PREFACE

Caste has been a predominantly determining factor in our Indian Society. Since ages the impact of caste and Casteism has been very potent on our social fabric. Even after independence, the thrust of modern education and wave of liberalisation, Caste has not disappeared from the social scene as anticipated by quite many thinkers, politicians and social scientists. Caste has become an Institution in India at least. I have been a keen observer of the impact of the caste-consciousness and at times I too was beguiled into a belief that caste is on the wane and soon we might have a casteless society. On probing deeper into the roots of this Institution i.e. caste, my observation has been that its roots exist firmly even today. Whatever has been said and is being said that we are fast moving towards a casteless society seems to be a myth rather than an actuality. I have made a modest effort to analyse the impact of caste and caste consciousness in socio-economic, socio-political and socio-cultural walks of life and I believe, I can safely infer that caste does play a dominant role even today of course obliquely.

To the naked eye of casual analysts of society, Caste, as some claim is fast disappearing. But minute observation and deep analysis and depth study speaks quite the contrary. My observations are based on the statistics. I have collected on the basis of personal interviews and very informal chats with the Respondents. The charts appended with this study amply vouchsafe what I have spoken about. However I make no claims to say anything positively authoritatively as my perceptions are purely data-based.

I shall conclude my prefatory remarks by expressing my deepest,
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