

Reality of Caste Reservation

Rahul Rathee

Masters of Arts (English) Kurukshetra University, Haryana

ABSTRACT

Caste based reservation is a controversial topic and it become more sensitive during election. People have their own opinions and beliefs about the reservation, some believes that reservation should not be there, some believes that reservation should be based on the financial status, some believes in the existing status of reservation and so the opinions vary individual to individual and class to class. It's been 70 years that Reservation was established as tool to the social upliftment or enrichment of the backward class, but people see it as a failure. Everyone manipulates it according to his own understanding and use of the reservation. People who belongs to the reserved class supports it and who are not part of this reservation they try to find out the reason to accuse the reservation system. This is the real pattern in the society. With this biased views you are not only hurting the sentiments of the reserved class but also affects by your own thoughts. We will find out the exact and the reality of the reservation system with some logical and factual information not the propagated biased approach to it.

Keywords: Caste, Reservation, Society.

INTRODUCTION

According to the census of 2011, population of India is 121 Crore, out of the total population 20 Crore population belongs to the Scheduled Caste, which is 1.63% of the total population. Around 10 Crore population belongs to the Scheduled Tribes, which is 8.61% of the total population. And the data of the OBC is controversial- according to the Mandal commission the population of the OBC is 52% of the total population and according the NSSO (National Sample Survey Organization) the Data is 41% of the total population. Roughly around 75% population of the total is reserved class and rest is 25% Non Reserved class. Scheduled caste which is 16.63% of the total population is given 15% reservation, Scheduled tribes which is 8.61% of the total population is given 7.5% reservation, OBC which we consider

52% of the total population is given 27% reservation. Around 50% of the seats or opportunities are reserved for the backward class and rest 50% is left for the reserved class. This is the classification of the Reservation system. We will focus on the EWS categorical reservation later in this section.

As we all know that the Reservation itself is an discrimination, based on caste the reservation is somewhere high and some where it low. This difference of allotment has created discrimination among the society itself. According to the constitution of India, Everyone is equal and equality is our fundamental right so the reservation can be said as illegal. So this tool, which already discriminate the people, how this tool can help to avoid the discrimination? So as to understand this tool of elimination of the discrimination, we will take examples from our mundane life.

For example If there are two sibling in a family one is 5 year old and another is let's assume 2 year old, the younger has just started to walk but the elder one is more capable of doing other activities other than walk also. If the family is going on an pilgrimage site, the younger child will be given more attention as well as will cared and fed cautiously whereas the other child is suppose to do the required jobs by his own or he ask his parents to perform for him. Now if we look into this matter with critical perspective we will find that the priority at the individual level in this family is some sort of discrimination or inequality between the two members of the same society. But for the logical sense of our mind and believing in the essentiality of the requirements of the attention given to the younger kid is a need and socially accepted for everyone. So this act of discrimination or inequality is to bring the equality because we all believe that one day both kids will be independent and no need of partiality will be there. Exactly in the same manner, For the constitution our nation is a family and we all are its members. At individual level, as we step out of the family we don't consider others to be part of it, but we must consider it as whole family. We have to consider it as whole because in this unsaid community we have to maintain the stability as we do it in our individual family.

Take another example, If a father has three son and he treats one of three son as not part of his family what will happen? will that person will feel left out or will he rebel against the decision of his father? Surely the son will feel alienated and this alienation which is result of the ignorance of the father ultimately result into rebellious nature of the son. This act of the son will also be dangerous to the whole family. In general, so as to run the family in smooth and peaceful manner ,this discrimination is not expected from Father's side. Similarly if in a country one community is facing inequality and discrimination and it increases day by day then the community will become rebellious and will ultimately be dangerous to the rest members of the society. Naxalite is the perfect example of it. Red corridor areas are established Maoists, in a cause of concern for security forces are working hard to create red corridor areas in Odisha, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. So a country must administer and run along all states its people to maintain peace and development.

India is world's largest democracy but if every community is not participative and not working together for a nation this thing would only be on paper. But in realities it varies. Just before caste system, India had Varna system in which particular varna or class was defined according to its profession or works through which it contributes to the society. This varna system classification was systematic and no discrimination was faced by the people. All the profession were divided into four varna, Brahmin (priests scholars etc.) Kshatriya (ruler warrior administrators), Vaishya (agriculturalists and Merchants), Sudras (labourers and service providers). Few maharishis like Ved Vyas, Maharishi Valmiki, Maharishi Atri they would be Dalit if we see them according to caste system but Varna system was so fair that we saw them as Brahmins. As the time passes the individual who holds the education and rules the nation they enlarge their powers and sets rules and education criteria according to their needs. If it was known to the people that one day education will enlighten and the enlightened will rule then the situation would have been different.

The upper class holds the reservation from the ancient times, Even the roads were reserved for the upper class , backward class was not supposed to use it. Backward class was expected to carry Kulhad in their neck and brooms at their back to keep the area neat and clean for the upper class. Untouchability and inequality were the realities of the India that we cannot ignore. Backward class people were not treated as humans but their conditions were more deprived then that of animals. Even animals were fed and taken care of them, whereas Backward class has nothing good for them. They were

not allowed to touch or not entitled to education. Therefore because of the lack of education they were not enlightened and their upliftment in the society got a stop, their capabilities remain deprived and got decline by generation to generation. Without understanding these generations gap of lacking education and being in trodden situation we often remarks: Backward class is not much capable on the other hand upper class has strong genes. You don't seem like a Scheduled class or Scheduled tribes. Stereotypical thoughts have been established regarding the backward class; these saying or remarks are common but present the mentality of the speaker. Reality is that the Backward class is neglected of the opportunities and therefore not much developed like upper class. This is the reason of their status in the society.

Think of a situation of a child with educated parents and another child with uneducated parents, who will become successful easily? The child with educated parents would be having more resources and will easily get the requirements fulfill easily and will have more time and attention for the education. On the other hand the child with uneducated parents won't have much resource to fulfill their daily needs therefore the attention given to the education will be less than that of the former child. And this act of education or lack of resources will go on generation to generation and will become a vicious cycle that never ends because of the available opportunities. This discrimination has resulted into hatred among each other. At higher level especially when a student is addressed with particular class who has got success with scoring less marks then the upper class student. Instead of criticizing the reservation system or developing hatred for the backward class we must realize the availability of resources or the minimum criteria to achieve the well defined seat for an Backward class student who don't even has this minimal resources to fulfill the criteria.

According to Hindustan Times, March 2021, 81% seats reserved for the ST student in PhD courses vacant in IITs and of Scheduled castes 61% were vacant in 2020-2021.

Over 42000 posts reserved for the SC, ST & OBC vacant in union ministries, govt. tells it in Lok-Sabha – the Print, 24 March, 2021.

Those who got the seats get foul words and remarks for the achievement that you have received the reservation from your ancestors. To avoid or neglect a particular community is much more painful than we think. Khap Panchayat- "Noone has the audacity to challenge them; it's partially because of the fear of the life and partially because of the fear of social boycott." Realize the importance of social boycott and the fear the prevails

has bound us to the follow the set of rules prescribed the social institution. How the Backward class would have suffered this boycott or the sacrifice they made and still suffering that negligence. Reservation is the tool to overcome all of these suffering, they are developing but the pace is slower.

Some person believed that reservation should be income based. Reservation is not a poverty elimination scheme but it is to avoid or eliminate the exploitation done to the backward class. Reservation was not meant for the financial upliftment of the society but for the social development of backward class that are exploited from years. For financial upliftment government has various other schemes like National Family Benefits Schemes, National old age Pension, etc. People remarks about reservation keeping in mind their own benefits and neglect the logical understanding. They raise voice for the established reservation system but keep silent for their reservation for EWS (economic weaker sections). EWS income based reservation is a failure because of the lack of income evaluation process. Only the workers in metro-cities, organized sectors, taxpayers, government employee can be evaluated but a large section of the society whose income sources are not known to govt. how these family be evaluated for the EWS based reservation. People are looking for the fake income certificates to abuse EWS quota.

Backward class has demanded for the separate electorate. In late September 1932, B.R. Ambedkar negotiated the Poona Pact with mahatma Gandhi. The background of the Poona pact was the communal Award of August 1932, which reserved 71 seats in the central legislature for the depressed classes. Gandhi who was opposed to the communal award saw it as a British attempt to split Hindus and began a fast unto death to have it repealed.

CONCLUSION

Something is still there that the depressed class still hesitates at revealing that they belong to particular reserved categorical class. If the existing reservation is ended then the pace at which the depressed class is progressing it will decline and fall one day. The genetic effect that can be felt in their social condition is result of the social exploitation by the upper class. They were victims of the ruling class and were neglected of the opportunities but with reservation they have started establishing themselves equal to all human. If they are neglected then their upliftment won't be possible. As we have earlier seen that we as a nation are family and every member of the family has right of equality.

REFERENCES

- [1]. <https://theprint.in/theprint-essential/30-years-since-mandal-commission-recommendations-how-it-began-and-its-impact-today/477260/>
- [2]. https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q%3Dhttps://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/union-cabinet-approves-10-reservation-for-economically-weaker-sections/articleshow/67418734.cms%26amp;sa%3DD%26amp;source%3Deditors%26amp;ust%3D1675073885510173%26amp;usg%3DAOvVaw2CrEXsz3t_NsA6dk6eNoZz&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1675073885521061&usg=AOvVaw3rYzcfUGrAzptJkZxw-PFJ
- [3]. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BsyiTPDIBh9mFArtvPnNSKMoZ-Kjlc6/view>
- [4]. https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q%3Dhttps://theprint.in/india/education/only-1-v-c-from-sc-category-across-45-central-universities-ditto-for-st-govt-tells-parliament/1074275/%26amp;sa%3DD%26amp;source%3Deditors%26amp;ust%3D1675073885511897%26amp;usg%3DAOvVaw3wbVHwKD9RzWw_F0YzFZgl&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1675073885521434&usg=AOvVaw2kl9YVh39pfls3ihHfP4WE