

THE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES UNDER RESERVATION SYSTEM

¹Tarun.G , ²Renuga.C

¹Student Of Saveetha School Of Law, Saveetha Institute Of Medical and Technical Sciences,
Saveetha University, Chennai-77, Tamil nadu , India.

²Assistant Professor, Saveetha School Of Law,. Saveetha Institute Of Medical and Technical
Sciences, Saveetha University, Chennai-77, Tamil nadu , India.

tarung30699@gmail.com , renugac.ssl@saveetha.com

Abstract

Upon the Indian independence in the year 1947, the government of India through legitimate ways has closely tied with it's ability to integrate the largely historically marginalized population into the mainstream Indian political institutions. The constitution of India, 1950 mandated representatives for the marginalized groups in the lower house of the parliament, Lok Sabha for scheduled tribes and scheduled caste. Over the years amendments to the Indian constitution expanded the requirements for the minority representation in both the state and central through reservations. Years and years after the Indian independence, this reservation is still seen as the political representation for the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe as it is closely correlated with poverty levels, illiteracy and unemployment. The government has initiated land ownership and incurred heavy government expenditure projects in hopes of reducing poverty levels. Ultimately the minority representation in educational and employment opportunities has been significantly increased through the such policies. Adherence to casteism in India had resulted in it being a integral part of Indian society. Right from the birth of an infant to the cremation, caste of the individual plays a vital role. It is inevitable that it too plays a vital role in education. The state and the central government had taken up the initiative in 1950's to promote and improve the well being standards of the underprivileged people.

Keyword: Reservation, education, poverty, minority representation, opportunities

Introduction

Despite several attempts at sloughing off the caste system's prominence in Indian society, modern India has not escaped the socio-economic society parameters that defines the collective experience and historical identity of Indian citizens. Although the Indian constitution acknowledged the need for positive discrimination, there is seen an irony in such discrimination. The way the Indian constitution discriminates people of different caste is in it's own way discriminatory in nature. The caste system is so fundamental to all the aspects of Indian citizen lifespan, right from the birth of the infant to the cremation of deceased.

([Altback](#), 2004)

Since the functioning of caste system is so very imminent in the Indian society, refusal or denial of the acceptance of people of different caste is often resulted in rioting and political disarray. As the makers of the Indian constituency advocated for the complete abolition of caste barriers, discrimination within the personal realm could be regulated, article 17 of the Indian constitution speaks about it. Article 17 ensures the abolition of untouchability in the Indian society. However the continued existence of casteism contradicts it as through such casteism, socially and economically backward people are treated inferior and thought to be beneath those are belong to other caste. ([Chandola](#), 1992)

The political reservation system has allocated proportional seats based on the population of historically marginalized groups, namely three groups: Other Backward Caste (OBC), Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST). The perceived social value of the reservation system to both the retributive and redistributive places a huge premium on program, making it a semi permanent institution in Indian political policies as long as the poverty and caste discrimination persists in Indian society. ([Basalt](#), 2010)

Article 15(1) of the Indian constitution ensures that the State shall not discriminate public only on the grounds of religion, caste, race, sex, place of birth or any of them. However article 15(4) commands a reasonable classification of article 15(1). It says the government shall positively and specially make provisions for the advancement of socially and economically backward people in educational opportunities, either private or public and either the institution is aided by state or central ([Bertrand](#), 2010). In the central level, educational institutions allocate 50% of the maximum available seats of admission for OBC and SC/ST, which is further split into 15% for SC, 7.5% for ST and 22.5% for OBC. The rest of the 50% of the maximum available seats for admission is for open category which utilises merit based admission. ([Bhaunik](#), 2009)

The state positively discriminates the people on the basis of the annual income of the family or the individual. In central level, the state has set the threshold at 4.5 Lakhs per annum as the parameter for deciding those people who ([Dr.Lakshmi T and Rajeshkumar S , 2018](#)) are marginalized people. In central government level, allocation of seats for marginalized groups is tapped at 69%, which is further split up into 30% for OBC, 20% for MBC, 1%ST and 18% for SC. Unlike the central government, the state government distinguishes the OBC group as either BC or BC(M). Such a policy is undertaken([Trishala A , Lakshmi T and Rajeshkumar S, 2018](#)) by the government to ensure justice for the marginalized groups by reducing the cost of entry into mainstream society, access to structural privileges which had been once denied or made inaccessible to them. ([Shapiro, 2008](#)) As per the estimates by the government agencies, people belonging to S.T group make up for 8.6% of the overall Indian population and the people belonging to S.C group make up for 20% of overall population. Comparatively the people belonging to S.T group make up for 14% of the overall poverty in India and the people belonging to S.C group make up for 26% of the overall population. As it is seen, the marginalized people are the ones who make for the majority of the Indian poverty. ([Chin and Prakash, 2009](#))

The government of India has created such policies with aim of uplifting the socially and economically backward people as they lacked proper means of sustaining a livelihood. However the given turns a blind eye on those whom have been negatively affected by such policies. Moreover it is seen that there is no such correlation between the marginalized groups and levels of poverty. It is true that the marginalized groups are below the lines of poverty, however they aren't economically unsound since they belong to marginalized group. The government made such policies in aim of uplifting such people. However ultimately such people end up misusing them for their own personal needs and in the process of doing so they end up depriving the opportunities from those who are actually in need of it. ([Cunningham, 2003](#)). In this context, the aim of the present paper is to discuss about the impact of reservation system in educational opportunities in India.

Materials and Methods

The present study is based on primary data collected by the researcher and the secondary data collected from books, journals and online sources. The present study used simple random sampling method for selection of samples because the population is too high. A total number of 200 sample respondents in the age group of 18-60 years were selected

randomly from Chennai, one of the four metropolitan cities in India. The study used percentage for meaningful analysis of the results of the study.

Results

Out of 200 respondents, 81 were male accounting for 67.5% and 39 were female accounting for 32.5%. 34.1% of the sample were in the age group of 20 to 30 years, 48.3% of them were in the age group of 30 to 40 years, 5.8% of them were in the age group of 40 to 50 years and 3.3% of them were in the age group of 50 to 60 years. 17.5% of them were self employed, 26.6% of them were employed in the public sector and 55.8% of them were employed in private sector. 88% of them do not support reservation based on caste while a 12% of the, do support reservation based on caste. 91% of them believe that the major benefit of adherence to a reservation system based on caste is the upliftment of socially and economically backward people, while 9% of the, believe that it results in elimination of bias in the process of selection. 96% of them believe that the major demerit of reservation based on caste results in depriving the opportunity from the ones who worthy and deserving of it and 4% of them say that it results in bias towards a particular caste as a demerit of such reservation policies. 77% of them day that reservation quota in education isn't necessary and 23% of them say that reservation quota is necessary. 96% of them believe that such reservation policies affects the quality of education and 4% of them do not believe that it affects the quality of education. 90% of them say that there is a need for further development and improvement in reservation system and 10% of them say there is no need for such development and improvement. 71% of them say that reservation system will continue in India for another 30 years, 21% of them say that it will continue in the Indian society for another 40 years and 8% of them say it will continue for 50 years and over. 89% of them believe that a lot of people misuse the reservation system and 11% of them say it it is not misused by people for their own personal benefit. 52% of them say that the government needs to gather adequate data on the underprivileged people and 48% of them say that government need no gather data whatsoever. 98% of them say that they were negatively affected by reservation system based on caste and 2% of them say they haven't been negatively affected. 68% of them say that it provokes casteism in the minds of the people and 32% of them say that it doesn't provokes casteism in the minds of the people.

Discussion

From the above results, it is clearly seen that large number of respondents felt that such reservation policies undertaken by the State has uplifted and promoted socially and economically backward people, however they felt under qualified and undeserving candidates deprive the opportunities from the ones who are highly eligible and worthy of it. As such, the quality of the graduates who come out in search of jobs in significantly reduced. Moreover such people are discouraged and unmotivated. A majority of the respondents have a common notion of that reservation system needs to be comprehensively looked into and changed for that it meets the ends of both the side of the spectrum.

Suggestion

The State in the process of uplifting the socially and economically backward people has ignored the other end of the spectrum. By allocating available seats of admission based on caste and not on merit, the quality of graduates graduating is significantly decreased and those who have worked for it are deprived of their opportunity. Thus the State can improve the socially and economically backward people and at the right time ensure that one person is deprived of their goal and opportunity by redefining the parameters of a socially and economically backward person. Since casteism has become an integral part of the Indian society, it is rather impossible to completely remove it from the Indian society. However the State can rethink the percentage of available seats of admission to be given based on caste.

Conclusion

The frameworks of the Indian constitution has the right aim of uplifting the standards of the Indian society while implementing the caste based reservation system. Thus in the process of eliminating untouchability among several castes, they have created caste based reservation system. However such a reservation system has resulted in creating adverse casteism and discrimination. The very objective of abolishing untouchability has resulted in adverse untouchability and discrimination. People tend to misuse such privileges for their own personal benefits and in the process deprive the opportunities from those who have worked and deserved it. It is clearly seen that the State has ignored this aspect as the reservation has created on the principle of 'for the greater good'. However, two wrongs don't make one right. Politicians use such feelings of casteism as a source of vote bank. Increased and

continuously practice of such reservation system has made it as an integral part of the Indian society

References

1. Atback. (2004). The Dilemma of change in Indian higher education. *Indian Statistical journal of Higher Education*. 26(1). Pp 3-20.
2. Anderson. (2002). Integration, Affirmative actions and strict recruiting. *New York University of Law review*. 77(1). Pp 171-191
3. Basand. (2010). Who participates in higher education in India. *Rethinking the role of Affirmation action. Economic and political weekly*. 45(39). Pp 62-70
4. Betrana. (2010). Affirmation: Evidence from engineering colleges admission of Indian colleges. *Journal of Public Economics*. 92(1). Pp 16-29
5. Chandola.(1992). The untouchability and the black experience. *Independent International Law Review*. 3(1). Pp 101-133
6. Chin. (2010). Redistributive effects of political reservation for minorities. *National Bureau of Economics research*. 1(3). Pp 1-12
7. Cunningham. *Race, Class?. Rethinking Affirmation action. Michigan Law Review*. 97(5). Pp 1296-1310
8. Crook. (1997). Population and poverty in classical theory: Testing a structural model for India. *Indian Journal of population studies*. 50(2). Pp 173-185
9. Cotton. (2010). On the decomposition of wage differentials- *Review of Economics and Statistics*. 70(1). Pp 236-243
10. Desphande. (2010). Caste at birth?. *Redefining disparity in India. Review of Economic development*. 5(1). pp 130-144
11. Nayyar. (2005). Growth and poverty in rural India. *Economic and political weekly*. 40(4). Pp 1631-1639
12. Bhaumik. (2009). Muslim minority representation in higher education. *Journal of economic services*. 20(2). Pp 137-149
13. Kumar. (1992). Affirmative actions debate in India. *Journal of Asian economic survey*. 32(3). Pp 290-302
14. Mageshwaram. (2006). The caste discrimination in India. *Urban and labour market. RISEC*. 53(3). Pp 349-372
15. Jeffrey. (2004). Degrees without freedom: The impact of formal education in young Dalit men in India. *Development and change*. 35(5). Pp 963-986

16. Fraser. (2003). Redistribution or recognition. American journal of economic and sustainable development. 8(12). pp 61-72
17. Duraiswamy. (2000). Changes to returns in education in India. Indian Journal of economic education. 21(6). Pp 609-662
18. Nurrbaram. (20p). Minorities' capabilities and socio-economic equality. Journal of human development. 1(2). Pp 219-247
19. Jain. (1994). Affirmative actions in education for scheduled caste and scheduled tribe in India. International Journal of educational studies. 15(7). Pp 6-25
20. Fathima. (2001). Sustainable educational development in rural areas. Indian Journal of sustainable educational development. 5(1). Pp 131-147
21. Dr.Lakshmi T and Rajeshkumar S , March. 2018. "In Vitro Evaluation of Anticariogenic Activity of Acacia Catechu against Selected Microbes", International Research Journal of Multidisciplinary Science & Technology, Volume No. 3 , Issue No. 3, P.No 20-25.
22. Trishala A , Lakshmi T and Rajeshkumar S, April 2018. " Physicochemical profile of Acacia catechu bark extract –An In vitro study", International Research Journal of Multidisciplinary Science & Technology, Volume No. 3 , Issue No. 4, P.No 26-30.

Questionnaire

A questionnaire was given through a online survey. A total of people responded to the survey. The following are the questions asked and the choice given to answer it

Name

Gender

- I. Male
- II. Female
- III. Others
- IV. Rather not say

Age

- I. 10 yrs old – 18 yrs old
- II. 19 yrs old – 29 yrs old

- III. 30 yrs old – 39 yrs old
- IV. 40 yrs old – 49 yrs old
- V. 50 yrs old – 59 yrs old
- VI. Above 60 yrs old

Occupation

- I. Unemployed
- II. Self employed
- III. Public sector
- IV. Private sector

Do you support reservation system based on caste in India?

- I. Yes, I do support it
- II. No, I don't support it

What do you think are the benefits of practicing caste based reservation system?

- I. Socially backward people are uplifted
- II. Economically backward people are uplifted
- III. There is a lack of bias in selecting the candidates (There is no partially in selecting candidates)

What do you think are the demerits of caste based reservation?

- I. Deserving candidates are deprived of their opportunity
- II. There is a bias towards a particular caste or castes

Do you think it is necessary for caste based reservation system in education?

- I. Yes, I do think it's necessary
- II. No, I don't think it's necessary

Do you think caste based reservation system affects the quality of education?

- I. Yes, it does affect the quality of education
- II. No, it doesn't affect the quality of education

Do you think that reservation system needs further improvement and development?

- I. Yes, it does need further improvement and development
- II. No, it doesn't need further improvement and development

Does reservation system uplift the socially and economically backward people?

- I. Yes, it does uplift the socially and economically backward people
- II. No, it doesn't uplift the socially and economically backward people

How long you think that the reservation system needs to be followed in Indian?

- I. 10 years
- II. 20 years
- III. 30 years
- IV. 40 years
- V. 50 years and above

Do you think people misuse the reservation system?

- I. Yes, people misuse it for their own benefit
- II. No, people don't misuse it for their own benefit

Do you think that the government needs to gather data on socially and economically backward population?

- I. Yes, the government needs to gather data
- II. No, the government doesn't have to gather data

Have you been personally negatively affected by reservation system?

- I. Yes, I have been negatively affected by reservation system
- II. No, I haven't been negatively affected by reservation system

Do you think the reservation system provokes casteism?

- I. Yes, it does
- II. No, it doesn't

