

Seminar-3

A. **Title of the Seminar** - Caste Politics in India and Its Present Relevance

B. **Type of the Activity**- Seminar on Indian Politics

C. **Organizing Department/Committee** - Department of Political Science in Collaboration with IQAC, GGDC CHAPRA.

D. **Date of the Activity**: 07/09/2018

E. **Number of Participants**: 28

F. **Name of Speakers and their Affiliation**: Smt.Gargi Sengupta, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Chapra Bangalji Mahavidyalay, Bangalji, Chapra, Nadia.

G. **Flyer**:

GOVERNMENT GENERAL DEGREE COLLEGE, CHAPRA
[Affiliated to Kalyani University]

A State Level Seminar
on
Caste Politics in India and Its Present Relevance

Organized by
Department of Political Science
in Collaboration with IQAC of GGDC, Chapra

Resource Person: Smt. Gargi Sengupta, Associate Professor, Chapra Bangalji Mahavidyalaya

Date: 07th September, 2018 Time: 12 pm Venue: Seminar Hall I; GGDC, Chapra

Patron Dr. Subhasis Panda Principal GGDC, Chapra	IQAC Co-ordinator Sri Arunava Sinha Asst. Professor of History GGDC, Chapra	Convenor Sri Rudra Sekhar Basu HOD of Political Science GGDC, Chapra
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H. Outcome of the Seminar:

The seminar was conducted successfully by the Department of Political Science, Government General Degree College, Chapra. The students participated in the same with great enthusiasm. They were acquainted with the following concepts and discussions,

1.Caste, India's ancient social hierarchy, deeply influences its political landscape. Caste acts as a potent force in elections, mobilizing voters and shaping party alliances. Parties often position themselves as representing specific caste groups. This leads to both cohesion within castes and potential tensions between them. Reservations for disadvantaged castes aim to improve

representation and equality. However, the system also faces criticism for perpetuating caste consciousness.

2. Caste system and British rule: The caste system is a social hierarchy in India. It was seen by the British as a way to understand Indian society. They used it to justify their rule and it led to conflicts among different castes.

3. Evolution of caste: Efforts to abolish untouchability and promote equality were present. However, caste continued to exist and evolve in Indian society. The Constitution of India banned untouchability and introduced reservations for lower castes. This further solidified the importance of caste.

4. Political co-optation: Political parties started mobilizing lower castes and including them in their ranks. This gave these castes a chance to assert their identity and seek political power.

5. Dominant castes and political power: Dominant castes hold numerical superiority. Thus, they enjoy political influence. Politicians find caste a useful instrument during elections. Competition among major caste groups for power is often observed in Indian states.

6. Reservation and backward classes: Caste-based reservations were introduced in the Indian Constitution. This was to provide opportunities and advancement for socially and educationally backward classes. The Mandal Commission identified backward classes primarily based on caste membership.

7. Interplay of class and caste: Over time, class and caste started coexisting in Indian society. Reservation policies helped certain castes catch up with other dominant castes. However, this also led to socio-economic differentiation within caste groups.

8. Changing dynamics: Caste continues to be a lived social reality in India. Despite the erosion of its ideological basis, it has become an instrument of social change. Caste identities have taken new forms of articulation, resulting in the rise of identity politics.

9. Complex relationship: The relationship between class and caste is complex and overlapping. The struggle for status and equality continues, and caste remains a potent form of social identity. The transformation of caste into interest groups has also influenced politics.

I. Attendance of the Seminar:

Government General Degree College, Chapra

Attendance sheet of the seminar on
Caste Politics in India and its Present Relevance by
the Department of *Political Science* on *07.09.2018*

Sl.No.	Name with initial and date	Sl.No.	Name with initial and date
1.	Anita Halder / A.H.	38.	
2.	Shilpi Halder / S.H.	39.	
3.	Bismita Ghosh / B.G.	40.	
4.	Bijon Chatterjee / B.C.	41.	
5.	Lakshmi Halder / L.H.	42.	
6.	Chaitali Saha / C.S.	43.	
7.	Pina Saha / P.S.	44.	
8.	Sankarajit Ghosh / S.G.	45.	
9.	Ratna Saha / R.S.	46.	
10.	Sandya Khatun / S.K.	47.	
11.	Rukma Khatun / R.K.	48.	
12.	Sabita Khatun / S.K.	49.	
13.	Pankaj Khatun / P.K.	50.	
14.	Rina Khatun / R.K.	51.	
15.	Vladin Mandal / V.M.	52.	
16.	Anurag Das / A.D.	53.	
17.	Sourav Ghosh / S.G.	54.	
18.	Lakshmi Halder / L.H.	55.	
19.	Bani Biswas / B.B.	56.	
20.	Ravi Halder / R.H.	57.	
21.	Sandeep Dasgupta / S.D.	58.	
22.	Nipati Mondal / N.M.	59.	
23.	Jaydeb Mondal / J.M.	60.	
24.	Sourav Ghosh / S.G.	61.	
25.	Lakshmi Khatun / L.K.	62.	
26.	Supriya Mondal / S.M.	63.	
27.	Kapil Ghosh / K.G.	64.	
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J . Photographs of the programme:

