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CASTE POLITICIZATION IN INDIA: A STUDY

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Abstract: *Caste has been a major characteristic of social and political life of India. Its position as one of the earliest and deeply rooted structures of the Indian social system has been a main factor in the working of the Indian political system. It has been a basis of political participation, electoral process, voting behavior and practically all other facets of Indian politics. Even though numerous changes arising out of the appearance of a developing industrial society, caste remains to play a key role in Indian Politics.*

Keywords: *Caste, Indian Politics, Social System, Vote bank, Politicians, Political Power*

INTRODUCTION

Indian political system involves the role of caste in politics. Caste voting, caste-based candidatures, caste-oriented decision-making caste riots, caste struggles and the matter of Reservations vs. Anti-Reservations are all issues of the Indian political system. Rajni Kothari in his well-known book 'Caste and Indian Politics' has rightly observed that politics is a competitive enterprise, its tenacity is the gaining of power' for the realization of certain goals, and its method is one of classifying and operating existing and emerging loyalties in order to mobilize and join positions. Caste regulates the nature, organization and working of political parties and attention groups, legislatures and bureaucracies and in fact all political arrangements and their purposes.

DISCUSSION AND MAJOR FINDINGS

The practice of caste for purchase political benefits is not a fresh phenomenon. The British imperialists used religion as well as caste for political separation of the state. Unluckily, even after independence India could not stop caste as an issue from manipulating politics. Independent India saw the overview

of universal adult franchise and carried in a new socio-political revolution but in this new situation, caste got a new aspect in the politics of India.

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

A. Positive Sides:

1. Before the outline of the universal adult franchise in India was generally the individuals from the higher caste who were politically active.
2. The franchise system in India transported in the position of numbers in India. Those who were placed in the lower ladder of social order got a chance to assert themselves by using their numerical strength.
3. In various parts of India, caste relations have occurred with the aim of pursuing not only social status and economic interest but political power as well.
4. Most of the political parties have had to reflect the welfare and development of lower castes.

B. Negative Sides:

1. Alike religion some politicians practice the topic of caste to divide voters.
2. Several political parties take benefit of the caste feelings and break the society in such a way that they gain from such divisions.
3. Caste leaders request to the feelings of the voters of their respective caste groups and try to mobilize votes on that base to capture and keep political power.
4. Politicians have also achieved to divert the attention of its voters from matters connecting to development etc. by engaging them in caste related matters.

CONCLUSION

Thus, it is clear that the connection of caste and politics has both positive as well as negative impact. Over the years, the harmful role of caste has create standing in Indian politics. In addition, this is an unhealthy trend. The significant object is organization and articulation of support, and where politics is mass-based, the point is to coherent funding over the organizations in which the masses are to be found.

It follows that where the caste construction provides one of the principal organizational collections along which the majority of the population found to live, politics essential strive to organize through such a arrangement. “Political parties and leaders practice caste to secure their purposes in the process.

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