INTRODUCTORY
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Roots of reservation policy for the Scheduled Castes in India lay deep in the past. To be true, reservation policy as an accepted constitutional policy are the fruits borne by the tree of Hindu civilisation. The hierarchical social order was created over centuries with a view to preserve the monopoly of social status, property and education by the higher caste Hindus. As a result, property, education, freedom, justice, progress and prosperity was denied to the people of lower castes. Downtrodden in the Hindu society were stripped off the even equitable opportunities for political, social, economic and educational development. The caste system bestowed hierarchically graded privileges on some section of population and inflicted a series of disabilities to generation. Opportunities of growth and development were controlled and usurped by the higher castes with the result that the downtrodden were deprived and discriminated, symbolising a powerful institutionalised pattern of exploitation and suppression of the weak by the strong. In the Indian stratification of society, the Scheduled Castes constitute an important stratum, not because they form about 15 percent of India's population, but because they occupy a unique position as untouchables.

Thus the resurrection of the people who were known compendiously as the Scheduled Castes and treated hither to as 'casteless', 'outcastes' and 'untouchables', oppressed by and subject to every manner of deprivation and discrimination for centuries after centuries, by a unique system of social and economic segregation, 'graded inequality', 'gradation and degradation' and 'gigantic cold blooded repression' and prevented even from protesting their plight.
All this compelled our wise founding fathers to adopt policy of compensatory discrimination as an equaliser to those who were too weak socially and economically in the caste ridden Indian society. They took special notice of the downtrodden and obligated the state to promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and in particular of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes' and to protect them from social injustice and exploitation. The Constitution also provided, that the state should strive to promote the welfare of the people and in particular to minimise the inequalities in income, status, facilities and opportunities, amongst individuals and groups of people, residing in different areas or engaged in different vocations.

It is in this background the architects of our National Charter very rightly considered the reservation in various spheres of the life of the Scheduled Castes as one of the potential means of reducing inequalities. Special concessions have been made to these castes in term of reservation of seats in legislative, educational institutions and government services and in terms of pecuniary benefits. The main objective of these special concession is that this backward and suppressed segment of Indian population should be emancipated at the accelerated pace to catch them up with the overall pace of national development. It aims at accomplishing the object of historical restitution or reparation to effect the systematic and cumulative deprivations suffererd by the lower castes in the past. Moreover reservation in favour of Scheduled Castes. is an exceptional and temporary measure designed to the used for the purpose of mitigating inequalities between communities. It is however the matter of great dissatisfaction that period of reservation has been repeatedly extended four times but still it is seen these classes of people are at the same position. This is because the social,
economic and political inequalities have not yet been removed and they need reservation for some time more with a view to enable them to come on par with the rest of the nation.

What is true is that today the lower layers of the people of Scheduled Castes are where they were two hundred years ago bearing a few who have monopolised all the benefits designed for these poor brethren. The general opinion is that the benefits of reservation policy by and large have been snatched away by the top creamy layer of the Scheduled Castes, thus keeping the weakest of the weak always weak and leaving the fortunate layers to consume the whole cake.

A. OBJECT OF PRESENT STUDY

The Indian Constitution wishes to establish an egalitarian society. But one should not deny the harsh reality of Indian social life which is completely stratified. The caste ridden Indian society has resulted in the continuance of unequal social groups who have monopolised all the benefits and privileges for themselves i.e. the so called elite class or the higher in the class hierarchy. On the other hand there have been people who have been disprevileged and denied any benefit. This exploitation has divided India into two major nationalities i.e. the haves and have-nots. When we talk of affirmative actions or in simple term giving special treatment to some segments of the society in the form of reservation, it seems to develop antithesis of equality. But the provisions relating to the protective discrimination is in a nut-shell tries to bring unequals at the level of equals. There cannot be any equality between the people who have been historically unequal and who have been denied the access of education and job opportunities. Now to achieve the desired objective of bringing unequals at the level of equals, two
possible methods can be employed one is what may be called 'pull up method'. The other can be called 'push up method'. The strategy of pull up method results in the development and progress of only few with in the disadvantage group while the push up method helps in raising the status of whole class of disadvantaged communities.

In the view of this background the present study is an attempt to see as to what extent the beneficiaries of the reservation policy have been benefitted in the light of the constitutional commitment. An endeavour will be made by this research work to assess the impact of various measures adopted for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes. An attempt is made to examine empirically the political, social, economic and educational impact in considerable detail. An earnest attempt is also made to find out the extent of progress which these people have been able to achieve by virtue of constitutional safeguards in due course of time. A special attention has been given to see how far the traditional caste system and practice of untouchability have undergone a qualitative change. All possible efforts have been made to cover the present study in the following major aspects.

(i) To probe the impact of reservation policy on political life of scheduled castes in view of the political safeguards embodied for them in Articles 330 and 332 of the Indian Constitution.

(ii) To assess the impact of reservation policy on the social life of the scheduled castes specially with regard to untouchability, its magnitude, food, habits, atrocities, inter-caste marriage etc.

(iii) To investigate the impact of reservation policy on economic life of the Scheduled Castes.

(iv) Extremely conduct research to know the impact of reservation
policy on education of the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes.

(v) To know in dept the level of awareness and opinion of the Scheduled Castes with regards to Constitutional safeguards designed for their welfare.

(vi) To peruse and analyse whether the benefits of reservation have really been reaped by all the beneficiaries on equal footing or have gone only to a fraction of Scheduled Caste population i.e. the creamy layer.

B. RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS

For the purpose of conducting the present empirical study the following hypothesis have been raised -

(i) The reservation policy has built up a sound political environment where in the Scheduled Castes people have enabled themselves to regain their confidence to share the political power on equal basis with other sections of society and village, state and national levels.

(ii) The government has adequate and satisfactory administrative apparatus for the implementation of the constitutional safeguards to Scheduled Castes and has achieved a great deal of success in the removal of untouchability and invidious discrimination arising there from and creating thereby healthy environment of casteless society.

(iii) The reservation policy has enabled the Scheduled Castes to change their traditional sources of livelihood with the result that their standard of living and the sunken status has improved appreciably.
(iv) The reservation policy has generated an educational environment where in the Scheduled Castes people are able to equip themselves to compete with other sections of society on equal footing in various walks of their life.

(v) The claims of Scheduled Castes in matter of public employment have been given due consideration while making appointments in service with the result that they are now adequately represented in the service sector in accordance with the spirit of Article 16(4) of our National charter.

(vi) The benefits of reservation have reached in even form to all the Scheduled Castes in the light of constitutional philosophy and has, therefore, enabled them to reap the benefit of reservation policy on equitable basis.

(vii) The beneficiaries have sufficient awareness about the constitutional provisions concerning reservation and are actively conscious to reap the said benefits available for them under different welfare schemes.

(viii) The execution of constitutional safeguard in favour of Scheduled Castes has enabled them to come at par with the other sections of the society and hence time has come to discontinue with the reservation policy in the larger interest of the other sections of the society.

C. UNIVERSE OF PRESENT STUDY

The present study has been restricted to Aligarh, Agra and Rampur districts of Uttar Pradesh. The reason to confine the present study to these three districts is that these districts are densely populated with the Scheduled Castes and the field survey was very easily taken in these very districts. For this at least five villages were
taken from each district to ascertain the upward mobility of the Scheduled Castes because of affirmative action. Similarly five localities were studied in urban areas of these districts. In addition to this data was collected from the different government offices of these three districts in order to find the representation of Scheduled Castes in the respective offices.

D. METHODOLOGY ADOPTED

In order to find the answers to the hypothesis emphasis on the collection of first hand information from the beneficiaries have been laid down. Multi prolonged approach has been used to collect as much relevant information as possible from the beneficiaries of the selected areas of these three districts. Two methods viz., questionnaire method and extensive interview method have been adopted for the collection of information from the beneficiaries of the reservation policy.

A carefully structured questionnaire was prepared and administered to the selected areas of these three districts. The sole purpose of collection of response was to elicit their views by posing questions in different easy forms so as to assess the real impact of reservation policy on the life of the people of Scheduled Castes under present study. Every effort has been made to make the study a good combination of questionnaire method and extensive interview method to evaluate and assess the impact of reservation policy in the light of the objective of the study and find answers to the hypothesis raised.

In the process of present study and research the Doctrinal Research methodology and empirical tools was also adopted relying on the material available in the library, the same cannot be completed because in order to evaluate the working of central legislation
applicable to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes the decisional work in three districts was relied on.

E. WORK PLAN

To facilitate the present study the whole work is divided in different chapters to achieve logical conclusion on the basis of systematic study.

Chapter-I deals with the historical background of Hindu caste system which is based on religious literature. This chapter examines how the rigid caste system is coming in the way of Indian Constitutional philosophy and progress of the country. Thus the indepth study is attempted for the analysis of Hindu caste system from its origin till date about its relevance and futility. In the second part of this chapter Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's ideology on Hindu caste system is discussed in detail. He argued for a cohesive society which would certainly eradicate the evils of caste system and bring the downtrodden classes into the mainstream of natural life in order to promote national unity and integration.

Chapter-II deals with the definitions, constitutional concept and scope of social justice. It is a quest for justice and a challenge of equality, liberty and fraternity. The concept of justice is a revolutionary concept which give significance to the democratic way of life and make the rule of law dynamic. It requires abolition of all sorts of inequalities of wealth, opportunity, race, caste, religion and title. The political freedom will have no meaning with out social and economic justice to the common people. The theme of directive principles of the state policy aims at bringing about a non-violent social revolution in order to fulfil the basic needs of common masses and to change the structure of the society. This chapter also deals with the social frame work of social justice and egalitarian ideology
of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. He played a major role in quest for constitutional rights and social justice in the Constituent Assembly.

Chapter-III deals with the definition and the constitutional concept of Scheduled Caste. They were characterised by the convergence of multiple marginalities and cumulative inequalities. Their exploited conditions emanate from cumulative inequalities in economic, political and ritual systems. In this chapter Dr. Ambedkar's struggle for the upliftment of Scheduled castes is discussed. His attempt to maintain separate identity for the Scheduled Castes in order to safeguard their political interest has been discussed in detail in this chapter.

Chapter-IV deals with concept of Reservation. An attempt is made to highlight reservation as one of the mechanisms of protective discrimination in order to ensure the participation of traditionally neglected sections of the society. The chapter also includes the purpose of reservation as a tool for economic and social upliftment. The chapter also includes the fixation of quotas in legislative bodies, in educational Institutions and in Public employments. Second part of the chapter deals with the speeches Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in the Constituent Assembly Debates and how through his substantial, significant and spectacular contributions in the Constituent Assembly he was honoured as the Principal Architect of the Constitution.

Chapter-V of the instant work deals with the provisions for reservation in the Constitution of India. Land mark judicial pronouncements regarding the issues like who are the backward classes and what should be the criteria of backwardness, what is the limitation of reservation both numerical and time and can a balance be maintained among competing equalities are discussed in detail in this chapter. It is a known fact that, the Constitution of India does
not recognise caste as it does not prefer any body on the basis of caste and stands for egalitarianism and casteless society.

Chapter-VI deals with the special provisions relating to reservation of seats in different houses of parliament and as well as Legislature Articles provided for the appointment of the special officer for these depressed classes by the President and their functions are discussed in detail in this chapter.

Chapter-VII deals with the 'Data Analysis'. It includes the method of Selection of Respondents from the required three districts of Uttar Pradesh. Responses obtained through the questionnaire and the comparative analysis of data is done in this chapter and finally the summary of findings is also discussed and explained through Pie Charts and Bar Graphs in this chapter.

The outcome and suggestions of the present research work is available under the caption 'Conclusion and Suggestions'.

REFERENCES


2. Ibid.


6. Marc Glanter, "Protective Discrimination for Backward Classes in India", 3 Journal of Indian Law Institute, 42 (1962) also see Constitution of India, Article 334.


9. Ibid.,