

NEGATIVE RAMIFICATIONS OF CASTE BASED POLITICS IN INDIA

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Abstract

Caste is the chief factor for Indian voters voting behaviour in the electoral politics. Indian voter's mind-set is very consciousness to caste identity. Just similar to religion, caste does a large division in Indian politics and society. However, this caste politics is really matchless to our nation national-building. Nowhere else in the world is so consciousness regarding caste as like the Indian society?. The Indian Hindu religion is the mixture of different castes and sects. In India, everything has been revolving around the caste. It is a well known fact that a dirty game has been playing by caste to polarize Indian voters mind-set in elections. Caste is the main factor to win elections by a candidate in the current electoral politics. The inefficient candidate is being elected MLA's and MP's due to caste based voting behaviour of Indian voters. Indian Political parties usually using dominant caste candidate to contest elections and as well as it impulse the voters to give votes for "co-caste candidate". The elected representative of the co-caste geared up the caste community sense by emotional attachment of caste. Now the Indian political parties are offering reservations making the stakes higher than ever before. Today, the existence the reservation in India is due to historically caste based discrimination by the higher caste over the deprived castes. This chapter tries to explore the pessimistic role of caste in Indian electoral politics and social system.

Introduction

The caste politics developed a narrow-minded sentiment and made the people overly conscious of their own caste. Many a time caste interests were given precedence larger than national concern. Thus the whole caste politics stood in opposition to the very idea of national harmony. During the pre-Independence era, the Britishers ruled India on the policy of Divide and Rule. The Britishers divided Indian's on the basis of caste and religion. They divided the whole India mainly into Hindus and Muslims. To diminish Hindu dominant in Indian sub-continent, the Britishers further divided Hindus into various castes. Ultimately, at the time of leaving the country by Britishers they divided the country

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into Hindustan and Pakistan. The Congress party continued this divide policy after coming in to the power. The Congress government gave reservation to the minorities as well as to the other classes on the basis of caste system. The Indian constitution facilitated the provision of reservation was for ten years only but in order to enlarge their vote bank they extended it every ten years for next ten years. In the meantime, the other political parties of India, in order to diminish the vote bank of congress increased the reservation quota more than the congress.

Caste has always been playing an important role in Indian electoral politics. In India, political parties consider caste as an important factor in distribution of tickets for contest elections. And another side, Indian people have always cast their vote on the basis of caste. This is paralyzing the whole concept of Indian democracy. Nowadays, some political parties are indulging in caste polarisation of people by organising rallies, giving false lectures to uneducated one. The base of democracy is being shaken by caste politics. The Gandhian model of self governance is not achieved yet it has taken a turn of communal and casteial differences. And on the grass root level it is even harsher that people recognise everything based on caste.

Caste is being considered as a problem in Hindu religion. One of the biggest complains by non-Hindus against Hinduism is the caste system. Most non- Indian Political parties usually using dominant caste candidate to contest elections and as well as it impulse the voters to give votes for "co-caste candidate". The larger Hindus community considers it as a racial discrimination. The racism developed as a dishonesty of the caste classification, just as any system can get dishonored over time if the citizens are not accurately conservation it. Any form of regime like democracy, socialism or communism can seem finest on paper but it should be proved own on ground. Hindus in India are setting it true today. The root of the casteism is not only Hinduism yet it has also existence in others world religions. Like every religion Hinduism teaches that not only every human being should be respected as supernatural being but even animals, plants and rocks are principally forms of the supreme God and therefore be worthy of respect.

Caste and politics are the most loathed hitherto influential words in the Indian state of affairs. The politics of caste and the caste of a politician can craft a power struggle. That is why all the political parties work out on caste combinations before handing out tickets to the candidates based upon the

population of a particular caste in a given constituency. This exercise is more prevalent practice in the State assembly elections as the constituencies are smaller in area and thus, less cosmopolitan or with lesser demographic diversity. Caste is not only a element of politics, but part of culture as well. Caste politics do not have any diverse category It is just like any other divisions such as, religion, race, nationality, ethnicity, etc. In addition to all of these, the structure of the family system may enlarge like a caste, if it is obligatory to give family names as surnames like Meenas, Patels, Yadavs, Reddys, Thakurs, and Ranas, are some of the examples, one can refer to.

Relation between Caste and Politics

The renowned Indian thinker and social scientist Rajni Kothari (1970) examined the relationship between caste and politics by analyzing the matter as to what happens to political system as of the vote of castes. In India, the Caste and politics have a reverse effect. Politics also affects caste and religion in India. One main transform it has brought about is that many minor castes and sub-castes bring together for political reasons. They understand that they will have strength in numbers, and form alliances within themselves. We frequently observe tags emotionally involved such as backward caste groups or forward class groups. It is remarkable fact that Caste has been playing a critical role in the Indian politics since a very long time. The Indian politicians have been very victorious in separating the people on the basis of caste. In olden times the Indian emperors used cast to fulfill their own interests. During the British rule in India, the British were doing in dividing the larger Hindu people on the basis of caste and religion. The Britishers enthused a segment of Hindus to demand for separate representation.

The Caste politics is a lame excuse of Indian politicians and it was used by the privileged to explain their poor performance in elections. The privileged castes of India usually gains in the positions of power in India like PM, Cabinet minister etc. Indian politics is caste centric because Indian people are very conscious to caste and they have always given proper importance to their own caste. Politics reflects the mindset of the society and social structure. Most of the Indians given vote on the basis of caste and religion. Almost every party in India is formed on the basis of caste or religion. Most of the political parties are secular only for the namesake. At present, every Indian political party is promoting casteism. Even the people support for the party which gives maximum seats to their own community. The illiterates as well as poor people cast their vote for the caste candidate in the election. During the

early days of Indian Independence, there was not a considerable representation of every caste, especially downtrodden in the politics. Hence people started to form associations and started demanding representation of their respective castes in the society. But now people turned out to be more casteist than before. They give vote for their caste candidate in the election.

In India, the Caste based politics starts at on Panchayat level. Everyone wants their own caste Sarpanch. We know the caste of every Candidates contesting in elections. People won't think about capability, eligibility and leadership ability in those situations, blindly person has been giving and casting their vote to caste candidate. Indian political system is actually a bottom up system. Thus leaders at Panchayat level support their co-caste people at the Assembly level. And it flows upwards in similar way. This is primary reason for politics to be caste centric. Other than this, Indian political leader making hate speeches, trying to make issue-out everything in caste perspective.

Since Indian Independence, different Indian political leaders have misrepresented caste system to obtain their motives fulfilled. When elections are in close proximity to, a lot of calculations are prepared and candidates are preferred on the basis of caste. Indian People are delude and convinced to vote for the contender of their caste. This has remained the paramount reason for the backwardness of many states of modern India in spite of having a lot of resources. The UP and Bihar are the unsurpassed examples of caste based politics. Even in the elections of Panchayats Raj on local level, caste is the biggest factor. People spoil their brotherhood and social harmony because of caste. The most maddening thing is that highly educated young citizens are also affected from the caste based politics. Caste has affected Indian politics from its origin. All political estimates are based on caste in Indian politics. In India, almost every decision is taken in view of caste. There are many so called Dalit leaders and particular caste leaders and they exist only because of caste politics. The so-called Dalit leaders have nothing in their mind except caste consciousness.

It's not that politics have forever been based on caste - it's that caste and certainly all communal identity everywhere in the earth has always been based on caste. In modern Indian social order, caste based favoritism still exists; it is not only influences identity, but also pressure the right to use to resources. Caste also plays a leading role in work allotment, for example, the unskilled jobs like disposing of dead animals, manual scavenging are considered to be the jobs of Dalit and lower castes of Hindu society.

Thus, in this context, In Indian society, caste biases play a prominent role in lower category work allocation. The Mixture of cast and politics are a vicious circle. Political parties do not want to do away with reservation. So they will promise all freebies to voters and get elected. After election, the education and health of the voters are never given attention- so that these innocent voters are forced to remain in their old way of poor standard life. Caste politics are rapidly increasing in India for the reason that Indian people wish for proper representation. They want their people in positions of rule to pay attention to their woes and concerns. Right now, all dominant positions are acquired by dominated by the forward Hindu castes. It is high time to alter caste politics and craft a more fair society. The caste politics has contrary to the democratic spirit. Democracy presupposes human equality, but the caste politics believed in inequality and it is a hierarchical arrangement wherein the Brahmins were at the top, whereas the Sudras were at the lowest rung of the ladder. In the caste politics the lower castes were suppressed and repressed by the higher castes. Thus the caste politics was solely based on exploitation of the lower castes.

Negative Ramifications of Caste based Politics in India

The feeling of caste has enlarged class classification. The difficulty with any type of categorization is that it leads to disconnection among citizens leading to ill feeling for others. This is one of the major causes why still humans on this Earth disagree with each other on hopeless topics. The categorization can be based on manifold issues like ethnicity, caste, Creed, religion, gender, homeland and a many more. The caste and ethnicity are the most horrible categorizations in the human being history. These are the main reason of the carnage in the human being history. The politics anywhere in the world is mostly identified for self profit of the politicians. There is nothing like free of charge service. Indian peoples pay a price for this blunder election mistake. In India, the caste based politics was started from the 1990s era. It was approved and used by all the major political parties in India. Some Indian political parties were formed on caste-based like INLD,SP, BSP, RJD and many more. Their key program was to serve up their particular caste voters. These parties won elections multiple times based on their narrow agenda because Indians people were more touching than rational in those hard times. The consequence wasn't high-quality. As everyone know that a centre government came in the power in India in the late 1990s phase, which was created by the coalition of various parties and many worst decisions were taken, it

lead to great hammering for Indian people. The caste separation has always show the way to devastation and soreness at multiple occasions and only one who get profit from it are politicians because they got a way to create separation among people for their own benefit.

The Indian politics has suffered caste based discrimination. The lack of knowledge has been enlarged the caste based politics. Due to caste, we have not elected excellent candidates in elections. We have measured the candidate efficiency on the basis of caste population. The Indian caste politics is against the equality and justice. It is fact that Indian politics has been lean towards to caste. The Indian people need to change their caste oriented voting behaviour. In India, the ongoing caste politics has diminished the role of deprived caste. Due to caste based polarization, the dominant caste candidates have gained the victory in the elections and this situation has created marginalized position for deprived caste. The caste based politics has demoralized the meritorious candidates in the elections. The efficient candidates have not gained good position due to caste based politics. The caste population is the only mere merit for selection candidates in elections. The distinct identity crisis has also enlarged the caste based politics. The people want to select their own caste candidates in the elections. For that, the people do not want to give votes to other caste meritorious candidates.

Suggestions and Conclusion

The caste politics has deep-root in Indian politics. It can't end in a single day. The end of caste politics would be a welcome shift in recent time politics. The end of caste based politics helps us to blur caste differences and reduces tension along such fault-lines. It is the responsibility of every citizen to be knowledgeable about caste politics so a group of youth has to create awareness about how caste politics plays a disgrace role in nation building. The new youth voters of India have need to conduct door to door campaign, hold meetings for encourage people to distract caste based politics. If this is done then people will vote for development over Caste. The South Indian voter's voting behaviour is open, liberal and free of caste barrier and it is already a role model so the North India has to set itself a target to achieve the same. The students must be educated on Caste system which happened a long time ago either in Text books or at homes.

The caste politics is proved a curse for Indian democracy. The caste politics has devastated the whole concept of democracy. The caste based politics has created limited chance for meritorious candidates in elections. The caste based elected politicians has always involved in their caste benefits. They do not care the common man of India. The larger ill-effects of caste based politics have shocked the people. We need to end this baseless caste based politics. This caste based politics deteriorate the real feeling of Indian democracy. The Indian people need to more conscious regarding the ill-effects of caste based politics. It is need to hour that all political parties should start a programme to eradicate this caste based politics.

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