

# Reservation Policies and its Impact on Education System in India: By an Observers Eye

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## Abstract:

Education can remove injustice, illiteracy, and fulfill the knowledge. Education can also change the capacity of thinking, ideas, recommendations and mental feelings according to the nation, age and circumstances. By which the man recognizes his virtues and gets ability to give them proper expression, without education, all round development is beyond imagination not only of the personality of a person but also the development of the culture and civilization and the progress of the nation and whole society. At present, the Indian education system is one of the fastest developments in the world. This paper presents the reservation policies in India. Impact of reservation on higher education in India also the advantages and disadvantages of the reservation policies was discussed.

**Index Terms** –Reservation policy ,impact of reservation policy on education, advantages and disadvantages

## I. INTRODUCTION

The practice of Indian educational system was started from ‘Saints’ in ancient period. The Ancient scripture’s popularly known as Vedas was formed the strong foundations of Indian civilization. The method of teaching for the Students in those days was in the form of Shrutu (listening) and Smriti (memorizing). Since there were no schools, Students resided in the forest at their teacher’s residence and lived a simple life as celibates till the completion of their education. In Medieval Period Education, Primary Education was imparted in schools known as makhtabs and language skills were taught in secondary known as madrasahs. The beginning of modern education started with the missionaries who migrated to India as the Portuguese. Portuguese pattern of education began to manifest itself in the form of primary schools, orphanages teaching vocational skills and a few colleges and a university. The reservation policy is an age old policy being practiced in India. Its origin has its roots scattered from the ancient times when the practice of ‘untouchability’, caste system and Varna system was dominant in the society [1-6]. In ancient times, the Hindu society was divided on the basis of Varna, Jatis or classes and they were as follows in the descending order of their social hierarchy- the Brahmans, the Kshatriyas, the Vaisyas and the Shudras. So Under the caste system the Brahmin occupied top of the hierarchy whereas the former untouchable occupied the lowest position in the society. The untouchables known as scheduled castes are the lowest ranked not only in term of social position but also in term of economy, education and so on. Apart from the scheduled castes and another community of Indian society which is considered as most deprived economically, educationally etc. Are the Scheduled tribes. Apart from these communities the other backward castes or other backward classes also occupy the low position in the society .Now we are living in the greatest democratic system of India. The principle of democracy people should have equal representation in the all sections of the nation. Based on the principle of democracy, reservation policy is a series of affirmative action’s undertaken through reserving access to seats for equal representation in the government jobs, higher educational institutions and politics to providing reservation for socially and educationally backwards in India. Reservation policy not had the results aspired to, as it has not been backed by a more holistic programme that truly addresses historic oppression and inequality. Reservation is governed by constitutional laws, and local rules and regulations. Scheduled castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes and in some states Backward Classes among Muslims under a category called BCM are the primary beneficiaries of the reservation policies under the constitution. The spirit of equal representation pervades the provisions in the Indian constitution. The main aim of the founder of Indian constitution was to create an egalitarian society wherein social, economic and political justice prevailed and equality of status and opportunity are made available to all. [7-12]A

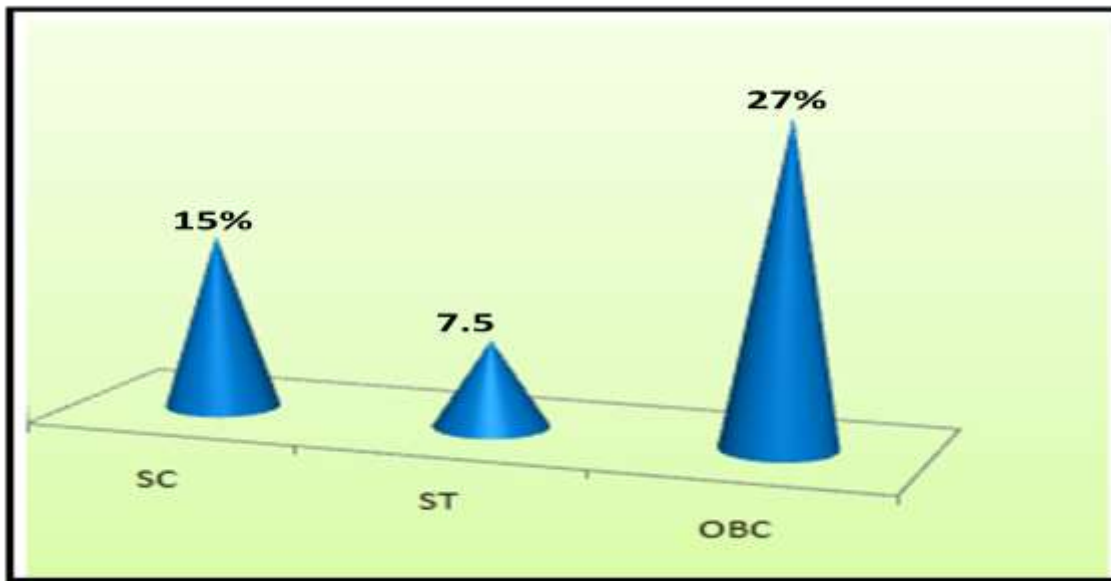
Reservation in common terms refers to an act of reserving keeping back or withholding reservation in India law is a form of affirmative action Whereby a percentage of seats are reserved in the public sector union and state civil services union and state government departments and in all public and private educational institutions except in the religious or linguistic minority educational institutions for the socially and educationally backward communities and the represented in these services and institutions. The reservation policy is also extended for the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes for representation in the parliament of India. And this representation is giving to the unrepresented community. This paper is based on the study of reservation percentage allotted by the central government to different cast and its impact of the reservation on education system in India.

## II. IMPACT OF RESERVATION ON EDUCATION SYSTEM:

The biggest contributing factor to the dismal condition of the Indian Education System today is the 50% reservations to students from the SC/ST/OBC community in educational institutions. It has threatened the progress and prosperity of the nation as the education system forms the backbone of any country. Reservation in Education is a violation of the Basic Right of a person which

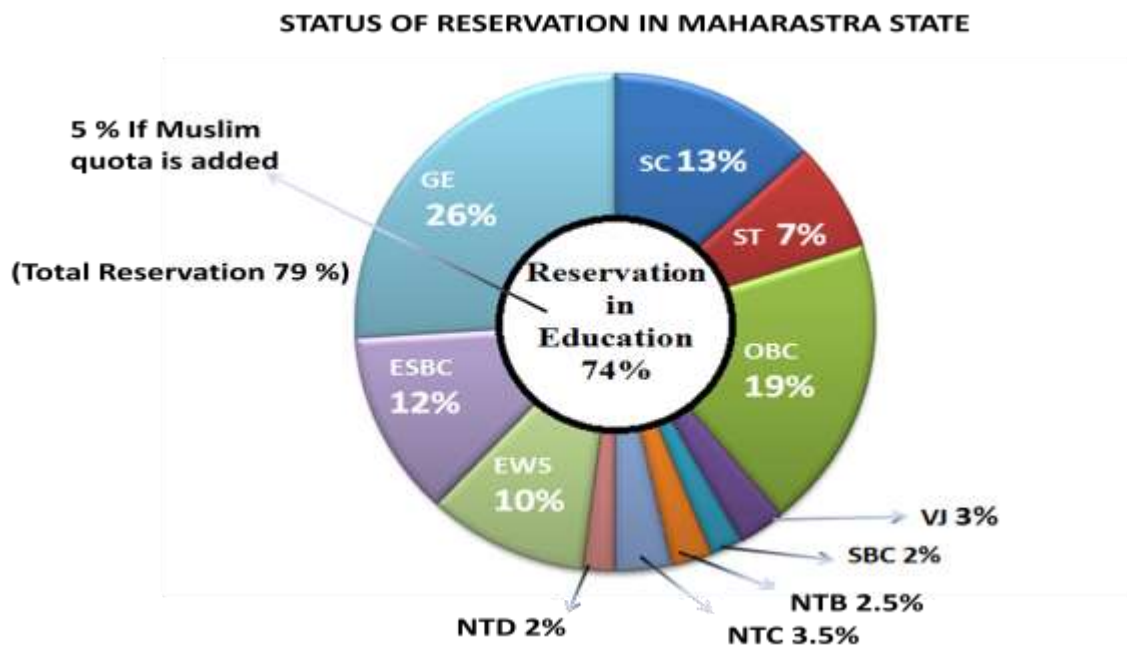
is 'Freedom of Choice'. It forces a deserving student to opt for an option which is not his prior choice, only due to the Reservations in Educational Institutions for backward communities.

**II.A SC, ST AND OBC RESERVATION IN EDUCATION:**



**Fig.1** Reservation % for SC,ST and OBC according to central government

Indian education system it seems is all set to get degraded, thanks to the reservation system. Reservation of seats in educational institutes of India is a law by which a given group of students are allowed concessions. This system is generally applied in government-aided educational institutes. The quota is given based on castes or region. In state level institutes, some seats are reserved for the regional students (of the same state). Again the reservation of seats for SC, ST, physically handicapped and sports person is compulsory in government aided educational institution whether it is a state or a national institute. The percentage of reservation in any govt. aided educational institute is generally 15% for SCs and 7.5% for STs. 3% seats are reserved for Persons with Disability (PWD) as per PWD Act 1995. A 27% quota for Other Backward Classes has been recently proposed which is under consideration by the Parliament of India.



**Fig.2**

Reservation quota was introduced with the aim of helping out students hailing from the backward classes example of Maharashtra state as shown in fig. 2. Traditionally, these backward classes had been denied basic rights in the past. So, introducing reservation quota for them in educational institutes made perfect sense back then. But the situation has changed now. More and more people

are misusing this caste based reservation system and toying around with it for their own advantage. The more eligible candidates are denied seats for professional courses.

## II.B. CURRENT RESERVATION SYSTEM IN VARIOUS INSTITUTES:

Central government-funded higher education institutions: 22.5% for scheduled caste (dalit) and scheduled tribe (adivasi) students. HRD Minister Arjun Singh has proposed raising this to 49.5%, by including reservation for OBCs

## II.C.Engineering

- **IITs:** A quota of 22.5 % is reserved for the SC/ST students (15% for SC and 7.5% for ST candidates). 27% proposed quota for Other Backward Category is under consideration. But actually, a lot of seats in the reserved category remain vacant & actual figure of students are nearly 7% SC & 3.5% ST. The unfilled reserve seats are not filled by general category students.
- **PEC-Chandigarh:** Currently 50% seats are reserved for Chandigarh domiciles, earlier it was 80%.
- **IIMs:** A quota of 22.5 % is reserved for the SC/ST students (15% for SC and 7.5% for ST candidates). 27% proposed quota for Other Backward Classes is under consideration. 3% seats are reserved for Persons with Disability (PWD) as per PWD Act 1995.

## IV.D Medical institutes:

- **AIIMS:** 14 % reserved for SC,8% for ST.In addition SC/ST students with only 50% scores are eligible.
- **PG seats in Medical Colleges:** Some seats are reserved for graduates of the corresponding college. The same reservation policy is applicable to SCs and STs in Medical colleges of the country.

## III. ADVANTAGES OF RESERVATION SYSTEM IN INDIA

Reservation initially was proposed by Indian government to uplift the Social and economic position of Hindu minority communities namely Scheduled Tribe (ST), Scheduled Caste (SC) and Other Backward Caste (OBC). According to the Reservation Policy people falling under above categories are subjected to reservation and will be given some fixed percentage of seats in government institutions, lowered cut-off marks in entrance exams, lesser price to fill forms for education and job. This was supposed to upraise the status of minorities in our country and to a certain level it has achieved its desired goal.

- **Uplifting Minorities:** Minorities have suffered for a very long time. Discrimination on the basis of caste was at its peak that is when government decided to imply Reservation Policy. There's been increase in number of people working in government offices under Class A,B,C,D. more number of ST,SC students are enrolled for studying in government institution. Today, minorities are no more minorities in true sense.
- **Sense of Belonging:** These communities were deprived of the social rights and never were considered while making a sound decision. Now they are equally important and gets representation in varied events and decision making that makes them look the part of one large country.
- **Meritocracy- Not Possible?:** Reservation tend to contradict Meritocracy which can be taken as a Disadvantage of Reservation in India. If seats are reserved for certain group of people to a certain post how can it validate Meritocracy? It cannot. For meritocracy to happen first there should be equality. If two groups are not on the same platform or level how can they compete? That's not possible and so does Meritocracy. Because firstly we should bring them in equal level to compete with them and then only selection on the basis of merit only and no Reservation would make true sense.
- **Bridging Gaps:** This definitely has bridged the gap between forward and backward castes. Its lowed down the growth of forwards getting richer and richer and backward going poorer. It kind of helped maintaining balance in the country.
- **Inspired people to take stand:** Implication of Reservation policy in India has helped learning Backward castes and others too that they can fight for the justice, for their rights. Violation of Human Rights can't be compromised and one should take stand for their own good and for the betterment of country. People are even opting for open competition other than the reserved quota that shows they are not afraid to take up a fair meritorious competition. This reservation policy was proposed for ten years to improve the social and economic condition of Backward Communities in India. And the right step taken for their betterment has improved their condition quite nicely.

#### IV. DISADVANTAGES OF RESERVATION SYSTEM IN INDIA

Disadvantages that are causing many kind of problems in society. As it is helping many backward classes, it is also affecting forward class people because of the quota system. At the present scenario, not every backward class people is financially weak or uninfluential and not every forward is rich. So, I find the concept of Caste based Reservation very dissolution. This way one rightful candidate is not given the opportunity he/she deserves.

- **Only Reserved are Deserved** :As per a national Survey only 0.7% of entire population gets scholarship through merit rest are reserved. Students studying hard and from General category don't have a bright chance to grab the opportunity even if he/ she is from financially unstable background. Time has come to amend the laws and change rules for the good.
- **Not Reaching Needy** : Reservation has emerged as one discussion topic. People don't realize how this has not been reaching masses where it should. Rich and influential backward caste candidates are getting opportunities and benefited from it while poor backward class people, Harijans are still deprived of the facilities they rightfully possess. The reservation system is so corrupt and is used in negative way for meeting electoral requirements that it fails to meet its actual propaganda of helping and upraising Dalits and those who are socially and economically backward.
- **Contradicting Secularism**: India is a country comprising people from every religion, every caste and discrimination on the basis of caste, creed, color etc. is offense. The point of Reservation actually go against the idea of Secularism. General people affected by the reservation Quota hates people who are getting benefited even if they don't need reservation. Actually deprived people are not getting their rights. This leads to a world which is not peaceful. You can't expect a country free of Caste-ism if it itself offers Reservation on the basis of Caste.
- **Migration of Talent** : The real talented people of India, the one who truly deserve to be here are not getting enough job opportunities, better career options making them migrate to foreign countries where they are offered handsome amount for their skills.
- **Lack of Transparency**: Number of OBC citizens in our country is still not listed by Indian government. There are people from ST/SC/OBC quota which protest for their rights under current reservation system as they are not receiving benefits. This shows lack of a transparent media. What is happening under cover of Reservation system is unknown to all.

#### CONCLUSION:

We need to understand that when we talk about development then simultaneously we cannot talk about backwardness. If we would demand more and more backwardness, then it is obvious we cannot move forward, and we will not be able to move forward, our progress would ultimately get stagnant. It is also important that the essence of the idea of the adoption of reservation policy should be maintained, and the actual backward classes who are in real and not fiction denied access to education, job opportunities etc be benefitted. This reservation policy should not become a ladder to climb on the stairs of profit, money and other related interests for those who are just roaming with the stamp of being a backward class and are actually socially and economically much more stable than the general class. Caste and creed can go and take the back seat. Reservation should be based on the financial background of students and their family. The rules regarding 'creamy and non creamy layer' should be made stringent. Also, the documents should be well checked and made sure that no foul play is involved, that no financially well-off student manages to exploit the reservation quota.

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