



Role Of Caste System in Bihar Assembly Politics: A critical Analysis

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Abstract:

The caste system in Bihar Assembly politics has traditionally influenced by caste, religion and gender biased to a large extent. It had been seen that caste based politics play a vital role in establishment of local self government and state government. since the beginning of independence era. After first general election which was held in 1951 till 1967 upper caste dominated the politics and political parties in Bihar. But after 1967, resurgence of middle caste and scheduled caste replace the upper caste in Bihar political scenario. In Bihar political system currently, there are four main political parties: Rashtriya Janata Dal ,Janata Dal United, Bhartiya Janata Party and Indian National Congress. All Four along with some smaller Regional parties like Rashtriya Lok Samta party ,Hindustan Awam Morcha, janadhikar party and many small political parties are playing vital role in Bihar politics while Lok janshakti party is also an important player in Bihar politics. These various political parties try to bring about political and socio-economic changed based on on their particular caste group. Majority of the political parties associate themselves with a particular caste like Yadav, Bhumihar, Brahmin, Rajput, Kayastha,OBC, BC, Dalit and Mahadalit. This is done for political benefits and vote bank politics. Bihar is currently Rule By Janata Dal United and Bhartiya Janata Party coalition. Bihar 52.47percent of the major population are illiterate and around 75% population resides in rural areas of Bihar and the main occupation is agriculture and labourer migrants. Bihar peoples are facing lack of basic facilities like education, Healthcare, roads, irrigation facilities etc. people still following only traditional way of caste based politics rather than Holistic development for their better livelihood.

key Words: Bihar, Election, Caste , Politics

Introduction:

India Caste System is a "race classification scheme" designed and implemented by Mr Herbert Hope Riseley, a British colonial administration in 1901 during the first census of India. They colonised India with sole motive of self profit and empowerment.

In order to remain in power they used caste and religion as a part of their divide and rule policy in order to disrupt the unity and integrity of the nation because the United India could have proved strength of Unity to the hegemony of British.

Today the British caste system is continued by politicians in independent India as a continuation of the "divide and rule" strategy for vote banking and its effects very badly to Indian democracy. Bihar is one of the longest inhabited places, situated at the eastern part of India, in the world with History going back to the Neolithic Age. Since that time, Bihar have long been involved in some of the most important events like Caste and religion based socio_political system in South Asian history. Bihar, A region, where the founders of many great empire based and rooted at Bihar. Two of India's major religions also have their Origins in Bihar. Gautam Buddha who was the founder of Buddhism, achieved enlightenment in Bodhgaya, South Bihar and Mahavira, the founder of Jainism was born in Vaishali in North Bihar.

Bihar culture follows a very rigid caste system which influences every caste people's life and State politics. Caste has been playing a vital role in Bihar politics, since a very long time politicians have been very successful in providing the people on the basis of caste. Existence of caste scenario in Bihar has been an unfortunate reality of state politics. Caste and Castism has been a source of big strain on social and political life of Bihar. Caste has been emerging as a factor in the process of leadership recruitment. Since our independence different political leaders have involved in caste based politics to get their motives fulfilled. when elections are announced, a lot of calculation are made up and candidates are selected on the basis of caste and religion. After independence since 1967 resurgence of middle cast took place in the cast like koiri, Kurmi, Yadav, kyshwaha replaced the upper caste in political scenario.

Politics of Bihar, since 1990 is dominated by regional political parties like Janata Dal United and Rashtriya Janata Dal, Lok janshakti party, Rashtriya lok Samta Party with the alliance of BJP and Indian National Congress and many small caste based formed political parties. Rashtriya Janata Dal, A state regional political party, and influenced by Left-wing Ideology, founded by Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav, who belongs to Yadav community, in year 1997. The RJD stated objective was to carve out a society based on the premises of Social justice and secularism. The mass base of the party has traditionally been backward classes and the party is considered as champion of causes lower caste politics. The special logon of the party "Lalten Chhap" brought a message for hope of light in the sense of Development. The logo collected huge mass voters, specially YADAV , MUSLIMS and other Backward classes, who were pretended themselves really very end on the main stream of the society, on the basis is to give preference in Government job, health care, roads, irrigation facilities with tools and

other Basic primary facilities and importantly with party main agenda is to form Secular Government.

Lok janshakti party, A another state regional political party of Bihar led by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, who originally belongs to a Schedule Caste, which was formed in 2000, when Ram Vilas Paswan split from Janata Dal (United), the party considerable following amongst Dalit in Bihar.

Ram Vilas Paswan's Clarion call for empowerment of SC&ST caste and Unity for some dalit caste like Paswan and chamar, pasi, Sahni Noniya, Dom any many more cast changed the scenario of political equations in Bihar politics and they performed very well in 2005 state Assembly Elections.

Janata Dal (United) JDU, metron and patron, the most veteran socialist leader George Fernandez, formed the party with the merger of Samta Party, Lok Shakti party and Janta Dal in year 2003. JDU joined NDA influenced by right-wing Ideology with its alliance party.

The mission was the party is to form socialist Government with subordinate backward and schedule caste by party main Ideology, and its really brought the tremendous result in Bihar state Assembly elections 2005, when JDU defeated RJD Government. NDA's intacted Forward class votes, who played as big game changer for JDU Government in Bihar politics.

Importance of the Study:

"People do not cast their vote, they vote their caste" it is significantly observed that, and it implies as vast and diverse in Bihar. Cast and caste_ism in politics is immensely deep rooted in the society and politics of Bihar. Caste is like blood in politics of Bihar and it plays a vital role in determining the politics. politics is all about being in power, so politicians in Bihar engage in appeasement of masses by dividing them on caste line in order to gain more and more vote bank.

Castes of Bihar: 2011 Census of India, Caste Population of Bihar:

CastePopulation (%)

OBC/EBC___ (52%), In Which

1. OBC:--

Yadavs___15%

Kurmis ___4%

2. EBCs:--

(Dhanuk Kurmi with 1.5% population are included under EBCs)

Kushwaha (Koeri, Kachhi, Murao, etc.) - 8%

(EBCs - 26% – Teli-3.2%)

3. S.C:--

(Dalit+Mahadalit)___15% (includes Dusadh- 5%, Chamar - 5%, Musahar- 2.8% and others

4. Muslims___16.9%

5. Forward caste__ 15%

Four upper-castes - Brahmins - 5%, Bhumihars - 5%, Rajputs - 4% and Kayasthas - 1% constitute around 15% of the state's population.

6. Adivasis(STs)___ 1.3%

7. Others__0.4% Includes Christians, Sikhs, Jains and Buddhists

Caste System in Assembly politics now emerging as " social and political Upliftment" of Backward and Schedule Caste people, because their voice being heard, by their particular caste leader in Bihar Assembly. Backward and Schedule caste along with Muslims, now playing a main factors to form State Government.

"Since the Era of 1990-1997 to 2000", when RJD was first formed State Government in Bihar, inherited it's success and popularity as a party from that of Lalu Yadav, the supremo of RJD by mass voters of yadav's , Backward class and Muslims. The RJD farer better in the year 2000, Bihar assembly elections winning 103 of 243 seats and formed government with Alliance of Congress Party.

This was the Era, when Bihar got it's popularity by very popular name among the Country, "GUNDARAJ" along with Huge level of corruption, most unsatisfied state development policy, high level of crimes like Murder, kidnapping, Rape, No education facilities for rural areas and remote areas, no health care facilities at Government hospitals, No proper Roads for Communication and connectivity to district to district. Head of the party, lalu prasad yadav and his family Tarnished the glorious history of Bihar for their personal gain. Party only focused to gain sentiments of particular intacted caste groups by some slogans "**Bhura Baal saaf karo**".

" Charwaha Vidyalay" Lalu first experiment was much appreciated by UNICEF but later on it flopped, for the primary education of rural children, age of 5 to 15, who graze Animals, was first opened in 25 acres at Turkey in Muzaffarpur District.

NSO data showed, 2001 census, literary rate of Bihar was around 43.54 %, after the opening of Charwaha Vidyalaya, rather than focused on to nourished and educated children by providing proper teaching facilities.

2005, Bihar Assembly Election," JDU(United) resuerged, as the majority seat winner 153 out of 243 seats in Assembly Elections was the land slide victory for Shri Nitish Kumar" mendate for social, Economical and political changes, grave it's glorious victory in Bihar politics. Party won the mass votes of forward and backward classes along with schedule caste, government was held by the state as a pleasant change from a long spell of corruption, crimes and misgovernence. He appointed more than 100000

school teachers in schools to improve education system, ensured Primary Health Care Centres, electrified many villages paved roads, cut female literacy by half generated many jobs schemes to doubled the Income of the average of the people's of Bihar. Biggest festival of 2020, Bihar Assembly election, RJD alliance UPA, JDU alliance NDA with many small regional political parties ready to fight on the Battle of Election to gain power, primarily only and only on the basis of different caste votes, development secondary.

Methodology:

The fact have been taken from various sources of Government agencies and it is descriptive and theorized in nature.

Objective of the Study:

2011 census clarify: Bihar one of the most Backward State among the Country. Objective of the study is to Analyze the caste system in Assembly politics of Bihar. Democracy depends on the rights of the vote which is given by the Constitution of India, use to choose the representatives. Low literacy makes people less justiciable. The Latest survey has revealed that around 50 % of politicians of Bihar are criminal Image and Introduced as "ROBINHOOD" of Bihar. They are also a Byproduct of caste system.

Solutions of the Problem:--

1. When politician of criminal Image can hold their own in public, then why don't Educated politician catch their hold among the public??
Politician of criminal Image promise to follow along in the happiness and misery of the poor and uneducated people, while Educated politician feel violation of their reputation.
- 2." NOTA" indicates that voter has not chosen to vote for any party. Since 2009 Elections it's is active . Best option for revolt to those party and politician, who mobilized and convinced people's to vote on the Basis of caste system and, false promise.
3. Bihar is doomed, people's doesnt have to put power in hands of such parties and politician, who are spoling it even further. People's have to take decision of vote on the basis of Development and Development only.

Conclusion:

Mandal Commission introduced caste politics more pronounced. Bihar around, 75 % people's resides in rural areas, due to low literacy rates and minimum Awareness to choose their representative on the basis of development policies despite of caste politics, they are not able to decide right politicians or political party for them and this is the big responsible reason for slow development. The lowest Strata of society,

scheduled caste and backward classes have faced historical injustice since time memorial.

One merit of caste politics is that people from the so called lower caste or impressed cast now have a voice and opinion at the policy level. They have their cast representatives to raise their voice in the mainstream politics about their struggles and problems. People at large get mobilized emotionally and socially by their particular caste leader. Candidates are selected on the basis of caste system in the election and drawback of systems, leaders used caste based politics to get their motives fulfilled.

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