

Challenges before Indian Democracy

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Abstract- This study analyses the intricacies of India's democratic structure. India, being a relatively young and densely populated country, confronts ongoing obstacles such as poverty, caste discrimination, regional divisions, and gender disparities, all of which erode its democratic ideals. The study emphasises the widespread impact of the caste system on Indian politics, providing a comprehensive analysis of how caste-based identities influence political socialisation, leadership, and party politics. The authors contend that caste remains a prominent factor in decision-making processes, regional politics, and local government, frequently resulting in caste-based violence and social fragmentation. The article finishes by recommending educational and policy initiatives to mitigate the influence of caste on Indian democracy and foster a more inclusive and secular political culture.

Keywords— Caste System, Indian Democracy, Political Socialization, Caste-Based Politics

I. INTRODUCTION

The term Democracy is derived from "Demos" and "Cartia" which respectively means people and power, thus democracy means "Power". In the hands of people Democracy is a form of government where sovereignty belongs to the people.

India is the Seventh largest (by area) and most populous country in the world with roughly one sixth of its population of about a billion and yet a very young nation. But we yet to solve the problems like poverty, castesam, regionalism, women's issues, gender equality etc.

Objectives of the study:

- 1) To study and analyze the existing democratic setup in India.
- 2) To analyze various challenges that are being faced by the Indian democracy.
- 3) To suggest effective measures to the challenges and help Indian democracy in its true spirit.

Caste System-The Politics of Caste:

The cast system is very unique feature in Indian social system. It is originated by birth of that person. In his identity with that caste in Indian society in other words where & membership is decided by birth. Members of social level grows are endogamous they tend to enter into marital relationships can among themselves they often have related political preferences for the political purpose the castes are broadly divided into

- Forward Classes (about 15% of population)
- Other Backward Classes (OBC) (about 41% of population.)
- Scheduled Castes (about 20% of the population)
- Scheduled Tribes (about 9% of population)
- Indian Muslims (13.4%)
- Christians (2.3%)

I. Caste factor in Political Socialization and Leadership:

Different caste groups have their loyalties to different political parties and their ideologies. Right from his birth an Indian citizens inherits caste and grows up as a particular caste group. He belongs naturally one of the high class or to scheduled castes. In the process of picking up his political orientations attitude and beliefs. He naturally comes under the influence of the caste group and casteism. Caste values and caste interests influence its socialization and consequently his political thinking, awareness and participation. It banks upon caste solid activity for occupying and performing a leadership role. This is open secret in all societies particularly. It is reflected in highly 'caste conscious' people of some state like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, TamilNadu In Karnataka the leadership comes from the Lingayatas. In most occasions in Hariyan.. It comes from Bishnois or Brahmins. In Andhra Pradesh Reddies. Kammas and Vlamas provides state leaders.

II. Caste and Party Politics:

Caste factor is a constituent of the Indian party system. Some political parties have a direct basis while others. Indirectly bank upon particular caste groups and the regional parties stand predominantly influenced by the caste factors. The DMK and AIDMK are non Brahmin rather than anti Brahmin political parties of Tamil Nadu. In - Akalidala community pan their identity but stands influence the issue of Jats v/s non Jats.

All political parties in India use caste as a means for surveying votes in elections. While the BSP upon the support of SC/ST, BJP largely banks upon its population among the high caste Hindus and the trending community. In the formulating parties and programmers early political party of India allow as keep in their object as "Caste Angle".

III. Caste and Political Leadership:

Cast has been emerging as a factor in the process of leadership recruitment the leadership of Shri Kanshi Ram and

Ms. Mayawati is caste based the leadership of CharnSingh. In Uttar Pradesh, Lalu Prasad Yadav in Bihar, Yadiyurappa in Karnataka are instances of cast based leadership.

IV. Caste Violence:

Cast based Violence very often finds its way into politics. The traditional differences between the higher and lower cast have acquired a new vigor and have turned at times into a violent and fierce struggle for power in society. The growing terrorization of the lower castes by the higher or even intermediary cast has becoming a sad fact of Indian political reality.

V. Caste and Indian Constitution:

Our constitution spared the awareness about secularism and clearly affirmed by our constitution. It recognizes the caste system in the form of providing for caste based reservations. Reservation of seats for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the union parliaments and the state legislative assemblies (Act 330 and 332) as well as in public services reflects this feature.

Even the other backward classes-OBC stands and determined on the caste bases. The Constitution of India also provides for officer of the Commissions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes with the responsibility to investigate matters relating to various safeguards provided by the constitution.

The emergence of strong pro-reservation and anti-reservation glance in India has been direct consequence of such provisions of the constitution. (Now the provision stands extended up to year 2020).

The reservation policy clearly reflects the role of caste factor in politics even the other backward classes (OBC) are cast based classes. Now reservation in private sector has been getting implemented and the huntem of reservation is going quite high.

VI. Caste and the Exercise of Power by Political Party:

Since Caste is a major feature of the Indian Society and acts as an important factor in various processes of politics. It also plays a big role in the decision-making process. Even the issue of re-organization of states is handled with an eye upon the prevention of under predominance of a cast group in a particular territory caste factor influence the politics and decision of the state governments. The party in power always tries to use its decision-making powers to win the favor of major caste groups. The congress has allows to nurture people belonging to the scheduled castes as it vote bank. In other hand BJP tries to keep their main and supreme care votes as vote bank.

Regional political parties where as they get the clean to rule their respective states, always use political power to truth caring the interests of caste groups which supports.

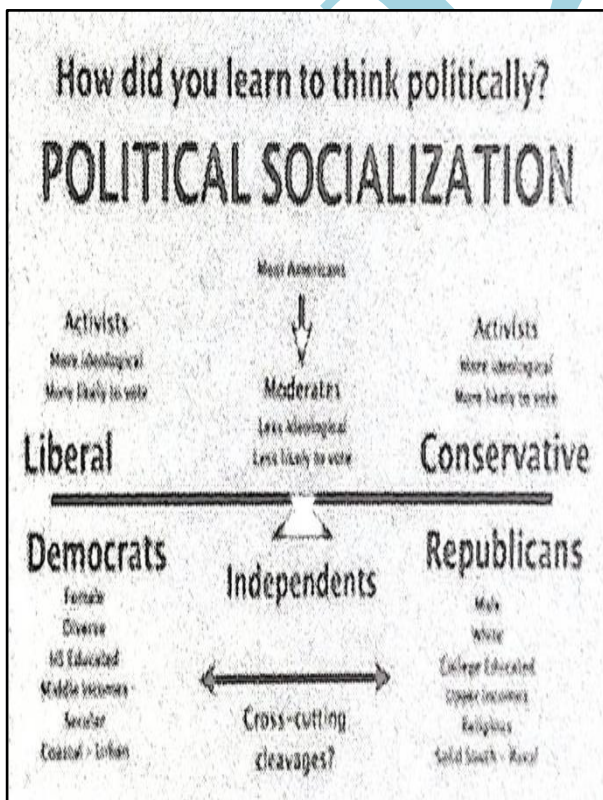
VII. Caste and Local Government:

The role of caste in the working of the Panchayt Raj and other institutions of the local self-governments has been a recognizes reality we can go to the extent of recording that caste based factionalism in the rural areas of India has been one of the bigger hindering factors in the organization and effective working of the Panchayat Raj.

In the rural context, caste has been a bank of mobilization, a channel of communication, representation and leadership and a linkage between electorate and political process and political process.

VIII. Solutions for Caste based Politics in India

1. Educating people about political system.
2. Making more programme about secular system.
3. Spreading awareness about Democracy.
4. Increase the per capita income of the citizens.
5. Inter-caste marriages-supporting.
6. Education for all citizens.
7. To develop nationalism rather than castesam ruination etc.



Conclusion:

The study suggests that the caste system continues to be deeply entrenched and formidable within the Indian democracy, exerting a substantial impact on political behaviour, leadership, and party dynamics. India's constitutional dedication to secularism and equality notwithstanding, caste still plays a significant role in shaping political identities and voter alignments, frequently resulting in societal splits and conflicts. Caste-based politics persistently undermines the authentic essence of democracy by promoting inequality and impeding national unity. In order to tackle these difficulties, the study proposes the implementation of comprehensive strategies, such as political instruction, the encouragement of inter-caste unions, and the establishment of a robust national identity that surpasses caste divisions. India can only overcome the divisive impact of caste on its democratic processes by making coordinated efforts at both the policy and societal levels.

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