

Reservation

Shweta chaudhry
Research scholar
DCRUST, Murthal

“O, Panditji, madamji is calling you”, yelled out the boy. To my amazement and astonishment, there was no panditji. Soon from sheer distance, I noticed my driver coming towards me. I asked him, “Bhaiya, are you very much learned?” He said, “no, madamji, I am brahmin by caste, so they call me panditji.” In the evening my grocer’s servant delivered me grocery and said, “madamji, sethji has sent the bill also.” This Sethji own a shop of 7/6 feet. I could hardly come to terms with the pseudo- social status, reserved for these upper castes who have no credentials for such social repute and escalation, when my maid shook me out of stupor and conscious slumber. “Madamji, Chaudhrysaab has come with grain basket” she sheepishly narrated. This Chaudhrysaab too, own one and half an acre land and holds an income of merely one or two lakhs per annum, but his social reputation is of Chaudhrysaab.

I could not infer any perceptible reason for such respect and repute for such average and ordinary persons. Swimming and sailing in the surreptitious thoughts;I, all of a sudden, heard a sarcastic, scurvy comment. One of our teachers said, “oye, abkibaarekchamaridesh ka sabsebada paper top kargaye, nash ho gaya.” (One SC has topper the highest examination of the country, what the hell!)

How pathetic it is that the potential of a brilliant person is measured by the yardstick of caste. A person who brings shame on his profession by blurting out such caste bias dares to comment on a sincere and intelligent girl.

Reservation is ,undoubtedly, a handicap generated in the minds of people to render them inefficient for ever but this social reservation of upper caste to undermine the strength and spirit of dalits is inexcusably inordinate and objectionable. Unfortunately, it is so much absorbed in the social fabric that this unspoken ,unscripted, age-old reservation of upper caste seems to be their constitutional right. Equality is a niceconcept, society

should be equal for all and free from the evil of reservation, but from every kind of reservation i.e. special treatment to upper caste.

I could hardly recuperate from the flashback and obnoxious recollection when some students approached me for a party with them. I asked my fellow colleague, “Sir, will you accompany me?” The students were celebrating some event. He answered, “Madam, main to in SC, BC students me se baansawai (I still feel stench of these low class students, absorbed in them due to filthy work of manual scavenging from generations).

I felt shuddered, yes, they did manual scavenging, but for us, carried the load of filth, human shit on their head, but of upper caste who were sole inchange of education and learning. I was thinking over education and its ennobling effect. A educated person mitigates the evils, uplifts the down- troddens. Western education has facilitated us with flush system today, we have no manual scavenging. The fault of education, lack of technology, apathy of aware people reduced human to the agent of filth. Instead of sympathizing or reforming their lot by technological innovation of flush and tanneries, we blamed the service class who chose to serve us with filthy tags. Great shame! shame!

Reservation is for nobody's good. It is a handicap but who started it? A society is divided when their is no respect for work. If respect is for power everybody will tilt towards it with honest or dishonest means; the growth becomes lopsided. Today, we have unemployment; no potters, no blacksmiths, no other artisans; they lost respect and tilted towards white collar ,government jobs ,richly paid in prestige and paymentsbut ill-suited to their taste. Genius is not caste or gender based; and every work deserves respect.

The upper strata reserved education ,finance and defense for themselves but servitude that too indignified and abusive reserved for specified lower caste. Time taught these dalits to fight for themselves ,they too tried hand at other professions but on crutches of reservation as an accostumed effort. Breaking the barriers of caste ,numerous people tried their fate in various jobs of dignity and fortune. Here,constitutional reservation of lower, scheduled castes challenged, in open defiance, the social reservation of upper caste offering a steep class conflict imminent in future .

Knowledge is a light to be kindled and to be scattered, its concentration scorches everything. Brahminical hegemony concentrated knowledge as power and propagated caste discrimination in place of caste distinction. Humans deserve and acquire respect, so all humans in the lowest caste strive for power and powerful position by honest or dishonest means (reservation). Reservation for upper and lower and all caste and creeds lowers the merit and generates inefficiency and mediocre ,substandard product and workers. It is a bane not a bliss .It creates false pride for beneficiary and unrest for the unreserved. Distinction is an insignia, uniqueness but discrimination between the reserved and general is inhuman and evil.

Society is a big family and acceptance of each other irrespective of prejudice is a favourable condition. Reservation for anyone ,on any desirable ground is inappropriate and creates imbalance in society .Repulsion leads to relatiation (reservation) and rehabilitation leads to reunion. Humans strive since centuries for equality, with no reservation, and respect ; this struggle is against reservation for any kind, it is persistent, relentless and sometime bloody too.

I was thinking on all such planes and shaken out of slumber from the words of my friend. She said “madam, please go and notify your caste in proforma, government wants to know the ratio of general and reserved class.” Speechless before power that has ever promoted reservation to please special section of society for special interest, as if in a trance, I headed to the office to submit my caste status. I was earlier reserved for defense only, but now general caste in constitutional terms but socially specialized as Chaudhrain.