

Recorded Society Class 04

1st July, 2024 at 9:00 AM

THE CLASS STARTED (IN CONTINUATION) AT: (01:08 PM):

ROLE OF CASTE IN POLITICS: (01:09 PM):

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Pre Independence	Post-independence Phase- I	Phase II	Phase III
1) Christian missionaries were spreading the message of Christianity as a reformatory movement against orthodox practices.	Upper Caste was able to reap the benefit from the opportunities offered during the British period that consolidated their position w.r.t secular and ritualistic hierarchy and as known as Entrenched Caste (EC).	1) It is characterized by the mobilization of people on caste lines both by the EC and DC to strengthen their vote banks. It is referred to as the Politicization of Caste.	1) Multi caste alliances.
2) With the English language and secular education, the emergence of the educational elite.	2) During this period Land Reforms led to the emergence of the Dominant Caste (DC)		2) Caste-neutral job opportunities
3) Wanted to reform society against regression practices e.g. Caste System.	3) This phase is characterized by a struggle for power between EC and DC as there cannot		3) A secular pattern of living ensures that Caste identities will cease to exist. However, this increased

**be two words
in one sheath.**

**the Casteization
of Politics.**

- **Features of Politicization of Caste:**
- **a) Candidates are chosen according to the Caste composition.**
- **b) While forming the government, it is ensured that every caste group gets adequate representation.**
- **c) Political parties support the caste groups to gain their votes.**
- **Question:**
- **Critically analyze to what extent politicization and casteization of politics are a threat to Indian democracy.**
- **Casteization of Politics:**
- **Andre Beteille: "India's destiny is not cast in stones".**
- **a) Caste-neutral jobs.**
- **b) Secular pattern of living.**
- **c) Commensality.**
- **d) Intercaste marriages.**
- **e) Opportunities for mobility w.r.t secular hierarchy.**
- **Caste has been dislodged from the ritualistic domain i.e. no longer the existence of the notion of purity and pollution.**
- **It has entered the psyche of people during electoral politics which is largely due to the hype created by the Media.**
- **However, the above points were refuted by Gail Omvedt.**
- **According to the Indian Development Survey, only 5% of marriages are intercaste. 95% of the surveyed population wanted to marry within the sub-caste.**
- **According to Social Justice and Empowerment, there exist 66,696 manual scavengers of which 97.25% belong to the Schedule Caste category.**
- **The above data occupational division still exists.**
- **According to Amit Thorat and Om Joshi in urban areas, 30% of the households practice untouchability.**
- **According to Satish Deshpande, covert untouchability is being practiced e.g. separate utensils, and residential ghettoization.**
- **Refusal to give accommodation on rent to people of a certain caste.**
- **According to Action Aid NGO, 25% of people do not allow people from the lower caste to work on their land.**

- In 3/4th of villages if caste identity is known people are not allowed to sell milk to the cooperatives and people directly.
- It was perceived that with the emergence of a new value system caste would no longer be relevant.
- However, the caste system has shown immense resilience and led to the emergence of various associations.
- Associations Based On Caste:
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1) Political Association. BSP, SP, Bheem Sena, etc.

2) Economic Association. Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, NSCFDC.

3) Social Association. Marriage: Rajput matrimony, Brahmin Matrimony. Education: Dalit Sahitya, Vaishya Educational Society.

- Questions:
- 'The caste system is assuming new identities and associational forms and hence the caste system cannot be eradicated in India'. Comment (10 marks/150 words).
- Has caste lost its relevance in understanding Indian society? Elaborate your answer with examples. (10 marks/150 words).
- Why is the caste identity in India both fluid and static? (10 marks/150 words).

RESERVATION IN INDIA: (02:39 PM):

- Concept: It is a concept where a certain percentage of seats are reserved for socially, educationally, and backward communities.
- Rationale: To correct the historical injustices.
- Providing equality of opportunity.

- Also, gives effect to redistributive agendas to the State.
- Debate on Reservation:
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For	Against
1) Meritocracy is meaningless without the equality of opportunity.	1) Merit will be compromised.
2) In a democracy it is a political necessity to give representation to all sections of society.	2) Administrative efficiency is negatively impacted.
3) Social justice and empowerment.	3) It further strengthens the stereotypes by discrediting the success as a result of reservation.
4) Correct stereotypes and creation of inclusive societies.	4) it has been reduced to the status of political tool in the hands of politicians to serve their vested interests.

- More points for (For) aspects:
- 5) Rationale behind the reservation.
- 6) Diversity at educational and job levels.
- 7) Cultural capital to be strengthened.
- 8) Reaping benefits of demographic dividend.
- 9) Sustainable development, inclusive society, etc.

- **More points for (Against) aspect:**
- **5) It has further widened the divide in society and few believe it is a tool for reverse discrimination.**
- **6) Class within the caste has created the grounds for intra-caste disputes.**
- **7) It has created a Domino Effect.**
- **8) Instead of means reservation has become an end.**
- **9) Caste consciousness has further strengthened it which has led to Ingroupism.**
- **10) Problem of brain drain.**
- **11) It goes against the capability approach.**
- **12) Social unrest creates a fiscal burden on the government.**
- **Way forward:**
- **1) A new yardstick needs to be developed to determine the backwardness e.g. NALSA, 2014 judgment of including transgenders under the OBC reservation.**
- **2) Dereservation through social mapping e.g. the apex court in M Nagaraj and Jarnail Singh Case stated to introduce the creamy layer in SC/ST.**
- **3) Complete overhauling of educational systems:**
- **Bring public education to par with private education. Also, increases the ambit of the Right to Education to incorporate Secondary Education.**
- **Correct the prejudiced attitude, especially in schools resulting in dropouts.**
- **4) Promote a culture of entrepreneurship to transform youth from job seekers to job generators.**
- **5) Make agriculture lucrative for the youth.**
- **6) Periodic evaluation of the policy of reservation whether the benefits are reaching the intended beneficiaries or not.**
- **7) Perception management is the need of the hour.**

DOMINANT CASTE DEMANDING RESERVATION: (03:20 PM):

- **Why The Dominating Caste Demanding Reservation:**
- **Traditional Reasons:**
 - 1) Agricultural community.
 - 2) Emerged as a result of land reforms.
 - 3) The position was consolidated due to the Green Revolution.
 - 4) Couldn't reap the benefits of Educational Opportunities.
- **Contemporary Reasons:**
 - 1) Agriculture is in distress.
 - 2) Lack of alternative employment opportunities.
 - 3) Global obsession with city life.
 - 4) Skewed sex ratio.
- However, reservation is not the solution to problems faced in the Labor Market, due to the following reasons:
 - 1) There is a decline in government jobs due to *Maximum Governance and Minimum Government*.
 - 2) There exists informalization in the labor market.
 - Globalization-->Capitalism-->Profit Maximization-->Cost of production is minimum-->Minimum Wages-->Outsourcing of Work-->Informalization of labor market
 - According to the Indian Staffing Commission, 45% of the total government jobs are outsourced.
 - The inclusion of the dominating caste under the OBC will not be a panacea for the labor market problem.
 - According to the Justice Rohini panel, 1% of OBC has cornered 50% of the OBC reservation benefits whereas 20% of OBC has not received any benefits.
- Reservation to resolve the labor market problem is not sufficient.

TOPICS OF THE NEXT CLASS: Dalit Capitalism, etc.