

Development of Reservation Policies in India: An Overview

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ABSTRACT

This paper focuses on the reservation policy in India gave a chance to the backward and downtrodden people to be on equal terms with the other classes of the society. The reservation was given to every class according to its population, and changes were made from time to time. This paper enhances reservation of India to provide equal opportunities to socially and economically backward communities. Reservation is a scheme that segregates the society resulting in conflicts and discrimination among the various classes. This paper also reveals the policy of providing preferential treatment to certain sections of society to ensure equality of opportunity.

Keywords: reservation, policy, equality, opportunities, constitution and system

INTRODUCTION

The age-old caste system of India is responsible for the origination of the reservation system in the country. The document discusses India's reservation policy, which aims to uplift castes that have faced social and economic backwardness due to the caste system. The reservation system in India has recently been a focal point of political discourse due to several developments. Reservation in India promotes social justice, inclusion, and equal opportunity for historically disadvantaged groups. India has scarce and limited public resources; reservations therefore have important social, economic and political implications. The Indian Constitution provides several safeguards to protect the rights and interests of socially and educationally backward classes.

Reservation for scheduled caste and scheduled Tribes is constitutionally mandated but reservation for other backward communities came into vague after Mandal Commission's recommendations. The important thing to be looked into the policy of reservation is why it became necessary. The Indian social system is entrenched in a compartmentalized society with a hierarchy of upper castes and lower castes. Beyond that there is the pernicious system of untouchable. Social inequality is the bane of Indian society and this inequality comes by birth has dangerous ramifications. The reservation policy

aims to provide equal opportunities to underrepresented communities and reduce social and economic disparities.

When Indian become independent, the constitution framers visualized an egalitarian society where none should be at a disadvantage due to accident of birth. "The proposal was controversial: Mahatma Gandhi fasted in protest against it but many among the depressed classes, including B. R. Ambedkar, had to favor it. After negotiations, Gandhi reached an agreement with Ambedkar to have a single Hindu electorate, with backward classes having more seats reserved within it. Electorates for other religions, such as Islam and Sikhism, remained separate. This became known as the Poona Pact"(Menon, V. P. 1957: 48) Persistent discrimination and prejudice against certain communities have long contributed to the demand for reservations.

The tribal people and the untouchables were the worst hit by the social differences that existed. By sheer accident of birth by suffered social degradation and educational backwardness and here could not compete with the forward communities on a level playing ground. "The Imperial parliament at Westminster introduced elements of reservation in the Indian Councils Act 1909 and there were many other measures put in place prior to independence. The depressed classes were provided some seats in 1919 before seeing further increase in 1925" (Boris, E.; Janssens, A. 1999: 59). In a way they were socially handicapped and in order to pull them up and provide them enough opportunities to compete in an open society, it was decided to put them in a particular schedule which would provide them reservation in jobs and education opportunities. The Constitution of India states in article 15(4): "Nothing in (article 15) or in clause (2) of article 29 shall prevent the State from making any special provision for the advancement of any socially, and educationally backward classes of citizens of or for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes"(Article 15, Section 4). Reservation policies aim to ensure representation of marginalized communities in education, government services, and political institutions.

This was nothing But social justice that these communities. Rightly deserved since they were put in a schedule to the constitution, that wear called scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Later, the other socially

backward communities also demanded reservation for them and their claim could not be brushed aside as unjust. "Article 46 of the Constitution states that "The State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation"(Article 46) . India has scarce and limited public resources; reservations therefore have important social, economic and political implications.

In the Indian social order, the castes in the upper hierarchy had cornered the entire receiving end. 'In 1980, the commission's report recommended that a reserved quota for OBCs of 27 per cent should apply in respect of services and public sector bodies operated by the Union Government. It called for a similar change to admissions to institutes of higher education, except where states already had more generous requirements" (Bhattacharya, Amit, 2006) Hence Mandal Commission after making a thorough study of the social condition of various castes, prepared a list of backward classes entitled for reservation. "A common form of caste discrimination in India was the practice of untouchability. SCs were the primary targets of the practice, which was outlawed by the new Constitution of India" (Passin, Herbert 1955: 247). The reservation policy aims to provide equal opportunities to underrepresented communities and reduce social and economic disparities.

The SC/ST reservation in India is protected under the Constitution and ensures minimum quotas in public institutions. Scheduled tribes and backward classes enjoyed reservation facilities, the other communities felt they were deprived of their rights to jobs and education and started a hesitating against the reservation policy as such, there also arose a peculiar situation that unreserved communities started claiming one after another for inclusion in the backward list so that they may also get reservation benefits the political parties with an eye on vote bank politics came forward to include more and more communities in the reservation list with the result that now, with public sector units getting private industry getting all privileges from the government for growth and expansion, a new demand has come up that reservation policy should be implemented in the private sector also. A heated debate is going on regarding the pros and cons of such a step.

The present UPA government seems to be in favour of such an arrangement. The industrialist and entrepreneurs are opposed to such a policy, for in their opinion; the efficiency of the institutions would suffer and affect productivity. Reservationists on the other hand argue that since most of the private sector units, in one way or the other get financial support and patronage from the

government, the socially disadvantaged section of the society have a right to claim job opportunities in the private sector also by means of reservation. The industrial class suggests an alternative to reservation in private sector telling that the socially backward classes could be given special training in skill for specific industries for which they aspire. How far this would practically work is debatable. The Constitution of India does provide special privileges to the downtrodden sections of society called Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Reservation as a Bane Reservation system in India has been working in favor of backward caste society people. Let us approach this problem from the view point of the private sector people. Suppose they don't get the right type of people in the reservation quota they keep, they cannot go endlessly without filling those posts in which case they would suffer not only in efficiency but also in productivity. In government services it is a fact the reservation quota not completely filled and many posts remain vacant it is incumbent on the part of the government not to fill the reserved quota with people from unreserved communities it would be detrimental to public from unreserved communities it would be detrimental to public from unreserved communities it would be detrimental to public sector industries to follow such a procedure. Reservation is the process of assisting persons who have been subjected to historical injustice in areas such as education, scholarship, and employment.

The time has come when we have to take a new look at the reservation policy keeping in mind the past experiences there is no gainsaying the fact that the reservation policy has done immense good to the underprivileged section of the society and the dalits tribal's and backward communities have thrown up extraordinary talent from their ranks but unfortunately a proper survey has not been taken so far how far the non creamy layer of the SCs STs and backward classes have benefited by reservation and still we see most of these people live in abject poverty and unemployment for one thing reservation existed only for government jobs and education institutions.

Caste-based reservations in India allocate 27% to OBC, 15% to Scheduled Castes, and 7.5% to Scheduled Tribes. It is said only two percent of the entire population government jobs either in the either in the centre or at the state level so any percentage reservation works out only with two percent of the jobs as regards educational institutions education in general has become costly and job oriented technical education has become beyond the reach of even the middle class in such a scenario how reservation policy will benefit the reservation quota people who do not have even one square meal a day the real problem is poverty and any amount of opportunity is not going to help the underprivileged classes unless a

revolutionary social scheme is drafted to pull these sections up making them aware of their rights as useful citizens. India must free itself from quota-based affirmative action i.e reservation. Reservation goes against merit, effort, efficiency and performance.

For example reservation policy was implemented first in the madras presidency during the early 1930s by the justice party government at the time of the colonial rule after seven decades of such a of such a policy having been implemented in this par of the country no survey has yet been taken as to what extent it has benefited the people for whom it was meant reservation policy in stead of being a social has become a weapon in the hands of politicians to get votes and win elections it is time social scientists without political frills take up this problem in right earnest and find ways and means of giving real and enduring solace to people who have long been deprived of their rightful place in society. It is a mechanism designed to provide social justice and equitable opportunities to historically marginalized communities.

CONCLUSION

Reservation is a system that was introduced by the government of India to provide better opportunities to the poor and the qualified students in the country. Reservation system, a constitutional mandate for social Nipponica. 11 (3):

justice, provides affirmative action in education and public employment for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Reservation system has created inequalities within the reserved castes itself. Caste based reservations in India and how did we get them in the government sector jobs as well as in the educational institutions of India. Reservation is a positive action scheme in India that gives historically underserved communities representation in education, jobs, and politics.

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