Thank you that

Speaker 4 26:41

we'll definitely share our experiences

Speaker 3 26:44

at NASA. So much from like you know someone is like accomplished as you that's that was truly amazing. All right. Well, thank you so much. Have a great day. Um, we'll be in

Speaker 5 26:53

touch. We'll keep in touch. Bye. To be open.

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