

# DEVARAJ URS CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT OF OBC (Other Backward Class) IN KARNATAKA

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## ABSTRACT

Dr Devaraj Urs was one of the great politician and the social reformer in Karnataka old Mysore region. Contributions of Ur's is the development of OBC other backward communities in Karnataka. Devaraj Arasu was the chief minister of old Mysore, present Karnataka region and has contributed for the Welfare of the Backward Classes citizens the then former Chief Minister of Karnataka Sri D. Devaraj Urs in 1977 established Backward Classes welfare Department in the state, as Commissioner Office at the State level, District Office at the District Level and Taluk Office at the Taluk Level for the welfare of Backward Classes People Under the Constitution of India Article 15(4) which empower special provision for advancement of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes People and 16(4) for Reservation of appointment or posts in favour of Backward Class Citizens. Among the contributions of the late Chief Minister was the stress laid on the education of the people belonging to the backward classes and establishment of the backwards and minorities hostels for the students hailing from those sections of society. Absorbing 16,000 unemployed graduates in the stipendiary scheme whose services were confirmed later, abolition of carrying night soil by Dalits and bonded labour, renaming Mysuru as Karnataka in 1973 were some landmark decisions taken by him. The research paper explains the Devaraj Urs contribution's towards the development of OBC (other backward castes) in Karnataka state.

**Key Words:** *Devaraj Urs, Social Reforms, Administrative Reforms in Karnataka.*

## INTRODUCTION

D. Devaraj Urs was born at Kallahalli, Hunsur Taluk, Mysore district, the then Kingdom of Mysore. His father, also named Devaraj Urs, was a land-owner and his mother, Devira Ammanni, was a pious and traditional lady. His younger brother, Kemparaj Urs was an actor. The family belonged to the Arasu community and were very distant relatives to the Wodeyar royal family. In response to the prime minister's declaration that poverty was her first priority ("Garibi Hatao!") and her Twenty-Point Programme, Urs formed a state cabinet dominated by technocrats and academics. Devaraj Urs was instrumental in making her dream come true. Karnataka is one among those states which adopted the 20 point programme meaningfully. His priority was land reform, and his slogan was "Land to the tiller"; under him a sustained effort was made to equalize the land distribution through much of the state. Karnataka, thus, other than the communist bastions of Kerala and West Bengal, has had one of the most successful land redistributions in the country. A side-effect of this was to break the hold of the previously dominant Lingayat and Vokkaliga castes over local politics. He was helped in his endeavours by his colleagues Huchamasti Gowda, B Subbayya Shetty and others from his cabinet

### Review of Literature

- *India CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility):*  
OBC (Other Backward Class) OBC stands for "Other Backward Class." This is a collective term used by the Government of India to classify castes which are educationally or socially disadvantaged. It is one of several official classifications of the population of India, along with Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The OBC list is dynamic and castes can be added or removed based on social, educational, and economic factors. The terms SC, ST, and OBC are used in India's Constitution, which was adopted in 1950. The Constitution provides for affirmative action for these groups in order to address the historical discrimination that they have faced. Affirmative action can take the form of quotas in education and employment, as well as other measures to promote social and economic equality.
- *C.S. Dwarakanath:*

Hailing the contribution of D. Devaraj Urs to the development of backward classes and marginal communities, C.S. Dwarakanath, progressive thinker and former chairman of the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes, said that the former Chief Minister was a champion of social justice.

- *Qamarul Islam:*

Minister for Municipal Administration and Minority Affairs Qamarul Islam has said that the credit for extending separate reservation for minorities, particularly the Muslims, and making allocations in the budget for the development of Muslims should go to the former Chief Minister D. Devaraj Urs.

### **Objectives:**

- His vision for an egalitarian society, which he strived for by providing reservation in education and employment for backward and minority classes. While governing the State,
- To understand the contributions of Dr. Devaraj Urs in the development of OBC (OBC stands for “Other Backward Class) This is a collective term used by the Government of India to classify castes which are educationally or socially disadvantaged).
- Devaraj Urs become famous not only in the state politics but also throughout the country through his social concerns. Urs was a strong advocate of social reforms and strove hard for ensuring social justice. As such, it would be apt to call him a social reformer than a politician.
- The contributions of Devaraj Urs to politics made various leaders emerge from various places. He emphasized bringing all suppressed classes into the mainstream of society.
- During Urs` administration, Urs brought about various social changes. For the purpose of social equality.
- Devaraja Urs firmly believed that development would never been possible unless the doors of power, wealth and opportunity were open to everyone. That was why hehand picked the leaders belonging to backward, dalit and minority communities and nurtured them politically.
- He achieved equitable distribution of wealth through land reforms. He encouraged the deprived classes providing more opportunities through reservation in education and jobs.

### **SCOPE**

- Only certain communities were taking advantage of political and economic development in the Mysuru state, but Urs tried to change the domination of few rich classes` domination in the state.
- Urs took into consideration mainly the welfare of the people and for this cause; he did not hesitate to alter the law. Basically, he was a politician with a humane outlook.

- He was a simple man and a great social leader whom Karnataka has produced. He worked for the development of the society, especially backward classes.
- The Scope of the study is to understand the various developments in Social, Economic and the political development in the state.
- He was a leader with a unique view of creating awareness in public life of the state through Havanur Report. Late Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi had taken initiative to uplift the oppressed, downtrodden and backward community through 20 point programme that could strengthen them economically.

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