



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

How SC Sub-Categorization Impacts Marginalized Sections Of Telangana State: A Comparative Study

Authors: Dasari Ravi Ratnayake

Research Scholar

University college of arts and social science

Osmania University

&

Panduga Bhanu Teja

PGDTE

E.F.L University

Abstract.

The sub-categorization of Scheduled Castes (SCs) in Telangana has been a longstanding issue with significant implications for social justice and policy implementation. This study examines the unequal distribution of reservations in education and employment, highlighting the dominance of the SC Mala community and the resulting demands for equitable distribution from other SC sub-castes. The Madiga Reservation Porata Samithi (MRPS), spearheaded by Manda Krishna Madiga, has been pivotal in advocating for restructuring reservation policies. The research also evaluates the recommendations of the Samim Akhtar Report (2025) and draws comparisons with similar policies in Punjab and Tamil Nadu to assess their socio-economic, political, and legal impacts.

Introduction

Background and Significance India's reservation policies are designed to uplift marginalized communities by ensuring equal opportunities in education and employment. However, disparities within the SC category have raised concerns about equitable access to these benefits. Historically, dominant SC groups like the Malas have secured a larger share of reservations in education and employment leading to movements advocating for sub-categorization. In the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh (AP), this demand gained momentum in the 1970s, culminating in the Justice Rama Chandra Raju Commission's 1996 report, which recommended equal

distribution of educational and employment reservations. MRPS, a social movement, emerged as a key advocate for SC sub-categorization, proposing a four-tier division: SC-A, SC-B, SC-C, and SC-D.

Despite the 1997 attempt at sub-categorization by the Chandrababu Naidu government, legal opposition from Mala Mahanaadu stalled progress. The Supreme Court's 2004 dismissal of the Rationalization of Reservation Act (2000) emphasized that states lacked the authority to unilaterally implement such changes. The Usha Mehra Commission (2008) later recommended amending Article 341 of the Constitution to enable SC sub-categorization at the state level.

With the formation of Telangana in 2014, political parties like the BJP pledged to implement SC sub-categorization within Hundred days but failed to act decisively. The demand remains a contentious issue, with MRPS and other organizations continuing to push for reforming for the SC sub categorization.

Research Objectives

This study aims to:

1. Analyze Historical and Contemporary Trends in Reservation Distribution Among SC Sub-Castes in Telangana

Examine the historical evolution of Scheduled Caste (SC) reservation policies in Telangana, including their socio-political contexts.

Assess how different SC sub-castes have benefited from reservations over time, identifying patterns of inclusion, exclusion, and disparities.

Investigate the socio-economic impact of these reservation policies on SC communities in education, employment, and political representation.

2. Evaluate the Recommendations of the Samim Akhtar Report (2025)

Study the key findings and policy recommendations of the Samim Akhtar Report regarding SC sub-categorization in Telangana.

Analyze its implications for equitable distribution of reservation benefits among SC sub-castes.

Assess the feasibility, challenges, and potential socio-political impact of implementing the report's recommendations.

3. Compare Telangana's Sub-Categorization Policies with Punjab and Tamil Nadu

Identify similarities and differences in how Telangana, Punjab, and Tamil Nadu approach SC sub-categorization.

Evaluate the effectiveness of sub-categorization policies in these states in terms of improving representation and socio-economic mobility.

Draw lessons from best practices and challenges faced in Punjab and Tamil Nadu to inform Telangana's policy framework.

4. Examine Constitutional and Political Debates on SC Sub-Categorization.

Analyze legal and constitutional perspectives on sub-categorization within SC reservations.

Examine judicial pronouncements, including Supreme Court and High Court rulings, on the matter.

Explore political discourse and stakeholder perspectives, including those of policymakers, activists, and affected communities.

5. Identify Gaps in SC Sub-Caste Conflicts and Propose Equitable Distribution of Reservations.

Investigate intra-SC conflicts arising from unequal access to reservation benefits.

Assess socio-political factors contributing to these disparities.

Suggest policy measures to ensure fair and proportional allocation of reservation benefits among all SC sub-castes in Telangana.

6. Evaluate the Role of the Central Government and State Governments in SC Sub-Categorization

Examine the position of the central government on SC sub-categorization and its policy measures.

Analyze the extent of state autonomy in implementing sub-categorization policies.

Recommend policy actions for both central and state governments to optimize the impact of reservations, ensuring they align with caste population distribution across all states in India.

Here's a more detailed and structured elaboration of your Research Methodology:

Research Methodology

This study employs a comparative analysis approach to examine the distribution of reservation benefits among SC sub-castes in Telangana. The methodology is designed to ensure a comprehensive understanding of historical trends, policy implications, and socio-economic impacts. The following key components define the research approach:

1. Research Design

The study adopts a comparative and analytical research design, incorporating both qualitative and quantitative data. The research compares Telangana's SC sub-categorization policies with those of Punjab and Tamil Nadu, analyzing their effectiveness, legal standing, and socio-political consequences.

2. Data Collection Methods

Secondary Data Sources

Government Reports & Policy Documents: Examination of central and state government reports on SC reservation policies and sub-categorization.

Judicial Rulings: Analysis of relevant Supreme Court and High Court verdicts on SC sub-categorization and reservation policies.

Policy Recommendations: Evaluation of reports such as the Samim Akhtar Report (2025) and other government commissions addressing SC sub-caste disparities.

Demographic Data:

2011 Census of India – Provides historical demographic trends and socio-economic conditions of SC communities.

2025 Telangana Socio-Economic, Educational, Employment, Political, and Caste Survey – Offers the latest insights into caste-based disparities and the effectiveness of reservation policies.

Comparative Policy Analysis : Telangana's SC sub-categorization policies are compared with those of Punjab and Tamil Nadu to assess similarities, differences, and effectiveness.

Key performance indicators such as educational attainment, employment rates, political representation, and socio-economic upliftment are evaluated.

3. Data Analysis Techniques

Comparative Analysis: A systematic comparison of reservation frameworks in Telangana, Punjab, and Tamil Nadu.

Identification of best practices and challenges in SC sub-categorization across states.

Content Analysis:

Examination of policy documents, legal rulings, and government reports to assess the legal and constitutional basis of SC sub-categorization.

Statistical Analysis:

Interpretation of census and survey data to identify patterns in SC sub-caste representation in education and employment.

Evaluation of disparities in reservation access through quantitative indicators such as literacy rates, income levels, and employment statistics.

4. Scope and Limitations

Scope:

The study focuses on Telangana but draws insights from Punjab and Tamil Nadu for comparative evaluation.

It emphasizes SC sub-caste distribution within the framework of constitutional provisions and judicial precedents.

Limitations:

The reliance on secondary data may limit real-time insights into contemporary socio-political developments.

The study does not conduct primary surveys or interviews, which could provide a more direct understanding of ground realities.

Theoretical Framework:

Social Justice Theory

John Rawls' Theory of Justice (1971) argues that policies should prioritize the most disadvantaged groups. SC sub-categorization aligns with this principle by ensuring a more equitable distribution of reservation benefits.

Affirmative Action Theory

Affirmative action supports government intervention to rectify historical injustices. Sub-categorization serves as a targeted measure to address intra-group disparities among SCs.

Current Status of SC Sub-Categorization in Telangana

Demographic Data : The 2011 Census recorded Telangana's SC population at 5.4 million (15.45%). The 2025 Telangana Survey updated this figure to 6.18 million (17.43%) Proposed SC Sub-Categorization (Samim Akhtar Report, 2025).

The Telangana government's recent study proposes the following classification:

Group I includes **SC-A with 15 sub-castes** (3.28% of SC population) Was Allotted 1% reservation, with **seven as a roster point**.

Group II includes **SC-B with 18 sub-castes** (62.74% of SC population) – 9% reservation (includes Madigas), With **two as a roster point**.

Group III includes **SC-C with 26 sub-castes** (33.96% of SC population) – 5% reservation (includes Malas), with **Twenty two as roster point (women)and forty four as general roster point**.

Critics argue that these recommendations rely on outdated census data and fail to account for additional factors such as political representation, business loans, and healthcare access by considering education and employment only .

Comparative Analysis: Punjab and Tamil Nadu Models

Punjab's SC Sub-Categorization Model

Punjab categorized SCs into Mazhabi Sikhs and Ravidasis to ensure fairer distribution. The Supreme Court upheld this model, setting a legal precedent for other states considering similar measures.

Tamil Nadu's Internal SC Classification

Tamil Nadu implemented separate quotas within the SC category, improving socio-economic conditions without facing significant legal challenges. By examining these models, Telangana can refine its sub-categorization strategy.

Legal and Political Challenges

Constitutional Constraints

Article 341 stipulates that the President determines SC lists, requiring central approval for any changes or Amendments. Supreme Court rulings have questioned states' authority to implement sub-categorization independently . If the centre can make recommendations in reservations that all the states will be benefitted with the SC subcategorization policy and all the Dalits combindly reap the reservations fruits in a transparent manner.

Political Motivations and Criticism

Critics argue that sub-categorization serves political interests, consolidating vote banks rather than ensuring social justice. Some factions within the Mala community advocate for increasing overall SC reservations instead of sub-dividing existing quotas. Concerns persist that caste-based politics may deepen social divisions and hinder state integration.

Addressing Data Gaps and recommendations

The Samim Akhtar Report should be updated using current Telangana-specific data irrespective of taking 2011 census data, which is a serious threat to the society in upliftment of scheduled castes .

Additional factors like SC corporation loans, healthcare access, and private-sector employment should be considered unlike considering only education and employment.

Roster point in Samim Akhtar report 2025 has been towards Madiga centric irrespective of giving to the most backward sections of SC Sub castes as a first preference.

Sub categorization should be cleared by Center by issuing G.O or Making amendment in the constitution of India to avoid caste based conflicts between the sub castes irrespective of handovering the issue to the states independently.

The government should provide job reservation in private sector jobs with a specified percentage with respect to the Castes so that can upliftment the marginalized communities, and also minimise the caste based conflicts.

Government should also fulfill free public education to avoid privatisation of education which makes equality in Education and Employment, that makes a qualitative use of resources can minimise the caste barriers .

Reservations should be Utilised for Social Upliftment irrespective of Economic, political Transformation . Which can make a step forward for minimising caste discrimination and makes the society egalitarian .

Considering that Malas are only getting benefitted with reservations is not a valid debate, reservations are solely benefitted with in some families of mala sections and madiga sections too but not from all the sections of mala communities, even some families from mala community are not benefitted reservation for the first time, and they are engaging non-technical works and some of the mala people are migrated to the gulf states to fight against poverty because of not having a proper caste occupation unlike Madigas.

Making SC subcategorization as same as inclusion and exclusion of SC s of presidential order which can make equality in reservations to all the states including Telangana.

Mala communities didn't have a caste occupation unlike Madigas, so the government should also consider this point and make justice to mala communities and the government should also provide caste pensions to mala communities too.

Government should divide all the aspects equally like SC Corporation loans, political aspects and other aspects irrespective of considering education and employment aspects only.

Government should improve in giving more public education and health benefits that can minimise caste barriers between the sub castes and should take measures in upliftment of Dalits and make their livelihoods as equally with the other castes .

The report should also evaluate the 3 Acres land distribution done to Dalits under BRS Government and also take the land distribution as a key point in subcategorization along with education and employment.

The government should showcase all the Data transparently that was spent to SC'S also consider in Subcategorization

SC reservation quotas should be revised to reflect the actual SC population and

EWS (10%) reservations should be reassessed, with excess percentages redistributed to SCs and BCs.

Reservation policies should extend beyond government jobs to include private sector .

Legislative Clarity

Telangana should seek constitutional clarification on state authority over SC sub-categorization.

The central government should amend Article 341 to legally permit sub-categorization.

Public Awareness and Grassroots Engagement

Government and civil society organizations should educate SC communities on sub-categorization to ensure informed participation.

Center should keep an end card to the state caste conflicts by taking Subcategorization subject to the centre.

Conclusion

SC sub-categorization in Telangana presents a multifaceted challenge involving social, political, and legal dimensions. While the primary goal is to ensure fairer distribution of reservations, obstacles such as political interference, outdated data, and constitutional barriers persist. Learning from Punjab and Tamil Nadu's models could help Telangana implement a more effective and just sub-categorization system, ultimately fostering social equity and economic inclusion, include all the aspects equally unlike considering only education and employment as a important factor, provide a transparent roster point.

Key words: Sub categorization, Reservations, SC Corporation loans, education, employment , Shamim akhter report, roster point, Social Equality, economic inclusion, constitution order, jhon Rawls theory of justice and fairness, Affirmative action theory of equality.

References

Constitution order 1950

Justice Rama Chandra Raju Commission (1996)

Rationalization of Reservation Act (2000)

Usha Mehra Commission (2008)

Justice Rohini Commission (2017)

SC Corporation Census Report

Samim Akhtar Report (2025)

Census report 2011

John rawls theory of justice and fairness

Affirmative action theory of equality

Data analysis from news paper, websites, Television.