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**'A STUDY OF COLLEGE STUDENTS' ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE DALIT MOVEMENT'****Dr. Sanjay Dnyanoba Sawant****Associate Professor, Dept. of Sociology, Shivraj College, Gadhinglaj,  
Tal. Gadhinglaj, Dist. Kolhapur (MS)****ABSTRACT**

*Any type of movement requires organization. Social movements are more prevalent in countries with social inequalities. The society is changing. Therefore, changes are made at the individual and collective level. The majority of the movements which actively seek, by the active group of the population, to change or resist change in the society are called as the social movements. Demonstrations in the movement include the use of means of exclusion, boycott, non-violence, violence, etc. Hedrbert Blumer has called the peoples' committee a social movement for transforming Social relations<sup>1</sup>. It is clear that the social movements transform the social structure in certain aspects. From a sociological point of view the reform movement means to improve a particular thing. But this is a very limited meaning. The reform movement by Babasaheb ambedkar was run in a very broad sense.*

**KEY WORD:** *marginal society, social movement, social change.***INTRODUCTION**

Under the reform movement the religious institution, economic institution, political institution, family institution, marriage institution and caste institution were all meant to transform. In it, the reform movement means broadening the restructuring of the entire social institutions from Babasaheb's point of view<sup>2</sup>. Change in female education and social life, discrimination against untouchables, social equality, new ideology, honesty, scientific integrity, freedom of speech, changes over time with internal social rules, etc. were sought in Maharashtra by Balshashtri Jambekar, Bhau Mahajan, Shankarseth, Dadoba Pandurang, Justice Ranade, Maharshi Karve, Vitthal Ramaji Shinde, Jotiba Phule, Chhatrapati Shahu and Babasaheb Ambedkar. All of them effectively rooted the progressive movement in Maharashtra. The Dalit movement is considered to be one of the many reformist movements. As part of this, college students have been trying to find opinions on how they view the movements. Interview-Schedule is conducted by the college student through complete sampling technique. The article is structured with the help of collected data.

**OBJECTIVES**

To study the attitude of college students towards the Dalit movement

**HYPOTHESIS**

College students have a negative view of the Dalit movement.

**METHODOLOGY**

The researcher collected the facts for the research article using an Interview-Schedule from 50 students studying in different colleges in Gadhinglaj city in Kolhapur District.

**DATA ANALYSIS**

The dissertation on college students' perspectives on the Dalit movement is analyzed in the above research article.

Following is a sociological analysis of the personal or general information of the respondents.

**Personal Information**

Table No.1

**Age Group of the Respondents**

Sr. No.	Age group	Number of Students
1	18-20	17 (34%)
2	21-24	32 (64%)
3	27	01 (2%)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>50 (100)</b>

Considering the above table, the proportion of respondents in this age group 21-24 is higher. Below that is the proportion of students aged is 18-20.

**Table No.2**

**Non-Backward Students have Explained**

Sr. No	Caste	Number of Students
1	Matatha	40 (80%)
2	Ligayat	07 (14%)
3	Mahar	03 (6%)
4	Mang	01 (2%)
5	Gawali	01 (2%)
6	Kumbhar	01 (2%)
7	Gurav	01 (2%)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>50 (100%)</b>

In the students presented, 80% of the students appeared in this Maratha caste group, 14% of Lingayat respondents appeared.

Considering the above table overall, the backward students have explained their view of the Dalit movement.

**Table No.3**

**Religion of the Respondents**

Sr. No	Religion	Number of Students
1	Hindu	43 (86%)
2	Veer Shaiv	07 (14%)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>50 (100%)</b>

The above table shows that the majorities of the respondents i.e. 86% of all are Hindus and 6% of the Mahar students have also mentioned their religion as Hindu. 14% of the respondents have mentioned Veer Shaiv as their religion which is not registered as an official religion in the Indian constitution. In the

centre of the city during the census the big news pane was lit. In that, the Veer Shaivs were appealing to all the community that the person who is a Lingayat Franca should register its religion as Veer Shaiv. It may have had the impact of that public plea on the students and they recorded their religion as Veer Shaiv.

Table No.4

**Education of the Respondents**

Sr. No.	Class	Number of Students
1	B. A. I	10 (20%)
2	B. A. II	22 (44%)
3	B. A. III	18 (36%)
	Total	50 (100%)

Considering the Table No.4 it is found all the respondents are doing their graduation.

**Students' opinion about who is called a Dalit:**

All the students have tried to form their opinions about who are called as the Dalits.

A majority of the students i.e. 60% of them have called Mahar-Mangs as Dalits.

Considering the above statistics, it appears that most of the respondents seem to know about the majority castes of Dalits in Maharashtra. Whereas some respondents have considered only Mahars and Mangs as Dalits.

Since the leadership of the Dalit movement in Maharashtra is mainly from Mahar and Mang community, it appears to the majority of the students that they are Dalits.

The concept of Dalit is very broad which means suppressed, exploited, deprived. But the word Dalit appears to have been used by the students in a narrower sense only for Mahar-Mangs coming from the Scheduled Caste group.

**Students' views on Dalit movement concept:**

The present study sought to explain what is the Dalit movement according to most of the students. The movement against Dalit injustice or for the rights denied to many of them and for the betterment and development of Dalits is called as Dalit movement. A movement to awaken Dalit people who were neglected the lives of dignity for hundreds of years in Indian society, movement for Dalits to get their rights, and incorporating them into the social stream for people like Mahar-Mangs is called as Dalit movement as institution run for particular rights.

In view of all this, it can be said that more and more students are aware of the concept of Dalit movement that is being pursued for the development of Mahar-Mangs as scheduled caste. But the Dalit movement is very broad based.

Only thing that comes to mind when analyzing social movements is that these movements are being made to bring about change. Revolutionary movements, the rebellion movements are known as revolutions that change the political spectrum. It is the fight of the human group that come together through social consciousness and organization regardless of selfish motives. The whole purpose of the movement is to regenerate the entire social system.

The Dalit movement is not limited to just the untouchables, but it is a movement created to free the entire human race from social exploitation. It is movement against exploitation, for the welfare of humanity, for equality. There is no consensus in the concept of Dalit movement as explained by the students. If Dalits have participated in large numbers on a topic related to a problem, then that movement is called Dalit movement from the students' point of view.

**Dalit movement and efforts to eradicate caste:**

Through the Dalit movements freedom of equality and brotherhood are revived. Babasageb Ambdkar thought that the society which was exploited should stand on the principle of equality. Therefore, the Dalit movement emphasizes the elimination of caste and race. Rajshree shahu used to say that the reason for the failure of our country is the caste system here<sup>3</sup>. So it is important to be rationalized. Due to the division of the society caste eradication is limited to the social cultural, religious and political aspects. A majority of the students i.e. 74% of them answered that the question from the humanitarian point of view, that the Dalit movement seeks to eradicate caste.

**Students' Opinions about Dalit movement are based on caste:**

Asked if the Dalit movement was based on caste 66% of the students answered yes, 14% of the students answered in negative, but 6% of the students said that this is a movement for backward people, while 4% did not respond. The movement is designed to bring about change. It is fight for the rights of the human group that comes together through social awareness and organizations, regardless of personal purpose. The whole purpose of the movement is to create a new society. In different movements like labor movement, tribal movement, Dalit movement, backward movement, middle class movement, human rights and environmentalism movement consensus does not appear in all these fractions. Since the majority of the people in the Dalit movement belong to the Dalit class, the majority of the students feel that the Dalit movement is based on the caste.

**Students' views on social change through the Dalit movement:**

The change in the structure of society is called social change<sup>6</sup>. Social change is the change in the values and norms that have been passed down in the society for generations. In trying to understand students' views in terms of social change, it seems that 84% of the students feel that the Dalit movement is causing social change. The untouchable community from Dalit society is a part of transformative society today. They have the right to equality. He has constitutional right to education because of the Dalit movements. This is why the credit goes to the Dalit movements. This is why majority of students feel that social change takes place through the Dalit movement.

**Students' views on reservation and Dalit movements:**

Rajarshi Shahu introduced reservation policy in for Kolhapur for the rescue of the Bajujan Community<sup>3</sup>. The Indian constitution provides reservation in jobs and political reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. College students were asked questions about the political reservation. 82% of students said that Dalits should have reservation. Opinions were taken to know what their criteria should be when making a reservation.

Most of the students stated that social backwardness should be the criteria for reservation for Dalits. The main purpose of the reservation is to eliminate social backwardness. The majority of the students, 54% of the total, demand the extension of political reservation for Dalit representatives to be elected to the legislative assembly and parliament to ask questions about Dalits. About extension of ten years regarding for political reservation, the majority of the students expressed that the demand was not correct. Most students give positive answers to the question of whether vacancies should be filled under reservation. There is a discrepancy between the students' opinions. According to Uttam Kamble, the reservation is the source of the country's resources. Through reservation wealth must be distributed evenly and judiciously. We have allotted water of the rivers like Gangas, Godawari, Krishna, Kaveri, etc. but when it comes to job allocation, the question of how much more to give to Dalits is raised<sup>4</sup>. Everyone born in this country has the right to the resources.

This shows that due to the caste based society structure, reservation becomes the rights of the Dalits.

**Student's views on Dalit village work:**

The Dalits had to do whatever they were told by upper castes in the village. Some of the works were of government duties like delivery of documents; the maintenance of the animals of the government employees involved the government wide tasks like calling a person for specific work<sup>5</sup>. In Addition to pull dead animals, festival cleaning activities, gathering calves for Holi, playing music at the rituals, lighting the lamps during the wedding ceremony, etc. were required to do by the Dalits. The majority of the students have supported the Dalits because they have given up all the village work.

When asked the reasons for the students' support that the Dalits have given up the village work, the following they explained that these works were being carried out by force, due to the Dalit movement there has been a change in the status of the Dalits, because of the consciousness of self existence due to movement. The Constitution gives freedom of job, so it is no longer an obligation for a person to perform certain tasks. Due to Dalit movement one knows that he has right to live a dignified life like any other in the society. This shows that society is changing.

**Students' views on Dalit movement:**

While trying to find out the students' views on the Dalit movement, the majority of students gave different answers. It is mainly through this movement that the Dalits will have a full development, there will be no injustice to Dalits, social discrimination will be eradicated, people of Dalit castes will achieve educational, cultural and other development within certain period. Dalit should change their mindset and their reservation in every area should be time bound. Dalit movement should continue in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Dalit movement should not demand any other social and political benefit for its rights so that other caste groups will be wronged. Therefore, it casts injustice on other castes. Dalit movement should not criticize religion of any other caste. Dalits should prove their existence not by asking for reservation in the name of caste. There is no need for reservation and reservation to prove our existence, but movement should be careful that no caste injustice will be done. All these approaches are underlined by students. From this you can say that while the majority of students are explaining, their views in relation to the Dalit movement, for them the Dalit movement is just a movement for reservation.

Perhaps students forget about the system in which Indian society is based - social relations, culture, religion, political system, etc. All these things depend on caste based system. Social life is controlled by bondage. The majority of students have a negative view of the Dalit movement.

**Research Articles' results:**

- 1) Most of the students are from open category.
- 2) The term Dalit is used by most college students for the Mahar-Mang caste group
- 3) The majority of the students have called a movement the Dalit movement because a Dalit man is leading the movement.  
But the movement that Dalit person is leading can be unanimous.
- 4) According to most students, the Dalit movement seeks to eradicate caste.
- 5) For the majority of the students, the Dalit movement is based on caste system.  
But there is significant contribution of the Dalit movement towards establishing the social equality.
- 6) According to the majority of the students, the Dalit movement leads to social change.
- 7) The demand for Dalit movement about filling vacancies under reservation seems appropriate to most students. The demand for the Dalit movement to get the political reservation extended every ten years seems appropriate to the students.

**CONCLUSION:**

In the context of both the above opinions, there is discrepancy between the students. The overall attitude of the students' towards the Dalit movement is negative. Considering the age and knowledge of most students, they do not seem to be able to explain their view about the movement.

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