

A STUDY OF THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE CASTE SYSTEM IN INDIA

Ajit*

PhD Scholar, Department of Political Science, MDU, Rohtak, Haryana, India

Email ID: *ajitboora97@gmail.com*

Accepted: 14.03.2022

Published: 01.04.2022

Keywords: Caste, Democracy, Scheduled, Dalits.

Abstract

The caste system has been in place in India since the earliest ages, and it continues to play a significant role in the country's growth. The caste system may have its roots in the Aryan society's functional groups, known as varnas.

The four appendages of the Creator gave rise to the various castes, according to a hymn in the Rig Veda. He created the Brahman ministers with his lips, two arms framed Rajanya (Kshatriyas), the warriors and kings, his two legs framed the Vaishya, landowners and shippers, his feet conceived the Shudra (Untouchables), craftsman and labourers. As a result, it is widely considered that the Brahmins adopted the caste system as a way to communicate their status. When the Aryan races arrived in India, they sought to maintain their power, so they adopted the country's caste structure.

On one hand, the caste system preserves the past of Indian culture; on the other, it stifles the country's progress. Our society's earlier norms and designs have a significant impact on the current organising and definition cycle of tactics. Finally, a country's culture and history serve as the backbone of its current organisation. The presence of caste in today's political landscape is indisputable, as it has been a prominent feature of Indian history. The caste system's influence on Indian politics is explored in this paper.

Paper Identification



*Corresponding Author

INTRODUCTION

Development of electoral democracy in India made an extremely ripe ground. Caste system is a shut system yet it's actually advancing. English considered caste to be a crystal to understand India's social reality. Caste turned into a device for advocating their standard in India. It prompted caste clashes among people. Caste additionally began beating in friendly awareness. In this manner caste began developing in Indian society. Present day Constitution nullified untouchability additionally in 1976 (the Protection of Civil Rights Act), reservation of seats which eventually brought about additional concretization of caste. [1]

Caste and casteism never vanished in India. Myron Weiner's idea of "political co-optation" turned out to be exceptionally applicable. The policy of political preparation followed by Congress and different parties additionally brought about co-optation many lower castes into the party. With the disintegration of the ethical premise of caste, the willful boundary to dissent by the lower castes was additionally dissolved. In this

way a few center and lower castes looked for fairness with the upper castes through the course of sanskritization (by copying the orthopraxy of the greater castes), hence guaranteeing more political power.

Politicization of caste in India assumed a vital part in creating party politics. Caste needs politics however much politics need caste. Whenever caste groupings makes politics their circle of activities, caste groups then additionally gets an opportunity to affirm their personality and to take a stab at position.

A predominant caste is a caste which rules mathematically because of its numeric prevalence it appreciates political power. Politicians track down caste a helpful and advantageous instrument for use during races. Politics in Indian states had likewise been seen as far as contest among significant caste groups for political power. Caste is additionally said to fractionalize public politics. [2]

Caste is the most confounded bunch of every social issue. Indian society is projected ridden. Religion is only a conviction and it can change whenever in the life, however caste is a steady factor which don't change in any event, when religion changes. It doesn't change when occupation changes or economic wellbeing changes that is Caste stays steady. It resembles an omega esteem essentially a simple steady change experiencing the same thing.

Caste system doesn't take into account up versatility in society. Assuming an individual's family comes from the lower financial layers, in a society in view of a caste system, that individual would have to stay inside that confined level.

Caste system influences the society by making the people more presented to bias, generalizing and different things. These distinctions in rankings frequently cause debates inside the society. Caste system is loaded up with imbalance and foul play. The people of one caste could do without to blend in with others. This division of society into such countless

religions, castes and sub-castes comes in the method of the unity and uprightness of the Indian country.

Caste becomes significant in politics since politics is exceptionally cutthroat. Its motivation is to acquire power for guaranteed closes. It, accordingly, takes advantage of a wide range of loyalties in the society to acquire and combine specific political positions; association and verbalization of help are significant in the above course of politics in our country.

Caste is one such association with which the people are related. The linkage among politics and caste is accordingly significant and in the process both interact so intently that they are changed. Party programs additionally cut across caste loyalties and individuals from one caste might be isolated based on philosophical affiliations. [3]

There is no denying the fact that the politicization of caste has helped the lower castes and other backward groups, particularly in the southern area of India. Yet, the inquiry emerges: Host political gatherings, which assemble various groups for the sake of caste, identity and religion, had the option to achieve a society which is simply and populist?

Taking everything into account, the heads of such parties enjoy taken the benefit of the inegalitarian system yet unfortunately they have bombed the common people having a place with the more fragile areas. These pioneers, preparing the lower and backward caste groups, have turned into one more sort of first class keeping the greater part of the people out of the domain of improvement and libertarianism.

It is critical to specify here that such inclinations have tormented the Indian society in light of the fact that the pioneers have offered empty talk to the ideal of social democracy. The upper-caste groups have not given adequate room to the lower and backward caste groups. They are as yet attempting to keep up with their philosophy of an unequal society, in view of one or the other caste or religion.

IMPACT OF CASTE SYSTEM ON INDIAN POLITICS

The caste factor is a significant determinant of electoral politics in India. While designating their candidates from various bodies electorate the political parties remember the cast of competitor and cast of the citizens in that specific voting demographic. Because of this up-and-comer makes certain to get the votes of electors of his caste.

In electoral electorates overwhelmed by Muslims, Muslim candidates are sent and in regions overwhelmed by Jats, Jat candidates are conveyed. Indeed, even secularist parties like Congress, Janata Dal, CPI, and CPM think about caste fact in choosing their candidates.

Caste acts as a partitioning and durable power in Indian politics. It gives a premise to the rise of a few vested parties in the Indian Political System every one of which rivals any remaining groups in the battle for power. Now and again it prompts an unhealthy battle for power and acts as a disruptive power in any case, it is a wellspring of unity among the individuals from groups and acts as a strong power.

In rural India, where the social universe of the rural power is restricted to an area of 15 to 20 km, caste acts as unifying powers. It is the main gathering they understand. Presence of caste groups likewise prompts factionalism. Caste as such is a factor in Indian politics and it acts as firm as well as a troublesome factor.

Different caste groups host their loyalties behind various political gatherings and their philosophies. Right from his introduction to the world, an Indian resident acquires a caste and grows up as an individual from a specific caste group. He has a place either with one of the Great Castes or to Booked Castes. During the time spent getting his political directions, demeanor and convictions, he normally goes under the impact of caste groups and casteism. [4]

Disclosing policy is a vital assignment of the public authority for good administration and improvement of

the society yet caste has a unique impact in making different approaches and projects of the public authority. Political parties remember caste in navigation. Caste likewise affects individual democratic way of behaving, political cooperation and party development. The caste additionally assumes an exceptional part in the development of the Council of Ministers and the arrangement of different political situations in the public authority.

Before independence, a few segments of Indian society were financially, socially and politically backward, like SC, ST and OBC. They needed to live on reliance and subsequently they needed to deal with different issues. Accordingly, after independence, the Indian Constitution incorporated a few provisions for the advancement of these least advantaged groups, which give those equivalent rights as well as reservation of seats for them in different fields.

Article 46 guides the State to work for the government assistance of the Planned Castes and Booked Clans and to take more time to safeguard their inclinations. This will shield SCs and STs from a wide range of treachery and persecution. Article 330 accommodates reservation of Lok Sabha seats for Planned Castes and Booked Clans. Additionally, Article 332 accommodates reservation of seats in each State Official Get together for Planned Caste and Booked Clans.

Panchayat Raj is a system of neighborhood self-government that is practiced in India. It fixes that neighborhood administration issues in rural regions ought to be settled through nearby government through chosen individuals. The Panchayat Raj system assumed a huge part in India and carried the system of administration to the people of the towns.

Panchayat raj system makes the administration system of the country more viable. In any case, this caste system uniquely affects nearby politics. The upper castes acquiring favored in light of the fact that they are monetarily and politically solid and the lower castes have extremely less advantaged than them. One

might say that this caste based political system ruins the autonomous functioning of the Panchayat Raj Establishment. [5]

Job of caste in decisions has two aspects. One is of the parties and candidates and the second is of the citizens. The previous looks for help of the citizens extending themselves as heroes of specific social and monetary interests, the last option while practicing their vote for one party or applicant in light of caste. People vote based on caste and religion and don't think about the benefits of the applicant. Democracy itself has turned into a joke attributable to this fiendishness. India is the world's biggest democracy however regular democracy falls flat. Indeed, even today one can't find a dalit competitor challenging in the non-dalit saved constitution and politicians won't discuss casteless society since they believe that people should be isolated.

Caste factor is a part of the Indian party system. In India, there are so many caste-based political parties which attempt to advance and safeguard the interest of a specific caste. The local political parties, specifically, stand prevalently affected by the caste factor. DMK and AIADMK are non-Brahmin and non-Brahmin political parties from Tamil Nadu.

In Punjab, Akali Dal has a community character. It stands affected by the issue of Jats versus Non-Jats. All political parties in India use caste as a method for getting votes in decisions. BSP banks upon the help of Planned Castes while the BJP to a great extent banks upon its prevalence among caste Hindu and the exchanging community.

Caste based reservations accompanied the Article 15 of the Indian Constitution which denies segregation of Indians on premise of religion, race, caste, sex or spot of birth. However, Article 15 (4) modified by declaring that nothing in this article will keep the state from making any unique arrangement for the headway of any socially and educationally backward of residents or for the SC's and St's. In this way the constitution all the

while epitomizes two clashing thoughts of correspondence, one bases on individual rights and the other in light of group rights.

Additionally the Mandal Commission, or the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Commission (SEBC), was laid out in 1979 by the Janata Party government under Prime minister Morarji Desai with a mandate to "distinguish the socially or educationally backward classes" of India. It essentially characterized backward classes concerning caste.

The caste enrollment as opposed to individual class characteristics turned into the issue of significance. Hence low friendly positioning in the class instead of normal per capita pay turned into the models for consideration in the OBC list. In this way it made feasible for caste participation to become liable for distinguishing class benefits, consequently friendly positioning turned into an issue of discernment instead of a normal for every capita pay. Along these lines caste and class became cross cutting personalities. [6]

DISCUSSION

Caste system is a curse to democracy. 'Castes are not equivalent in their status. They are standing one over another. They are desirous of each other. It is a climbing size of scorn and dropping size of hatred. Democracy is basically a partnership building exercise in view of philosophy yet in our country collusion building was a criminal union of one specific community with other one (both more grounded ones and mathematically powerful one) bringing about the underestimation of different communities.

Caste System is the forerunner of Communal Violence by ceaselessly smothering a segment of people. It powers lower caste people to take weapons in their grasp. Naxalite, maoist etc developments are only an animosity of lower caste people on monetary imbalance. Restricted selection of occupations, which is upheld inside a caste as well as by different castes.

A caste could follow more than one conventional occupation yet its individuals would in any case be compelled to that range. Limitations on dietary and social interactions that characterize who could consume what and acknowledge from whom. Similarly as with marriage game plans, these limitations apply at sub-caste level, not simply at the caste level. Actual isolation is there in many pieces of the country. These are joined by limits on development and access, including to strict and instructive regions and to essential offices like supplies of water.

Since caste is a well established system which is followed generally, people find it challenging to acknowledge the new great and logical standards. Caste system segregates people and it disregards generally human rights standards on which UN instruments are founded. In its application, Caste has prompted sub-human treatment of an immense populace. As of now, India's Dalits comprise around 17% of the populace. [7]

With different minorities, for example, ancestral peoples, Sikhs and Muslims, minorities in India establish generally 85%; by far most. Right up 'til today, the degree of violence against Dalits and other 'lower' Castes is frightful. Social corruption propagated under the Caste system has not very many equals in human history. Such treatment proceeds right up 'til the present time.

Segregation is stretched out to all parts of life: whether in work, schooling, wellbeing, land holding, security, and all parts of ladies' rights. The mental consequences for 'second rate' Castes comprise gross human rights misuse and a proceeding with mercilessness and along these lines influencing the democracy.

As caste is a significant characteristic of Indian society and acts as a prevailing factor in different political cycles, it likewise assumes a key part in navigation. Indeed, even the issue of redesign of State was taken care of with an eye upon the avoidance of undue power of a caste group in a specific region. The caste factor

influences state government arrangements and choices. The decision party attempts to utilize its dynamic power to win the blessing of significant caste groups.

Congress has generally attempted to sustain people having a place with Planned Castes as its vote banks. Local political power for advancing the interests of the caste groups which support or can uphold their systems. The constitution of India accommodates a solitary unified electorate and supporters the soul of caste free politics and administration. In any case, the caste factor generally acts as a determinant of people's democratic way of behaving, their political interest, the party structure and even of the legislative navigation.

Caste is a significant authentic component of the Indian social system that involves an exceptional spot in Indian politics in different ways. India is a popularity based state where all people are given equivalent rights and opportunities. However, caste impedes this equity of the person.

Caste separates people into high and low castes which undermines the independence of Indian democracy. India embraces a liberal majority rule system which is characterized by equivalent rights, equity and opportunity. Caste and democracy neutralize one another. As caste upsets the existence of the individual, democracy assists with enduring autonomously. Not entirely set in stone by an individual's introduction to the world. It is deteriorating with the association of politics with caste. The manner by which political parties use caste for their own advantage makes different complaints in the society.

The caste system is one of the principle explanations behind the division of Indian political parties. As a rule, political violence emerges on the grounds that different political parties are isolated into various philosophies in light of caste and work in light of a legitimate concern for their own caste. Political parties proliferate their mottos and crusades in view of caste. So one might say that caste will keep on assuming a unique part in Indian politics in the event that people

vote based on caste, not based on work for the society of the candidates, then, at that point, India will lose the genuine quintessence of democracy. [8]

Caste is just a personality mark. The individual ought to never be considered on that premise of caste. The arrangement of a society with equivalent social rights and equity should break the unbridled religiosity in caste and achieve the improvement of society.

Political parties ought to stop caste based politics and think for the improvement of the person in the society.

Our school system likewise assumes an exceptional part in finishing this caste system as kids ought to be shown fairness and fellowship all along with the goal that this caste system is totally obliterated later. Different social offices, schools, broad communications ought to be given the obligation to construct an expansive point of view among the people, with the goal that the mentality of caste can be decreased.

People should be made mindful of the pessimistic impacts of this customarily practiced caste system. However, the principle answer for escape caste politics is to kill caste. Simultaneously, political parties need to move past their thin advantages to keep up with public unity and uprightness.

CONCLUSION

There is a cozy connection among caste and politics in India and both impact one another. Caste is a significant part of the social system in India has made its unique spot in the Indian political system at different levels. Casteism is the greatest test for Indian democracy. Democracy and Casteism are against one another. India has taken on the liberal majority rule system, which is chiefly founded on uniformity, opportunity, and equity.

Caste represents disparity in light of birth. Caste loyalties other ethnic factors truly partition the Indian political parties and however not the philosophical contrasts. Political races are led along caste lines and

violence in surveys is generally caste-based violence. Politics has become caste-ridden and castes have politicized. Caste groups use politics as the resources to get their advantages.

The democratization cycle will bring new pioneers from the underestimated communities. People believe advancement and need their voices should tune in. The political pioneers should democratize themselves and make an honest effort to satisfy the fundamental requirements of the common man.

RÉFÉRENCIAS

1. Chandra, Kanchan (June 2005). "Ethnic Parties and Democratic Stability". Perspectives on Politics.
2. Devi Neelam, Role of caste in Indian politics, Journal of Advances and Scholarly Researches in Allied Education, 2015.
3. Dutta, A.R. (ed. 2013). Politics in India: Issues, Institutions, Processes. Arun Prakashan, Panbazar, Guwahati-1.
4. H. Kamal, Significance of caste in Indian politics, 2020, Pal Arch's Journal of Archaeology of Egypt / Egyptology.
5. Kaur Hardeep, Role of caste in Indian politics, volume – 5, issue – 1, 2018, International Journal of Current Engineering and Scientific Research.
6. Konesar, A. Yamuna, "Caste, religion and ethnicity in Indian politics", Volume – 6, Issue – 2, May 2018, International Journal of Creative Research Thoughts
7. Rana, S. S, Caste and political parties in Indian politics, Volume – 5, Issue 1 March 2017, International Journal of Creative Research Thoughts.
8. Ravivenkat, B and Venkatesha Uddagatti, Role of caste in Indian politics, 2013, Elixir International Journal.