

A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF RESERVATION POLICIES AND EMPOWERMENT OF WEAKER SECTIONS FROM DISTRICT ALIGARH

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INTRODUCTION

A Chain is as strong as its weakest link. In special aspect of India the word 'weaker sections' refers to a group of Indian community which is socially and economically backward. In medical terminology the word weaker sections refers to different age groups sensitive for disease. There is no proper definition of weaker sections in Indian constitution." There are three main indicators to identify weaker sections, i.e. Social status, Educational status and Economic status.

Before independence, different social reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ishwarchand Vidyasagar, Annie Basant, Mahatma Gandhi etc., tried to empower the weaker sections in different ways. But after independence, empowerment of weaker sections became a political issue. In Indian

constitution the word weaker sections refers to some castes and tribes, listed by different state governments. Main provisions to empower the weaker sections in Indian constitution are

Article 46: The state shall promote with special care the educational and economic interest of the weaker sections of the people, and in particular the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation

Article 244: Empowers the president to declare any area where there is a substantial population of tribal people and scheduled area under the 5th schedule or in Assam as a tribal areas under the 6th schedule

Article 275: Under this article grants-in-aid is provided to tribal community from the consolidated fund of India.

Indian constitution provides the reservation for scheduled caste and scheduled tribes but the other backward classes or castes were provided reservation by the Janta Dal government in August 1990. This was done in accordance with Mandal Commission report. Mandal Commission recommendation was widely opposed by the students. On November 15, 1992 the

supreme court in its historic judgment verdict that;

1. Caste has been accepted as a basis for identifying the beneficiaries of reservations.
2. The upper limits of reservation has been fixed at 50%.
3. Creamy layer has to be excluded from reservations.
4. Reservation in certain technical post is not advisable.
5. There can be no reservation in promotions

Indian government is running various development programs to enhance the position of weaker sections. But due the corruption and failure of system,we are still unable to achieve the goal.

OBJECTIVES

1. To study if the reservation policies are the need of the day.
2. To find that the selection of weaker sections is correct, which

RESULTS

Table (1): Socio-economic status of respondents

S. No.	Variables	Frequencies and percentage			Total
1.	Caste(Category)	General 20(33.3%)	O.B.C. 20(33.3%)	S.C./S.T. 20(33.3%)	60(100%)
2.	Educational status	Highly edu. 15(25%)	Edu. 45(75%)	Un-Edu. --(0.00)	60(100%)
3.	Age of respondents (in years)	18+ 30(50%)	36+ 15(25%0)	54+ 15 (25%)	60(100%)
4.	Urban/rural	Rural 60(100%)	Urban --(0.00%)		60(100%)
5.	sex	Male 60(100%)	Female --(0.00)		60(100%)

is recommended by different commissions.

3. To study if the reservation policies are free of political benefits.

METHODOLOGY

- Regarding to the nature of the study analytical research design is opted for the purpose.
- 60 Indian citizens from district Aligarh (block Gonda) are selected purposively.
- Principles of probability are used to check the hypothesis.

HYPOTHESIS

- The selection of weaker sections is induced of political benefits.
- The basis of selection of weaker sections is caste not the social, economic or educational status.
- Reservation policies are responsible for brain drain and harassment of talented persons.

Table(02):Views of respondents “Basis of reservation is caste and general categories also have weakens.”

S. No.	Category	Responses& percentage			Total
		Yes	No	Un-answered	
1.	general	20(33.3)	--(0.00)	--(0.00)	20(33.3)
2.	O.B.C.	20(33.3)	--(0.00)	--(0.00)	20(33.3)
3	S.C./S.T.	20(33.3)	--(0.00)	--(0.00)	20(33.3)
	total	60(100)	--(0.00)	--(0.00)	60(100.0)

Table (03): “The selection of weakens must be on the basis of social, educational, economic status,not caste and political benefits”

S. No.	Category	Responses& percentage			Total
		Yes	No	Un-answered /neutral	
1.	SC/ST	6(10.00)	4(6.67)	10(16.67)	20(33.33)
2	OBC	12(20.000)	2(3.33)	6(10.00)	20(33.33)
3	General	20(33.33)	--(0.00)	--(0.00)	20(33.33)
	total	38(63.33)	6(10.00)	16(26,67)	60(100.0)

Table (04): “Reservation policies are responsible for brain drain and harassment of talented persons.”

S. No.	Category	Responses& percentage			Total
		Yes	No	Un-answered/neutral	
1.	SC/ST	15(25.00)	--(0.00)	05(8.33)	20(33.33)
2.	OBC	20(33.33)	--(0.00)	--(0.00)	20(33.33)

3.	General	20(33.33)	--(0.00)	--(0.00)	20(33.33)
	total	55(91.67)	--(0.00)	05(8.33)	60(100.0)

Co-efficient of probability from table 2,3 and 4 are calculated 0.6; 0.63 and 0.92. The average value of the co-efficient is calculated 0.71, which verifies correctness of hypothesis.

CONCLUSION

By the analysis of primary data, we find that 60 respondents are selected purposively for the study, in which 20(33.33%) belongs to SC/ST category, 20(33.33%) to OBC and 20(33.33%) to general category. 100% respondents accepted that the selection of weakens is caste based while it must be on the basis of social, economic and educational status. 38(63.33%) respondents accepted that general categories also have weakens. 55(91.67%) respondents realized that reservation policies are responsible for brain drain and harassment of talented persons.

SUGGESTIONS

- Only reservation of some castes is not the way to empower the weakens
- The selection of weakens must be impartial and free of political benefits
- Weakens should be helped for education, economically to be self-dependent. But reservation should not be applied in services and promotions to stop brain drain.

