



A CRITICAL STUDY OF INFLUENCE OF CASTE ON POLITICAL MOBILIZATION OF INDIA

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ABSTRACT

In India social system is centered on caste structure. The caste system plays a very pivot and predicament role in Indian society. Caste provides an extreme basis in democratic politics. Material benefits and status improvement can be secured by means of caste. The given paper throws light on influence of caste system in Indian politics.

KEYWORDS : Democratic politics, Material benefits.

1] Introduction

The World's largest democracy is India's democracy. In a democracy people expresses their solidarity in separate way and achieves political power. According to Sociologist in India there found to be mixing of the caste and democratic politics. It shows that most of the Indian political system caste factor is the prime factor. All political parties gives greater weightage to the caste factor in selecting their candidates in the election campaign votes are demanded in the name of caste. Nowadays caste played a huge role in political arena. Caste acts as a pressure group in politics. Caste and democratic politics have been interlinked in the Indian society.

From the ancient times caste system is developed and prevalent. Initially there is superiority of Brahmins and they were maintaining their superiority. Likewise Aryans are also infiltrating from the North India and they maintain prevalent caste system. So long back we find the influence of caste system in Indian society.

2] Influence of caste in Indian politics

Caste provides an extensive basis in democratic politics. Caste identity and solidarity is important in mobilization of Indian political system. Nature of society is well understood by its social structure.. The present caste system describes socio economic inequalities in the Indian society. Caste is also associated with an occupation having a local group people. Caste is identifiable as the social cluster of people. Politics of Maharashtra is mostly influenced by three castes Brahmins, Marathas and the Maharas. Andhra Pradesh politics is mainly depending upon Reddy and Kamma caste. Okkalige and Lingayat caste have more influenced in the states of Karnataka. Bihar state mainly consists of caste as Bhumihar, Kayasta and Rajput. In Orissa most of the population is of Karans and Khandayats people.

Political influenced is intermingled through caste only. In making the political leadership caste structure is taken into account. Public services can be accessed by the influence of the caste only.

In Indian politics caste values and caste interest has its own significance in monitoring political thinking, awareness and participation. Some political parties use its veto power to attract particular caste group people. Regional parties discussing their issues by means of a caste. In most of the states in India in electoral processing votes are secured on the basis of caste. Caste is giving importance while selecting electoral candidates.

Since considering the significance of caste in Indian Society it also helps in decision making process also. The favor of major caste group can be win by the ruling party by using its decision making power. The role of caste in small electoral process like Panchayati Raj and Gram Panchayat local self-government has been a recognized reality.

Sometimes in social and political life caste based violence affects much on the minds of the people.

Caste based leadership is also emerging factor in Indian political

system. However the role of caste is essential to give momentum to the political process. According to the expert I. Rudolf and S.H. Rudolf caste politics is very essential to reduce the distinction among caste and brought political stability among the different caste people.

3] Populous structure of the states in India

Demographic transition is a model that describes population changes over time. According to the World Population Prospectus 2008 India is most populous country in the world after China having around 1214.3 million populations.

Most of the states cover much percentage of India population according to the census 2011. Some of the important states are:

Table 3.1 : Table showing states with percent of population in India comparing to census 2011

S. No.	States	Percent of total population in India in 2011
1	Uttar Pradesh	16.49
2	Maharashtra	9.29
3	Bihar	8.58
4	West Bengal	7.55
5	Andhra Pradesh	7.00
6	Madhya Pradesh	6.00
7	Tamil Nadu	5.96
8	Rajasthan	5.67
9	Karnataka	5.05
10	Gujarat	4.99
11	Orissa	3.47

Most populous state in India is Uttar Pradesh and the .01 percent of the total population in India is found in Lakshadweep.

[Source:- India's population- the past twenty first century India, Population, Economy, Human Development and environment edited by Tim Dyson et al. Oxford University Press pp 16]

4] Reservation policy of Government in India

The policy of reservation has given further importance to the role of caste in politics. Indian constitution has given more benefits to the backward class people in order to maintain their political and economic instability. Keeping in view of backwardness of backward class people the constitution has made special provisions for their up liftmen. The constitution provides the reservations in government services, in public sector, in education and also in legislative representation. Reservations are also provided to household women to encourage them for service also getting equal rights to that of men. Women are also given 30% reservations to contest as a part of the electoral system.

In emerging power structure in village caste has great significance. In Indian parliament also most of the seats are reserved for lower class people. Hence this caste structure in villages nowadays has gained a bargaining power because of their voting strength. In

Panchayati Raj and in Gram Panchayat also caste based and gender based reservation is taken into force.

5] Conclusion

A study reveals that caste is a stratifying factor based on which various society people are stratified into various social groups. Identification of individual and his existence is made by his caste in which he belongs. Hinduism and caste are so related with each other that without a caste Hindu is a nonentity. Caste is also spread over Muslims, the Christians, the Jains, and the Buddhist. Not only in India but it is found in other countries also. On critically examining the study politicians are cashing caste based reservations for major win in the electoral process.

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