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### **ABOLITION OR REFORMATION: OPINION AND SUGGESTION OF EDUCATED URBAN RESERVED AND UNRESERVED CATEGORIES CITIZENS ON INDIA'S CONSTITUTIONAL CASTE BASED 'RESERVATION' SYSTEM**

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**Abstract:** - In 1950 special reservation for 'socially and economically backward classes' was prescribed in Indian Constitution as Affirmative Action for next ten years. As per the constitution the Schedule Castes (SCs), Schedule Tribes (STs) and later Other Backward Classes (OBCs) were classified as the chosen recipients of all these social benefits and they have been receiving special conservation in public services and public educational institutes since 1950. The present study was conducted on 80 male and 80 female participants of both reserved and unreserved categories from four metro cities - Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai. Most of these participants have completed their Master Degrees or above and rest have their Bachelor Degrees and age of these participants was between 21 years to 65 years. Study revealed all the participants of the reserved categories have enjoyed constitutional caste based reservation benefits and have experienced some form of social discrimination in their lives. Most of the respondents believe they are the deserving candidates for such kind of social welfare irrespective of their socio-economical situation, because it's their constitutional right. However maximum participants of both categories have agreed all these constitutional benefits didn't reach to the every section of 'socio-economically backward classes' and the reason behind that uneven distribution of social benefits are lack of education, infrastructure and awareness. On the contrary most participants of unreserved categories believe they also deserve constitutional reservation benefits since they believe constitutional rights should be equal for every Indian. An astonishing percentage of participants of unreserved categories discuss their feeling of social discrimination openly. Most of the participants of reserved and unreserved categories support reformation of constitutional reservation system instead of abolition. However for reserved categories participants the criteria of that reformation should be caste; on the contrary for unreserved categories participants that criteria should merit and economical background. However the same study should be conducted on rural educated population as well for a comprehensive picture.

**Keywords:** - Indian Constitution, Article – 16(4A), Article – 29, Caste, SCs, STs, OBCs, Reservation System, Social Discrimination

**Introduction:** - The basic problem of constitutional reservation of Schedule Castes (SCs), Schedule Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) of India who are historically disadvantaged and socio-economically backward classes. According to Indian Constitution the reservation were adapted as affirmative action in 1950 and it was supposed to be in practice for only next 10 years. The Indian Constitution, Statutory laws, local rules and regulation governed that constitutional reservation. The primary beneficiaries of constitutional reservation policies are the SCs, STs and OBCs and in some states Backward Classes among Muslims under a category called BC (M). While a section of society are enjoying all these constitutional benefits and at the

same time there is another groups of people who are not entitled for all these constitutional privilege and they feel they are experiencing social discrimination. (GoI).

In ancient Indian scripture we can find talks about the caste based system and from one such scripture Manusmriti we can learn the duties of the all four social classes explicitly. In 1891 the first caste based reservation for government jobs were demanded in the Princely State of Travancore. However the first official reservation were provided in 1902 in Kolhapur and there 50% reservation were provided to the Backward Classes / Communities (BCs) in government services. The British Prime Minister of colonial India Mr. Ramsey Macdonald introduced the system of 'Communal Award' in 1933 which was an exclusive representation rights awarded to Europeans, Anglo – Indians, Indian Christian, Sikhs and Muslims. However, that system was strongly opposed by Mahatma Gandhi and on the contrary strongly supported by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and finally the supporters won the conflict. As a direct consequence of that conflict resolution process the caste based reservation were introduced as an affirmative action in the constitution of independent India. In independent India the next major step was formation of Mandal Commission in the year 1979 headed by honorable Indian Parliamentarian Mr. Bindheswari Prasad Mandal. That commission identified total eleven social, economic and educational indicators to determine 'backwardness'. As per the recommendation of the Mandal Commission the reservation quotas were introduced for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) as well and according to the new recommendation the 49.5% of reservation were assured in government jobs and public universities instead of 27% (Ipleaders).

According to an ordinance enforced by former Human Resources Development Minister Mr. Kapil Sibal now 25% seats are also reserved in the private schools as well for the underprivileged students of the society. As a matter of fact teachers of those private schools facing extreme challenge to bring underprivileged children along with privileged children under the same roof (Ipleaders).

As far as Indian Constitution is concern, it consist lot of contradictions and ambiguities. According to Article – 16 (2) of Indian Constitution any kind of discrimination is strictly prohibited on the grounds of their race, sex, caste, religion, descent, residence and place of birth at anywhere under the state. On the contrary the Article – 16 (4) ensures the special provision of constitutional reservation were mentioned for the backward class of citizens. However, most ironical fact is so far there is no explicit explanation of the term 'Backward Classes' has been mentioned by the constitution of the India (Ipleaders).

For a country like India where public resources are extremely scare, there constitutional reservation for backward classes can play an enormous role in both political and socio-economical aspects. Meanwhile, the reality is despite the steady constitutional reservation even after almost seven decades post-independence the majority of SCs/STs and OBCs of the India are still living under extreme poverty line. A recent study conducted by Social Attitudes Research of India (SARI) in New Delhi and UP suggested that there is a widespread ignorance about constitutional reservation among the socially backward classes such is SCs, STs and OBCs (Khurana). The survey itself provides a glimpse in the socio-economical differences among the backward classes. It clearly shows the fruit of constitutional reservation has been accumulated by a relatively small section of society generation after generation.

The reservation system for backward classes were introduced to eradicate the millennial old caste based discrimination. However, in reality the very nature of that reservation is 'caste-based' itself and therefore instead of eradicating any social menace, it's actually promoting the social menace of caste-based discrimination. As a matter of fact the constitutional reservation system was first introduced as an Affirmative Action for the 'socially and economically backward classes' and it was a measure which was meant to last only for next 10 years and as per the suggestion of the Mandal Commission (1978) the review of the 'socially and economically backward classes' were suppose to be conducted after each and every 10 years period (Sujatha).

So far, no such review has been taken place as a reformation measure in order to redefine the term the 'socially and economically backward classes'. As a result the children of socially and economically influential STs/SCs/OBCs parents are enjoying the benefits of reservation system generation after generation. That unfair treatment of influential 'socially and economically backward classes' are creating a 'creamy layer' within their community and doing a great disservice to their own people (Srivastava).

The recent Patel and Jath agitation proves that the 'socially and economically backward classes' status has become a 'status symbol' for the Indians and apparently the affluent classes of the Indian society who has no previous experiences of subjugation in any form what-so-ever, even they are also asking for constitutional reservation in the public education and public employment (Sujatha).

The truth is presently we don't have any kind of legitimate data which can prove the performance of reservation system so far and as a result we don't know how it has improved the overall situation of 'socially and economically backward classes'. Therefore the demand of the present moment is clear assessment of that Affirmative Action in order to understand how the reservation system has performed so far in India (Sujatha)? Under such circumstances, the India is not in the position where it can decide the future course of actions regarding the reservation system.

The Chairman of the First Backward Class Commission, Mr. Kaka Kalelkar ruled out the reservation system because he believed caste based reservation system because he believed caste based reservation would not served neither backward classes and nor our nation in any manner what so ever. Presently there is an emerging debate on the caste-based reservation system itself. Many social reformist and honorable Supreme Court also urged Indian government to introduce new parameters in order to determine the eligibility criteria for 'socially and economically backward classes'. New practices, methods and yardsticks must be developed on constant basis in order to identify the newly emerging group in the society who need Affirmative Action (Sinharay).

Most horrible reality is at one hand there is the major portion of 'socially and economically backward classes' who don't know the basic provision or even the existence of such provision of reservation in Indian constitution and on the other hand there is a section of same community who are enjoying these provisions continuously generation after generation even after so many years of constitutional reservation in practice (Mandal).

A small section of the society are enjoying these benefits, meanwhile politicians are encouraging that sections and they are not even prepared to bring any changes in the reservation

for the sake of these small section of the society. Though the inherent mission of constitutional reservation was really noble but the execution manner was so flawed that instead of eradication of 'socially and economically backward classes' that system has only introduced a new section in the society called 'creamy layer'. Therefore a fresh data is required to assess the current situation of reserved castes of India and on the basis of that data new yardsticks for reserved quota should be mandated. Presently, we don't need any new reservation; in fact we need reformation of reservation system (Rathod).

**Research Objectives:** - There are two clear opponent sections of the society perceive two exact opposite views on the process of caste-based constitutional reservation system in education and public sector employment. Reasons behind opposing constitutional caste based reservations system are various. Such as for a certain section of the society due to reservation system meritorious candidates lose their chance while in reality SCs, STs and OBCs are only 70% of the total populations and even out of them barely 20% - 30% of them attain higher education. Argument for another group is the reserved categories candidates are getting best jobs, whereas in reality general categories candidates are getting best jobs, whereas in reality 69% A-Grade job such as IAS, IPS, IRS etc. are occupied by the non - reserved categories' candidates and 49% of D - Grade jobs are done by reserved categories' candidates. Another group of people believes the socio - economical conditions of reserved caste have improved since Independence. In reality, in India un-touchability still an issue and the members of the reserved castes still face various form of subjugation and in some rare occasions even persecution as well (Bhavna). Now question remains then what is the view of majority of both sections or is there any common ground at all where both constitutionally reserved and constitutionally unreserved categories' people stands together? Therefore the objectives of the study are as follows:-

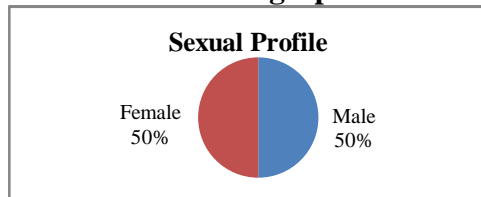
- To know the demographical status of 'reserved' and 'unreserved' categories participants
- To know the opinion and experience of 'reserved categories participants' on constitutional reservation system provided by Government of India
- To know the opinion and experience of reserved categories' people on reservation system provided by Government of India
- To know the suggestion provided by reserved categories participants on caste based reservation system
- To know the suggestion provided by unreserved categories participants on caste based reservation system

**Materials and Methods:** - The present study was conducted on 80 female participants and 80 male participants from both reserved and unreserved categories. To be more precise among these participants 43 male and 46 female participants belong to reserved categories and 37 male and 34 female participants belong to unreserved categories. The minimum educational qualifications of these people are Bachelor Degree. Initially cold calling methods were used to collect random samples and then Snowball Sampling Method were used. The geographical locations of these participants are four major cities of India and these four cities are Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai.

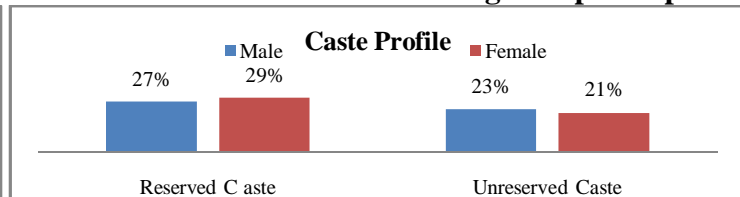
The data were collected through Face-to-Face Interview Method and Telephonic Interview Method and apart from that Observation Method were also used to collect additional data whenever it was possible. The data collection tool was a carefully prepared interview schedule and both structured and non-structured questions were asked to the participants of that study.

**Results:** - The following analysis was conducted on 80 male participants and 80 female participants of both reserved and unreserved categories of India's four metro cities – Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai. The analysis of the survey is as follows: -

**1. The demographical status of 'reserved' and 'unreserved' categories participants: -**



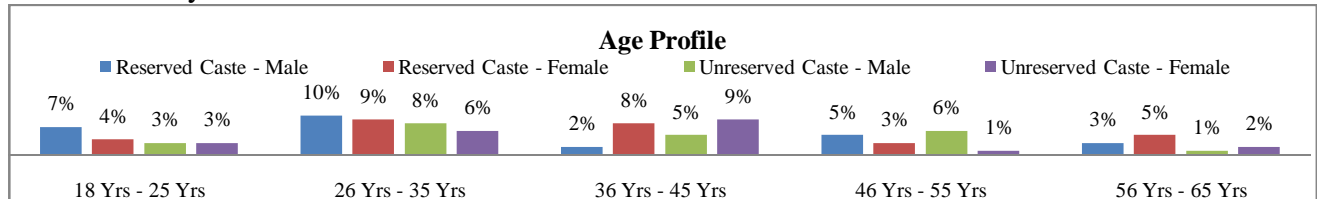
**Figure – 1: Sexual Profile**



**Figure – 2: Caste Profile**

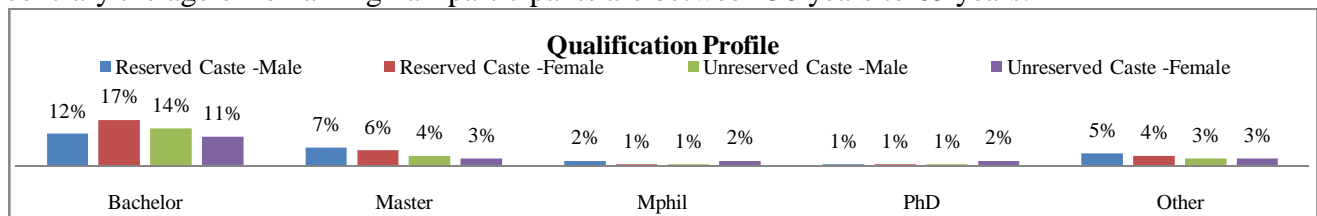
According to Figure – 1 it is clearly visible that the present study was conducted on equal number of men and women.

As per Figure – 2 we can see 27% male and 29% female participants belong to constitutionally reserved caste meanwhile 23% male and 21% female participants belong to constitutionally unreserved caste.



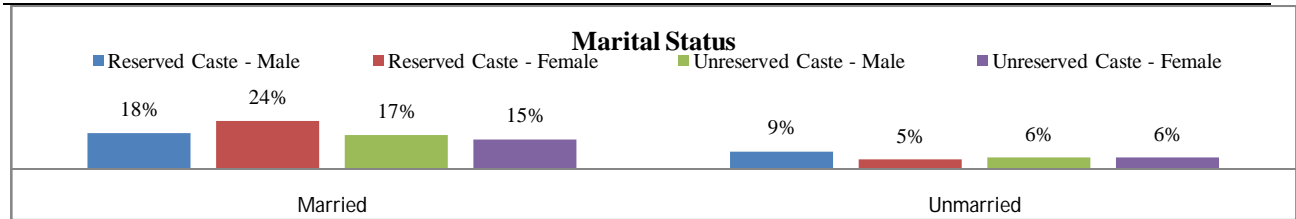
**Figure – 3: Age Profile**

From Figure – 3 the age of half participants are between 18 years to 35 years and on the contrary the age of remaining half participants are between 36 years to 65 years.



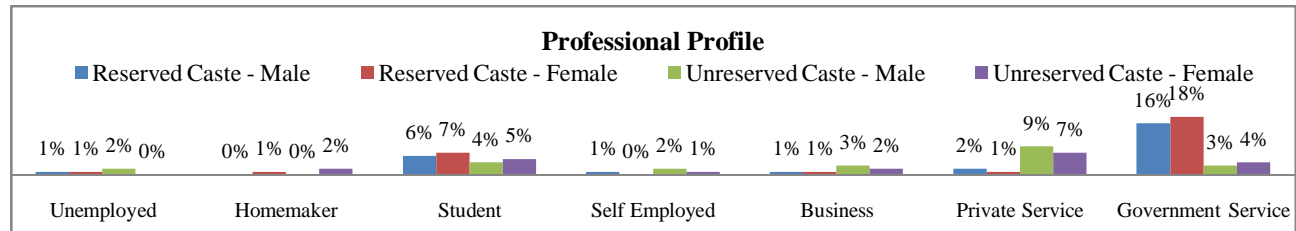
**Figure – 4: Qualification Profile**

According to Figure – 4 it is clearly visible that 54% participants have completed their Bachelor Degree and rest of the participants are more qualified.



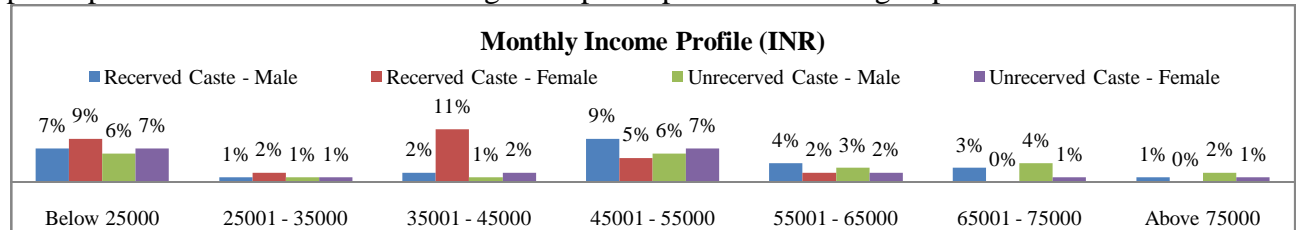
**Figure – 5: Marital Status**

From Figure – 5 we can see 74% participants are married and remaining 26% participants are unmarried.



**Figure – 6: Professional Profile**

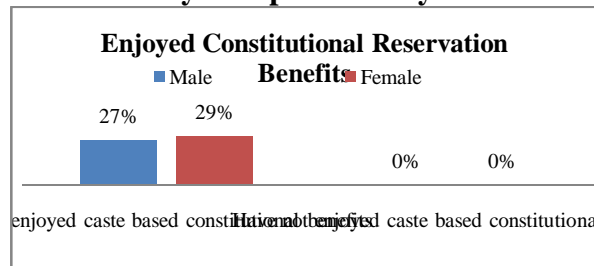
As per Figure – 6 we can see 34% reserved categories’ participants and 7% unreserved categories’ participants are government employees; meanwhile 3% reserved categories’ participants and 16% unreserved categories’ participants are working in private sectors.



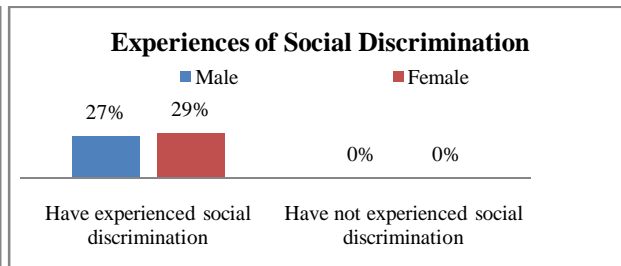
**Figure – 7: Monthly Income Profile**

As per Figure – 7 it is clearly visible that 29% participants don’t earn personally; meanwhile 48% participants earns anywhere between 25001 INR to 55000 INR and 23% participants earns above 55000 INR to above 75000 INR.

**2. The opinion and experience of ‘reserved categories participants’ on constitutional reservation system provided by Government of India: -**



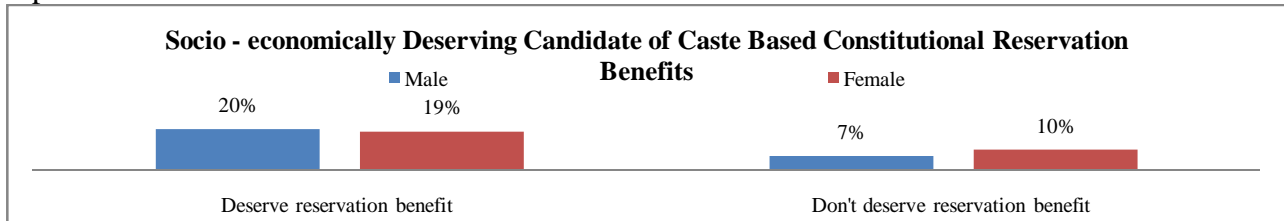
**Figure – 8: Enjoyed Caste Based Constitutional Reservation Benefits**



**Figure – 9: Experiences of Social Discrimination**

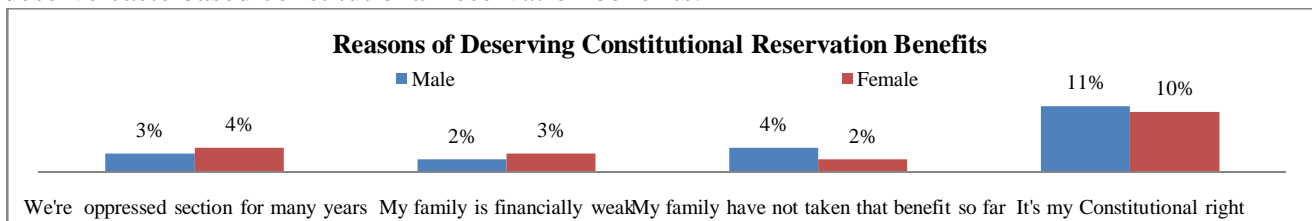
According to Figure – 8 we can see all participants of reserved caste have enjoyed caste based constitutional reservation benefits.

As per Figure – 9 it is clearly visible that all participants of reserved caste have experienced social discrimination.



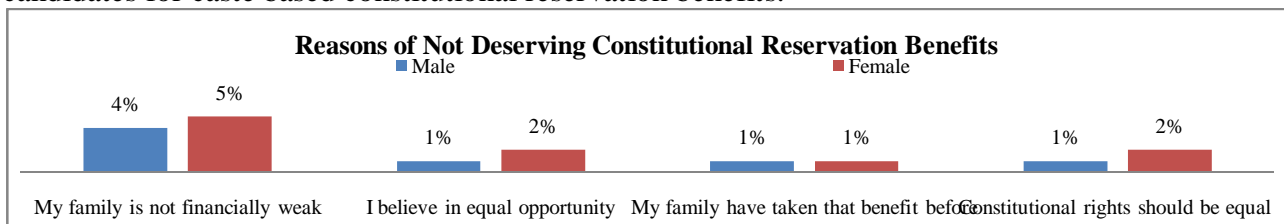
**Figure – 10: Socio – economically Deserving Candidate of Caste Based Constitutional Reservation Benefits**

According to Figure – 10 it is clearly visible that 20% male participants and 19% female participants believe socio-economically they deserve caste based reservation benefits and on the contrary 7% male participants and 10% female participants believe socio-economically they deserve caste based constitutional reservation benefits.



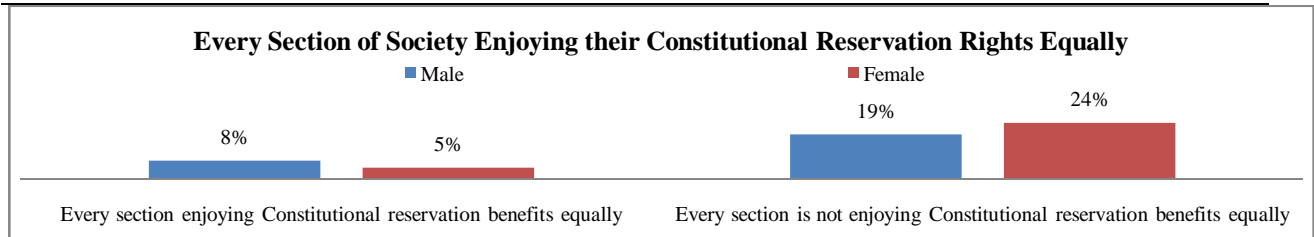
**Figure – 11: Reasons of Deserving Constitutional Reservation Benefits**

In Figure – 11 upon asking about reasons behind believing that participants that they deserve caste based constitutional reservation benefits for themselves then 11% male participants and 10% female participants replied they believe socio – economically they are the deserving candidates for caste based constitutional reservation benefits.



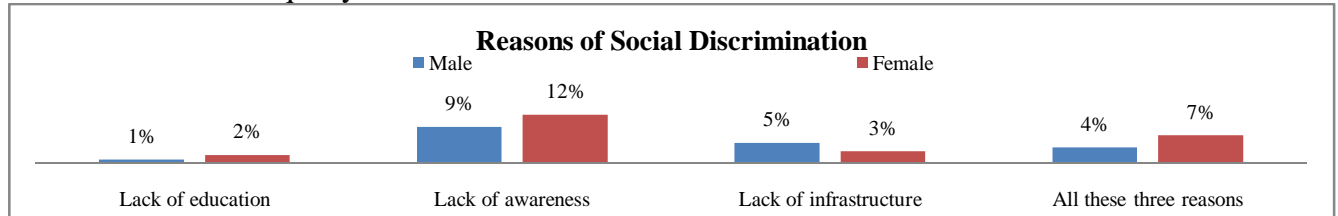
**Figure – 12: Reasons of Not Deserving Constitutional Reservation Benefits**

In Figure – 12 upon asking about reasons behind believing that the participants that they don't deserve caste based constitutional reservation benefits for themselves then 4% male participants and 5% female participants replied they believe socio – economically they are not the deserving candidates for caste based constitutional reservation benefits.



**Figure – 13: Every Section of Society Enjoying Their Constitutional Caste Based Reservation Rights Equally**

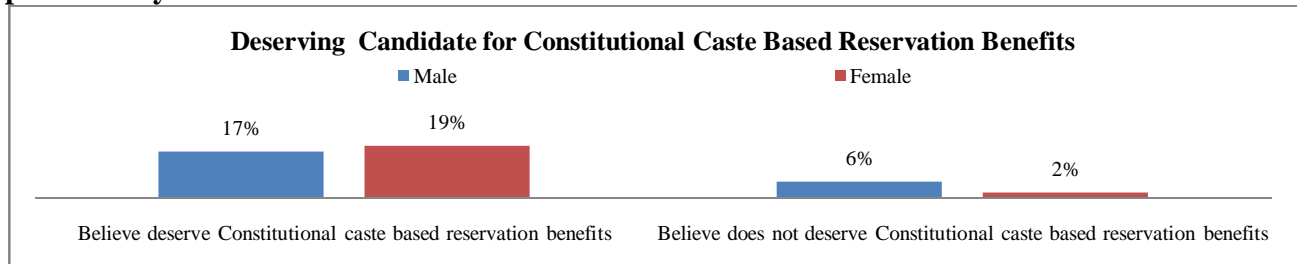
According to Figure – 13 we can see 19% male participants and 24% female participants of reserved caste believe every sections of their society is not enjoying caste based constitutional reservation benefits equally.



**Figure – 14: Reasons of Social Discrimination**

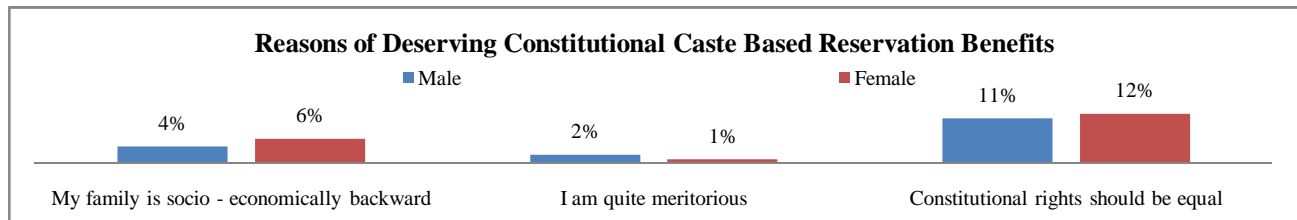
As per Figure – 14 it could be seen that 10% male participants and 14% female participants believe every section of their society don't enjoy caste based constitutional reservation benefits equally because lack of awareness.

### 3. The opinion and experience of unreserved categories' people on reservation system provided by Government of India: -



**Figure – 15: Deserving Candidate for Constitutional Caste Based Reservation Benefits**

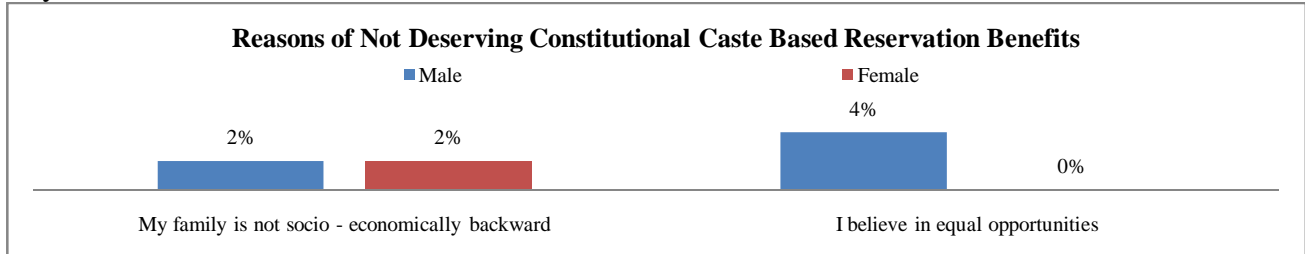
Among the participants of unreserved categories it can be seen from Figure – 15 that 17% male participants and 19% female participants believe they deserve constitutional caste based reservation benefits.





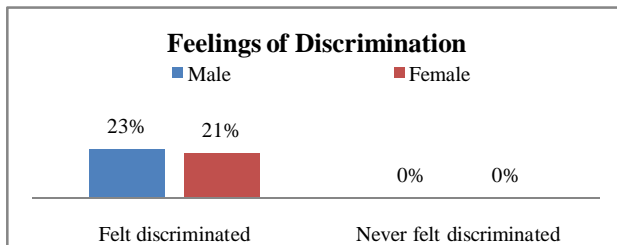
**Figure – 16: Reasons of Deserving Constitutional Caste Based Reservation Benefits**

As per Figure – 16 it is clear that 11% male participants and 12% female participants cited the reason that constitutional benefits should be equal for everyone and that’s why they believe they deserve caste based constitutional reservation benefits.

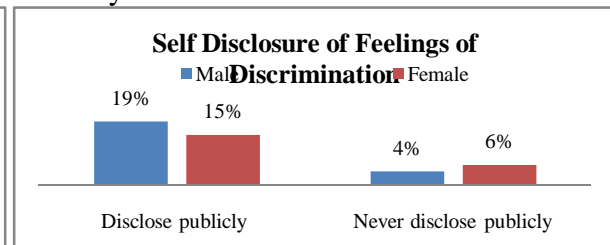


**Figure – 17: Reasons of Not Deserving Constitutional Caste Based Reservation Benefits**

According to Figure – 17 we can see 4% male participants believe they don’t reserve caste based constitutional benefits because they believe in equal opportunities and on the contrary 2% female participants believe they don’t believe they deserve constitutional caste based reservation benefits because their families are not socio-economically backwards.



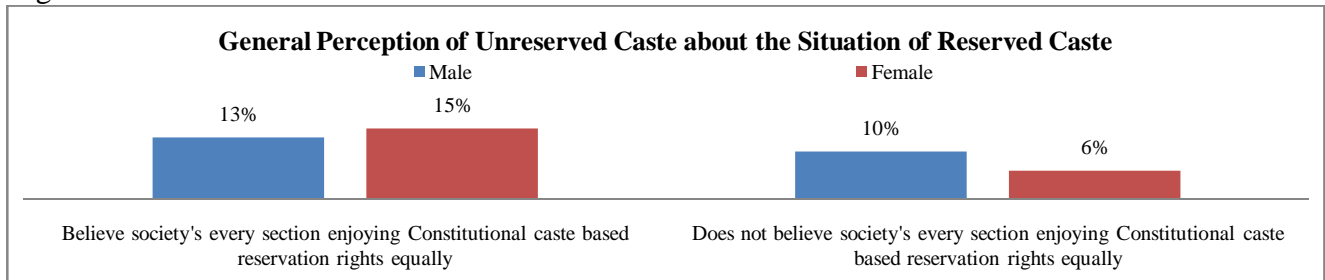
**Figure – 18: Feelings of Discrimination**



**Figure – 19: Self Disclosure of Feelings of Discrimination**

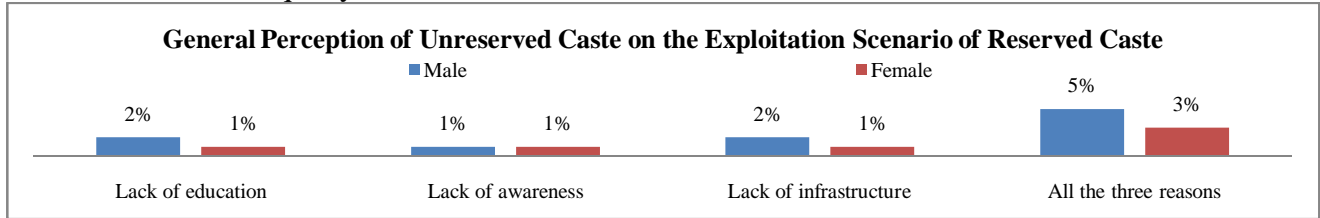
Among reserved caste participants it is clearly visible that (Figure – 18) 23% male participants and 21% female participants from constitutionally reserved caste feel discriminated because they are not entitled for such type of reservation benefits.

From Figure – 19 it is clearly visible that 19% male participants and 15% female participants openly discuss about their feeling of being discriminated because they are not entitled to get constitutional caste based reservation benefits.



**Figure – 20: General Perception of Unreserved Caste about the Situation of Reserved Caste**

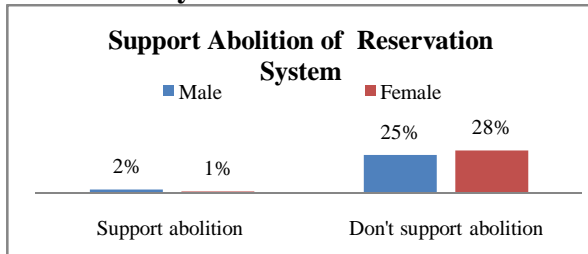
According to Figure – 20 it is clearly visible that 13% male participants and 15% female participants believe every sections of the reserved caste are enjoying constitutional caste based reservation benefits equally.



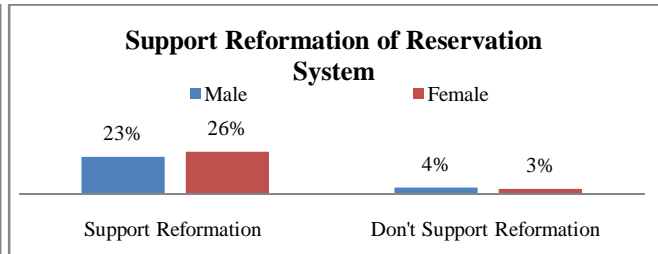
**Figure – 21: General Perception of Unreserved Caste on the Exploitation Scenario of Reserved Caste**

As per Figure – 21 it is clearly visible that 5% male participants and 3% female participants from unreserved caste believe the exploitation among reserved caste is rampant due to lack of education, awareness and infrastructure.

**4. The suggestions provided by reserved categories’ participants on caste based reservation system: -**



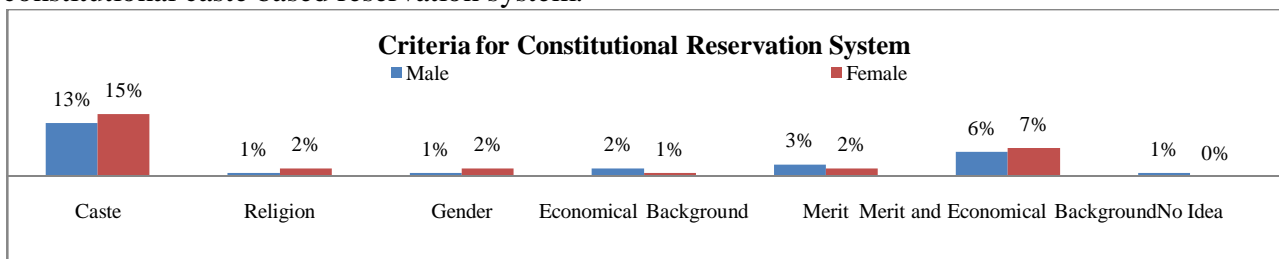
**Figure – 22: Support Abolition of Reservation System**



**Figure – 23: Support Reformation of Reservation System**

From Figure – 22 it is clearly visible that among reserved categories’ participants 25% male participants and 28% female participants don’t support abolition of constitutional caste based reservation system.

Meanwhile from Figure – 23 it is clearly visible that among reserved categories’ participants 23% male participants and 26% female participants support complete reformation of constitutional caste based reservation system.

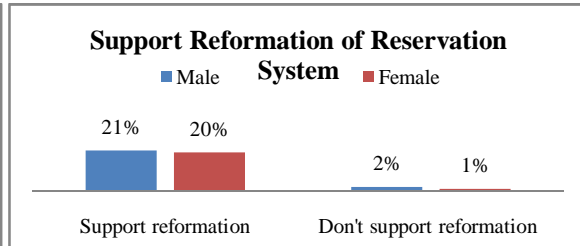
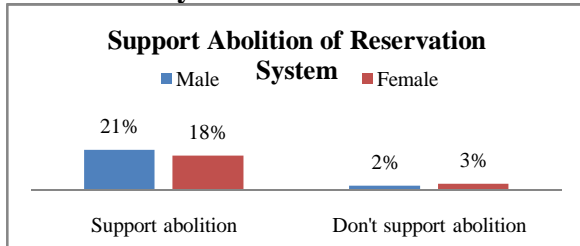


**Figure – 24: Criteria for Constitutional Reservation System**

Among Figure – 24 it is clearly visible that among reserved categories participants 13% male participants and 15% female participants believe criteria for constitutional reservation

system should be caste only and meanwhile 6% male participants and 7% female participants believe criteria for constitutional reservation system should be both merit and economical background simultaneously.

**5. The suggestions provided by unreserved categories participants on caste based reservation system: -**

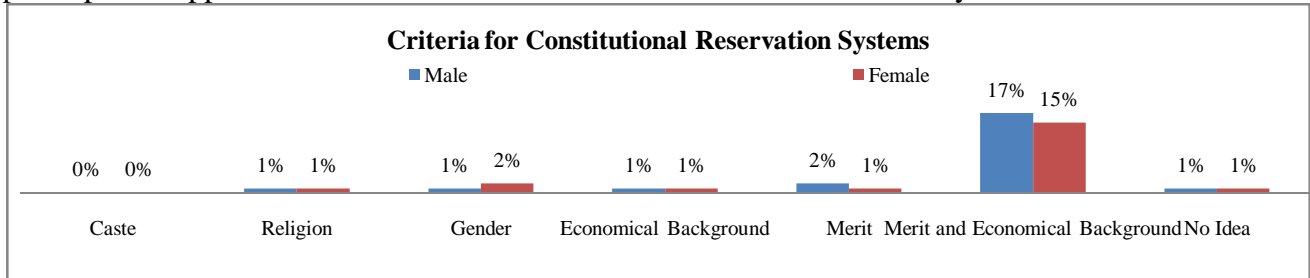


**Figure – 25: Support Abolition of Reservation System**

**Figure – 26: Support Reformation of Reservation System**

According to Figure – 25 we can see 21% male participants and 18% female participants support and prefer the constitutional caste based reservation systems.

From Figure – 26 it is clearly visible that 21% male participants and 20% female participants support reformation of constitutional caste based reservation systems.



**Figure – 27: Criteria for Constitutional Reservation System**

According to Figure – 27 it could be seen that 17% male participants and 15% female participants from the unreserved caste believe the criteria for constitutional reservation system should be both merit and economical background of the beneficiaries.

**Discussion and Recommendation: -**

The present study was conducted on 80 male participants and 80 female participants of both reserved and unreserved categories aged from 18 years to 65 years. All the participants are well educated and half of them have earned Bachelor Degrees in different subjects and rest of them has much higher academic or professional degrees. According to study three out of each four participants are married and each seven out of ten participants are married and each seven out of ten participants earning for themselves and their families through various means. The monthly income of these participants are quite moderate, especially those participants who are earning for themselves. However demographically most significant fact is most of the participants from

reserved categories are working in government sectors and on the contrary most of the participants from unreserved categories either they are self-employed or they are working in various private sectors; meanwhile few of them also working in government sectors as well. However, average earning of participants from unreserved caste are higher than the participants of the reserved caste, but most of them believe their source of income is not secured enough because they are basically self-employed and not earning fixed salary from a secure employment.

The opinion and experience of 'reserved' categories participants on constitutional reservation system is quite astonishing. According to the present study all the participants of 'reserved' caste have enjoyed their caste based constitutional reservation benefits in their lives and in multiple occasions such as benefits in education or benefits in getting employment. The same study also reveals all of the participants have experienced social discrimination because of these benefits from their friends, colleagues, neighbors, clients, customers or any other people from unreserved categories; because according to these people these participants are getting unjustified benefits from the government of India.

**Case Example – A:** - Mr. Arun (name changed) belongs to reserved category and he has enjoyed all the reservation benefits throughout his life. Presently he is in his mid 40s and working in public sector. His only complain is the social discrimination he has faced throughout his career. At his work place his colleagues and friends who belongs to unreserved categories they clearly accused him of having low IQ and they also believed without the reservation benefits he would have been in a miserable state, because he is thriving only on the 'backward class' quota system only and not on the basis of his own merit and hard work.

According to study every one out of four male participants and every one out of three female participants from reserved categories don't believe socio-economically they are not the deserving candidates for constitutional reservation benefits and rest of the participants believe socio-economically they are the deserving candidates of constitutional caste based reservation benefits.

The study also reveals a contrast in the opinion of participants and the reasons behind that contrast is also varied. The participants who believe they deserve caste based reservation system for them the reasons behind that believe is because according to them for years they were the oppressed section of the society and for few others either it's purely financial or they are the first generation of the family who are enough eligible to opt that benefit. However, for most of the participants just because it's the constitutional right that's why they deserve those benefits.

**Case Example – B:** - Mrs. Susmita (name changed) is in her mid 30s and working in public sector for last 10 years. She is the third generation of her paternal side who is working in public sector. According to her she has always enjoyed a blessed life from socio – economical perspective. However, despite all the money and opportunities she enjoyed all kind of benefits that she is entitled constitutionally allocated for 'socio – economically backward classes'. Although she believes socio – economically she has never been in 'backward position'; however, she chose to take all these benefits because these are her constitutional rights and her decisions made her life easy and secure.

On the contrary those participants who believe they don't deserve caste based constitutional reservation benefits they also have their reasons. However, out of all those reasons most popular reasons were financial stability in the family and apart from that the other reasons

are these participants believe in equal opportunities and they don't believe in any kind of social discrimination. Those participants who are enjoying these benefits in second or third generation they also believe they don't deserve these caste based constitutional benefits anymore.

Most remarkable fact is although many participants of reserved caste believe they are not the deserving candidates for these constitutional caste based reservation benefits but at the same time they are enjoying all those benefits since their childhood and despite various social discrimination they are enjoying all these benefits for their own convenience. The present study shows there are many participants who are not comfortable to disclose publicly that they enjoy caste based reservation benefits in fear of social isolation. Many believe these benefits are unjustifiable and create imbalance within the social structure. However, maximum participants of constitutionally reserved caste believe every section of their own society is not enjoying these Constitutional reservation benefits equally and as a result rich are getting richer and poor are getting poorer.

**Case Example – C:** - Mr Asoke (name changed) is in his mid 30s and presently working in public sector. He has enjoyed all kind of social benefits allocated for the backward classes throughout his life. However, publicly apart from his workplace he does not reveals his actual caste to anybody in fear of social isolation. Both his parents have also enjoyed all these social benefits and he is the second generation of his family who is enjoying these social benefits. He does not consider himself as a member of 'socio – economically backward classes' by anyhow. In spite of that he has enjoyed all these benefits because he believes his ancestors were oppressed for many centuries and presently their caste deserve all these social privileges to even the past deeds of ancestors.

According to participants of reserved caste the reasons behind social discrimination are various such as lack of education, lack of awareness and lack of infrastructure. Therefore these are all the reasons which are creating hindrance in the society and depriving the large number of people of reserved categories to obtain these constitutional benefits.

On the other side the analysis of opinion and experience of unreserved categories' people on reservation system was also pretty remarkable. According to present study almost three out of four male participants and more than nine out of ten female participants believe they also deserve constitutional reservation benefits.

The participants who believe they deserve constitutional reservation benefits for them one of the reason behind that believe is apparently their socio-economical background and to be more precise according to them just because they are socio-economically weak that is why these kind of benefits would be really helpful to them and few other believe they deserve these benefits because on the basis of their merit. However according to most popular reason these participants believe they deserve constitutional reservation benefits since constitutional rights should not be discriminatory.

The present study shows all these participants from unreserved categories believe they are the victims of social discrimination and five out of six male participants and five out of seven female participants have agreed to discuss their feelings of social discrimination openly and without any sort of hesitation; unlike the participants of reserved categories who are often feel reluctant to disclose publicly that they are the beneficiaries of various reservation benefits provided by the constitution of India.

**Case Example – D:** - Mrs Amita (name changed) is a highly educated individual in her mid 30s and she is working in private sector and earning in six figures. She belongs to unreserved category and her parents were socio – economically backward and they could not support the cost of her education after her high school board examination. Therefore she had to sponsor her own education by doing various odd jobs. Her only regret is she could not apply for many government jobs because then she could not arrange the huge job application fees. According to her it outrageously discriminatory when the same examinations are almost free for those socially affluent reserved categories candidates who can afford the cost pretty easily. She believes in order to eradicate the caste based discrimination from the society the criteria for constitutional reservation system should be the economical background and merit of the individuals.

The present study shows all these participants from unreserved categories believe they are the victims of social discrimination and five out of six male participants and five out of seven female participants have agreed to discuss their feelings of social discrimination openly and without any sort of hesitation; unlike the participants of reserved categories who are often feel reluctant to disclose publicly that they are the beneficiaries of various reservation benefits provided by the constitution of India.

According to present study general perception of the participants of unreserved caste about the participants of reserved caste is quite remarkable. Nearly three out of five male participants and five out of seven female participants believe every section of reserved categories people are enjoying their constitutional caste based reservation rights one way or in some other way.

The general perception of unreserved caste on the exploitation scenario of reserved caste is also quite vivid. The present study shows every two out of five male participants and every two out of seven female participants of unreserved caste believe in spite of all these constitutional benefits still the major portion of the people of reserved caste are still subject to brutal exploitation and they are not even aware of these benefits. The reasons behind this exploitation are lack of education, lack of awareness and lack of infrastructure.

**Case Example – E:** - Mr Shakti (name changed) is a retired bank manager and he has worked in a government undertaking bank throughout his lives. Although he belongs to the unreserved category, in spite of that his experience about reserved categories' people are quite opposite. During his service he has travelled few remotest areas of our state and had interacted with people directly on day to day basis. On the basis of his experience he believes the actual participants of 'socio – economically backward classes' or the SCs, STs and OBCs are not even aware about all these constitutional social benefits that are available for them and they live much below poverty line in a hand to mouth situation. According to him immediate reformation of all these social benefits is extremely important, so that the actual 'socio – economically backward classes' of the nation can recover their socio – economical position and personally he does not support the complete abolition of constitutional reservation for the 'socio – economically backward classes'.

Among the participants of reserved caste almost nobody support the complete abolition of caste based reservation system provided by the constitution of India and on the other hand almost most of the participants of reserved caste has supported the idea of reformation of all these benefits in a certain way so that more and more people can get benefits out of it.

As per the participants of reserved categories the criteria for constitutional reservation system should be caste and almost one out of two male and female participants have mentioned

that reason and apart from that another most popular criteria for every two out of nine male participants and more than one out of four participants believe both merit and economical background should be considered for the constitutional reservation benefits. Apart from that the other most popular reasons are religion, gender, economical background and merit.

On the contrary the suggestions provided by the unreserved categories participants on caste based reservation system and most significant fact is among unreserved castes' participants almost all of them support the idea of abolition of caste based constitutional reservation system which is exact opposite of the reserved categories' participants who are the great supporters of caste based reservation system and don't want the abolition of that system.

Meanwhile almost all the participants support the reformation of the constitutional reservation system. Quite remarkably both the participants of reserved and unreserved categories have agreed on that context. Almost all the participants believe there should be reformation of that system so that maximum number of people can avail benefits out of that system instead of a particular section of the society within a particular caste. To be more precise participants of reserved and unreserved caste have agreed that the constitutional reservation benefits could not established an egalitarian society even within the reserved caste and it could not abolish the rampant caste based exploitation within the society. That reservation system needs to be more flawless.

Any participants from unreserved caste did not mention caste as criteria for caste based reservation system. Among these participants most popular criteria for constitutional reservation should be both merit and economical background of the beneficiaries or to be more precise most of the participants believe since in a large country like India where population is astronomically 1.3 billion and government resources are extremely limited there resources should be allocated only for those candidates who are most deserving candidates.

However the participants of reserved and unreserved caste both came to that conclusion jointly that the constitutional reservation system is full of flaws and extreme measures needs to be taken in order to reform that entire system so that nobody can take undue advantages of that system. Moreover by reforming that system government can ensure more people can avail the benefits of constitutional reservation benefits. At the same time it would not create a 'creamy layer' within the "socially and economically backward classes". Therefore, government should collect excessive information regarding socio-economic situation of both reserved and unreserved castes and redefine the "backward classes" once again and redesign all these constitutional benefits for most deserving candidates. Moreover the purpose of that new endeavor should be eradication of caste system from India.

The present study was conducted on a really small number of people and the participants of that study were mostly educated and presumably 'aware' people. Therefore for more flawless result more large number of data needs to be collected and at the same time those participants' needs to be from different sections of the society. The present study shows the participants of both reserved and unreserved caste have agreed on the reformation issue and therefore a separate survey should be conducted to understand what type of reformation these participants are looking for in order to understand the future course of actions.

**Conclusion:** - The study revealed both the participants of reserved categories and unreserved categories believe the constitutional reservation system is not competent enough to eradicate the 'socio-economically backward classes' of India and after so many years of independence the majority of reserved caste in Indian population remained socio-economically backward because lack of awareness, knowledge and adequate infrastructure. Meanwhile the participants of both reserved and unreserved categories believe there should be reformation of constitutional reservation system so that the maximum number of underprivileged people can get the constitutional reservation benefits. At the same time majority of participants agreed in order to eradicate the caste based discrimination from the society the criteria for constitutional reservation system should be mostly individuals' merit and economical background instead of caste. Therefore the constitutional reservation system should be reformed in a way so that it can serve more larger and oppressed section of the society instead of few socially and economically influential individuals.

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