

Dalit Politics in Contemporary India

Initially, the party/associated to him always relied on the support of prominent Dalits than on the Dalits in numbers. The organization mainly relied on the MAHARS in Maharashtra and the Chamars (Jatons) in northern India, particularly in Uttar Pradesh.

It is these caste that formed the backbone of the association. As a result, the other Dalit caste felt neglected and suspected this party a party of that caste group and not theirs.

Secondly, according to Bureau one of the issues for the organization was the issue of whether to support other political parties as a part of their strategy during the election or not?

Ambedkar had left no clear directions in this regard. In the absence of clear guidance from Dr. Ambedkar, the party leaders were caught up in ideological and strategic bludge. Some were in favour of supporting the Congress and other parties, whenever the need arose.

But, some section firmly believed that the supporting Congress party would dilute the aims and objectives of the Party. On this question alone many of the parties including RPI split and this weakened the movement in the whole country as a whole.

Thirdly, these political parties didn't develop any modern

(3) Organizational structures which could be geared up or could be used for the purpose of diffusing inter party struggle and help cohesion.

It All these hastened the decline of the Ambedkarite parties including those formed by Ambedkar. Another cause of decline may be added. The Ambedkarite parties were unable to cut into the VOTE BANKS or support base of the Congress Party which was really an overwhelming phenomenon. Since Congress was a political party of all sections of the Indian population the lower caste population did feel comfortable with the programmes and policies of the RPI.

The welfare policies of the Congress appealed to the Dalits in the country in general and in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra in particular.

The expansion of the Dalit parties in recent years has taken place only after the Congress had declined considerably and has created a vacuum for other political forces in the country.

Hence, it is not surprising that BSP has grown in a state of Uttar Pradesh where the decline of the Congress had been more rapid than in other states of India.