

Casteism

- ✓ “Casteism is loyalty to the caste translated into politics”-- D.N. Prasad
- ✓ “Casteism..... is an over-riding, blind and supreme group loyalty that ignores the healthy social standards of justice, fair play, equity and universal brotherhood”. —Kaka Kalelkar
- ✓ **Features:**
 - ❖ Casteism ignores and does not care for the interests of other castes. It signifies blind caste or sub-caste loyalty.
 - ❖ It ignores the human values and social welfare.
 - ❖ It hinders the spirit of democracy.
 - ❖ It plays a detrimental role in elections.
 - ❖ It is against the ideal of Indian constitution.
 - ❖ It hinders the process of national integration.
- ✓ **Causes:**
 - ❖ Sense of Caste Prestige
 - ❖ Caste Endogamy
 - ❖ Impact of Urbanisation
 - ❖ Increase in the Means of Transport and Communication
 - ❖ Illiteracy
 - ❖ Belief in Religious Dogmas
 - ❖ Social Distance
- ✓ **III-effects:**
 - ❖ Casteism perpetuates the practice of untouchability and becomes an obstacle in providing social equality and justice.
 - ❖ Casteism proves to be a threat to social order, stability, peace and harmony, in the society.
 - ❖ Prevalence of casteism shows that the people are tradition-bound, conservative and orthodox in thinking. It may cause a hurdle to the upliftment of women because of lack of encouragement from caste-conscious groups.

- ❖ Casteism divides society into different segments and results in conflicts and tensions in and between these segments. These continuous conflicts and tensions between various segments hinder the development of the nation and growth of nationalism.
- ❖ Casteism results in political disunity and affects the smooth and successful functioning of multi-party democracy like India.
- ❖ Casteism, indirectly, can be the cause of corruption. Members of a caste try to give all facilities to the persons, who are from their own caste and in doing so, they do not hesitate to involve in the most corrupt activities.
- ❖ Casteism has become an instrument in the hands of political leaders. Many political leaders, during elections, try to procure votes on communal and caste basis, rather than their own capacities and capabilities. This results in election of under-serving candidates, who do not hesitate to promote their own caste interest at the cost of common good. Thus, casteism proves to be a hindrance to democracy.
- ❖ Casteism sometimes leads to religious conversions, especially among the low caste groups, who are not financially sound. Another cause for such conversions is that certain unbearable exploited conditions arise out of dominance of certain caste groups over other caste groups.

✓ **Solution to the Problem:**

- ❖ Providing value-based education to children from childhood can solve the problem of casteism to some extent.
- ❖ Various social agencies like family, school, and Mass media must be given the responsibility to develop a proper, broad outlook among children, which will negate the feelings of casteism, for example, creating awareness about the ill-effects of perpetuating the traditional caste system.
- ❖ Literary programmes must be taken up in rural areas as the caste feelings, which further perpetuate casteism, are more in rural areas. These feelings of casteism can be minimized by the provision of social education among rural population.
- ❖ By encouraging inter-caste marriages, the feelings arising out of casteism can be minimized as these marriages bring two families of different castes closer to each other.

- ❖ Provision of cultural and economic equality among different sections of the society reduces the chances of jealousy and competition. Thus, economic and cultural equality is important in eliminating casteism.
- ❖ According to **G. S. Ghurye**, the conflict originating in casteism can be removed by encouraging inter-caste marriages. Co-education should be introduced at the primary level and boys and girls should be given the opportunity to come together. This will lead to improvement of behaviour between different sexes simultaneously, with which casteism will be actively refuted.
- ❖ According to **V. K. R. V. Rao**, in order to put an end to casteism and to deprive it of its very basis, the creation of some optional groups is necessary through which the communal tendencies of the individuals can be manifested and organized. As these increase, casteism decreases because the individuals will have the chance to express their instincts and motives outside the caste.