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Topic of Research- Changing Patterns among Scheduled Castes in Sasaram (Bihar)
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Abstract

The development of weaker sections of the society particularly of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes has been on the agenda of the government since the starting of planned development process in our country. Since scheduled castes are the marginalized community in Indian society, an emphasis has been made to compare the changes among the scheduled castes and other castes in respect of political, social, educational and relationship changes within the scheduled castes and with the other castes in Sasaram. It's also reflecting on the social awareness and social empowerment among the scheduled castes and in comparison with other castes.

In Bihar the atrocities against the scheduled caste is very common and severe one. But over the years with the political changes and Dalit uprising in the politics they are unavoidable anymore. The different government schemes for the scheduled castes have also changed the occupational structure of the Dalits. Moreover, their economic status has improved and in Sasaram their social and educational status also improved.

The role of education as a means of direct social and economic upliftment cannot be ignored in India. Education is recognized as the prime-mover of the socio-economic development. If we compare the literacy level of Rohtas, Bihar and India, it can be seen that there is considerable improvement in literacy of Rohtas district since 1981. It is notable that differentials in literacy rate quite prominently exist in Rohtas district with respect to the different social group.

It can also be pointed out that the development of a region not only depends on educational and occupational development of all the social groups but also depends on state and local level governments regarding provision of basic services. Therefore, the major role of government lies in the improvement of underdeveloped segment of their population.

The social and educational mobility changed economically and political modernization leads to the creation not only of new and close relations but also new values, new attitudes and new inspirations, some of the contours of the traditional caste, class and political structure tend to be blurred and new ones tend to be emerged. Our study reveals that there is correlation between three hierarchies. There is close correspondence between the three phenomena or dimensions of caste, class and politics.

In this study, we aimed at exploring the political consciousness, identity formation and political participation among scheduled castes in Sasaram. It is clear that political consciousness is growing among Dalit in Sasaram and they participated in elections in significant numbers. Statistics also reveal that a good number of Dalits believe that their vote is valuable and important. This shows realization that politics and political participation is an effective means to achieve social mobility which is growing among them, but every Dalit try to vote their own caste leaders. Infact support base of political party tend to vary according to sub-caste, class, education, occupation and location. Thus though some Dalits in Sasaram are endeavoring to create a distinct political space, the identity formulation in realm of politics has not consolidated among them. Their increased political participation indicates the political consciousness is growing among them.

Thus the study makes a modest attempt to show that political participation among Dalits in the Sasaram have started in socio-cultural as well as political realm. However, it has not consolidated yet. It make a humble submission that in absence of any mass mobilization for political participation change in their outlook, aspirations orientation co-exist along with continuities.