



## CASTE AND POLITICS IN INDIA

**S. N. Salwade**

Head Department of Political Science , Walchand College of Arts & Science, Solapur.

### **Abstract:**

Caste in Indian society refer to a social group where membership decided by Birth members of such local group are endogamous. They tend to enter into Marital relationship among themselves. They often have related political preferences similar to the racial preferences for the general elections. The caste seemed to dedicate ones access to such institutions. The location of the caste also a played a pivotal role of a lower caste were concentrated enough in one area. It could than translate that pocket of concentration of its caste member into political power and then challenge the hegemony of locally dominant upper caste.

**Keywords:** Indian society , Caste.

### **Introduction:**

The caste system has traditionally had significant influence over peoples access to power. The privileged upper caste groups benefit more the gaining substantially more economic and political power while the lower caste group have limited access to those power. Caste system distributes a different caste different economic strength. The upper caste groups can be manipulate the economic and political system to transfer economic strength into political power.

Caste ascribed at birth its also influenced by where one is born political lines in India have often been drawn along caste lines, however this is only part of the story, caste is often specific to a particular area. These caste pockets creatly a lockly dominant caste. Because of the political structure in India local dominance can translate into regional dominance. This concentration of caste population has ment that smaller less influential castes have the opportunity stake their claims in the political power arena.

There is no denying the fact that, the caste, system which is operational in India political system is no longer traditional. It also cannot be denied that reservation and safe guards as provided in the Indian constitution for cretin castes and tribes has given caste system an opportunity to operate as well it is gradually gaining higher groups on Indian body politics. Caste infect has been politicized. In parliamentary democracy like that of ours caste considerations have influenced the political behavior of the people at the time of distribution of election tickets and also composition of ministers. It has been generally observed that the persons of a particular

caste vote unblock for a candidate of their own caste or for some other candidate as per decision of their caste panchayat. It has been seen that irrespective of merit and demerits of a particular candidate. The members of his caste have exercised franchise in his favour. Hence the parties concerned have been particular that such candidate is given a ticket who could get votes of his caste in habiting the constituency theme consideration weights on the minds of party leaders while choosing party office bearers even alliances of parties are sometimes formed on the basis of caste consideration by mutual give and take.

Political articulation of caste attains clammy when a certain party is set up to protect and promote the interests of its members. Caste associations thus establish an institutional mean of their own to capture power and compel other political parties to recognize their existence. The justice party of Madras and Independent Labour Party of Bombay are such examples of pre-independent era. Getting fed up with the achievements of their caste associations the Vanniyars of Madras convened in 1951 a meeting of Vanniyakula Kahattirye Sangam on a state wide basis and resolved that they should contest elections on co-operations with tolling masses. This led to the formation of Tamilnadu Toilers Party whose assistance was sought by the Congress led coalition government of Rajgopalachari followed by Kamraj Nadar. The Jharkhand Party of Bihar is another such example. Characteristic of caste in Indian politics an analysis of caste in Indian politics reveals following characteristics.

**Caste politicization** - Caste politicization has been a two way traffic one has affected the other and opened a new direction for the study of politics in our country.

**Caste associations with inter groups** – The caste association strive for the protection and promotion of their specific interest like social reservation, reservation of seats in educational institutions, public services, removal of disqualifying classes etc.

**The support has been changing** – The relationship between the caste and politics has been determined by the factor of expediency and pragmatism. It has been changing with the rise and fall of innovators of politics. The Muslim and the Scheduled Castes who are Congress vote bank did not vote for Congress after 1991 election in up and other regions.

**Caste shoes gearing presence for the time of election** - Caste politicization shows its glaring presence at the time of election Jat for Jat, Ahir for Ahir, Brahmin for Brahmin, Maratha for Maratha, Bania for Bania are the election cries and slogans various caste associations induce their respective members to exercise vote for their caste member. A powerful caste like Maratha in Maharashtra many nominate its candidates and Marshal support in their favour.

**Traditional caste rivalries have impact** – Traditional caste rivalries have impact on the politics of our country in Andhra Pradesh Congress has always banked on support of Redies and the communists have sought support of the Kammas.

### ***Caste and State Politics***

Caste politics plays major role at local and regional levels. It is marginal at all India level caste politics has been of maximum intensity in South of Vindya mountains where is post

independence era struggle took people to dispossess Brahmins of power and position. However that phase has now come to an end and a struggle between newly dominate middle class and the submerged mass of lower castes and untouchable has just began. A bird's eye view of the role of caste in state politics will be evident after making an appraisal of state politics in some of the leading states of India.

**Bihar** – It represent the scene of a clash among following major castes. Brahmin, Rajputs, Kayasthas and the backward tribes. Backward caste and Yadav, Muslims, Bhumihar and OBC. There castes are important role in state of Bihar.

**Uttar Pradesh** – In Uttar Pradesh Dalit lead By Kansirams and Mayawati under leadership and Muslim community support Samajwadi Party recently a Yadavs are played significant role of Uttar Pradesh politics.

**Kerala** – The role of caste in the politics of Kerala suffered a setback on account of open confrontations of the Hindus with the Christians of the west coast and with the Muslims in the northern part of the state. The amalgamation of Travancore – Cochin princely states resulted into the emergence of Kerala – the biggest Malyalam speaking state comprising an overwhelming majority of Hindu divided into caste Brahmin (Namboodripas) Nanyars and Izhavas of or Tiyyans.

**Maharashtra** – Maratha, Bhramain and Mahar (New Buddhist) have been playing significant role in the politics of Maharashtra Brahmin being more highly educated have played more conspicuous role in urban areas in particular. The Maratha caste have been equally effective in the rural areas. Satara, Sangli, Kolhapur, Ahamad Nagar, Pune (Rural) in particular. The Maharas (New Buddhist) have assumed a privilege position as a vote bank. The congress has tried to maintain a balance between ones castes still at time it has failed in its mission.

**Karnataka** – In this state traditional rivalry between Linguists and Vakkaligas who predominant in Mysore and are worshippers of Lord Vishnu have apprehensions that they would always remain dominated by Lingayat in Kannade speaking state. They have asked for a separate state. Dakshina Pradesh the Linguists worshippers of Lord Shiva hold sway in Banglore areas. They are opposed to Dakshina Pradesh and desired the formation of Kannada speaking state. The fall of K. Hanmanthayya can be attributed to traditional revelry between two dominant caste of Karnataka.

**Madhya Pradesh** – In the state of the kmmas dominant in Krishna, Godavari delta known by the nickname of Kamma Rashtra and Reddies dominant in other earas play vital role. The communists bank open the support of Kammas whereas the congress has enjoyed the support of the Reddies. Brahmins have reaped political gains out of prevailing revelry between the two dominant caste. The position of Reddies got boost with the inclusion of Telengana in Andra Pradesh and this went favor of congress.

**Tamil Nadu** – In pre-independence era the Dravidians organized justice party and there commonweal and Toilers party. Most of them forged a front under the banner of Dravid Kazhagam of Naickeran anti-Hindi and anti- Hindustan organization. A large section of the party under the leadership of c annaduras joined the Dravid Marnetra Kazhygam. In the recent past another faction get separated from the O.M.K. and become Anna D.M.K. under the leadership of M.G. Ramchandran. All these Dravidian organizations drew substance from caste.

**Punjab** – In case of Punjab the element of caste remained in the sphere of religion and famished a new dimension of the study of caste politicization. The example of Sikhs claim separate entity as well as they constitute part of Hindu community as well. They claim Sikh is a caste a community and religion the prevailing rivalry and skirmishes between the Sikhs-non Sikhs and emerging Akali and non. Akali politics is worthy study. A sizable section of extremists termed often as militants demand a separate and sovereign state for Sikhs called Khalistan. The moderates had felt satisfied with the creation of a Punjabi suba named later Punjab as autonomous state within the Indian union. To began with the Sikhs fought for Punjabi language. Whereas non-sikhs expressed Zealousness for Hindi.

**Haryana** – Jat politics has reigned subprime in Haryana which come into existence in 1966. Jat community has been solidly to coming the line of top jat personalities like Ch. Bansilal and Ch. Devilal and forging a united front. Likewise Ahirs have stood together and have always sought guidance either from. Raw Brinder sing and Col. Ram Sing. Brahmins have followed the lines laid down by Pt. Bhagwat Dayal Sharma. The Banias to have been played vital role of Haryana's politics.

Thus the study of a role of caste in well meaning states of the Indian union makes us conclude that caste had exerted its influence on the political process thought in union with the vicious forces of communalism regionalism and linguist certain cleaver assists have given a caste cum communal can regional complexion to the issues in anestions. Besides caste politicization has been in perpetual flux of changeability at times one party gained at the expense of others. However the B.J.P. and Congress has been the chief beneficiary.

An appraisal of role of caste in Indian and state reveals that case everywhere the unit of social action. We state below the good and had aspects of caste politicization.

#### References :-

- |                                |   |   |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. <b>Suhas Palshikar</b>      | - | Caste Politics through the Prism of Religion.         |
| 2. <b>Rai Shirin</b>           | - | Class, Caste and gender                               |
| 3. <b>Kela, Shashank</b>       | - | Caste, Class and Politics in contemporary North India |
| 4. <b>Rao and Ban</b>          | - | The Political Construction of Caste in South India.   |
| 5. <b>Yeshwant Sumant</b>      | - | Jat varg aani samkalin rajkaran 2008                  |
| 6. <b>Rajani Kothari</b>       | - | Caste in Indian Politics.                             |
| 7. <b>Orkut</b>                | - | Jatichhe rajkaran                                     |
| 8. <b>Khristophe Jaffrelot</b> | - | Religion caste and politics in India.                 |
| 9. <b>Surinder S. Jodhaka</b>  | - | Caste and Politics.                                   |