

Support of certain caste groups.

M.N. Srinivas in his article 'Caste in Modern India' discussed

Caste Politics in Different States :- M.N. Srinivas

Bihar
Backward
vs
Forward

1. Bihar occupies the first position where caste basis predominates over its Politics. The recent politics in Bihar is articulated in terms of the Backward vs the Forward

Kerala -
Nairs,
Ezhavas,
Christians &
Muslims

2. In Kerala also caste considerations have played an important role. It is generally held that four major groups are contending for a dominant place in the political life of the state; Nairs, Ezhavas, Christians and Muslims.

Andhra Pradesh
Kammas
Reddys
Nairas
Velamas
Rajus
Kapus
Brahmins

3. In Andhra Pradesh, Caste Politics is reflected among the Kammas and Reddys. The important castes in the state are the Brahmins, the Reddys, the Kammas, the Nairas, the Velamas, the Rajus and the Kapus. Kammas and Reddys are politically dominant and numerically strongest in the state.

Haryana
Jats
followed
by
SC
castes,
weavers
sweepers

4. In Haryana Jats form the dominant Political force as they constitute about 23.1 per cent of the total Population. The Jats are followed by Scheduled castes constituted of Chamars, weavers & sweepers.

Karnataka
 Lingayats
 &
 Kalligas

5. In other states like Karnataka, the battle is mainly between two dominant castes Lingayats and OKKalligas.

6. In Maharashtra, the caste politics is played amongst three main castes Marathas, Brahmins and Mahars.

7. In Punjab, the conflict is one of Religious Communities not that of Caste i.e. Hindus and Sikhs.
In Punjab — Hindus & Sikhs.

B.R. Ambedkar

B.R. Ambedkar criticized the use of Caste as a Political Plank. He anticipated the limitations of using Caste as a Political Resource and instead emphasized eliminating the concept of Caste from Indian Society.

The Mandal Commission (1979)

The Mandal Commission was established in 1979 by the Janata Party govt. under Prime Minister Morarji Deasai with a Mandate to "identify the socially or educationally backward".

Direction of Seat Reservation
Lower indicators

The Commission was set up to consider the question of Seat Reservation and quoted for people to address caste discrimination and used eleven social, economic and Educational Indicators to determine "Backwardness".

Affirmative Action

In 1980, the Commission's Report affirmed the affirmative Action practice under Indian Law whereby members of lower Castes (known as other Backward Classes and Scheduled Castes and Tribes) were given exclusive access to a certain portion of Government jobs and seats in Public Universities and recommended changes to these quotas, increasing them by 27% to 49.5%. L.R. Naik, the only Dalit member in the Mandal Commission refused to sign the Mandal recommendations, as he feared that would do harm.

27% to 49.5%

L.R. Naik

could corner all the benefits of reservation.

1990s
In 1990s, many parties started claiming that they are representing the backward CLASS.

These parties are namely the following:-

- BSP
SP
JK
- i) Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)
 - ii) The Samajwadi Party
 - iii) Janata Dal.

Definitely Caste is playing a very imp. role in the politics of India. ~~Garib~~

Every political party are trying to use caste to fetch more and more votes out of the ignorant and illiterate majority of Indian voters.

The Regional Parties are using caste as a means to serve their political ends. But

the most imp. trend which we can note about Caste Politics is that - All the Political Parties are using now interest not only in a single caste or group of caste rather they

are trying to please all the dominant and major caste in any particular area.

Mayawati
The recent instance can be seen in the social engineering done by Ms. Mayawati (Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh), who have tried to bring even Brahmins and Kshatriyas under the same umbrella under which the Dalit Samaj was sitting with a sense of security.

Like this, the BJP, even being the