

# The Educational Opportunities Under Reservation System in India

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**Abstract:** The main aim of the founder of Indian constitution was to create a society based on the principle that all people are equal and deserve equal rights and opportunities. Scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes and in some states among Muslims under a category called BCM are the primary beneficiaries of the reservation policies under constitution. The reservation policy in India is a former of affirmative action where by a percentage of seats are reserved in the public sector union and state civil services union and state government department and in all public and private educational institutions for the socially and economically backward communities. The goal of reservation in India has been to bring about an improvement in the welfare who have been economically and socially depressed. But in arriving this judgment about who should be eligible for reservation, the criteria have been a person's caste rather than their income or wealth.

**Keywords:** Backward, Caste system, Education, Opportunities, Reservation

## 1. Introduction

The reservation system in India consist of a series of measures such as reserving access to seats in various legislatures to government jobs and to enrollment in higher education institutions. The reservation nourishes the historically disadvantage casts and tribes, listed on scheduled castes and tribes, listed on scheduled castes and scheduled tribes by government of India [3].

The primary objective of reservation system in India is to enhance the social and education system of underprivileged communities and people thus improve their lives.

The constitution prohibits untouchability and obligates the state to make special provision for the betterment of the SCs and STs [2]. Article 15 (4) empowers the state to make special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens and for SCs. This provision has enabled the state to reserve seats for SCS.THIS in educational Institutions in general and professional courses etc. [2].

Article 17 abolishes the practice of untouchability. Practice of untouchability is an offense and anyone doings of is punishable by law [4]. The constitution of India states In clause (2) of article

29 shall prevent the state from making any special provision for advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens of SCS.THIS and STs [5]. Article 46 of constitutions takes that "The state shall provide promote with special care the educational and economic interest of the weaker sections of the people and in particular of the SCS and STs and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation [2].

In Education in India scholarships or student aid is available for SCs, STs, BCs, OBCs, women, Muslims and other minorities. Only about 0.7% of scholarships of student aid in India is based on merit given the grossly inadequate representation of above mentioned categories in employment and education due to historic, societal and cultural reasons [6].

However, the given turns a blind eye on those whom have been negatively affected by such policies. The need for the study is to know what students are thinking about on which basis educational opportunities should be given and know whether they negatively affected because of these policies [1]. In this context, the aim of the study is to discuss about the impact of reservation system in educational opportunities in India.

## 2. Methodology

A cross sectional study was conducted among students of Mamata College, Telangana. Study was conducted among 200 students in July 2019 and ethical clearance was taken from institutional review board of Mamata Dental College. A self-structured questionnaire was prepared and distributed among 3<sup>rd</sup> years, 4<sup>th</sup> years, interns and postgraduates of Mamata College, Khammam. The questionnaire included the demographic data, educational opportunities under caste based reservation system, demerits of reservation system in education. After explaining the study objectives, written consent was obtained from each student and they were requested to complete the questionnaire.

### A. Inclusion criteria

Inclusion criteria for the study includes young adults of age

ranging 19-29 years who can understand English language and students present on the day of study and consenting to participate in the study.

**B. Exclusion criteria**

The students who are not present on the day of the study and who didn't volunteer to participate in the study were excluded.

**C. Statistical analysis**

Response of the participants were entered into Microsoft Excel. Statistical analysis was performed by using vps25. Chi square test was used to find the association among categorized values. The level of significance was set at  $P < 0.05$ .

**3. Survey results**

Overall 200 students that is 3<sup>rd</sup> years, 4<sup>th</sup> years, interns and postgraduates were included in the study. The mean age of the students was and standard deviation is. Majority of population participated in the survey were interns 62.5% and most of them were females.

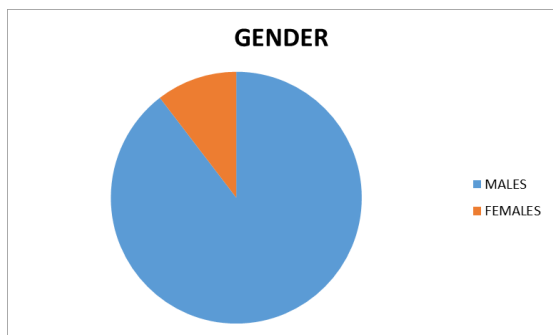


Fig. 1.

Table 1  
 Sociology demographic characteristics of the study population, Mamata Dental College 2019

Variables		Frequency	Percentage
Year of study	3rd	15	7.5
	4th	39	19.5
	Interns	125	62.5
	PGs	21	10.5
Caste	OC	80	40.5
	OBC	101	50.5
	SC	13	6.5
	ST	6	3

The majority of the students that is 81% answered that educational opportunities given on merit based are useful than reservation based and very few students that is 19% answered that educational opportunities given on reservation basis are useful than merit basis. Statistically, a significant difference was observed i.e.  $P < 0.05$ . Explained in fig. 2.

When students were asked whether the caste based reservation system affects the quality of life more than 50% i.e. 83.5% of students agreed and 16.5% students disagreed. A significant difference was observed i.e.  $P < 0.05$ . Explained in fig. 3.

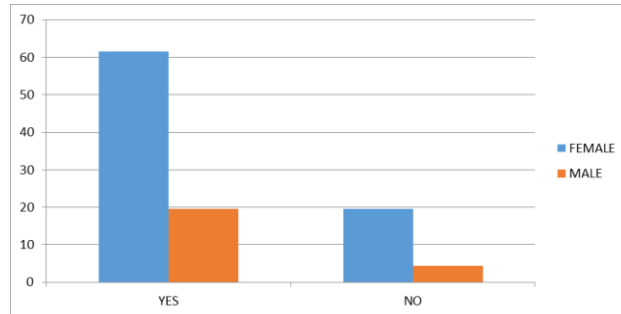


Fig. 2.

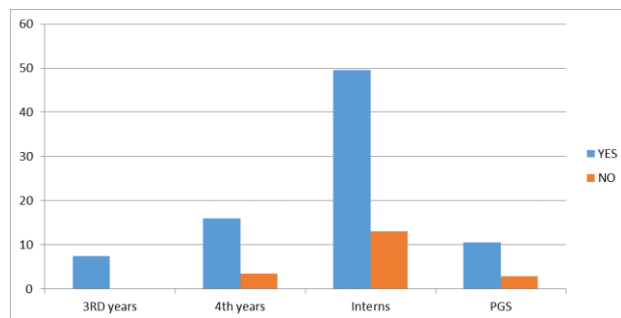
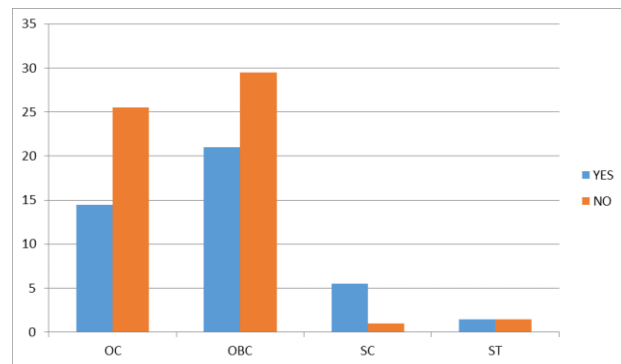


Fig. 4.

The majority of students i.e. who belong to OBC and OC caste answered that reservation system is not useful for educational opportunities and very few students i.e. who belong to SC and ST answered that reservation system is useful for educational opportunities. Explained in fig. 4.



When the students were asked whether their family is negatively affected by reservation system majority of them i.e. 65% said yes and 35% said no.

The majority of the students i.e. 85.5% agreed that people misuse the reservation system and very few students i.e. 14.5% disagreed to this statement. Explained in table 2.

Table 2

	Frequency	Percent
Yes, people misuse it for their own benefits	171	85.5
No, people don't misuse it for their benefits	29	14.5
Total	200	100

#### 4. Discussion

The Indian society is characterized by a high degree of inequality based on the caste system [5] and this system is considered to get an admission in educational institutions [3].

65% of the students say that they were negatively affected by reservation system based on caste and 35% of them say that they haven't been negatively affected [1]. 31% of them say that reservation quota isn't necessary and 69% of them say that reservation quota is necessary in education [1]. 77% of them believe that the major demerit of reservation based on caste results in depriving the opportunity from the ones who worthy and deserving of it and 23% of them say that it results in bias towards a particular caste as a demerit of such policies. However, in a study in Chennai, Tamilnadu the figures varied from current findings.

This shows that large number of students felt that educational opportunities should be given on merit basis as education is measured based on knowledge. If the educational opportunities are given on reservation basis, the quality of the graduates who come out in search of jobs is significantly reduced. A majority of the students have a common conception that reservation system needs to be comprehensively looked into and changed for that it meets the ends of both the side.

#### 5. Conclusion

While implementing the caste based reservation system, the Indian constitution has the right aim of uplifting the standards of the Indian society. In this process of eliminating untouchability among several castes, caste based reservation system has been created adverse caste ism and discrimination. The objective of quashing untouchability has resulted in adverse untouchability and discrimination. People tend to misuse such privileges for their own personal benefits and in this process the people who have worked and deserved it may lose the opportunities. It is clearly seen that the state has ignored this aspect.

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