



Understanding the Changes in the Caste System in India

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Abstract: *The main objective of this research paper is to acquire an efficient understanding of changes that are taking place in the caste system in India. The primary aim of changes is to promote the well-being and goodwill of community members. In this manner, progress will take place for the nation as a whole. Individuals from all castes will need to be well-informed about the various types of goals and objectives that can be achieved in both personal and professional lives. Furthermore, they are to augment their information with multiple job duties and methodologies to be implemented in a well-organised and satisfactory manner. These are regarded as the key to generating desired outcomes. One of the crucial aspects that needs to be taken into account is that reinforcement is necessary for traits such as morality, ethics, diligence, and conscientiousness. These are the keys to carrying out all types of job duties in a well-organised manner and generating desired outcomes. Therefore, it is well understood that, as a consequence of changes taking place in the caste system, individuals can make an essential contribution to bringing about improvements in their overall standards of living. Furthermore, women, belonging to deprived, marginalised and economically weaker sections of society, are acquiring empowerment opportunities. The primary concepts examined in this research paper are the objectives of reforming the caste system, the factors contributing to these changes, the benefits of implementing these reforms, and how changes within the caste system promote women's empowerment.*

Keywords: *Caste System, Changes, Goals, Job Duties, Living Conditions, Objectives, Women Empowerment*

I. INTRODUCTION

Changes in the caste system have been found in the past two centuries in general and in the past 50 years in particular (Caste System in India, n.d., [1]). Individuals from all castes have acquired an understanding that an aimless life is a meaningless one. Consequently, all individuals, regardless of their community, category, or socio-economic background, have different types of goals and objectives to achieve. These are in personal and professional lives. Hence, individuals belonging to all castes are wholeheartedly committed towards other kinds of goals and objectives. Individuals have recognised the comprehensive meaning of education.

They are enrolling in educational institutions at all levels to acquire education. Furthermore, they aspire to secure good employment opportunities related to their fields, and therefore, they are committed to enhancing their career prospects. This is considered one of the vital causes that facilitates changes in the caste system in India.

With advancements taking place and with the advent of modernization and globalization, there are changes taking place in caste system in India. The individuals, belonging to all castes, are migrating to other regions, where they will be acquiring the opportunities, which would facilitate the promotion of career prospects as well as overall standards of living (Caste System in India, n.d., [2]). In other words, they are augmenting information regarding techniques that enhance overall personality traits and living conditions. Individuals from all castes are adopting Western attire, utilising technologies and innovative methodologies, and other factors that facilitate improvements in one's overall quality of life. In the present day, individuals from deprived, marginalised, and economically weaker sections of society are expanding their knowledge of all relevant factors, which facilitates the effective implementation of their job duties and activities in an organised manner. Therefore, it is well-understood that individuals belonging to all castes are getting engaged in all types of occupations and professions that are suitable to them.

A. Objectives of Bringing about Changes within the Caste System

Individuals from all castes are well aware of the fact that changes are regarded as an integral part of their lives. The changes can be both positive and negative. They experience changes in all factors, including those within their homes, during the pursuit of educational programs, and when engaging in employment opportunities, among others. In other words, changes occur within the personal and professional lives of individuals. Individuals are required to be moral and ethical in their conduct and to cope with all types of changes efficiently. Over time, changes are occurring within the caste system as well. As a consequence of implementing all the factors responsible for bringing about changes within the caste system, individuals are enhancing their knowledge in terms of the objectives of bringing about these changes. These are stated as follows:

1. Making wise and productive decisions.
2. Honing analytical, critical-thinking and problem-solving skills.
3. Being well-versed in terms of job duties and responsibilities.
4. Being well-informed in terms of methodologies and procedures.

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5. Utilising modern, scientific and innovative methods and materials.
6. Augmenting skills and abilities.
7. Inculcating the traits of morality and ethics.
8. Implementing the traits of diligence, resourcefulness and conscientiousness.
9. Taking out a sufficient amount of time for all tasks and activities.
10. Coping with different types of dilemmas and challenging situations in an effective manner.
11. Promoting a typical mindset.
12. Managing anger and stress in an efficacious manner.
13. Forming cordial and amiable terms and relationships with others.
14. Managing financial, technical, material and information resources effectively.
15. Making provision of infrastructure, amenities and facilities.
16. Putting in one's best efforts.
17. Possessing the ability to work under stress.
18. Carrying out tasks and activities in a well-ordered manner.
19. Forming positive viewpoints regarding various factors.
20. Reinforcing a constructive approach.

B. Factors Responsible for Bringing about Changes within the Caste System

The changes are regarded as an integral part of individuals' lives. They experience changes in various aspects of their personal and professional lives. Within homes, as well as in different professional settings, such as educational institutions and workplaces, changes occur. Individuals are required to cope with all changes in an effective manner. One of the crucial aspects that needs to be taken into account is that positivity needs to be facilitated in all changes (Lecture 23: Caste System in India, n.d., [3]).

Individuals are required to understand the meaning and significance of traits such as morality, ethics, diligence, and conscientiousness. These traits are regarded as of utmost importance in carrying out various job duties efficiently and achieving desired goals and objectives in both personal and professional lives. Hence, when individuals research the caste system, it is essential to be well-informed about the factors that lead to changes within it. Therefore, individuals belonging to all castes are required to be well-informed about all types of factors responsible for bringing about changes within the caste system. These are: Sanskritization, Westernisation, Modernisation, dominant caste, Industrialisation, Urbanisation and democratic Decentralisation. These are stated as follows:

II. SANSKRITIZATION

Sanskritization is the process by which any low caste could adapt to the behaviour, patterns, lifestyles, norms, values, standards, principles, cultures and morals of high castes. However, they are required to leave their impure occupations and abstain from consuming non-vegetarian food and liquor. The sanskritization of status was allowed to middle class individuals and not to untouchables. The main

objective of individuals, who are sanskritizing their status is to achieve desired goals and objectives in personal as well as professional lives. As a consequence, they can promote the enhancement of overall standards of living.

To promote sanskritization, a caste should meet three conditions: it should have a touchable status, a better economic condition, and claim membership in the high caste through the propagation of a story or myth. It is a group process and not an individual process. Furthermore, it is a lengthy process that may take a considerable amount of time. It does not lead to structural change, but only positional change. It means that a particular low caste changes its position to a high caste in a specific area, without any changes in the overall caste structure. Through the process of Sanskritization, there are a few lower castes that have changed their position into the high castes. Therefore, sanskritization is regarded as one of the indispensable factors responsible for bringing about changes within caste system.

A. Westernization

Westernization is referred to the process by which individuals and groups adopt a western way of life. In this case, significant emphasis is placed on implementing factors that facilitate bringing about changes in the overall personality traits of individuals. Individuals from all castes are adopting Western attire, implementing effective communication processes, utilising technologies and innovative methodologies, and other factors that facilitate improvements in one's overall quality of life. As a consequence, individuals will experience progression and derive feelings of pleasure and contentment.

Individuals belonging to deprived, marginalised, and economically weaker sections of society are augmenting their information in terms of all factors, which facilitates the execution of their job duties and activities in a well-ordered and satisfactory manner. Research studies have indicated that these individuals are acquiring education, engaging in employment opportunities, and implementing all the factors that facilitate the enhancement of overall living conditions. Hence, it is understood on a comprehensive basis that westernization is having an influencing among individuals, belonging to all castes, communities and socio-economic backgrounds. Therefore, westernization is one of the significant factors responsible for bringing about changes within caste system.

B. Modernization

Modernization is referred to the process, which relies on scientific outlook, rational attitude, high social mobility, mass mobilization, belief in liberty, equality and fraternity, empathy, high level of motivation to do anything with perfection, specialization and super-specialization with work and active participation and dealing with complex organizations. With the advent of modernization, there are occurrences of changes in the institutional, structural, occupational and organizational aspects of social, cultural and personal level. As a consequence, the significant change that has taken place within the caste system is that

it has become more flexible. Within urban communities, castes are typically emerging into classes.

In India, an emerging middle class is developing with a rational outlook and goal-oriented mindset. Modernization is regarded as a more comprehensive concept as compared to westernization. Any culture can modernise itself by generating information in terms of Western values. Education is viewed as an instrument that not only imparts information in terms of academic subjects and lesson plans but also in terms of the ways necessary for emerging as moral and ethical human beings and productive citizens of the country. The system of education is modernising itself to lead to the progression of individuals, communities, and the nation as a whole. Within educational institutions of all levels, educators are utilising modern, scientific, and innovative methods and approaches to promote student learning. Therefore, modernization is an eminent factor responsible for bringing about changes within caste system.

C. Dominant Caste

The phenomenon of the dominant caste emerged in the 20th century. This means that some castes have become politically and economically dominant over other castes within a particular region (Rao, 2010, [4]). To emerge into dominant caste, various factors need to be taken into account, i.e. one should have a good economic position; be politically dominant, i.e. turning into a vote bank, having large population, high ritual status, English medium education, having traditions and standards in the agricultural sector, landlords and having a tradition of violence, i.e. muscle power is essential. The dominant caste in present-day society is not only found among high castes, but it is also prevalent among individuals belonging to lower castes.

Furthermore, various factors necessitate that individuals augment their knowledge and understanding. In addition, they need to implement these to reinforce their dominant status. These are, scientific outlook, coherent attitude, high social mobility, mass mobilization, belief in liberty, equality and fraternity, benevolence, high level of motivation and concentration levels to do anything with perfection, confidence levels, specialization and super-specialization with work and active participation and dealing with different dilemmas and challenging situations. One of the crucial aspects that is taken into account is the need to adopt a constructive approach. Therefore, the dominant caste is an expedient factor responsible for bringing about changes within the caste system.

D. Industrialization

As the name implies, industrialization is referred to the growth of industries. Within both urban and rural communities across the country, there is an increase in industrial development. The different types of industries include cottage industries, plantations, silk weaving, diamond polishing, gem cutting, beedi rolling, lock industries, coal mines, and so forth. The industrialization has rendered a significant contribution in making provision of employment opportunities for individuals. As a consequence, individuals are generating income to sustain their living conditions effectively. When recruitment and selection take place for individuals, they are gathering information about job duties and responsibilities.

Furthermore, they are generating information in terms of methodologies and procedures, which facilitate effective job performance and the achievement of desired outcomes.

The job duties within all types of industries are hazardous. Individuals are required to be efficiently trained in methods that enhance productivity and profitability. The supervisors need to ensure that they carry out their job duties and responsibilities in a satisfactory manner. Individuals are required to ensure they are well-versed in the use of tools, devices, machinery, and equipment. Furthermore, they need to take safety measures, such as wearing safety gear, using protective eyewear, gloves, and other necessary materials to maintain their health. Individuals from all castes are familiarising themselves with changes brought about by the advent of industrialisation. Therefore, industrialization is a renowned factor responsible for bringing about changes within caste system.

E. Urbanization

Urbanization is referred to the growth of towns and cities. There has been an increase in migration of individuals to urban communities. Individuals from rural communities are migrating to urban areas in search of better livelihood opportunities. The system of education is in a well-developed state compared to rural communities; hence, rural individuals are migrating to urban communities to acquire a good-quality education. Furthermore, employment opportunities are available in urban communities to promote the overall enhancement of quality of life. Additionally, within urban communities, medical and healthcare facilities are well-developed. Hence, it is well understood that with the advent of urbanisation, various modernisations have been taking place in different aspects. As a consequence, progressions are taking place among individuals, communities, and nations as a whole.

Within urban communities, restaurants, malls, hotels, and banks have made a significant contribution to enhancing the overall quality of life for individuals. Furthermore, the infrastructure, amenities, and facilities are well-developed, including power supplies, water supplies, communication networks, transportation facilities, and other essential services.

As a consequence of improvements in all these facilities, changes have been taking place within the caste system. The main reason is that all castes are leading towards progress. Therefore, urbanization is an essential factor responsible for bringing about changes within caste system.

III. DEMOCRATIC DECENTRALIZATION

Democratic decentralization has been introduced with the initiation of Panchayati Raj system. Local governments have been established in the villages. In the Panchayat, reservations have been made for lower castes. This signifies that they were encouraged to participate and express their viewpoints. In this manner, lower castes are provided with opportunities to empower themselves. In the system of democratic decentralization, there is decentralization of authority. In the decentralization of authority, all the individuals, who are participating in political

affairs and governance, are encouraged to participate. When they are participating, they are not only expressing their viewpoints and perspectives but also acquiring empowerment opportunities.

Furthermore, they are augmenting different types of skills and abilities. Within personal and professional lives, individuals are emphasizing boosting their skills and abilities. The various types of skills include communication skills, decision-making skills, analytical skills, critical thinking skills, time management skills, leadership skills, negotiation skills, personal skills, professional skills, presentation skills, technical skills, and creative skills. On the other hand, abilities, which need to be honed are, convincing, persuasion, management, administration, emotional intelligence, systems thinking, possessing the abilities to work under stress, putting in efforts to one's best abilities, coping with various types of dilemmas and challenging situations in an efficient manner and carrying out all kinds of tasks and activities in a well-ordered manner. Hence, the upgradation of skills and abilities is contributing efficiently to bringing about changes within the caste system. Therefore, democratic decentralization is a notable factor responsible for bringing about changes within caste system.

A. Advantages of Bringing about Changes within the Caste System

With advancements taking place and with the advent of modernization and globalization, there are changes taking place in caste system in India. The individuals, belonging to lower castes, are adopting the customs, norms and traditions of upper castes. The individuals, belonging to all castes, are migrating to other regions, where they will be acquiring the opportunities, which would facilitate the promotion of enrichment of career prospects as well as overall standards of living (The Hindu Caste System in India, n.d., [5][**Error! Reference source not found.**]). The changes within the caste system have proven to be beneficial to individuals on a comprehensive level. The advantages of bringing about changes within the caste system include enhancing motivation levels, fostering a constructive approach, coping with psychological problems more effectively, leading to the improvement of competencies, abilities, and aptitude, promoting the development of overall personality traits, and sustaining one's living conditions more effectively. These are stated as follows:

B. Augmenting Motivation Levels

Individuals from all castes are undertaking various job duties in both their personal and professional lives. It is understood that they aspire to implement these in a well-ordered manner and achieve the desired outcomes.

Hence, they are required to augment motivation levels. These would contribute efficiently to stimulating the mindsets of the individuals. As a consequence, individuals will put in their best efforts to perform their job duties effectively and achieve the desired outcomes. One of the critical aspects is that individuals will contribute efficiently in coping with various types of dilemmas and challenging situations promptly. Furthermore, these will prevent impediments from arising during the implementation of multiple tasks and activities. Hence, as a consequence of

changes in the caste system, individuals will be able to contribute efficiently to developing confidence among themselves in performing multiple job duties in an orderly manner. Therefore, augmenting motivation levels is regarded as one of the indispensable advantages of bringing about changes within the caste system.

C. Reinforcing a Constructive Approach

Individuals from all castes are required to adopt a constructive approach. This is regarded as the key to strengthening their contacts and alleviating backwardness. Individuals from all castes need to understand that to improve their overall quality of life, they must adopt a constructive approach. This will facilitate their establishment of contacts. The reason is that, to be successful in one's overall standards of living, it is necessary to reinforce a constructive approach. Furthermore, this will facilitate integration with the mainstream society. Individuals from all castes need to be well-versed in their job duties and responsibilities. Furthermore, they are required to be well-informed in terms of methodologies and procedures. One of the crucial aspects that needs to be taken into account is forming positive viewpoints about the individuals with whom one is working and dealing. This is acknowledged as a result of changes that have taken place within the caste system. Therefore, reinforcing a constructive approach is one of the significant advantages of bringing about changes within the caste system.

D. Coping with Psychological Problems in an Effective Manner

It is understood that individuals, belonging to all castes, do experience various types of psychological problems of anger, stress, anxiety, frustration and depression. These are experienced in a major or minor form. As a consequence of changes that have taken place within the caste system, the individuals will augment their abilities to cope with psychological problems effectively.

These are experienced in a major or minor form. Individuals must ensure that these do not create impediments during the implementation of various tasks and activities. Individuals from all castes need to be well-versed in their job duties and responsibilities. Furthermore, they are required to be well-informed about different types of methodologies and procedures. Psychological problems can impede an individual's concentration levels. Hence, to be successful in all kinds of tasks and activities, individuals need to cultivate a positive mindset. Therefore, coping with psychological problems effectively is a noteworthy advantage of bringing about changes within the caste system.

E. Leading to Up-gradation of Competencies, Abilities and Aptitude

Within their personal and professional lives, individuals from all occupations, castes, communities, and socio-economic backgrounds are emphasising the need to augment their competencies, abilities, and aptitude. As a consequence, individuals will possess the abilities to work under stress, put in efforts to one's best abilities, cope with various types of dilemmas and challenging situations in an efficient manner, prevent these from giving rise to

impediments and carry out all kinds of tasks and activities in a well-ordered and satisfactory manner. Hence, individuals will be able to make an essential contribution to achieving the desired goals and objectives. Furthermore, they will make a vital contribution to improving their overall quality of life. As a consequence, individuals, belonging to all castes will recognize the importance of competencies, abilities and aptitude. Another critical aspect is that individuals will not only implement these in their personal and professional lives but will also share information about them with others, including family and community members. Therefore, leading to the upgradation of competencies, abilities, and aptitude is an expedient advantage of bringing about changes within the caste system.

F. Promoting Enhancement of Overall Personality Traits

Promoting the enhancement of overall personality traits is regarded as one of the primary goals of individuals from all communities, categories, and socio-economic backgrounds. To carry out this task, individuals are required to augment their information with various types of measures and approaches. Furthermore, they are necessary to inculcate the traits of morality, ethics, diligence and conscientiousness. As a consequence of changes that have taken place within the caste system, the individuals will augment their abilities to cope with psychological problems effectively. Furthermore, these are prevented from hindering the implementation of various tasks and activities. Individuals must integrate with mainstream society. They are required to possess an approachable nature and an amiable attitude. The individuals are required to reinforce a constructive approach and cope with psychological problems of anger, stress, anxiety, frustration and depression in an effective manner. Therefore, promoting the enhancement of overall personality traits is an eminent advantage of bringing about changes within the caste system.

G. Sustaining One's Living Conditions in an Effective Manner

Effectively sustaining one's living conditions is regarded as one of the primary goals of individuals, belonging to all communities, categories and socio-economic backgrounds. In order to carry out this task, the individuals are required to augment their information in terms of various factors, i.e. being well-versed in terms of job duties and responsibilities; being well-informed in terms of methodologies and procedures; utilizing modern, scientific and innovative methods and materials; augmenting skills and abilities; inculcating the traits of morality and ethics; implementing the traits of diligence, resourcefulness and conscientiousness; taking out sufficient amount of time for all tasks and activities; coping with different types of dilemmas and challenging situations in an effective manner; forming cordial and amiable terms and relationships with others and managing financial, technical, material and information resources effectively. Individuals are required to be committed to this goal and adopt the norms that will facilitate the generation of desired outcomes. Therefore, sustaining one's living conditions in an effective manner is a prominent advantage of bringing about changes within the caste system.

H. Changes in the Caste System Promote Women's Empowerment

In India, over 70 per cent of the population resides in rural communities. In these communities, agriculture and farming practices are regarded as one of the primary occupations of the individuals. In some of the rural households, the birth of girls is not appreciated. The preference is given to male children. The reason is that individuals possess the viewpoint that male children are assets. They will contribute efficiently in promoting the well-being and goodwill of families and communities, provided they are given opportunities to do so. Hence, male children are encouraged to get enrolled in educational institutions at all levels and acquire education. Furthermore, they are encouraged to get engaged in employment opportunities. As a consequence, they will contribute efficiently to promoting the well-being and goodwill of families and communities. On the other hand, girls are regarded as liabilities. From the early childhood stage, they are trained in the implementation of various household chores and in attending to the needs and requirements of family members. The main reason is that there has been a reinforcement of the viewpoint that they must eventually get married and move into marital homes. In the present era, with advancements ongoing and the advent of new technologies, there have been transformations in the viewpoints and perspectives of individuals. They have acknowledged that girls and women are not meant to carry out household responsibilities solely. Still, they have the right to implement all factors that facilitate the promotion of overall standards of living. The girls are getting enrolled in educational institutions at all levels to acquire education.

Furthermore, they are taking advantage of employment opportunities. In other words, they have the right to promote the enhancement of their career prospects. The individuals belonging to lower castes are the ones who usually do not provide equal rights and opportunities to girls, as compared to their male counterparts. Hence, individuals are bringing about changes in their viewpoints, which will give the girls various rights and opportunities, thereby facilitating improvements in their overall quality of life. Furthermore, they are promoting family and community well-being. Therefore, it is widely understood that changes in the caste system can encourage women's empowerment. The girls, belonging to all castes, are making selections of the fields based on their competencies, abilities, and aptitude. These include education, architecture, science, technology, engineering, business, management, administration, journalism, law and so forth. In all fields, individuals are carrying out their job duties and responsibilities. There are number of individuals employed, belonging to all positions in the hierarchy of the organizations. They are carrying out their job duties to generate a source of income and promote community well-being. One of the crucial aspects that needs to be considered is that all types of methods must be implemented effectively. In addition, information needs to be augmented in terms of pioneering methods and materials. These are the ways that facilitate the implementation of job duties. Furthermore, desired outcomes will be generated. The girls are not only generating income but also contributing efficiently to promoting family and community well-being. Therefore, it is

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understood on a comprehensive basis that changes in the caste system will encourage women's empowerment.

IV. CONCLUSION

Changes in the caste system have been observed in the past two centuries, and more notably, in the past 50 years. Factors responsible for bringing about changes within caste system are, sanskritization, westernization, modernization, dominant caste, industrialization, urbanization, and democratic decentralization. The advantages of bringing about changes within the caste system include: augmenting motivation levels, reinforcing a constructive approach, coping with psychological problems in an effective manner, leading to the upgradation of competencies, abilities, and aptitude, promoting the enhancement of overall personality traits, and effectively sustaining one's living conditions. Changes within the caste system encourage women's empowerment. Ultimately, it can be stated that changes within the caste system are leading to the advancement of individuals, communities, and the nation as a whole.

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