

“The Status of Reservation in Education”

Provision of Reservation was implemented for the SC/ST and OBC after the enforcement of Constitution of India. In the beginning, it was 15% and 7.5% for the SC and ST respectively. But in 1991 after the Mandal Commission, 27% reservation was provided to the OBCs. In 1995, 3% of reservation was allocated to the other weaker section i.e. physically disabled in jobs.

After a long struggle by the teachers for SC/ST reservation in universities and colleges, the same was allowed in 1997, after 50 years of Independence. Apart from it, after the Supreme Court order, 3% reservation in jobs of universities and colleges was provided to the physically challenged in the year 2005 and to OBCs in 2007.

Question arises why reservation is not provided to dalits, OBCs and physically disabled? In the field of education, the fact is known that the conservative casteist mindset is responsible for not implementing reservation policy even after 63 years of independence. In fact, dominant caste people are not taking sight of reservation for the exploited, deprived and marginalized section of the society-Dalits. What does it show?

The government seems to be deceiving its people in the context of reservation in education sector. On one hand, it is supporting the reservation policy and on the other hand, depriving dalits of admission through the reservation quota. The quota appears to be filled only in papers and not in reality. Even, after the Supreme Court order for SC/ST in 2000 and Physically Challenged in 2005, this quota is still incomplete¹.

There are **10,000 teachers working in the Delhi University at present** and according to the reservation policy there **should be 1500 teachers belonging to the SC/ST origin in the university**. However, the shameful fact shows there are **only 650 teachers of SC/ST origin serving in the DU**. Likewise, there are **300 posts reserved for physically disabled** but merely **115 teachers are appointed**. Similarly, **OBC teachers** should be **2,700** but there are **only 100 teachers** appointed. The backlog remains unfulfilled and the university administration claims to have fulfilled the reservation quota. However, to see for ourselves, the statistics are as followed:-

1. (A) Details of teaching staff:-										
SNo.	Name of the Post	Total Post		In position out of total filled						
		Sanctioned	Filled	Gen.	OBC	SC	ST	PWD	Total	Vacant
1	Assistant Professor	691	311	250	-	40	13	08	311	380
2	Associate Professor	654	282	282	-	-	-	-	282	372
3	Professor	307	103	102	-	-	-	01	103	204
2. (B) Details of Non-teaching staff:-										
S No.	Name of the Post	Total Post		In position out of total filled						
		Sanctioned	Filled	Gen.	OBC	SC	ST	PWD	Total	Vacant
1	Group-A	184	129	109	07	09	04	-	129	55
2	Group-B	519	409	352	-	53	03	01	409	110
3	Group-C	1248	770	669	19	56	12	14	770	478
4	Group-D (Except safai Karamchhari)	1056	813	529	66	168	16	13	813	243

3. (C) Details of Additional to various courses / degrees: (in academic session 2008-09):-										
SNo.	Course/ Degree	Total Seats (1st Year)		In position out of total filled						
		Sanctioned/ Approved	Filled	Gen.	OBC	SC	ST	PWD	Total	Vacant
1	UG	52787*	41507			5886	1835		41507	
2	PG		7135			1038	459		7135	
3	M. Phil #		493			78	44		493	
4	Ph. D \$		3157	(Total	enrollment)	180	28		3157	
	Others(Gen.& Dip)		5161			374	63		5161	

No. of students on rolls for M. Phil program is Max. of 2 students per teacher in a Dept. subject o a max.

\$ Max. No. of seats for Ph. D. program under Deptt. is 8 student / professor, 6 students / Associate Professor and 4 students Assistant Professor.

* worked out on base year figure of 2006-07 with 18% in case in intake of students in 2008-09.

(Source: University of Delhi Establishment Branch III)No. estab.III/MHRD/2010/97537, Delhi, the 26th February, 2010

Dominant castes people or likeminded people want to abolish or eliminate reservation. But this is to be remembered that if reservations are called off, the plight of dalits would turn worst. The dominate sections proper in the economic domain with all benefits, whereas strategies are invented and implemented to keep dalits under subjugation. Hatred for dalits is still the norm in India after over six decades of colonial independence. What relief has this independence got for dalits when their own people continue to harbor ill for them. What does democracy means to dalits then? Aren't the Indian minds still treading in the colonial divide and rule policy?

Dominant sections and elite class live a luxurious life but dalits and other minorities continue their struggle in abject poverty. Cultural exploitation and atrocities on dalits remain same with exceeding incidents in different corners of the country. Therefore, pressure groups should work in favour of dalits and physically disabled. Pressure group plays an important role in the democracy and India is the largest egalitarian country in the world, so to say. Yet, the practice of casteist discrimination against dalits contradicts the very nature of the country. The issue of poor implementation of dalit quota needs o be highlighted in the print and electronic media and government's attention has to be sought on this crucial subject. The media at present is complacent to the issue, nation's political leaders indulge in party politics seeing the issue of dalits as just a succour to their vote bank. Reservation for dalits appears in their election manifestos only during the elections. There is a lack of political will and no one dares to stand in opposition to the dominant caste's line of thought. Some of the dalit parliamentarians also ignore the issue of reservation, for sparing any risk to their political positions. The insensitive should be educated on the issue and others should be able to at least understand the dalit agony.

Education is getting privatized and hence expensive. Expensive education has further relegated dalits and other weaker sections to the periphery and they can only think of any quality higher education for themselves. Reservation in university jobs is a bit of reparation but that too is being followed in a sloppy manner. Unless dalits gets these reserved seats filled, the backlog will keep on escalating. Paying lip service and recruiting a miniscule number would not suffice the cause and objective behind reservation for SCs/STs. Hence, a strong movement is required and dalits have to be at their toes to wage this stuggle and make reservation work in their favour.

Revolution is a continuous process and needs a nonstop struggle to achieve the said. To implement reservation in the education sector needs the spirit of a revolutionary. People's support has to be mobilized by making them comprehend dalit struggle for higher education and jobs. Maithili Sharan Gupta, a national poet wrote – "It is a great sin to sit by idly when you've lost your rights"². Concerted mass action is required. Today, if we are not getting reservation in the education, efforts have to be sustained to struggle for dalit rights in every arena, in higher education to begin with.

Courtesy:

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² Maithilisharan Gupta's *Jayadrath-vadh* in 1910