



STRATEGY AND SITUATION OF CASTE SYSTEM IN CURRENT SCENARIO

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INTRODUCTION

Today in Indian society, there is big chain of social problems. addressing the growing gap between the rich and the poor is crucial for creating a more equitable and stable society. It requires comprehensive measures that promote equal access to quality education, healthcare, affordable housing, and fair taxation. Additionally, policies aimed at creating inclusive economic growth, reducing income disparities, and enhancing social mobility are necessary. By narrowing the wealth gap, societies can foster greater social harmony, improve well-being, and ensure a more sustainable and just future for all members.

The caste system is defined as the ethnocentric division of labour on basis of castes. It was formed in India during the Vedic civilization around 1500 BC and has since impacted social, religion, geopolitical culture and practices in India. 'Caste' is not an Indian word but is derived from the poetic word Casta which means ethnicity. The main components of castes are Varna and Jati. Varna refers to the colour or ethnicity of a person. During the later Vedic period four castes emerged - The Brahmins (the priests), the kshatriya (the warriors) the Vaishyas (traders) and the shudras (labourer) . There was a fifth varna as well which referred to the tribes' men and women as well as the untouchables.

Caste System

Jati refers to the birth of the person. Although there were only 4 varnas. There were thousands of Jati's. According to individual the Jati of the individual does not affect would not hinder in the change in occupation of the individual.

Due to the Indian caste system the women of upper strata as well as the lower strata suffer a lot. The upper strata women face trial marriages and if there has been by, they are not allowed to get out of the widow hood in some curse The Immortal act of studies also practice on the other hand the lower strata women get sexually by upper caste men as these women can't raise the voice against these men because of the dominance in Indian society.

Sense of inferiority due to the continuous domination faced by lower caste people gradually a sense of inferiority complex is developed among lower caste category people due to this negative feeling. Lack of motivation is seen in this people. Social, economic and educational disparity is make these backward people field at they are stigma into the Indian society class of ideas in ancient India brahmins and the profession of teachers and Gurus during this time to survive on the wages of other cars has came to be known as the class of idlers while lens and conflict because system has been a source of social tension conflicts and violence as discrimination and operation based on casts have led to protects classes and even atrocities.

Origin: Origin of caste system is in early Vedic period around 1500 BC. Indus valley civilization collapse and mark the end of the Vedic. During this Vedic period the other one and give one included the brahmins well the Divya one includes the vessels and shooters the car system was quite flexible and intercourse of occupation was seen during this time

Later Vedic period

Later Vedic period in the caste system there was a stigma in the Brahmin and structure regarding occupation of other castes. They enjoy the higher authority among the novels well the lower strata were living and the economic and socialist stigma.

Features of caste system during Vedic period

Endogamy one of the biggest cause the ensure the continent of caste system was endogamy that is the practice of marrying in their own one or cursed to avoid pollution of the one and the social strata. Lack of basic rates there



was a system in sources society that only upper enjoy the lavish and luxurious lifetime meanwhile the lowest force to work against they will this result in violation of basic human rights of an individual on a massive scale. Segregation the cities in the Vedic building such a way that the nobles' kinship and higher class 12 hours in the centre of the city surrounded by massive voice meanwhile giving be on the walls along the periphery of the city. Lack of social intercourse there was a system in Vedic society which prevented lower castes to even drink from the same place as the upper castes. This caused animosity among different castes resulting in the social stratification of culture ideas in Vedic society.

Changes in the caste system during Mughal-era

The Mughal rule in India from 12th century to 18 century result in a significant change in caste system causing the winding of gap between upper and lower caste regarding wealth position of power and equal rights. The position and power on the reserved for higher caste during Mughal rule the Mughals levied heavy taxes to land owners which were the principles of feudalism this was reaction to the labouring class as they were force to work for more hours in a new in human conditions you for the most Axis imposed on temples cause the brahmins to the anger towards the lower strata with the reception that their present in winding of gap between the rich and the poor.

Impact of British Raj

Till 1920 the British follow the policy of divide and rule in which the formed loss which made the criminal offence to be born in a certain curse this means that if someone was born at tribal or Sanyasi, he or she would be prosecuted by the government in this tribal under the suspicion of conspiracy against the British Empire in India there was also policy of excluding a few castes and religion from government post as they were regarded as untrustworthy

Principles of caste system

- Lack of human treatment to all individuals
- Individual and collective occupation
- Division of labour
- Lack of intermixing of culture
- Animosity between different varnas
- Rift in distribution of wealth
- Demeaning of character of an individual
- Ideological differences in society
- In human conditions for lower caste
- Policy of intolerance among individuals

Causes and Factors of Caste System

1. Feeling of Caste Prestige

People being unequal from the background of work, culture, livelihood pretend themselves as higher caste as compared to other. This creates a sense of division among the people on the basis of caste.

2. Social Stratification

Number of people from our country were from different strata of the society. The division amongst them occurred due to the strata division amongst the society. These strata further got divided into different castes across the country.

3. Communal Misunderstanding

Different communities in our society perform various activities which are indeed different activities which are different in their own way. Due to these communal inequalities which is also an impact due to rise in Gap in the poor and rich led to the division of the society. Clashes in the communities regarding the superiority led to the orthodoxies in the casteism.

4. Traditional Theory

Due to old mindsets and back ideology of the people, they easily get involved in the anti-communal activities which in turn provoke the caste system. Due to atmosphere around us also creates division among the people leading to the growth of casteism.

5. Geographical Conditions

People live in various different parts of our country following different culture, traditions and habitats. This creates a sense of disintegration among the people thus leading to increase in caste system.



6.Caste Endogamy

Encouraging more caste-based marriages led to increase in the population of that particular caste in the society. Thus, leading to more social inequality. It also creates a social imbalance where promotion of their particular caste becomes the intention of the people forgetting mutual understanding and communal development.

7.Provoking castes for political gain

For gaining political power in that particular area the politicians promote the perspective and beliefs of the caste which is in the majority in that particular area. It creates a situation of hatred among the other castes and people get more provoked in the caste matters.

8.Increase in the Urbanisation

Due to more increase in urban societies segmentation can be seen in different areas of the society which differentiates the people basing on their habitat, income source, caste reservation. It brings the situation of socio-economic discrimination among the people leading to creation of castes.

9.Working Culture

People perform different kinds of occupation from the old era. Collective people performing same occupation creates division of the people among the society.

People get segregated among themselves in same religion due to their traditional occupations

10.Dominance of particular community

Due to population of a particular community creates the dominance of one caste over the other due to the leads to more formation of groups among the society leading to caste formation.

11.Illiteracy

Due to the loss of awareness among the people there is think about the benefits and promotion of people belonging to the same it also creates this harmony among the people leading to segregation of people.

12.Social Stigma among individuals

It creates a social stigma among the individual regarding personal provoking of people and blaming over the caste of the people do not call the name of people instead calling by the caste name it leads to increase in the social division.

NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF CASTE SYSTEM IN INDIA

1.Social Discrimination

The caste system entrenched social discrimination, with individuals being treated unequally based on their caste, leading to the marginalization and oppression of lower-caste communities.

2.Untouchability

The caste system resulted in the practice of untouchability, where certain castes were considered "untouchables" and subjected to extreme social exclusion, leading to their mistreatment and exploitation.

3.Limited Social Mobility

The caste system restricted social mobility, making it difficult for individuals to move out of the caste they were born into, thereby perpetuating inequality and denying opportunities for advancement.

4.Caste based occupations

From Ancient India, Each and every type of skills and occupations are specifically amongst the communities, for e.g., Gutter cleaner, barbers, weavers etc.

5.Economic disparities

Generally, it is observed that the lower caste marginal individuals are economically backwards. This is because these communities don't get proper opportunities and employment. They are being dominated and suppressed by higher caste individuals like brahmins and kshatriyas etc.

6.Caste based politics

From the last three four decades, caste system is brutally used in mal practices through Indian politics. Some corrupted Indian leaders take advantage, and they emotionally suppress respective communities for gaining votes. This is legally incorrect. They usually target marginal castes which are not educated much.

7.False feeling of prestige amongst higher class

Higher castes like Brahmins and Kshatriyas thinks that they have monopoly of wisdom. They think that they are the greatest social leaders, which is not true. Due to caste system, lower caste Individuals feels suppressed and oppressed.

8.Encouraged conversions

Due to continuous Domination and discrimination by higher castes. Marginal individuals get frustrated and thus in order to get rid of it, they try. to end their life or the Second way is to convert themselves socially.



9.Expansion of Christianity and Muslims

As discussed above, as the backward castes are converting themselves into Christians and Muslims, Fall of Hinduism is observed. Thus, giving rise to Christian Islamic practices, rituals, cultures, etc.

10.Lower status to women

Due to the Indian caste system the women of upper strata as well as the lower strata suffer a lot the upper strata women face trial marriages and if there has been by they are not allowed to get out of the widow hood in some curse The Immortal act of studies also practice on the other hand the lower strata women's get sexually harassed by upper strata men's, as these women can't raise the voice against these man because of the dominance in Indian society.

11.Sense of inferiority

Sense of inferiority due to the continuous domination faced by lower caste people gradually a sense of inferiority or Infinity complex is developed among lower caste category people due to this negative feeling lack of motivation is seen in this people.

12.Social stigma

the economic and educational disparity is making these backward people field at they are stigma into the Indian society.

13.Class modification

In ancient India brahmins had the profession of teachers and Gurus due time, they began to survive on the wages of other caste. They came to be known as the class of idlers.

14.Violence and conflict

The caste system has been system has been a source of social tension conflicts and violence as discrimination and operation based on cars have led to protects classes and even atrocities.

Steps taken by government against caste system:

1. Constitutional provisions

The Indian constitution prohibits discrimination based on caste and ensures the principle of equality for all citizens it provides various safeguards do uplift disadvantageous groups.

2. Reservation policy

The government has implemented a system of reservation to provide representation and equal opportunity to socially and economically backward classes of the society government provides reservation in education government jobs etc to scheduled castes schedule tribes and other backward classes.

3. Welfare schemes

Many welfare schemes are rolled out by the government for the backward classes the includes free housing fee waiver in education institutions free training for vocational skills etc.

4. Legal protection

Many laws have been found for the social protection of backward classes one of the laws is scheduled caste the schedule tribes act 1989 this log is punishment to those found guilty this law prevent discrimination against the lower caste.

5. Promotion of inter caste marriage

Government gives various incentive and financial assistance to couples who do inter cast marriage this promotes inter caste interaction and harmony.

6. Land reforms

Major land was historically owned by upper caste people this land reforms were introduced to undo this land holding pattern land was given to labours and daily wage workers who were mostly from the lower caste.

Suggestions to eradicate caste system

1.Education and awareness

Children should be thought about the social evil of cars from the school also social awareness programs and workshop should be conducted to make people aware about the effects of caste system.

2.Employment and economic development

Focus economic employment and skill development programmes for marginalised community provide access to quality educational training to uplift individual from lower caste.

3.Strengthen legal measures

Review and existing loss against caused by discrimination insurance enforcements and from justice for victims monitor and address instances of caste discrimination effectively.

4.Reservation reforms

Regular review and evaluate effectiveness of reservation policies.



5. Inter caste social integration

Promote inter caste marriage by giving financial incentives to couples organised programs where people from different caste interact breaking the social barrier between different castes.

6. Social dialogue and grassroots movement

Encourage community leaders, civil society organisations and activists to initiate dialogue in movement that challenge the caste system.

7. Political will

A major reason that caste system is still relevant in the Indian society is politics. Political leaders often fail to create caste-based vote banks. Elected political leaders should work to unite people rather than dividing them for the sake of votes.

8. Media and entertainment

Promote positive and progressive portraits of caste related issues in media. Encourage content that challenges stereotypes and promotes social integration.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the caste system in India is deeply rooted in social structure that was shaped in the country's history. Society and individual lives have resulted in systematic discrimination, social division, and unequal opportunity for centuries. All the efforts have been made by government and society to combat the caste system, but its complete eradication remains a significant challenge. However, progress has been achieved through constitutional provisions, reservation policy, legal protection, and awareness activation. These measures have aimed to lift the community, provide opportunities for social mobility, and challenge discriminatory practices. Education and empowerment play a crucial role in challenging the caste system. A multifaceted approach is needed, requiring substantial efforts in education, social economic development, caste social integration, and the promotion of equality, justice, grassroots movements, community participation, and political will. It is necessary to address the deeply rooted problems and bring about lasting change.

Moving forward, it is imperative for this community, civil society's organisations, and the government to collaborate, foster empathy, and create an inclusive society where individualism is treated with dignity and respect, regardless of the caste. Only then can we hope for a future where the caste system is no longer a barrier to equality and social progress.

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