



Political Implications of Reservation Policies in Telangana: Analyzing the Impact on Caste-Based Politics, Gender Equality, and Economic Class Divisions

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Abstract

The reservation system in India has created a huge impact in Telangana. It was implemented to compensate for the historical injustices done towards the draught class people. The paper examines the influence of reservations on caste, gender, and class within the state since post-statehood. Through Study of reservation policies, it's impact on marginalized communities, along with their caste, class and gender cumulatively, the present research evaluates the success and failure of reservation policies to ensure social justice. Moreover, it assesses public perception concerning the efficiency of these reservations and compares Telangana's approach with that of other states in India. In the end, a few recommendations are offered to improve the system that will lead to inclusive growth, political representation and gender equality. According to the findings, the targets for the reservation have been met when it comes to the opportunity. However, the sustained economic empowerment and full political empowerment have not been achieved yet especially for women and EWS.

Keywords

Reservation policies, Telangana, caste-based politics, gender equality, economic upliftment

I. Introduction

Reservation policies in India have had a wide-ranging impact on equality. This is particularly true for the backward classes. Reservations are beneficial for the SC, ST, and OBC communities. The policies ensure that most members of the foregoing communities are entitled to education, employment and political representation, which ensures justice and equality. Reservation has been a part of India's social and political system for many decades now. There are provisions in the Constitution and various amendments to offer chances to disadvantaged groups.

Reservation issue has become significant in Telangana after statehood. In 2014, the state formation of Telangana, a unique set of policies were adopted that aimed at addressing regional imbalances and ensuring economic and social development. The state governments have evolved their own reservation policies addressing the needs of local communities resulting in political mobilization and social transformation. The effect of these policies on caste based politics, gender equality and economic class has been far reaching. Due to this the political scenario of Telangana has drastically undergone changes with the ruling party aligning with various caste and class groups for political support.

The focus of this research was to inspect the political impact of reservation policy in Telangana. The strong caste affiliation of politics in India has divided and ruled. The aim is to understand the impact of reservation on the political character of the state, the representation of women in politics as well as the caste and economic class-based effects on politics. What is the effect of the reservation policy of Telangana on caste-based political alliances? How do these policies influence gender equality, especially concerning women's political participation and empowerment?

How has the reservation system affected the economic class divisions in the state? And, how much did it succeed in mitigating the socio-economic inequality?

II. Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework for this study is caste-based politics, gender equality within affirmative action, and relations between economic classes within the broader context of social justice. Caste-based politics and the theory of reservation reveals India's deeply entrenched caste system that has historically harmed certain sections.

Reservation policy aims to rectify our past historical wrong-doings. In our country, SCs, STs, OBCs participated in the move. Further, they ultimately wanted to prevent discrimination against people belonging to these backward communities. According to the theory of caste as a political motivator, reservation changes not only social mobility, but also political alignments. Thus, political parties often build up their electoral strategies on the basis of caste-based vote banks, thus impacting larger politics.

With regard to gender equality, affirmative action policies including reservations for women in various spheres are intended to rectify the systemic gender inequalities in Indian society. The conceptual basis for gender equality in affirmative action creates a strong case for building institutional mechanisms to mitigate a wide range of gender gaps in political participation, education, employment, etc. The policies aim to empower women by ensuring their representation in spaces where they have been historically absent. Although these policies have been introduced, women still face challenges regarding them. Many do not participate in public spaces and decision-making.

Economic class divisions which are linked with caste and gender play an important role in Telangana. Each and every group, whether disadvantaged by caste or class, needs to be ensured access to sufficient opportunities in the context of social justice as far as economic class divisions are concerned. To reduce class inequalities, reservation policies intend to empower marginalised groups in areas such as education, jobs and political power. The proposal applies principles of distributive justice, which maintain that resources (economic and social) should not only be fairly distributed, but should also reduce disparities located in social structures. In other words, resources should be distributed in such a way so that citizen can have equal opportunities and access to those resources to flourish. This is especially true for the citizens who have been historically advantaged. These theories collectively work to show us how the reservation policies impact caste, gender and class with political consequences in Telangana.

III. Historical Context of Reservation Policies in Telangana

The history of reservation policy in both Telangana and India along with its growth is extensive as it has been a key issue in India as a whole since the British period. Reservation in India is rooted in the colonial period but turned into a constitutional mandate after India became independent. The Constitution of India which came in to force in 1950 provided for reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in jobs, educational institutions and legislatures. The policies which were national in nature, Telangana (then an Andhra Pradesh) followed, but the regional dynamics considerably shaped how these developed in the state.

The reservation system in Telangana has been shaped by the socio-political realities of the region. During the time of Nizam rule before 1948, the Telangana area was governed with a feudal system. It has caste-based social hierarchy entrenched. But there was a different pattern of social and economic inequality as compared to rest of Andhra Pradesh State. Most of the resources in Telangana are controlled by the dominant caste groups. The marginalized communities especially the Dalits and Tribals do not have access to political power, education, and economic opportunities. After the merger of Telangana with Andhra State in 1956 to from Andhra Pradesh, the socio-political imbalance got entrenched. The coastal Andhra population which was substantially larger and stronger dominated in political and economic power.

After getting Independence while the rest of India started correcting these imbalances through affirmative action the state of Andhra Pradesh (subsequently Telangana) gradually rolled out reservation policies. Although these policies were primarily intended for the initiatives for the Dalits (SCs), tribals (STs) and OBCs, there was still disparity at a regional level in accessing the benefits. The early reservation system focused on Dalits and Tribals, as per national framework only. Political agitations and awareness level in Telangana created a demand for addressing the socio-economic conditions of deprived groups of population in the region, especially concerning the employment and education opportunities.

Telangana emerged as a separate Indian state in the year 2014. This led to major political and social changes around the region. The movement for statehood had been going for a long time. People from this region believed they were being politically and economically discriminated against by the Andhra's leadership. In this regard, the new government took immediate action to create policies in response to this historical injustice. The formation of Telangana was placed before as an opportunity to create a new system of governance and the reservation policies became a part of it.

After the formation of the state, one of the objectives was to rectify the regional imbalance that was allowed to thrive under the combined AP. The Telangana State Government under K. Chandrashekar Rao took several initiatives to meet the socio-economic needs of Telangana Dalits, Tribals and backward classes that were being neglected. The reservation policies in Telangana were reworked to suit the requirement of those communities by taking into account caste class and regional requirements. Accordingly, the backward classes and the economically weaker sections, among the Muslims and the other communities of the region, were amongst the first to be addressed.

The introduction of the separate reservation policy for Telangana was one of the first major legislations passed after the formation of the state of Telangana. Telangana made a distinct provision for reservations in educational institutions, government employment, and in the legislature. The Telangana state government in 2017 had a complete reservation policy where 10% reservations were given for economically weaker sections (EWS) in the general category other than existing reservations to SCs, STs, OBCs. This was aimed at benefitting those economically weak persons who did not come in the reserved category but still are economically weak and have no means of employment.

The Telangana government also increased reservation percentages for SCs, STs and OBCs, which is a more specific and far-reaching policy than the general ones across the country. The state government understood that what was required, because of region's special circumstances, is a more focused and intensive scheme to significantly uplift the backward groups. The state also noted the local demand for the provision of specific opportunity for the backward castes among the Muslims. Thus, they were given adequate representation to access state-sponsored opportunity.

The TRS government, spearheaded the movement for statehood and is currently in power after the formation of the state, has been pushing for these reservations as well and they have become an integral part of the administrative agenda. The TRS underlined the centrality of reservations for social justice and to underpin the socio-political matrix of the new state. The party's stance on reservation has gained favor with several backward communities, thereby garnering their political support as well.

A very important Act which was enacted in the post-statehood period in 2018 was the Telangana State Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) Act. According to this Act of Planning, a percentage of the state's budget must be allocated for the welfare of the SCs and STs now the state will focus more on reservation & welfare schemes. The introduction of the SCSP and TSP Act was in line with the strategy to ensure that the benefits of reservation policies were brought into practice keeping in view the region's challenges.

The reservation policies in Telangana, overtime, have shifted from representation to ensuring equitable access to education, jobs, and political power for all sections of society. The government, besides access, is working to enhance the quality of education and training programmes for the people belonging to reserved categories along with enhancing their employability and socio-economic status.

To sum it up, the reservation policy in Telangana has a rich socio-political history and it will be useful to first place it in a bigger national perspective. The formation of Telangana provided an opportunity to reassess and recalibrate reservation policies to meet the unique needs of its people. The government's emphasis in the policy notes on ways to increase quotas for reservations and for the economically weaker sections of society indicates the continual push for legislation change.

With the emergence of new political parties in Telangana, the debates regarding reservations seem to have become a permanent feature.

IV. Caste-Based Politics in Telangana

Politics based on caste in Telangana is an important aspect of the polity of the state, before and after the formation of a new state in 2014. The caste system has been an age-old practice by Indian societies that have been responsible for brings about political and social-economic changes in society. In the State of Telangana, caste association has played the major part in determining electoral patterns, political alliances, party strategies, etc. The caste-politics link has been a constant part of the region's history with reservation policy conferring higher significance to caste in the political arena.

Before the birth of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh already had a foot-hold of caste-based politics. The power relations (hegemony) in Telangana have been the product of a few upper castes dominating the social order. The lot and the successors of the majority-jati – Dalits and Tribals – have been reduced to the margin. The economic differences aggravated this divide with the upper castes cornering most of the land, wealth and political power. The lack of education, jobs and political participation in the region was largely the result of this socio-economic imbalance which was also reflected in the policies of the political parties.

Before the emergence of statehood, Telangana's political atmosphere was thoroughly dominated by the Congress party. The Congress was a national party of sorts and sometimes had to resort to caste voting machinery. The higher castes, Reddys and Kammas, and other dominant castes from coastal Andhra traditionally controlled the state of Andhra Pradesh. In Telangana, the backward castes, including the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), remained politically underrepresented and the majority parties never paid heed to their demands. The rise of regional parties, such as the TRS, has succeeded in challenging this hegemony as the party took advantage of the widespread grievances of marginalized groups and their feeling of neglect by the Andhra political elite.

After formation of Telangana state in 2014, Political parties of Telangana State (TRS and others) started aligning with all caste vote banks for their electoral support to consolidate. The TRS, led by K. Chandrashekar Rao adopted a strategy aimed at various caste groups, especially backward

classes. The political agenda of TRS focused on the need to ameliorate the socio-economic inequalities of people of Telangana with emphasis on welfare of SCs, STs and OBCs. The party did well to reach out to the marginalized groups and this became the focus of their campaign on social justice and development. The TRS managed to build a significant base among the Dalits, Tribals and various other backward communities aim their position of dominance on the state's politics through this.

The Congress party in power at the time of formation of the state kept banking on its old caste-based alliances, mainly on Reddys and Kammas who were influential in erstwhile united AP. Due to a long usage of caste politics, Congress failed to maintain electoral control over Telangana after statehood. Due to the party's inability to address the needs of backward classes and marginalized communities, they now turned towards TRS for livelihood needs. The BJP has been trying to strengthen its foothold besides making inroads into Telangana among OBCs and Scheduled Castes. Its influence is, however, limited in this regard in comparison to the TRS.

Telangana reservation policies have had a massive impact on caste mobilization and representations in the state. Reservations in education, government jobs, and political representation have benefited backward classes, scheduled castes, and scheduled tribes by uplifting them through jobs and education. The reservation system in Telangana has been developed in a manner that satisfies different caste groups with a larger percentage of seats being reserved for SCs, STs and OBCs. Thus, these communities have gained power in political representation and governance, which has helped in shaping the political discourse in the state.

The 10% reservation for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) introduced in Telangana has complicated caste dynamics further. Although this policy is focused on economic benefits to those not belonging to backward castes, it raises the issue of representation for those backward castes who have always been at a disadvantage. The reservation policy boosted the political visibility of backward communities but created tensions among all castes, with many arguing that it diluted opportunities among the economically weaker sections in the general category.

The political strategies of parties such as TRS show the influence of reservation policies on caste-based mobilization. The TRS has actively worked to ensure that its political base includes representatives from different caste backgrounds, thus fostering a sense of inclusivity. The party works for the welfare of Dalits, Tribals, and backward castes and offer them more political representation and opportunities to function in governance and other spheres. As a result, the marginalised sections no longer any more view TRS as their political champion, leading to a break in caste-based voting pattern.

Table-1: Key Caste-Based Groups in Telangana and Their Political Influence

Caste Group	Political Influence and Mobilization	Key Political Parties	Reservation Impact
Scheduled Castes (SCs)	Historically marginalized, now key political players in Telangana. Major representation through TRS.	TRS, Congress, BJP	Increased political representation, key leaders emerging from SC communities.
Scheduled Tribes (STs)	Significant representation in the tribal belt, with a focus on welfare schemes.	TRS	Enhanced access to education and jobs through reservations, with dedicated welfare programs.
Other Backward Classes (OBCs)	Large electorate, influential in both urban and rural areas.	TRS, Congress	Benefiting from OBC quotas in education and jobs, leading to enhanced political representation.
Gouds	Traditionally involved in agriculture, gaining political prominence post-reservation policies.	TRS, Congress	Active in local politics, TRS focusing on their welfare through reservations.
Yadavas	A politically active OBC group, instrumental in regional politics.	TRS	Reservation has strengthened their socio-political influence, especially in rural Telangana.

Another case study that is important relates to SCs in Telangana. The SC people usually were backward. They have benefitted from reservation policies significantly. Also, there is a good increase in political representation. The entry of Dalit leaders in the TRS and similar parties has created a firmer presence of the SC in the state's regime. Political dynamics have been shifted as Dalit political leaders have become the key players in Telangana's politics.

To sum up, in Telangana caste-based politics is historical caste dynamics; parties in the fray and the impact of reservation policy. The emergence of regional parties such as the TRS has changed the political dynamics of the state. The mobilization of votes based on caste has played an important role in this context. Reservation policies have availed decent opportunities to the marginalized community in the political and socio-economic fields. But, they have also created new problems among different castes. To comprehend the politics of the state in the post-statehood period, it is crucial to understand caste in Telangana.

Gender Equalisation and Quota System

In Telangana, as in many other parts of India, gender justice and equality has been given great attention for some time now. This is mostly because of the reservation effort for social justice. Due to a multitude of reasons, women have long been underrepresented in politics. In addition, socio-cultural factors are the reasons for their limited participation. Nevertheless, 2014 formation of Telangana and the political and social changes in the State has led to more women taking political and governance roles, partly due to the State's focus on reservation based on gender.

Before the formation of Telangana, the political representation of women in the state was almost non-existent as was the case in India.

In Telangana, despite a few examples of a handful of women, the girlfolk were nowhere in decision-making. With the launch of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) party, the political scenario started to change. The political organization led by K. Chandrashekar Rao not only championed the cause of regional autonomy but also the inclusion of women in its political strategies. The TRS, which initially did not have many women leaders, started providing a space for women to get politicised, which led to a gradual increase in their participation in governance. In 2018 state elections, the TRS party fielded many women candidates to further women empowerment. The increased numbers of women candidates were also due to a sizable push for gender equity at the national level. Despite the enhanced representation of women, Telangana state, like many states in India, has not managed to become gender-balanced in its political institutions.

Reservation policy has played a pivotal role in the political empowerment of women of Telangana. At the national level, there are reserved seats for women in our local governance, under the panchayati raj scheme, one-third of the seats in the panchayats and the municipal bodies stand reserved for women. In Telangana, women have been given the same opportunity as part of the scheme in the local bodies. The reservation policy of the state has made it possible for women to become active participants in grassroots politics and participate in decision making at the local level. In addition, the reservation policy of Telangana can be viewed in the prospect of giving equal opportunities in employment and education. Women from marginalized groups, especially backward-caste communities and scheduled-tribes, will benefit from these schemes and policies. They have been inducted into higher education and government jobs that initially remained out of bounds for them. Women's participation in higher levels of governance has been affected by cultural norms and socio-economic barriers. These factors have constrained the political empowerment of women in Telangana.

Reservation policies have increased the participation of women in education and employment in Telangana gradually. The state government has emphasized women's education through various schemes like Kalyana Lakshmi scheme, which aims to provide an incentive for the education of girls in the rural area. As a result of these policies, women's literacy rates have increased, enabling them to join the workforce in the fields of medicine, teaching and administration. Job reservation policies have provided avenues for women to get government jobs particularly in the health, education and public service sectors. The Telangana government has been working on increasing the percentage of women in government jobs to bridge the gender gap in the employment sector. However, women continue to face challenges in accessing leadership positions in the workforce. Women have made their presence felt in governance but are still several notches behind men. The involvement of women in decision-making bodies has increased significantly at the local level, nevertheless, the higher levels of power in the state legislature and executive continue to be male-dominated. The reservation of seats in local governance for women has empowered women at the grassroots, but the 'politicisation' at a higher level is yet to happen.

The effective application of gender-based reservations is still affected by many issues. One of the issues limiting women's participation in politics is patriarchy continuing to dominate the world. Women with reserved seats face resistance from men who take control or override their decisions. They are often challenged by men. This is often referred to as 'proxy' leadership, in which male family members wield power in the name of a female candidate. In addition, women face a number of social and cultural blocks in participating in politics. In villages, if a woman steps out of her area dressed in traditional clothes, she is considered to be a dancer. In addition to the factors mentioned earlier, various economic factors such as lack of financial independence, insufficient access to resources required for campaign management, limited opportunities to educate and inform themselves further restrict women's level-playing field with men during political contests. Another significant challenge is the lack of women in senior decision-making positions. Due to local body elections women have received a door but their entry into state and national legislative bodies is still meagre. In Telangana, there has been some progress, but still, little representation of women in the state assembly and they are underrepresented in executive positions as a cabinet.

Table-2: Impact of Gender-Based Reservation Policies in Telangana

Area of Impact	Before Statehood (Pre-2014)	After Statehood (Post-2014)	Current Challenges
Political Representation	Minimal participation of women in political roles	Increase in local body elections, but limited state-level representation	Patriarchy and cultural norms limit progress in higher political offices
Education	Lower literacy rates, especially among rural women	Improvement in literacy and access to education due to state policies	Gender biases in educational institutions remain, limiting opportunities
Employment	Low representation of women in government jobs	Increased participation of women in government services	Barriers to leadership roles, pay gaps, and lack of equal opportunities in the private sector
Governance	Limited involvement in decision-making	Women have gained visibility in local governance	Lack of female representation in higher political offices and executive roles

To conclude, gender wise reservation in Telangana has seen a rise in women’s take part in politics, education and employment. However, the challenges aplenty. The slow pace of gender equality in governance can be attributed to cultural norms, patriarchal structures and limited access of women to higher political offices. The reservation policies encouraged women to venture out and the success of these women in politics augurs well for the future of women in politics.

Class Distinctions Based on Economic Status

In Telangana, as well as in the rest of India, there is a debate over economic class. This debate mostly develops around the policies of reservation. A reservation has been a valuable economic tool in Telangana for class divisions in the state. The gulf between the rich and the poor in Telangana has been seen in many states in India. Owing to socio-economic inequality, the state has been demanding a reservation for the opposite which is alleged to be based on caste-based considerations. The announcing of Telangana as a state in 2014 was an important time for correcting those inequalities. The government began implementing various policies to alleviate class-based economic inequalities.

The reservation policies in the state of Telangana have mainly focused on the upliftment of the Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBC) and Economically Weaker Section (EWS). The reservation system of the state does not go without a doubt. The policies and measures that have been adopted primarily aim at bridging the social gap by providing education, employment and political opportunities to the section that has been historically denied such access. Reservation has led to a considerable increase in representation in government jobs and educational institutions, however, class inequalities continue to exist and are not fairly distributed.

The reservation policies in Telangana has shown mixed effects in terms of socio-economic disparities. Although the policies have resulted in more access to educational and job opportunities, and political power for marginalized communities, the economic upliftment of these communities is a continuing struggle. The state’s emphasis on reservation has helped many backward castes and economically backward classes to get government jobs and better educational facilities. As a result, SCs and STs have experienced certain improvements in their social mobility. Despite some improvement, these communities are still most behind upper castes in terms of economic well-being. This is especially evident in villages and other rural areas, where most disadvantaged populations reside. Although many reservation beneficiaries possess jobs, it does not mean that they have been constantly economically uplifted.

The issue of economic upliftment through reservation policy is indeed a complex one. The state has provided opportunities for the marginalized groups but these opportunities have been criticized for being limited. Taking reservation in government jobs for example, has not always ensured economic stability that will lead to increase socio-economic mobility. Numerous beneficiaries of reservation are found in poorly paid jobs or suffer systemic obstructions to advancement. In a similar vein, whatever be the reservations put in place for the backward classes to gain educational access, the quality of education and the condition of the public institutions are much lower than private institutions. This has caused no change to the disparity between the two classes even in terms of professional opportunities. While reservations assure of economic upliftment, such structural barriers often help them to remain in the same position and not move up the ladder.

Access to reservation benefits in Telangana also varies by class to a significant extent. While the reservation system is meant for the economic weaker sections, a lot of benefits do not get distributed as such. As per the reservation policy of the state, the upper castes of the reserved sub-castes and groups get more benefits than the genuinely economically backward among the already economically backward. For instance, the political power of dominant OBC groups has occasionally resulted in the watering down of benefits for the poorest in these groups. Incorporation of economically weaker sections (EWS) in reservation is well-intended. However, it has witnessed a lot of debates, which states that whether the reservation for EWS economically weak people is really

for the benefit of those who are economically deprived in the general category or will it be beneficial for poorer in SC, ST, and OBC people?

Caste, class, and gender intersect to condition economic mobility in the state of Telangana. Women from lower caste and economically deprived families face multiple forms of their discrimination and hence, cannot avail reservation to its full extent. Although caste-based reservations were helpful in enabling many marginalized women in accessing education and employment, it was their patriarchal structures that inhibited economic mobility. Moreover, how the two intersect decides the effectiveness of reservations too. Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) who are economically and socially disadvantaged experience more deprivation in their deprivation than better-off SCs and STs, who otherwise belong to the same castes. This intersectionality makes it difficult to think of reservation as a solution for all marginalized communities, and points towards the specific challenges that those at the intersection of multiple oppressions face.

Table-3: Impact of Reservation Policies on Economic Mobility in Telangana

Area of Impact	Before Statehood (Pre-2014)	After Statehood (Post-2014)	Current Challenges
Socio-Economic Inequality	High disparity between upper and lower castes, limited access to resources for marginalized communities	Reservation policies provided greater access to education, employment, and political representation	Continued disparity in income, wealth, and opportunities between reserved and general categories
Economic Upliftment	Limited access to high-paying jobs and quality education for marginalized groups	Increased representation in government jobs, but economic upliftment remains uneven	Low-paying jobs, limited career progression, and lack of high-quality education in public institutions
Access to Reservation Benefits	Limited and unequal access, with higher castes within OBCs benefiting more	Reservation policies target a wide range of communities, but not all economically disadvantaged individuals benefit equally	Discrepancies in access to reservation benefits, especially among sub-castes and economically weaker sections
Intersectionality of Caste, Class, and Gender	Marginalized women had minimal access to opportunities, especially in rural areas	Reservation policies helped marginalized women access education and jobs, but gender and caste barriers persist	Multiple layers of discrimination hinder women's upward mobility, especially those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds

To sum up, reservation policies in the state of Telangana do contribute to the reduction in socio-economic inequalities, but the extent to which it has been able to economically uplift is debatable. The policies have opened doors for people from marginalized groups. However, the class-based differences in access to these benefits and structural barriers like education, employment, and governance prevent these policies from effectively yielding sustained economic mobility. The interface of caste and gender with reservation raises fundamental questions about the merit. This policy complicates implementing equity in Telangana. Moreover, it creates social tensions within the society in addition to misunderstanding the concept of social justice.

Effect Study.

Reservation policies in Telangana have played an important role in addressing caste, gender and economic disabilities. To determine their success, we must examine its impact on the lives of those belonging to marginalized sections especially SCs, STs, OBCs, EWS in terms of education, employment and political representation.

Reservation policies have aided the historically disadvantaged castes' access to education and government services in spite of caste discrimination.

As a result, women and members of these communities are occupying positions in the local governance sector. Despite significant improvements, caste disparities continue to exist in socio-economic mobility, particularly in economic power, land ownership, and access to high-quality higher education.

Women in India have been granted reservations in local bodies and government sectors as an embodiment of gender equality. As an outcome, there has been increased political participation of women. Women from marginalized communities have been empowered with educational and employment opportunities that they were denied before. Though these developments have benefitted a lot of women, the patriarchal social structures continue to impede women's full participation in governance and decision-making at higher levels of power. Women are still facing challenges of traditional gender roles, the complexities of attaining leadership roles both political and professional.

The reservation policies in Telangana have created more access to public sector jobs and higher education from an economic perspective. There is still a considerable gap between the reserved category and the general category in terms of economic upliftment. Many reservation beneficiaries are unable to get jobs with good pay, yet have restricted mobility upwards, and face discrimination at good institutions. Due to reservations there are more opportunities made available in the society but the economic gap is still there. In contrast, rural area's economic gap is still the same.

In Telangana, whether or not the reservation has achieved what it intended is open to public opinion. Many view reservations as an important instrument that creating necessary policies of the country to tackle discrepancy. In contrast, the critics say that reservations often get misused or do not reach the most needy sections of the society. Many people believe that the system has created reverse discrimination whereby some sub-caste within the reserved category is favored over others. In addition, there is a fear of benefit dilution due to EWS Reservation that takes away from the main aim.

When compared to the other states of India, it is seen that although there has been a reservation implemented in the state of Telangana, it has not been very effective. In Tamil Nadu and other states where reservation policies have been in vogue for decades, those are not only believed to be an essential tool for social mobility but have also faced the music like over-centralization and caste-based politicization. In contrast, Karnataka and Maharashtra faced difficulty in balancing reservation with economic growth. Telangana's combination of caste-wise reservation and EWS has created a larger set of issues and opportunities that are different from these states.

Suggestions for the Policy.

Tips for making reservation policy in telangana more effective are given below. A more clear and transparent identification process of beneficiaries is required, to start with. The present system attempts to focus on the most disadvantaged but there can be enhancements to ensure that benefits reach the truly poor. One such section is the economically weaker sections. In addition, increasing reservations in private sector jobs and educational institutions, as is the case in Tamil Nadu, can help increase social mobility beyond the public sector.

To improve gender equality and uplift marginalised class, we need enhancement of the representation of women in higher political offices which should not be to get tokenism in governance. This can be achieved through the implementation of policies that provide leadership training to women, especially those from marginalized communities, and eliminating gender biases from political structures. In a similar fashion, economically weaker sections, especially in rural areas, can be uplifted class-wise by ensuring them scholarships, vocational studies and jobs in the public and private sectors.

Initiatives must focus on local and state policy impact and inclusive political fundamental of inclusive participation in decision-making by ensuring underrepresented groups' participation. There should be a greater effort to include the marginalized in policymaking for various sectors such as education, healthcare and agriculture. Mentorship programs could help local leaders from backward communities and women leaders upgrade their political offices. To promote wider economic inclusiveness, it must be ensured that benefits of reservations are not skewed in favour of only a few sub-castes but those who deserve it most.

V. Conclusion

To sum up, the reservation policies within the state have very much succeeded in not solving the historical inequalities. Through education, employment and political participation, these policies have improved the socio-economic conditions of backward classes. Despite this, challenges still exist, especially regarding improving the economy, gender equality, and equal access to reservations.

The future of reservation policies in Telangana should ensure that benefits go to those who really need it. Moreover, it must help achieve not just representation but real social mobility. The state must work on greater transparency and efficiency in the area of reservation, while also addressing the barriers that prevent communities from benefitting fully. In the end, the reservation should be made such that there is no huge division between classes. Further, every citizen of India, irrespective of caste, class, and gender gets equal opportunity. Finally, it should make politics more inclusive.

As Telangana progresses forward, it ought to evaluate and reassess the reservations to ensure that is matching with the needs of the dynamic population. The socio-political scenario after the reservation reforms in Telangana can be one of progress provided people work towards a more inclusive and just society.

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