

CASTE IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Context: A study in IIT-D, by Board of Student Publications of IIT-D, showed prevalence of caste based discrimination by students and use of casteist remarks by students and teachers.

Major Findings:

- 75% SC/ST/OBC students were found to be negatively affected by casteist comments,
- Two Dalit students committed suicide this year in the IIT-D campus.
- 33% general category respondents felt that comments such as "He has a CGPA below 5 so he may be from the reserved categories", and "Clearing JEE is a cakewalk for people who belong to the reserved categories" were acceptable comments. This was at 9% for SC/ST respondents and 22% for OBC respondents.

Sociological Perspectives:

- **Sonu Kahali and Sipra Sagarika**(*Education and Caste Based Discrimination: A Sociological Understanding*): There are also upper caste people who are against reservation and make lower caste believed that they are inferior and less intelligent.
- **MS Gore:** Attitude of educators had been 'particularistic' and there is lack of conviction and commitment in teachers.
- **Yogendra Singh** in his study of university professors found 80% of professors were from higher castes.
- **Kanche Ilaiah:** Vernacularisation of Education affects the employment opportunities of Dalits & Tribals.
- **Pierre Bourdieu:** Education is being used to reproduce the 'cultural capital'. Cultural reproduction in educational institutions in unequal societies also leads to unequal educational attainments.
- **Gail Omvedt:** It is still not acceptable for people that lower caste can go above them. It is manifested in the form of violence.
- **Durkheimian Perspective:** The suicides amongst Dalit students can be broadly due to two reasons. Firstly, due to lack of integration(Fatalistic suicide). Secondly, due to over-regulation(Egoistic suicide), e.g. ragging.