Caste and Politics in India: A Study

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ABSTRACT

India has nature of multiculturalism. It has the objective of welfare state and it's represented by the principle of 'Secularism'. The thousand of years ago the caste system was originated in India. Later, in Vedic period the caste system was structurally organised by the four varns (Brahman, Kshatriya, Vyshya and Shudras) based on the occupation of man. In the changing of Indian civil society the role of 'caste' spreads across the state by the recognition of individual. The socio-political changes of the state need to achieve the desired goals of the state in order to providing good facilities and administration to its citizens. The social identities such as culture, customs, traditions and the practices are interfere more in human life irrespective of the human values. Hence, the government has to take care of its citizens providing the services based on its strength and stability. In such a way the role and responsibilities of political parties are essential in the formation of a political system which involved in the social system. Hence, the political parties are act as 'agent' of 'political socialization' of a man.

In the modern age of politics based on the activities of political parties where it creates the public opinion in order to the attractions of people, providing public platforms, providing good services or to create popularity. It means the political identity need not to be the representation of the people by their caste, gender, religion and communal. The political homogeneity is the principle which ensures that political equality among the representatives and their electoral constituency irrespective of the above elements. But unfortunately, In India the Political representation based on few political evils such as caste, money and political blessings. The 'caste' is the measuring tool of candidates and the electorates in the electoral constituencies for the beginning of the political process through the political recruitment to receive the portfolios in the government. Therefore, it is a type of fissure ahead in the civil society groups and it will be the causes for the decline of political system and to recreate the history of 'Varna system' in our future.

1. Introduction

When the uncivilised groups moves towards the civil society there were many changes took place in the socio-economic and political sectors of the state. The changes of the society need not to the changes of the life style of individual but it creates the ideological differences among the groups of civil society. The reasoning capacity of the individual creates several barriers among the civil society groups in to the different sections of the society based on caste, religion, community, culture, customs and other forms. It was affected on the civil society groups sociologically, politically, economically and in other forms of the growth of a state.

In Indian history the Vedic period was made an identical difference to the nature of caste system in order to its practices. Earlier the varnashrama system was recognised based on the occupation of a man later it turned in to 'caste' system. Therefore the trend was evolved in the caste system based on the birth of individual. Later, In India several castes emerged and to be considered as upper and lower class. But, unfortunately still it is alive in modern society of India. The political socialization of man needs to be the active participation in the socio-political activities of state irrespective of caste, religion, gender region and rituals.

In India there are approximately 3000 castes and more than 25000 sub castes which related to their occupation. In the 2011 caste based census identified that around 45 to 50 percent of people from OBC around 20 percent of SC population, 10 percent of ST population and rest of the 25 percent are General. Simultaneously in the perspectives of the political representation we found that around 800 representatives at the central political administration of the country and the others from the respective of state political administration across India.

Rajni Kothari (1970) identified the three important factors are related with the caste and politics; they are education, government patronage and the growing franchise (electorates). It is the factor influences on the 'political mobilisation' of human beings. The democratic state must have followed the democratic principles and to promote unity and integrity among the citizens of sate. But sometime there is a dilemma ahead between the two significant elements of the Democratic set up of nations which are the 'Secularism' and 'Caste politics'.

Rajni Kothari (1970) recognised that there are four significant relationships between caste and politics:

a) New elite will emerge based on different castes with the common secular outlook
b) Caste functioning on factional basis (groups) which divides the political groups along with The social groups
c) The identification of caste system has given a new relevance to the electorate system
d) Caste have assumed new organisation form such as associations, conferences and Federations

2. Review of Literature

Rajni Kothari, (1973) in his book titled ‘Caste in Indian Politics’. He explains about the different dimension of the role of caste in Indian society which exists earlier in the several form of our organised society. The caste system is one of the important social structure of the state, It ensures that the mobilisation of human beings in all social sector of state. The caste system is to legitimize the political system in the democratic setup. Caste and politics are interrelated which ensure the administration in a proper way and it articulates and develops to its own design in the society. Therefore caste is a tool which provides an opportunity to assert the individual identity and to gain positions in the society.

3. Objectives

- To study the role of caste in to the political mobilization of man
- To understand the relationship between the caste and politics in India
- To examine the role of caste politics in modern Democratic countries.
- To evaluate the caste based politics in India.

4. Methodology

In this study used the “Historical and Explanatory method” for the collection of data along with interpretations. The evolution of the caste politics from the ancient period to till and it will be cause to the principles of Secularism which adopted in Indian Democracy. The study of research needs to collect some information regarding the total representation of the representatives in the political administration of the state across India. This study an analysis the elected representatives of the state has equally represents the total population of India irrespective of caste and gender.

5. Characteristics of caste system

1. Caste is only the identical element of the group of society
2. Caste is the representation of community in to the different social sectors.
3. Caste is the evolved elements of a man in order to their culture, traditions, customs, and
4. Rituals.
5. Caste is the sub-system of our society.
6. Caste is the identification of social bond.

6. The Role of Caste in Indian politics

In the political process of Indian Democracy ‘caste’ played on a significant role. The sociologist G.S Ghurye says that “The caste system divides the society into various sections. And each one developed well by the social groups” The civil society has the responsibility to bring unity and integrity among themselves to ensure the principles of Democracy especially the ‘Secularism’. Hence, the following elements are to consider the process of caste politics in India.

Political Socialisation: It is the process of human being turned in to citizen of state irrespective of the participation in all social sectors of the state. The term political socialisation begins from the social structure of a human being regarding his age, gender, caste, religion, place of birth and others. The agents of political socialisation are family, school, mass media, political parties, pressure groups and other groups of civil society to play a significant role in the participation of man in the political process. Hence, the reasoning capacity, awareness and active participation of an individual in all the political process of a state is inevitable to be consideration of political socialisation of a man. When individual voluntarily interested to participate in the politics through showing of his attitude and beliefs it will lead to him ‘political man’ from a ‘social man’. Therefore, in the democratic countries the political parties are act as agent of political socialisation of man to bring them in to politics.

Political Recruitment: Caste is the effective tool to influence on the political recruitment where the political process begins especially from the enrollment in to a particular political party. Sometime the political parties recognised based on community or in favour of particular caste or religion. The political parties are using a strategy of ‘vote bank’ to enhancing of their strength against to the opposition party. In Democracy everyone has chance to establishment of party to provide good service to the public through formation of government but it should not create a group of people who represented by particular community or religion which leads to communal riots in the state. In some of the states of union have witnessed in that example; in Karnataka Lingyath/Vokkaliga, Tamilnadu Thevar/Gounder, Haryana Bishnois/Brhmin etc.

Party Politics: Caste is one of major factor affecting on Indian Party System. A few of political parties were represented by the particular group of people who were belonging to a specific caste or religion. This is the fact which followed majorly by the regional parties or state parties of India. Example; DMK and AIADMK in Tamilnadu, BSP in Uttar Pradesh and others majority of political parties in India use caste as a tool to securing votes in elections and to be converted in to vote banks. The internal system of party organisation is also not to out of this caste phenomenon. During the taking of party decisions and implementation of party programmes seems to be under the influences of caste itself. Example; BJP has large group of mass belongs to Hindu religion and to defend of Hindutva.

Elections: Caste is the influential factor of electoral politics in India. Majority of the political parties are to follow the common criteria while recruiting and nominating the candidates to contest in the elections based on their castes. Because when a candidate represent a particular constituency where he wanted to get more number of votes from the voters who were in the majority of community or caste. ‘Caste is the deciding factor’ in some constituency to won in the elections. If a contesting candidate of a party is also recognised by the party leaders based on where he represented? And how much he can able to get votes from his constituency? However, instead of caste representation in the respective electoral constituency the candidate will not get majority of votes and he will face
some political difficulties in his contemporaries. Example; reserved electoral constituencies, therefore it is the greater challenge in politics to implementation and uphold of the principle of ‘Secularism’ in India.

Positions in the Government: ‘Caste is the deciding factor’ to acquire position in the government as well as to get portfolios in significant department of the government. The process of decision making itself is the challenge to taken by a candidate irrespective of caste and religion in the state. The formulation of policies and its implementation is also depends on the influence of caste. If an elected members who were in the position will not able to take a decision without the concern of his party members and pressure groups which was formulated indirectly based on particular community or caste. Because in politics are rooted very strongly from the beginning itself to the recruitment to end of to take decisions in the government level.

7. Obstacles of caste politics in India
   1. The contesting candidate itself identifying by the electorate of constituencies from the caste;
   2. The political party giving more priority to their representatives based on the caste/religion
   3. The census of nation (caste census) is to provoke indirectly to caste politics
   4. The shifted of human behaviour from unity to decentralize.
   5. The illusions of the people that politics is recognised and represented by dominant group of the society
   6. Caste is the root to gather the people of community belongs to the same caste.

8. Findings
   - Caste is play a significant role in the political mobilisation of a man
   - The entire political process of the state depends on the caste system
   - Caste is the tool which used by negative forms in the political administration
   - To uphold the principle of ‘Secularism’ in the Democratic setup
   - The role of political parties is to awaken the people about caste politics in India.

9. Conclusion
   In Indian society caste is only considered as culture of a community which is symbolic of their social representation in all the fields. When this caste used as negative form such as vote bank, discrimination, domination and communal with other communities the homogeneity among the citizens of the state will destroy. The constitutional principles will enshrine within the sphere of democratic setup. Democratic countries always need the practices of its principles in order to the active participation of its citizens. Hence, the political administration has to give directions and awaken the citizens of the state to uphold those principles. The politics should always far from social structure which interference directly in to the politics.

References