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SITUATION OF BACKWARD CASTES, SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES IN CURRENT SCENARIO

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ABSTRACT

The term backward class has not been defined in the Indian constitution, the characteristics of backwardness are defined here and there in our constitution and also sometimes categories are mentioned.

Indian central government classifies some of its Indian citizens based on their social and economic conditions as other backward class, scheduled caste and scheduled tribes. OBC list (presented by National commission for backward class) is dynamic means castes and communities can be added or removed and is subjected to change from time to time according to the social, economic and educational factors. For example, the OBCs have 27% reservations in higher educations and public sector employment.

KEYWORDS: *Indian constitution, educational factors, Population distribution*

ABOUT BACKWARD CLASSES

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Indian central government classifies some of its Indian citizens based on their social and economic conditions as other backward class, scheduled caste and scheduled tribes. OBC list (presented by National commission for backward class) is dynamic means castes and communities can be added or removed and is subjected

to change from time to time according to the social, economic and educational factors. For example, the OBCs have 27% reservations in higher educations and public sector employment. In our Indian constitution, OBCs are defined as “socially and educationally backward” and our central and state governments are enjoined to ensure their social and educational development. Population distribution of backward classes below poverty line -

1. OBCs below poverty line are 22.6% in rural areas and 15.4% in urban areas.

2. SCs below poverty line are 31.5% and 21.7% in rural and urban areas respectively.
3. STs below poverty line are 45.3% and 21.4% in rural and urban areas respectively.

It is as per the poverty estimation released by planning commission on the basis of survey taken by NSSO, Ministry of statics and program implementation.

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

AREAS	OBCs	SCs	STs
IN RURAL	78.0%	79.8%	91.4%
IN URBAN	22%	20.2%	8.6%

DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION OF EACH RELIGION BY CASTE CATEGORIES:-

RELIGION	SCs	STs	OBCs
HINDUISM	22.2%	5%	42.8%
ISLAM	0.0%	0.5%	39.2%
CHRISTIANITY	0.0%	23.8%	41.3%
SIKHISM	19.1%	0.9%	2.4%
JAINISM	0.0%	2.6%	3.0%
BUDDHISM	89.5%	7.4%	0.4%
ZOROASTRIANISM	0.0%	15.9%	6.25%
OTHERS	2.6%	82.5%	6.25%
TOTAL	19.7%	8.5%	41.1%

OTHER BACKWARD CLASS

Other backward class is not defined in our constitution due to the absence of clear definition, the problem of other backward classes is very complicated and very difficult to deal with

SUB CATEGORIES OF OBCs

In 2017, President of India Ram Nath Kovind notified a five member commission headed by former chief Justice under Indian constitutions, To explore the idea of OBC sub categories.

The committee has a three point mandate

- 1.To examine the extent of inequitable distribution of benefits of reservation among various caste that come under the central government OBC list.
2. bringing order to the central list of OBCs by removing any repetitious.
- 3.the actual OBC reservation will continue to be 27% and within this committee will have to do the rearrangements.

MONDAL COMMISSION

States which have already introduced reservation for OBC exceeding 27% will not be affected by this recommendation. With this general recommendation the mondal commission proposed following overall scheme of reservation:-

1. Reservation should not exceed 50% .
2. Relaxation in the upper age limit for direct recruited should be extended to the candidates of OBCs.
3. If reserved quota remains unfilled then it should be carried forward for three years after that it should be de-reserved.
4. 27% reservation should also be provided inside the company for the promotion.

5. Candidates belonging to OBC recruited on the basis of merit in an open competition should not be adjusted their reservation quota.

PROBLEMS OF OBC

What are the other backward castes? Is it the sudra varna - as defined by varna system –or any other category of caste system? In the eyes of upper castes or we can say general caste there is a difference in the status of general category and OBC , SC and ST.

- The OBC’s also face caste based discrimination. The also face humiliation and exploitation, though of course, the degree may differ.
- The entire struggle is for social respect and identity. Another relevant issue is the difference in the concepts of OBC and bahunjan communities.
- The main problem is difference in ideological.All these caste groups doesn’t have same thoughts about other caste group so if you are not treating the caste groups which are lower than you in status so how can you get better behavior from those.
- There are also some problems at the political level. Always political parties said that they will help them but they did not help after making the government. So this process continues .The one who is poor remains poor throughout their generation.
- Reservation is also not reaching to the illiterate people of OBC caste people. They are not aware of the rights given to them in the Indian Constitution.

- All practical purposes the term backward class is used for backward castes. while the constitution recognizes special provision for advancement of any socially and economically backward class.
- Reservation is not given to some groups of OBC caste. So they are fighting for their rights.
- Government is not working properly on the schemes for the welfare of the OBC's. There is corruption at all level. Sometime people have to pay extra money for their work.
- Another problem of Indian communities is that while at the political level, they accept democratic values like liberty, equality and fraternity as they are enshrined in the constitution, in their social life, they reject these very democratic values and continue to be a part of the caste-based social system.
- Some time we can see the torture of the upper caste people on the OBC's in some village and in some city. Which can be dangerous at some time.

SCHEDULED CASTES (SCs) & SCHEDULED TRIBES (STs)

Sc and St are types of group in our history and are mentioned in our constitution with other groups.

This groups were suffering from depression and many problems. The percentage of this people is the percentage of people living in lower part of india. People behave such cruel that they were not allowed to touch people of upper cast. In most of the states they were called as scheduled castes.

In Tamil Nadu they were referred as Adi Dravid. They have less percent in population. 8.7% of scheduled tribes and 16.7% percent of scheduled castes of whole population of india.

For their better future, after independence government is giving reservation to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Not only this but also the political representation. The Constitution lays down all the principles applied by the Indian society for scheduled tribes and scheduled castes.

This groups are now getting better behavior from society. They have developed their future in unexpected quantity. Till now government is giving reservation to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Now a days people from scheduled tribes and scheduled castes are living same life as other upper castes.

Important measure taken is

1. By stopping Untouchability.
2. Giving protection to them from social injustice.

3. By allowing them to enter in religious institutions of public character.
4. Removing restrictions on them to get water from wells, tanks, shops, roads and restaurants.
5. Providing them right of moving freely anywhere and acquire property.
6. By providing them the right to get admission in any educational institutions.
7. Giving seat reservations for them in services.
8. Reservation for them in Lok Sabha and vidhan Sabha.
9. Preparing the department for them who will give them advisory Council to promote their Welfare and safeguard their interest.

PROBLEMS OF SC AND ST

Like other backward people SC & ST people also face social problems. Actually they face some more problems than OBC people. The caste system in India is a huge speed breaker on the progress and development of India. People's ideology is not change yet in 2018.

- Every upper caste people think that lower caste peoples are not equal to them so they start violating the rights of SC & ST peoples. Also these communities are less in population in comparison of them so it is easy for them to torture them.
- Everyday SC and ST people are dying because crime rate on them is increasing very rapidly.
- Highly educated people also believe in caste system. Their mentality is not changed.
- People also raise question on the reservation given to the SC & ST people. They say that reservation should be given on the basis of economical condition.
- Reservation on the basis of the caste system was done by Dr. Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar to maintain the social equality among the society not the economical equality.
- In the Judiciary system of India there is no Chief justice of these lower castes. Why it is so?
- People of SC & ST in the villages of india are in very bad condition. They are not able to live freely.
- In some villages of India they are still untouchables. This issue affects their psychology. It is too difficult to live in that society which do not accept them. It is not their fault that they were born in lower caste.

- Most of the lower caste families are illiterate and they are not getting the proper education. They are not aware of the reservation system which can help them.
- The political parties are making their profit from these lower castes. They are vote bank for them. They take vote from them but they don't do any work for them.

SC AND ST WELFARE IN INDIA

SC and ST are those castes/races in the country that suffer from extreme social, educational and economic backwardness arising out of age-old.

Practice of untouchability and certain others on account of lack of infrastructure facilities and geographical isolation, and who need special consideration for safe guarding their interest.

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

The ministry of social justice and empowerment is the nodal to oversee the interest of the SC and ST .though the primary responsibility for responsible for promotion of interest of the sc and st rest with all the central ministries in the area of their operations and the state government, the ministry complement their effects by ways of interventions in critical sectors through specially tailored schemes. The sc and st their educational, economic and social empowerment. Efforts made by the state governments and central ministries for protecting and promoting the interest of sc and st are also monitored.

INITIATIVES TAKEN FOR SC AND ST DEVELOPMENT

EDUCATIONAL EMPOWERMENT:

Various scholarship are provided to the students belonging to the sc and st castes/tribes to ensure that education is not denied due to poor financial condition of their families. These scholarship are provided both pre-matric and post-matric levels. The scholarships can broadly be classified into following types:

1. Pre-matric scholarship:

1. Pre-matric scholarship to SC and ST students.
2. Pre-matric scholarship to children of these engaged in occupations involving cleaning and prone to health hazards.
3. Post matric for sc and st students(PMS-SC/PMS-ST)

2. SCHOLARSHIP FOR OBTAINING HIGHER EDUCATION & COACHING SCHEME:

1. Top class education for scheduled caste and scheduled tribe student.
2. National fellowship.

3. National overseas scholarship.
4. Free coaching for SC/ST students.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT:

- I. National sc and st finance and development corporation(NSFDC)
- II. National safai karamchhari's finance and development corporation(NSKFDC)
- III. Special central assistance to sc/st sub plan(SCSP)
- IV. Special of assistance to sc/st development corporation(SCDC)
- V. Venture capital fund for SC/ST.
- VI. Credit enhancement guarantee scheme for SC/ST.

SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT:

- I. The protection of civic rights act, 1955.
- II. SC/ST (prevention of atrocities) act, 1989.
- III. SC/ST (prevention of atrocities) act, 1995.
- IV. The prohibition of empowerment as manual scavengers and their rehabilitation act, 2013(MS ACT, 2013).

CONCLUSION

- As casteism continues , it furthers the division society. It has practically vanished harmonious society and has brought about the numerous divisions and social quarrels that we found now in India. For hundreds of years , even amongst alone there has been quarrels along caste. This is the main reason why India has been weakned. They could defend among themselves in a unified way. This kind of divisions is also a factor why India is under British rule. Social disharmony , ethnic intolerance are on the rise in several parts of India.
- Caste discrimination violets all human rights on which UN rules are founded. Presently India consists of 17% of population is Dalits. To this day level of violence against Dalits and other lower castes are very high. Discrimination is extended to all extents of life such as employment, education , health, land holding , security and all aspects of women rights.
- A caste can exist within system of castes. Caste system is a door to other caste are closed. The breaking of caste bundries involves an exit as well as an entrance. When the most socially and

politically powerful castes want to remain enclosed, lower castes decisions to break open can have little effect. When higher castes rules rules of internal discipline require strict observance of enclosure revolts by lower castes can make small progress.

Thus we see hear that there are both kinds of arguments put forth, some which are in favour of caste mobilization while some are such identities based politics as narrow. Both have some results, truths in their argument. In a democratic representative political system where no direct ways are available to participate in decision making caste provide people a way to influence policy making in their favor. In most of the cases it has remained limited for getting reservations.

- It can be concluded hear that caste plays an important role in Indian politics. It cannot be termed as going backward as many of the modernistic puts. With the spread of modern education instead of going away, it has changed its face in reality. In this way it has helped making society more democratic by making awareness towards politics of backward and Dalits. On the negative side it has also increased reservations politics in India.
- Education would bring better awareness among the downtrodden masses. Besides, education in turn would empower them to better their social conditions. No other system of human differentiation based on religion endured for so long a time. Now its in our hand to change. Like Obama says believe in the change, yes we can do it because its us who is gonna teach the next generation.
- Caste system is not a good system in present scenario. It is negatively effecting the Indian society. The system has become irrelevant today. Under present conditions the rigidity of castes caused much oppression to the weaker sections of society

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