

## **Abstract**

### **Philosophical concerns of Neo liberalism: Interrogating the Role of the state in relation to vulnerable socio economic groups**

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Neo liberalism as a political philosophy and ideology has been dominating the world socio economic and political scenario since the late twentieth century. Its philosophical premise has been associated with the overwhelming role of the individual in shaping a society, with thrust on individual rationality, autonomy, free trade, rule of law besides reducing the role of the state to being a facilitator alone. Analysing the role of the state as envisaged in the neo liberal framework, this paper seeks to explicate on the fundamental presuppositions of the neo liberal ideology and how the same influences the political role for the states in addressing the various socio economic concerns of its society specifically the vulnerable groups. Covid 19 has opened the Pandora's box of these unanswered and unaddressed questions relating to various aspects of the neo liberalism and its overarching influence on the political processes and functioning of political systems of various nation states. This paper seeks to address these questions of how the goal of equality, development and inclusion as advocated by liberal democracies finds space within the neo liberal framework of society. It specifically tries to do so in the context of Indian state and its efforts in shaping the socio economic reality with concerns of growing unemployment, migrant labours, daily wagers and the unorganised sector and various non conventional concerns of security. It tries to raise questions of how do we define the role of the state in protecting the marginalised sections and ensure inclusive linear growth for all in the current neo liberal world scenario. It doing so, it attempts to delve into the ideological foundations of neo liberalism besides explicating as to whether we need to redefine its core philosophical assumptions or we require a new framework of shaping our political society with a shared sense of community for the marginalised and the vulnerable socio economic groups.