

It is a fact that caste has played a very important role in the success of Indian democracy by mobilizing India's mass electorate to participate in the election process effectively. Use of caste for political purposes had begun long before the introduction of adult franchise. Organizations based on caste for social, economic and political systems came into existence even before the Constitution came into force. Illiterate people, who didn't understand politics, were mobilized to organize themselves by appealing to their caste sentiments by self-interested politicians. Casteism has penetrated in Indian politics so deeply as to shape and reshape not only the political parties but also their manifestos for the elections. The various caste groups, like Nair, the Christian, the Brahmin and non-Brahmin in Tamil Nadu, the Khamma and Reddy in Andhra, the Maratha and Mahar in Maharashtra, the Rajput in Gujarat, the Jat, Meena, Brahmin and Viasya in Rajasthan, have been formed likewise in all states and determine the political scenario in the states to a great extent. In Bihar, there is a casteist triangle formed by the Bhumihara, the Rajput and the Kayastha, besides others. Caste politics in UP varies from region to region. The Thakurs from the majority community nurture strong anti-Brahmin feelings. Not only this, a strong lobby of Dalits and non-Dalits further exists nowadays with the so-called leaders making propaganda against so called Manuwadis or other castes. Caste has polarized national politics and caste politics breeds caste parties. Not a single party, however avowedly opposed to casteism, is free from the dominant influence of caste. Even in the national parties, whether Congress or BJP, while allocating tickets to the candidates or portfolios to the Ministers, a proper analysis of caste factors is done. Caste tends to determine electoral nominations and voting behavior. Numerous castes have started making numerous demands, whether for reservation to categorize them, vitiating the representative principles envisaged and emphasized under the democratic pattern of the country. (330 words)

Precis.

Role of Casteism in Indian Democracy

Caste has a very significant role in the success of Indian democracy. Ignorant masses having no knowledge about politics, were used by selfish politicians using their caste as a tool. Casteism has deep roots in Indian politics so deep that shape and reshape not only the political parties but also their proclamation for the elections. In Bihar, there is casteist triangle, same is the case with UP. Indian politics is fragmented by caste and it produces caste centred parties. Not a single party abstain from allocating tickets to the candidates on bases of caste factors. Many castes have started making demands for reservation, disturbing the representative principle which is the basic appeal of democracy.