

An Analysis of Correlation between Caste & Class

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Abstract - The study of social stratification is basically the study of why and how some categories of people are thought to be better than others and of the cones of people's tendency to rank each other for both themselves and for their societies. It occurs when inequalities between positions and task become widely institutionalized those who occupy highly rewarded positions are able to create circumstances that allow their children to occupy similarly important and rewarding position when they mature. Conversely, those opportunities that would allow them to rise in the stratification system (Mayer Buckley, 1970) in a system of stratification, differences are passed on through the generations.

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INTRODUCTION

Throughout history some people have had 'more wealth, more prestige, more influence over others, or more of something else that was highly valued and relatively scarce in given society (Abrahamson, 1976). SOCIAL STRATIFICATION CAN BE TRACED FOR BACK IN RECORDED HISTORY. Most past societies and all societies today are socially stratified and this phenomenon shows no sign of disappearing in the foreseeable future although social stratification is virtually universal, the various systems of stratification are not alike. Throughout history, stratification has assumed a variety of forms and even in today's world, there are important differences in the ways in which societies are stratified.

There are mainly two types of social stratification systems: Closed and 'Open'; in a closed system a person's status is determined at birth and remains with him/her throughout life. A system of this type is called a 'caste' system. In an open system people can change their statuses through their own efforts or failings. A system of the open type is called a 'class' system. Thus seems that caste and class are two distinct entities but here we'll try to show connection between both.

It is well known that this has been a subject of much discussion since long time that are most and the same or do they refer to different.

Categories what kind of relationship exists between caste and class such another question regarding stratification of India society have exercised the mind of scholars for pretty long time.

And naturally a number of views are put forth to explain the phenomenon.

The traditional Indian society is characterized by status summation where a person's birth in a particular caste sums up his other positions (Punit, 1982). In such a system a person who has a low status in caste hierarchy also has low status in other hierarchies of society such as economic or political. Thus the fact that there is a close correspondence between caste status and socio-economic status has been recognized.

This is the position even modern. Beteille (1966) found considerable congruence between caste, class and power in Tripura. Cohn (1961) found that in Madhopur, the high caste thanks enjoyed social, economic and political dominance. Bailey (1957) also found that in Orissa, division of wealth and political power the caste hierarchy. Even the communists have recognized this fact. They maintain that in a society like India which is in the traditional stage of change from agricultural economy to industrial economy there is a certain amount of intermingling between caste and class and that caste is the main factor through

CONCLUSION:

Which class manifests itself? This fact seems to have been accepted at the government level also. The various state governments and also the central government, while making provisions for what are called "backward classes" have mostly applied caste criterion and not economic criterion. When even whenever a reference is made to backward classes even in scholarly works, it always means

low castes excluding the poor sections of high castes. Hence, caste has always provided a dependable index to assess the socio- economic position of an individual.

But there are others who have contended that class and caste are two distinct entities and that they should be treated as such. Guryev (1961) writing about this relationship observed that in a caste system, the of a person depended not on his wealth as in a class system, but on the traditional importance of the caste in which he was born. Gait (1975), argued that' the division into castes has no direct relation with the division into classes. The castes came into existence independently without regard to the classes. Those who subscribe to this view opine that birth and endogamy are vital in determining caste while in the formation of class, these do not play such an importance role.

However, there are others who have suggested a via media approach. They maintain that distinction between caste and class is a matter of degree rather than of kind. They place both class and caste at two extremes of a continuum. While class system presents a relatively open, mobile and competitive society,

Having thus established the fact that the distinction between caste and class is a matter of degree rather than of kind, there is a considerable correlation between these two forms of stratification in India society. At last we agree with the view of Y. Singh that caste and class coincide in India.

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