

CASTE SYSTEM AND MODERN SOCIETY OF YOUTHS

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Abstract

The caste system is a social evil which is existed in Indian society since time immemorial. People have criticized and opposed it for centuries, and some social evils have been prevalent in India. Because of this, the weaker sections of society have to bear the brunt. And also to the new young men and women. Many times it is heard that a boy from another society has married a girl from another society. Furthermore, incidents like beatings with them suddenly come to the fore.

However, this concept has remained the same during this century. In this research, researchers try to find solutions to these questions. Moreover, try to know the views of the youth of the 21st century on the caste system.

Keywords: *Youth, Caste System, untouchability, Politics*

Introduction

The caste system has been prevalent in our country since ancient times. Furthermore, it has maintained a firm hold on the social and political system. People were divided into four categories: Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, and Shudras. How the actual rise of the caste system took place is not yet known. Nevertheless, the Manu Smriti, an ancient text of Hinduism, dates back to 1,000 BCE and contains information about this system. In ancient times, all communities strictly followed this class system. In this system, upper-class people had many privileges, and they took advantage of them; on the other hand, lower, class people were deprived of many benefits.

However, the situation has completely changed now. Today's situation is not as harsh as in earlier times, but even today, discrimination is based on caste. Inter-caste marriage is prohibited. The head of the house or any elder member is found advising the younger ones that the marriage will happen in their caste; otherwise, it will not be acceptable. The 21st century is going on, and this century has seen many changes in society and how the lower classes or the downtrodden are standing on their feet.

Furthermore, some youths are getting married according to their wish. Now slowly, people have started choosing a profession according to their heart. There has been a change, but if we say everything has changed, this statement will also be wrong.

Literature review

From the etymological point of view, the word caste is derived from the root of Sanskrit 'Jani' (people) with the suffix 'Ktin'. According to Nyaya Sutra, Samanaprasavatmikajati means caste is formed by mixing people of similar birth. Different people and different scriptures have defined caste in their way. However, contrary to all this, people made their concepts and forced people to follow them.

2.1 Gandhiji's effort

Father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi introduced peace and non-violence all over the world. Moreover, he was the leader of the world's most significant mass movement. Gandhiji was strongly opposed to those who ruled by dividing caste. He used to say that his life is his message. His personality and work became an inspiration for anti-colonial and anti-racist movements around the world. He advocated for establishing social equality in India, and the abolition of the caste system was the primary goal of his life.

In 1932, he founded the All India Harijan Sangh for this purpose. He believed that no recognition had been given to untouchability in Hindu scriptures.

2.2 Abolition of untouchability and titles

In Article 17 of the Indian Constitution, the discrimination of untouchability or untouchability based on caste has been considered unconstitutional. Moreover, under Article 18, the system of awarding all kinds of titles has been abolished.

Imposing any disability on someone in the name of untouchability is considered a crime. Moreover, whoever brings it into practice, there is a provision to punish him according to the sections of the constitution. This step worked to break the backbone of casteism and spread public awareness.

2.3 Dr. Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar and criticism of casteism

Bhimrao Ambedkar's childhood was spent in poverty and humiliation, and he always represented the class that had been exploited for centuries. He was a staunch critic of casteism; this can be gauged from his statement. He used to say that we are Indians, first of all and also last. In this statement, priority and primacy have been given to Indianness, not caste.

3. Research question

- Is apartheid or casteism right?
- In your opinion, should there be a law preventing upper-caste and lower-caste people from marrying each other?
- Is it wrong to marry between upper caste and lower caste people?
- Do you think that the difference between castes is disappearing now?
- Do you think that casteism is disappearing from society now?

Related definitions

Class division and caste

Brahmins - According to Hinduism, this group is believed to have come into existence through the god Brahma, the creator of the entire universe. Pandits, priests, intellectuals, and teachers come under the category of Brahmins, and they are at the top of this varna system and are believed to have originated from the head of Brahma.

Kshatriyas - After this, the next in line are the Kshatriyas, who have been rulers and warriors. The work of the people of this varna has been considered to rule the country and protect it from enemies. Moreover, it is said that they originated from the arms of Brahma.

Vaishya – Farmers, cattle herders and traders community are included in this varna. Their job is to earn money by doing business. Moreover, it is said that these came from his thighs.

Shudra- Shudra is the fourth varna or caste in the Indian social system. Moreover, it is believed that they have come from Brahma's feet, according to the varna system.

Methodology

Casteism and what is the attitude of modern society, especially the youth, regarding caste? To understand and analyse a person thoroughly, it is necessary to pay attention to many aspects of him; for example, if he does not believe in beliefs like caste, then does any family member? And does that affect their lives in any way? For this, each aspect needs to be studied. And since most youths are active on social media in the present era, the researcher has to use the survey method.

Moreover, the information will have to be collected using quantitative research (quantitative method). The quantitative method is expressed in numbers and graphs and is used to test or confirm theories and assumptions. Moreover, the researcher's purpose is also to know what the modern youth think about old beliefs. With this research, generalisable facts about the subject can be established.

Using this method, you will survey with observations recorded as numbers and closed-ended questions.

Sampling

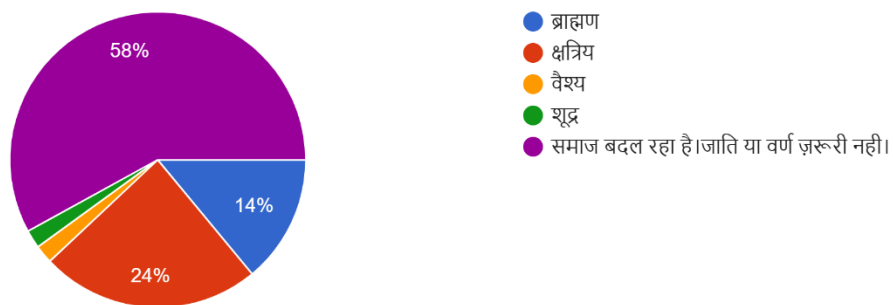
Sampling is required to obtain a representative sample from a large population or a group. The method of sampling depends on the type of analysis. Since the researcher can only include part of the population, he selects a few people for the research. If all the people are included in the research, then time and money will be recovered, and it is possible. The sample size of this research is 50. Facebook and WhatsApp have been used to collect more information.

Result

Fifty people are randomly selected for the analysis regarding the caste system and modern society. Moreover, it has been tried that the qualified person and every section of society should be involved in this. Other people also participated, and the results are as follows-

1. What is your caste

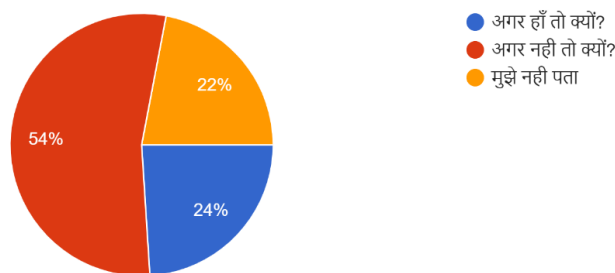
आपका वर्ण(जाति)
50 responses



When the researcher asked the people in the survey about their caste or varna, 58 percent people said that the society is changing. Caste or character is not necessary. Whereas 14 percent people described themselves as Brahmins, 24 percent people described themselves as Kshatriyas and 1 percent people described themselves as Shudras. From this it appears that the society is taking a turn where the supremacy of caste and religion is ending.

2. Do you believe in caste system?

क्या आप जाति या वर्ण में विश्वास रखते हैं?
50 responses

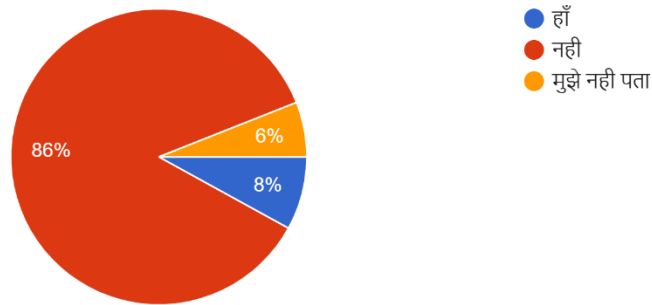


When asked about belief in caste or varna, 54 percent people said that they do not believe in caste or varna. 24 percent people said that they believe in all these while 22 percent people said

that they do not know whether they believe or not. People said that we got the character from our ancestors. We were assigned work through varnas. Caste division creates inequality among us. Most of the people said that we are humans and humanity is our identity.

3. According to you casteism or racial discrimination wrong or right?

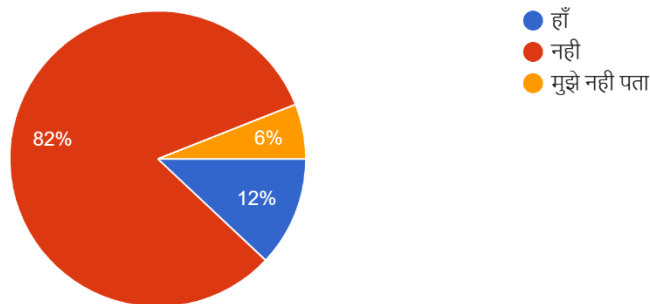
आपके मुताबिक नस्लभेद या जातिभेद सही है?
50 responses



If we say that the society is changing in relation to the caste and varna system, then it is also necessary to know their views. 86 percent believed that racism or racial discrimination is wrong, 8 percent believed it to be true, and 6 percent declined to answer.

4. Is marriage between upper caste and lower caste is right?

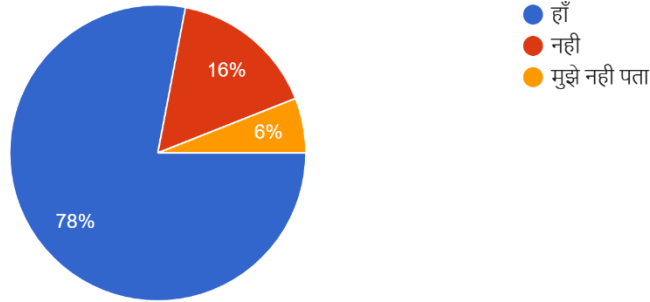
क्या उच्च जाति और निम्न जाति लोगों के बीच विवाह करना ग़लत है
50 responses



Often we get to hear about inter-caste marriages. But it is very important to know what is the attitude of the youth about it. When they were asked whether it is wrong to marry between upper caste and lower caste, 82 percent people did not consider inter-caste marriage wrong. 12 percent people considered it wrong and 6 percent people refused to answer. 84 percent people believe that inter-caste marriages should be allowed.

5. Will you do to marry in another caste?

अगर आपको किसी दूसरी जाति में विवाह करना हो तो करेंगे?
50 responses



The attitude of the younger generation is positive for inter-caste marriage as 78 percent people said that if given a chance, they would do inter-caste marriage. 16 percent people answered no while 6 percent people are confused between no and right.

Caste and politics

Castes have played an important role in Indian politics. Castes turn the tide of the party's victory. If seen from the perspective of Indian politics, political parties are serving their interests by making caste an issue. In the modern era, political parties play an important role in promoting casteism.

Conclusion

Undoubtedly caste system is a social evil. It is ironic that even after more than seven decades since the country's independence, we have not been able to free ourselves from the clutches of the caste system. However, as a democratic country, Article 15 of the Constitution states that the state should not discriminate against citizens in any field based on religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth. It is unclear from this research that the youth reject caste discrimination and prioritise karma more than birth. And it will play an important role in India's social and economic development.

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