

Caste and Politics in contemporary India

Dalet icons:

Caste and Electoral Politics

Both are deeply connected with each other. Caste play important role in electoral political behaviour. But there are certain other aspects of caste in the democracy. It is waleted that Caste of the elected representative, party strategies to mobilize castes in electoral politics and relationship between castes and support bases of political parties.

Studies since 1950 have substantiated these facts. CSSS located in Delhi had outlined the role of caste in electoral politics. It is seen that Caste and electoral politics has undergone tremendous change since the first general election held in 1952.

Phase I:- Since independence, electoral politics was dominated by traditionally dominant castes of different regions of the country. Although constitutionally every adult irrespective of his Caste has the right to vote. But, in reality Dalits and other lower caste were not allowed to vote.

1950-60: During these years Congress enjoys the support of multiple castes. Its leadership represented the high or middle caste and it was supported in election by castes across social hierarchy.

1967-69: Congress dominance weakened and it suffers defeat. The middle class leader secured the votes of leaders instead of bank bench. In several states, they formed state parties and mobilized the support of communities who became their VOTE BANK.

The main leadership to these groups in North India was given by CHARAN SINGH.

The Janata Party government in UP and Bihar were dominated by backward and farming communities in comparison to Congress government which gave more representation to high caste.

Conclusion Caste and politics are interrelated. They influence each other. Caste has different roles in national, state and local elections. The formation of political parties are based on many factors but caste play a significant role. Reservation policy had increased the role of caste and it has also provided political participation of Schedule and backward caste.

Despite being a nation which reaffirm justice in its preamble but Caste system still gripes its society and have had huge impact on national politics. Decline based upon caste is most urgent form
