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Andhra Pradesh Development: Explore For Economic Equality And Social Justice

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The paper highlights the defects of present reservation System and needs a overhaul for alternative methodologies to bring economic equality and social justice.

I. Introduction:

Planning has traditionally focused on the need to provide special support to historical disadvantaged groups. The Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), have a special status under the Constitution. Other disadvantaged groups needing special support are other Backward Classes (OBCs), Minorities and also other marginalized and vulnerable groups which suffer from handicaps such as persons with disabilities, senior citizens, street children, beggars and victims of substance abuse. Across social groups, the incidence of poverty has been most pronounced among the SCs and STs. Even through the incidence of poverty among these groups has declined over the years, the Head Court Ratio (HCR) for SCs and STs remains higher than the national average.

Over the years several steps have been taken to bridge the gap between these marginalized groups and the rest of the population. But the gaps still persist and further efforts are needed. The social justice objectives of the 12th Plan can be achieved with full participation in the benefits of development on the part of all these groups. This calls for an inclusive growth process which provides opportunities for all to participate in the growth process combined with schemes that would either deliver benefits directly or more importantly help these groups to benefit from the opportunities thrown up by the general development process¹.

I.1. Position of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes:

The Scheduled Caste Population constituted 16.2 per cent of the total population in census 2001 and has increased marginally around 16.9 per cent in census 2011. People belonging to SC Communities, by and large are spread all over Country, with about 80 per cent of them living in the rural areas. Around half of the SC population is concentrated in the five States of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar.

The Scheduled Tribes (STs), with a population of 84.33 million as per 2001 census constituted 8.2 per cent of the Country's population. STs have traditionally been concentrated in about 15 per cent of the Country's geographically areas, mainly forests, hills, undulating inaccessible areas. The fact that most of them live in isolated groups in relatively remote areas has made it more difficult to deliver essential services to them and has also made it much more difficult for them to benefit from the acceleration of overall growth than is the case with SCs².

I.2 India: Economic inequality:

The study will be focused on Andhra Pradesh State Development, especially SCs and STs with reference to 2011 census. The Reservation System in India was found a crude and unscientific, introduced at the time of writing Constitution. At that time Central and State Government mechanism, private institutes, Non-governmental organizations were not developed. In socio-economic and politically backward - SCs and STs availed crude methodology. Due to this in last 70 years, complexity of Caste system within religions were raised their hydra head, to enjoy the benefit. The Country moved from early socialism to capitalism and to crony capitalism. In India, 1 per cent own 58 per cent of the total wealth. Infact, the wealth of 57 Indian billionaires, at \$248 billion is higher than the total \$216 billion of 70 % of the Country's 1.3 billion population³.

Knowingly or unknowingly many upper or well of Classes Castes want to enjoy the benefit of reservation in Government and also practicing. Recently, a widely surrounded and agitated many of us is given below.

Fraudulent Certification for Reservation:

The family of Rohit Vemula, the deceased research scholar of the University of Hyderabad had been proved as Vaddera Community by District Collector Office. The legal adoption of mother Mrs Radhika and she had not been able to disclose the names of her biological parents. The District level scrutiny Community said that caste certificate of Ms.Radhika at the Municipal Corporation High School, Kothapet had recorded her

status as BC-A and she was married to Munikumar, who was from the Vaddera Community. Her daughter was also given in marriage to a man from the community. District Collector Kanthilal Dande said enquires had revealed that Ms.Radhika had obtained the SC Certificate through fraudulent means with the help of a former corporator⁴.

As methodology is not nearer to reality to ground, many castes like Jats, Patels, Kapus etc- a better rich classes also interested to join in Reservation Class. Time is riped to re-examine the entire system. A new scientific system like universal basic income (UBI) can be consider as an option. In 1970s, the World Bank recommended abolition of subsidies and go for direct taxes by convincing people, especially richer class.

II. Origin and Development of Reservation in India: Needed refined Methodology:

The systems of reservation in India are a series of affirmative action's undertaken through reserving access to seats in the different legislatures, government jobs, and to enrolment in higher educational institutions for castes and tribes recognized in the list of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes as recognized by Government of India. The reservation is undertaken to address the historic oppression, inequality and discrimination faced by members of the dalit and other communities, creating great social, economic and political disadvantage against them. It has been created to realize the promise of equality enshrined in the Constitution.

The basis of reservation is the historic discrimination and oppression, which has led to the entrenched disadvantage which continues today, breaking the social contract of equality assured by the Constitution of India, in the Preamble itself. Reservation is governed by constitutional laws, statutory laws, and local rules and regulations. Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Other Backward Classes (OBC), and in some states Backward Classes among Muslims under a category called BC (M), are the primary beneficiaries of the reservation policies under the Constitution – with the object of ensuring a level playing field.

II.1 Before independence:

Quota systems favouring certain castes and other communities existed before independence in several areas of British India. Demands for various forms of positive discrimination had been made, for example, in 1882 and 1891. Shahu, the Maharaja of the princely state of Kolhapur, introduced reservation in favour of non-Brahmin and backward classes, much of which came into force in 1902. He provided free education to everyone and opened several hostels to make it easier for them to receive it. He also tried to ensure that people

thus educated were suitably employed, and he appealed both for a class-free India and the abolition of untouchability. His 1902 measures created 50 per cent reservation for backward Communities.

The British Raj introduced elements of reservation in the Government of India Act of 1909 and there were many other measures put in place prior to independence. A significant one emerged from the Round Table Conference of June 1932, when the Prime Minister of Britain, Ramsay Macdonald, proposed the Communal Award, according to which separate representation was to be provided for Muslims, Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians, and Europeans. After negotiations, Gandhi reached an agreement with Ambedkar to have a single Hindu electorate, with Dalits having seats reserved within it. Electorates for other religions, such as Islam and Sikhism, remained separate. This became known as the Poona Pact.

II.2 After independence:

In 1982, it was specified that 15 per cent and 7.5 per cent of vacancies in public sector and government-aided educational institutes should be reserved for the SC and ST candidates, respectively. In 1980 the commission's report recommended that a reserved quota for OBCs of 27 per cent should apply in respect of services and public sector bodies operated by the Union Government. It was not until the 1990s that the recommendations were implemented in Union Government jobs.

The Supreme Court of India ruled in 1992 that reservations could not exceed 50 per cent, anything above which it judged would violate equal access as guaranteed by the Constitution. It thus put a cap on reservations. However, there are state laws that exceed this 50 per cent limit and these are under litigation in the Supreme Court. For example, in the State of Tamil Nadu the caste-based reservation stands at 69 per cent and applies to about 87 per cent of the population.

II.3 Reservations in elected bodies:

In parliament, caste and tribe based reservations are provided to make it more representative. Today, out of 543 seats in India's parliament, 84 (15.47%) are reserved for SC/Dalits and 47 (8.66%) for ST/Tribes. Allocation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Tribes in the Lok Sabha are made on the basis of proportion of Scheduled Castes and Tribes in the State concerned to that of the total population. A similar percentage of exclusive seats has been provided for members of designated castes and tribes in each state legislature. Local self-governments have caste, tribe and gender based reservation system in place.

II.4 Reservations in employment:

The 1992 Supreme Court ruling in the Indra Sawhney case said that reservations in job promotions are "unconstitutional" but allowed its continuation for five years. In 1995, the 77th amendment to the Constitution was made to amend Article 16 before the five-year period expired to continue with reservations for SC/STs in promotions. It was further modified through the 85th amendment to give the benefit of *consequential seniority* to SC/ST candidates promoted by reservation. If a state government wishes to make provisions for reservation to SC/STs in promotion, the state has to collect quantifiable data showing backwardness of the class and inadequacy of representation of that class.

II.5 Reservations in education:

India most of the scholarships or student aid is available only to—SCs, STs, BCs, OBCs, women, Muslims, and other minorities. Only about 0.7% of scholarships or student aid in India is based on merit.

II.6 Caste:

In Central-government funded higher education institutions, 22.5% of available seats are reserved for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) students (7.5% for STs, 15% for SCs). This reservation percentage has been raised to 49.5% by including an additional 27% reservation for OBCs.

In Tamil Nadu, the reservation is 18% for SCs and 1% for STs, based on local demographics. In Northeast India, especially in Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Mizoram, reservation for ST in State Govt. jobs is 80% with only 20% unreserved. In the Central Universities of NEHU (shillong) and Rajiv Gandhi University, 60% of seats are reserved for ST students. In Andhra Pradesh, 25% of educational institutes and government jobs are reserved for OBCs, 15% for SCs, 6% for STs and 4% for Muslims.

Gender:

The Gujarat, 33% of posts are reserved for females in all government departments and services, such as police, health, education and general administration.

Religion:

The Government of Andhra Pradesh introduced a law enabling 4 per cent reservations for Muslims in 2004. Kerala Public Service Commission has a quota of 12% for Muslims.

Controversy:

Later, Justice Sachar, head of the Sachar Committee that was commissioned to prepare a report on the latest social, economic and educational condition of the Muslim community of India. He suggested that instead of promising to give reservations, the government should focus on basic issues of improving administration and governance. On 28 May 2012, the Andhra Pradesh High Court quashed the sub-quota. The court said that the sub-quota has been carved out only on religious lines and not on any other intelligible basis.

Other

- Terrorist victims from Kashmir, e.g. in Punjab
- Single girl child (in Punjab)
- Migrants from the state of Jammu and Kashmir
- Sons/daughters/grandsons/granddaughters of Freedom Fighters
- Physically handicapped
- Sports personalities
- Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) have a small percentage of reserved seats in educational institutions. (Note : NRI reservations were removed from IIT in 2003)
- Candidates sponsored by various organisations
- Those who have served in the armed forces ('ex-serviceman' quota—because the age of superannuation in the military is much shorter than that in the civil posts; more so, certain intakes are tenure-based, e.g. the contract for Short-Service Commission is eight years)
- Dependents of armed forces personnel killed-in-action
- Repatriates
- Reservation in special schools of Government Undertakings/ PSUs, for the children of their own employees (e.g. Army schools, PSU schools, etc.)
- Paid pathway reservations in places of worship (e.g., Tirumala Venkateswara Temple, Tiruthani Murugan temple)
- Seat reservation for Senior citizens and physically handicapped in public (bus)

II.7 Reservation in Andhra Pradesh:

The state of Andhra Pradesh has one of the highest percentage of reservations in India in any form. 66.66% reservations are applicable in the state, as follows;

- Scheduled Castes (A,B,C,D) – 15%
- Scheduled Tribes – 6%
- Backward Classes – (A,B,C,D) – 25%
- Physically Handicapped (Blind, Deaf & Dumb and OPH) – 3% (1 Per Cent each)
- Ex-servicemen (APMS only) – 1% (0.5% in general)
- Women – 33.33% (in all categories, Means 16.66% in general category)
- School Admission Under RTE⁵.

The reservation for women cuts across all classes and communities and is a horizontal and not vertical reservation. As such the total % of reservations has to be counted at 50% only; and that is in consonance with the Supreme Court direction that reservations in general ought not to exceed 50% of the posts/seats if the right to equal opportunity to all without discrimination guaranteed under Article 16 is to be vindicated and respected.

III. Creamy layer:

The term *creamy layer* was first coined in 1975 in the *State of Kerala vs N. M. Thomas* case when a judge said that the "benefits of the reservation shall be snatched away by the top creamy layer of the backward class, thus leaving the weakest among the weak and leaving the fortunate layers to consume the whole cake". The creamy layer criteria was introduced at Rs 1 lakh in 1993, and revised to Rs 2.5 lakh in 2004, Rs 4.5 lakh in 2008 and Rs 6 lakh in 2013. In October 2015, the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) proposed that a person belonging to OBC with an annual family income of up to Rs 15 lakh should be considered as minimum ceiling for OBC.

IV. Universal Basic Income: Looking Towards it:

The Universal Basic Income (UBI) is an alternative to the current structure of subsidies and therefore if India's Politics can mature. The poorest, the Daridranaryana, have some income like Rs 10,000/- per household in his hand and it is a responsibility of the State. It is better to remove all subsidies from the State. LPG subsidy, Kerosene subsidy, fertilizer subsidy for rich farmer, Air condition travel in Railways subsidy (Rs55,000 crores), States different welfare subsidies can be with drawn and should be given a basic income to the poor per month⁶.

V. 2021 Census: Classifying the people by Incomes:

The another methodology is in 2021 census, people are to be classified by incomes into Rs 2.50 lakhs below Rs.5 lakhs, Rs10 lakhs, Rs15 lakhs, Rs20 lakhs etc. The Rs.2.5 lakhs below income household only has go any benefit in income and employment both rural and Urban. In last 70 years, rural SCs, STs are neglected by not extending the State benefits, because of failure of good governance.

VI. Andhra Pradesh SCs and STs Development: 2011 Census:

In all religions, castes poor were there. But more concentration is found SCsSTs only. In Andhra Pradesh development SCs and STs were abundantly found in Coastal Districts Guntur and follows Rayalaseema Districts. STs were placed more in Visakapatnam and other Hill areas. The income and employment were extended only to literate classes among these. Much of them are left-farm labourers construction workers and doing petty business in slum locations. The crude Reservation system was enjoyed by urban bounded households, who were cornered as creamy layer. Though Kanshiram, the founder of Bahujan Samaj Party observed that Reservation System reached centenary celebration, which are to be removed and every caste, class has to get the spirit of competitiveness. Of Course, many classes are not accepting his advice. The following tables provided a bird's eye view of SCs and STs development in Andhra Pradesh.

Table – 1

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Population in Andhra Pradesh – 2011 Census

S.NO	District	Persons	SCs	% of SC Population to total Population	STs	% of Sts Population to total Population
1.	Srikakulam	27,03,114	2,55,664	9.46	1,66,118	-6.15
2.	Vizianagaram	23,44,474	2,47,728	10.57	2,35,556	-10.05
3.	Visakapatnam	42,90,589	3,29,486	7.68	6,18,500	-14.42
4.	East Godavari	51,54,296	9,45,269	18.34	2,13,195	-11.14
5.	West Godavari	39,36,966	8,11,698	20.62	1,09,072	-2.77
6.	Krishna	45,17,398	8,71,063	19.28	1,32,464	-2.93
7.	Guntur	48,87,813	9,57,407	19.59	2,47,089	-5.06
8.	Prakasam	33,97,448	7,87,861	23.19	1,51,145	-4.45
9.	SPS Nellore	29,63,557	6,66,588	22.44	2,85,997	-9.65
10.	Chittoor	41,74,064	7,85,760	18.82	1,59,165	-3.81
11.	YSR Kadapa	28,82,469	4,65,794	16.16	75,886	-2.63
12.	Anantapur	40,81,148	5,83,135	14.29	1,54,127	-3.78
13.	Kurnool	40,81,148	7,37,945	18.21	82,831	-2.04

Source: DES (2013) Statistical Abstract of Andhra Pradesh -2013 pp.16 & 50

The table 1 have been highlighted that as per census 2011, Prakasam District stood first (23.14%) in concentration of Scheduled Castes to total population follows Nellore and West Godavari Districts. The least SCs were found in Visakapatnam (8%) Srikakulam and Vizianagaram. Where as in Scheduled Tribe, much of them are concentrated in Visakapatnam 914.42% Vizianagaram (10.05%) and least were found in Kurnool District (2.04%). Kadapa and West Godavari Districts.

Table – 2

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Main, Marginal Workers in Andhra Pradesh

S.NO	District	% o SC Literacy	% o SC Literacy rate	% of Main, marginal Workers to total SCs	% of Main, marginal Workers to total STs
1.	Srikakulam	60.78	53.36	49.09	54.63
2.	Vizianagaram	58.64	46.57	50.17	56.70
3.	Visakapatnam	69.99	44.90	42.10	58.19
4.	East Godavari	69.33	54.15	46.77	56.98
5.	West Godavari	71.43	57.05	51.86	56.74
6.	Krishna	70.46	53.69	51.81	51.64
7.	Guntur	64.12	46.45	53.62	56.12
8.	Prakasam	59.75	47.12	53.19	54.60
9.	SPS Nellore	65.29	42.78	48.25	55.53
10.	Chittoor	66.28	52.66	48.87	52.73
11.	YSR Kadapa	61.20	48.76	50.07	51.19
12.	Anantapur	56.29	54.98	52.34	50.27
13.	Kurnool	55.26	55.04	52.72	49.22
Andhra Pradesh					

Source: DES (2013) Statistical Abstract of Andhra Pradesh -2013 pp.57 & 64

The table 2 has been revealed that as per 2011 census in SCs the highest literacy rate was found in west Godavari (71.43%) Krishna and Visakapatnam Districts whereas least were found in Kurnool (55.26%) Kadapa and Vizianagaram. Among STs, the highest literacy rate was observed in West Godavari (57.05%), East Godavari, Srikakulam where least was in Nellore (43%) Visakapatnam, Vizianagaram Districts.

Generally employment (Main, Marginal workers) generates income to the people. Among SCs to total population, Guntur stood first with 54%, follows Prakasam and Kurnool. The least employment was found in Visakapatnam (42%) follows East Godavari and Srikakulam Districts. Among STs, the employment opportunities were found top in the Districts of Visakapatnam (58%) follows East Godavari and Vizianagaram. The least employment opportunities were on served in Kurnool (49%) and follows Anantapur and Kadapa. In overall, it shows that both rural classes have not benefitted from the State support, the same is found in other States also.

Conclusion:

The hunger and poverty is the root cause for backwardness of SCs and STs. In last 70 years, Centre and State Governments had introduces many programmes to benefit the exclusively Class SCs, STs to bring them into inclusive, to main stream level. Earlier the Constitutional writers advised Reservation system, which was crude and unscientific. Equ

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Annexure -I

S.NO	Categories for Rule of Exclusion	Rule of Exclusion Applies to the following:
I	Constitutional posts	The sons and daughters of the President of India, the Vice-President of India, Judges of the Supreme Court of India, the High Courts chairman, the members of Union Public Service Commission, members of the State Public Service Commission, Chief Election Commissioner, Comptroller Auditor-General of India or any person holding positions of a constitutional nature. ^[41]
II	Service Category: Those who are considered Group 'A'/Class I officers of the All India Central and State Services (Direct Recruits) or those who are considered Group 'B'/ Class II officers of The Central and State Services (Direct Recruitment) or those who are employees in the Public Sector.	Those who have parent(s) that are Class I or Class II officers, or both parents are Class I or Class II officers but one of them dies or suffers permanent incapacitation. ^[42] The criteria used for sons and daughters of Group A and B are the same for the employees of the Public sector. ^[41]
III	Armed forces including Paramilitary Forces (Persons holding civil posts are not included).	The sons and daughters of parents either or both of whom is or are in the rank of colonel and above in the army or in equivalent posts in the Navy, the Air Force, and the Paramilitary Force. But that will hold true provided that- 1. "the wife of an armed forces officer is herself in the armed forces (i.e., the category under consideration) the rule of exclusion will apply only when she herself has reached the rank of

		<p>Colonel."</p> <p>2. "the service ranks below Colonel of husband and wife shall not be clubbed together"</p> <p>3. "if the wife of an officer in the armed forces is in civil employment, this will not be taken into account for applying the rule of exclusion unless she falls in the service category under item No.II in which case the criteria and conditions"^[41]</p>
IV	Professional class and those engaged in Trade and Industry	<p>If a person has a high paying job such as physician, lawyer, chartered accountant, income tax consultant, financial or management consultant, dental surgeon, engineer, architect, computer specialist, film artist or other film professional, author, playwright, sports person, sports professional, media professional or any other vocations of like status. If the husband holds one of the above jobs and the wife doesn't then the husband's income will be taken into consideration and if the wife holds one of the above jobs then the wife's income will be taken into consideration. The income of the family as a whole will be taken into account because the whole point of the reservation system is to raise the social status of the people that belong to the SC's, ST's and OBCs and if a family's income is high already it is considered that it raises their social status as well.^[41]</p>

V	Property owners- agricultural, plantations (coffee,tea,rubber,etc.), vacant land and/or buildings in urban areas	Sons and daughters of those who have irrigated land area which is equal to or more than 85% of the statutory ceiling area will be excluded from reservation. They would only be under reservation if the land is exclusively unirrigated. Those with vacant buildings can use them for residential, industrial or commercial purposes, hence they are not covered under reservations. ^[41]
VI	Creamy layer	Son(s)/daughter(s) of those who earn ₹6 lakh (₹600,000) or more annually for three consecutive years are excluded from reservation. ^[41]

