



# Caste System- A burning hazardous for social upgradation of modern human civilization across the country

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## Abstract

Caste is like a shadow it never leaves us , doesn't matter how educated or talented one becomes , each one is identified on the basis of their caste . Indian society is backed by caste based hierarchal structure , which can be traced back to the varna system , which continues till date . In India people are classified on the basis of their caste and treated on that basis , and are kept away from opportunities , Untouchability , inter-caste marriage are considered to be evil in India society , caste plays a significant role in determining our choice of professional , institutes you enter . Caste based reservation and caste based discrimination go hand in hand , the people who are against caste based reservation are the one who practice caste based discrimination , where a dalit is ill treated or not even consider to belong to human civilization , However caste based politics is always welcomed in India and highly acceptable when it comes to elections and for gaining support .Caste is treated in a very diplomatic manner in India , It runs according to the situation , where a person is criticised for belonging to a particular caste and on the other hand the same person is used as a weapon to gather support during election . Caste system has kept India behind all countries in terms of different at the globe level , where India are going and settling in different countries where they find better opportunities and living facilities , India itself is responsible for being a poor country with have access to unfastened resources followed by corruption. India requires a universal social security and open minded society to accept and bring about change in this modern world.

**Keywords:** Caste, untouchability , discrimination , caste-based reservations , caste based politics , dalit , human civilizations

## Introduction

A functional democracy has its own dispute and constraints and it naturally facilitates the interplay of various forces in the society and in the politics. The politics of the society at times take simple or marrow form in the sense that it starts to have a deadly effect on the overall system, simultaneously influencing the value system of the country. India is a product of caste system and recognise ascriptive caste system to determine social status of people. Holding an important place in society, caste has started effecting the Indian political system in a major way, whose consequences can be seen in different agitations and vandalised politics of India today. The term Caste came from the Portuguese word Casta meaning breed, race or kind. A caste society represents a population with a common general culture, divided by social barriers into endogamous unit, which each having a unique culture. Caste in India can be delineated as uniform, endogamous social control organisation with distinctive rituals especially those with religious purity. Today it penetrates almost all layers of the society so much that it is found among other religious orders like Christians, Muslims and Sikhs. The Caste system received a shock with the British administration coming into power in India and with the introduction of new means of transport and communication, law and Justice and bureaucratic organisations. The civil and criminal law abolished caste panachayat and established equality before law irrespective of caste. However the British rulers realised that its better to keep the people in India divided in order to control and rule them, As religions and caste can make them weak, after the Mutiny of 1857. After Independence, our forefather abolished untouchability and discrimination on the basis of race, gender, creed and caste. However caste has risen from its doctrine of affirmative discrimination, Today caste has entered into India society so deeply which is followed by communalism, regionalism, linguism and corruption. This is because of the constant connection between caste and politics. India is a democratic country, having the largest democracy in the world where each and every person has the right to vote and choose and form their own government. However the ground reality is something else, here caste and religion is used as a weapon to gain vote and leaders are selected on the basis of caste, Caste has been politicised. Caste –based reservation, caste-based politics, caste-based marriage, caste based facilities and advantages has ultimately ended the unity and integrity of India, making India a poor country in terms of strength and security where people living in the same place fight with each other on the basis of caste and religion. Caste system and caste based politics have emerged as the biggest threat to India's growth and development where the the poor receive minimum and the richer receives maximum benefit.

## Research Methodology

For the purpose of this exploration, I have used a amalgamation of two of the archetypical social sciences research tools application –as they are authentic and brilliant method to assemble statistics from multiple appellant in an methodical and convenient way. Question were asked to the parents and their children, survey, interviews –consisting of several interrogation which were dispersed among representative of each contender group.

## Objective of the Research Paper

The main areas of exploration in this paper incorporates

1. An depth study on the caste system in India.
2. How people are discriminated on the bases of caste in India
3. Advantages and Disadvantages of caste system in India
4. Importance of caste based reservation and its impact on the country as a whole

## Literature Review

Caste system in India can be traced back to 1500 BC with the arrival of Aryans India which has continued till today . Caste in Contemporary Indian politics plays a very significant role behind the facade of parliamentary government . The political behaviour of people is influenced by caste as it is evident during the time of distribution of tickets and composition of ministers . It is estimated that people vote for the candidate who belong to their own caste and people prefer candidates of their own caste as leader irrespective of their qualities and weakness . , moreover when a single party is not able to get a candidate of their won , alliances are formed on the basis of caste to recommend the name of the person and arrangements are made according to the satisfaction of the constituents , there are very few people who vote on the basis of merits and qualities else all is caste based politics , Caste based politics is one of the main weapon to reach out to people for politics , However there are many other places where caste places a major role , we have caste based reservation in the employment sector , followed by educational sector which involves reservation in schools and colleges for students . Even the constitution of India provides reservation for women and children and even for the disadvantage section of the society , as it is not possible for the society to accept and treat everyone equally as this discrimination has existed since centuries in India . India is a plural society of different societal groups living together , it has a diverse culture , many rituals , religious believe and languages . Every caste , religion has to be respected to maintain unity and integrity . The constitution of India says that India is works under five fundamental principles “ Sovereign , secular , socialist , Democratic and Republic providing equal opportunities for all , social , economic and political Justice , protecting the rights of every individuals even Human rights which are basic and Universal and each one has because one is a human . Caste has the worst effect on the women community , with women being considered as second to men in India society , where men are not ready to accept proximity , We are living in a transition society , a revolution from old to modern society which also calls for change in the mentality of the society . Indian society is backed by orthodox , unethical believes and rituals which is kept it behind other countries in terms of development . Hindu-Muslim conflict has been serving has the best example of caste and religion based attitude and mentality of people where child – marriage is prevalent , inter-caste marriage is prohibited and However things have changed with passing years in a few sector and in some sectors caste is gaining more importance , The situation is different in urban and rural India but what remains constant is caste based politics which is gaining momentum

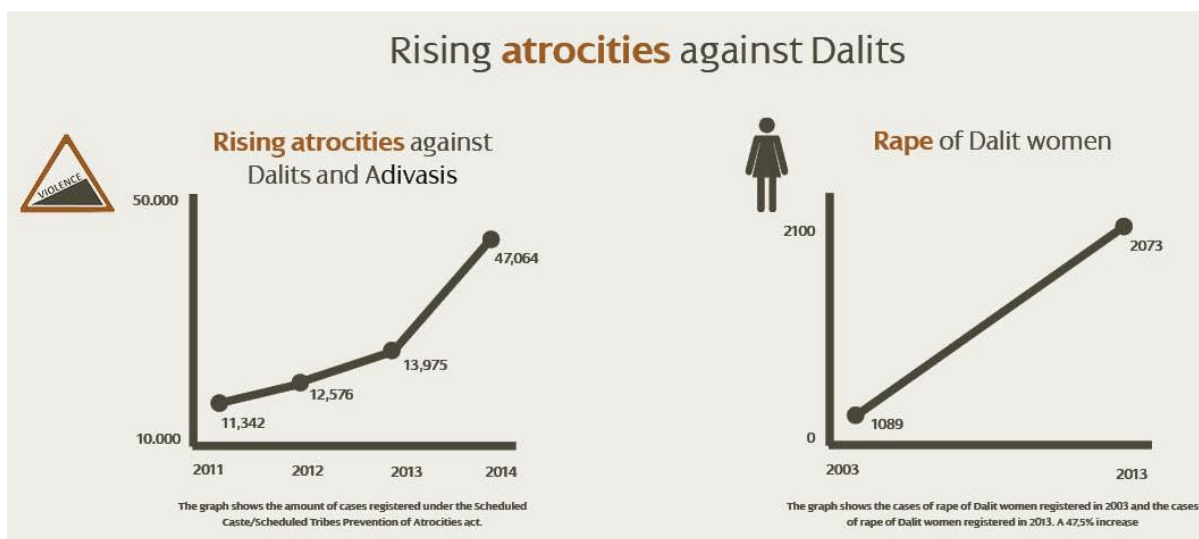
## Findings

We were all Humans until : Religion separated us , politics divided us , wealth classified us and race disconnected us .

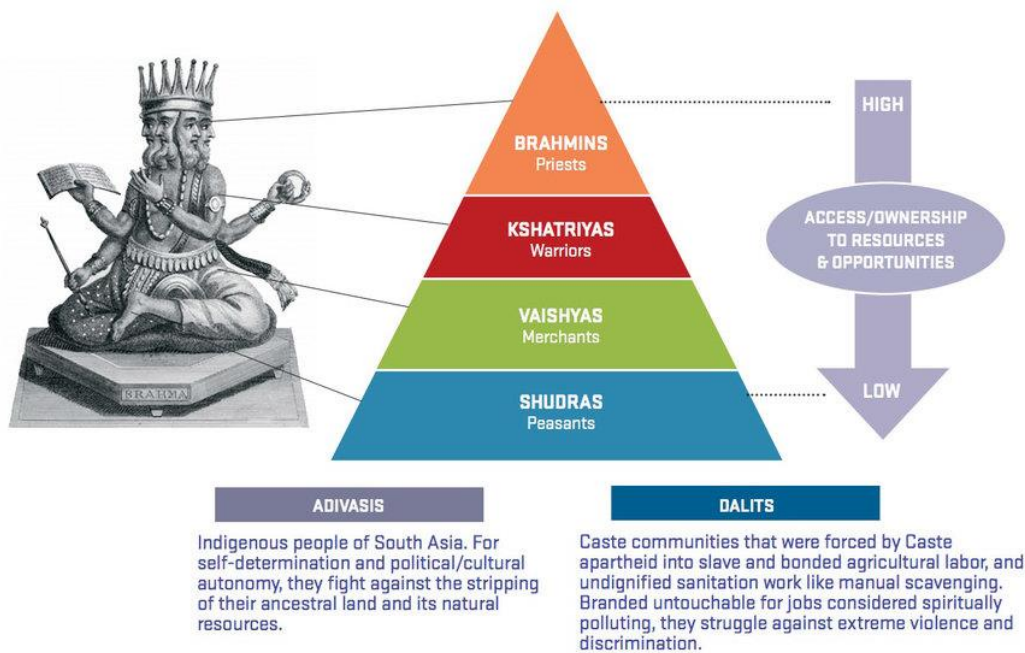
The Mandal Commission which finally to the reservation of seats in different sectors for OBCs followed by reservation for STs, SC for their socio-economic development which would enhance the over all development of the Nation. The poor and the vulnerable section of the society required opportunities and facilities for their over all growth which wouldn't have been possible because of the preveing caste system in India , even though there exist reservation and rights of these communities , they suffer a lot till date .

Caste based reservation is a complex and a controversial issue in India ,In many parts of the country people still practice untouchability and discrimination is practiced at a high rate , It is estimated that in Uttar Pradesh , Bihar and Madhya Pradesh more than 50% of the population practice untouchability . A Survey conducted by Social Attitude Research India over the phone in Delhi , Rajasthan , Mumbai ,Uttar Pradesh in 2016 to ask how man people faced or practice discrimination, 39% of Non-Dalit Hindu women admitted that untouchability was practiced in their homes and 21% of the Non-Dalit women admitted that they practiced it . 60% non-Dalit in Rajasthan believes that inter-caste marriages should be abolished , In the same survey 43% of respondent apposed caste-based reservation and supported merit

based seats only . There are a set of people who are against caste reservation as it is against the principle of equality and on the other hand they are once who practice caste discrimination too , making it contradiction in itself. According to the National Crime Report Bureau , 40, 000 Rape cases against Dalit and Tribal women are reported , on an average five Dalit women’s are raped each other .



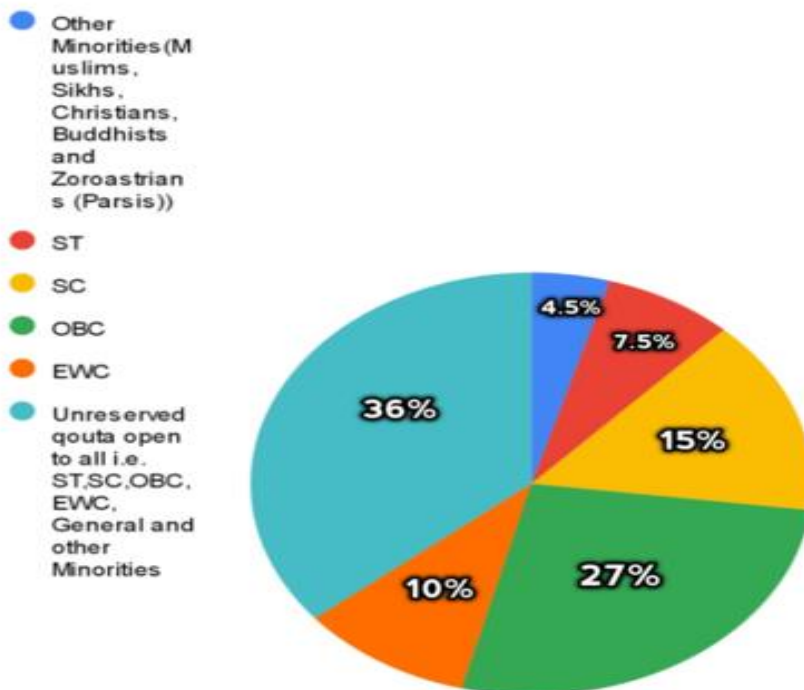
Caste system in India was prevalent in India from the time of Aryan and become more prominent with the Varna system started by the higher class Hindus , which was followed by the British rule in India who used the caste system as a weapon to dominant and rule them and leave no chance for unity among the Indians .M.N Srinivas describe how the British Raj made social mobility even more difficult . Caste based discrimination is even made during the time of marriage in both urban and rural areas ,what has changed today in the caste system is its form of practising .Caste system is more prominent in rural India where inter-caste marriage is a sin and people who perform inter caste marriages are put to death .



Caste-based reservation didn’t happen to improve the economical situation in India but to uplift the Dalit and other vulnerable section of the society , basically they were not poor but excluded from the use of resources or whatever they had with them was taken away like agriculture land , forestry areas, Education was never available at the first place for them , Dalit and Tribes didn’t have access to secondary education , they had to wait for years to get admission and receive scholarships for higher studies , today

25% of the population consist the dalit and advisas . Even though reservation exist for these communities but they are not provided enough facilities and are discriminated at each level .

### Reservation Quotas in India



A very big reason why caste system prevails in India till date is due to the lack of social security .if a person performs inter caste marriage and anyhow they fall ill , non of the neighbours will help them as they don't belong to their caste something very much prevalent in rural India, However things are better in the urban areas were you have health insurance policies and scheme, Moreover early family was the only institution to provide skill training and education , as they didn't want to corrupt this institution practices inter-caste marriage has been prohibited in many parts of the country , where joint family was a prestigious honour usually families from Royal background lived together followed by a male dominant society .

However a major of the urban population is against caste based reservation in schools and colleges as it is estimated that due to reservation deserving students don't get admission in top most colleges , half of the cities are taken away by the reservation , with the announcement of 10% reservation of seats for the economically weaker section of the society in 2019 by the government of India , it is estimated that 60% of the seats are reserved for STs , SCs ,OBC and EWS . Only 40% of the seats are available for the general students , and if we count , we have a huge amount of students who belong to general category and who have the necessary qualifications but don't get admission due to reservation. .

Caste system and health care delivery system is interlinked , we see people belonging to the dalit class , OBC have less access to basic health care facilities , with no maternal and child health care facilities , Lower caste people are product of malnutrition , underweight , anaemia both in children and adults , high mortality rate among the ST, SCs no vaccination facilities , lack of infant care , children from age group 0-5 years die out of undernourishment in India .People don't have access to basic living , food and drinking water facilities . Dalit are not allowed to enter places meant for higher caste people or visit Temples or places of entertainment meant for upper caste people . Dalit are exploited , murdered , victims of violence in India , caste system comes in the way of social reforms in India which also acts as a hurdle in the development of nation , It is mandatory that a carpenter son will be a carpenter or a sweeper child will become a sweeper in future , they have no access to education , in rural India , children belonging to

the dalit family or ST are not allowed to enter the classroom or are made to sit last , and have separate utensils and places for eating during the free mid day meal time , upper caste students don't mix with students belonging to the OBC and Dalit .

Caste system is against the principle of democracy , all people should be treated equally and given the right to vote , on the same scale caste is used as a weapon to gather vote by politicians , day by day it is becoming prominent in the society . The government provides many schemes for the development and growth of the weaker section of the society but nothing happens in actually practice , where corruption , communalism and regionalism leads the nation .

Caste system comes in the way of economic development , undermining labour and prohibit mobility of capital , labour and productive effort , which results in lack of large scale industrial development and the resources can't be used for the maximum advantage and growth , labourers who are Dalit or belonging to the lower caste are given sufficient or little money which is not sufficient enough to get access to basic living facilities and three meals a day , poor health results in poor working quality .

Caste system brings humongous amount of hardship for women , caste system was earlier associated with sati system , followed child marriage , abolition of widow remarriage and male dominated society, pressure of patriarchy society, women belonging to lower caste has to go through a harsh life , lower caste women are usually victim of rape , murder and dowry killing , Women are considered second to men and have no access to schooling , and other facilities for their development , they are surrounded by household works and are meant to give birth to child and do all the domestic work , they have no right to go to the farms , or it is considered a sign of sin if they enter into the fields, widows are blamed for the died of their husband and become a victim of domestic violence , children are forced to get married at an earlier age as they can't afford their living anymore , women are treated as slaves .

In age of Globalisation , rapid urbanization caste system is emerging as a serious threat to the lives , where people are aiming to achieve 100% literacy , food security , 100% renewable energy ,new and innovative housing system , with advance in technology and science we are moving towards the sustainable development , we need to end caste system and treat everyone equally , Universal social security can automatically result in the end of caste system in India followed by literacy and end of unethical , orthodox , religious beliefs and treat every person as a human .

## Conclusion

Caste system in India has always kept India behind all the other countries in terms of development in the field of education and employment. Caste based reservation has its own set of advantage and disadvantage on one hand it provides opportunities for lower caste , ST, SC and OBC in different fields and sector and not the hand it takes away the right of the people who actually deserve it , around 70% of the seats are reserved . Inter-caste marriages are still considered to be evil in the rural sector and majority are killed who plan or perform inter-caste marriage , even in urban areas untouchability is practised in many parts of the country , people are badly treated and not allowed to enter places where the upper class people go . Lack of social security and the orthodox mentality of the people have allowed such an evil practice to continue in India . Even politicians make use of this caste system to gather support and win elections by effecting their emotions and making fake promises . Caste based discrimination is very common North India , where people are not allowed to throw garbage or eat non vegetarian food in some building due to caste differences . People are killed for being dalit , cases of rape of dalit women is very common followed by tribal women , who are not even considered to be part of the human civilisation

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