Relaxing Quota

Krant Khandkerkar sheds light on the recent ruling by the Supreme Court on the 27 per cent OBC quota in higher educational institutions

The recent ruling by the SC on the 27 per cent OBC quota in higher education laid to rest the on going debate and speculations surrounding the issue. This ruling is likely to have widespread consequences on India’s political and educational future. Here’s the analytical scrutiny of the judgment by Navnit Gouda, Political Science Professor, LLM&V College, Amravati.

Some of the points-to-note in this ruling which are as follows:

- Five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice KG Balakrishnan ruled that the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act 2006 does not violate the basic structure of the Constitution.
- Total reservation in educational institutions now stands at 49.3 per cent.
- The court ruled that creamy layer among the OBCs cannot get the benefit of quota.
- On the issue of quota in the private unaided institutions, four judges left the issue open and one judge ruled it would violate the basic structure of the Constitution.
- Review of OBC quota list will be done every five years.
- Children of former, current MPs and MLAs will be excluded from the quota list.

Impact of the Ruling

Short Term: Delay in admissions. The Indian Institutes of Management might defer the release of their final list of admission for this academic year following the Supreme Court order on 27 per cent quota for Other Backward Castes (OBC). OBC quota could be implemented this year itself.

Long Term: The popularity of other private unaided B-schools like XLRI, FMS, IIM and SPJIMR will reach far beyond the IIMs in the times of come. Some opponents of quota argue that the quality of students in India’s premier institutions for higher education in India will deteriorate gradually.

The SC ruling is not only going to benefit the OBC category students but also the general category students eventually. Creamy layer has already been excluded from getting the benefit of reservation. This will prevent students from affluent and wealthy family from entering higher education unfairly.

The government shall set up a committee to look into the question of setting the OBC cut-off at not more than 10 marks below that of general category. Under such a scheme, wherever the non-creamy layer OBCs fail to fill the 27 per cent reservation, the remaining seats would revert to general category students.

An account of this ruling, and the implementation of the quota, there will be increasing pressure on the private unaided institutions to supplement the quota to make up for the short-falls in seats.

There will be demand from other backward communities to introduce quota system.

In conclusion, many feel that socially and economically backward people are not getting a fair chance against those who go to highly paid coaching classes. The difference can now be more than eradicated with this reservation excluding the creamy layer. Looking at the final points of the judgment, it seems that social and economic justice can be achieved while at the same time satisfying vote-mongering politicians.

Krant Khandkerkar

In Praise of Skill

Behind the scenes

Every success story is successfully portrayed on the screen by them. They capture emotions, beauty, horror and life. Deepa Mishra finds out the creative brain behind the camera

Khadak Singh is camera man who works for a news channel and believes that it is a creative field and only your creativity will decide your survival here. “People who have learnt from the institutes have zeroed in with the theories and jargons but have little of practical knowledge. They have to do internship under professionals. I started as an assistant camera person in an organization called ‘Camera Work’ under professionals. There, I got to learn the know-how of the camera practically and creatively. I continue to learn even today among peers,” says Khadak Singh.

Types of shots, framing and camera angles depend on the kind of story you wish to shoot. Shooting sport events, feature stories, crime, disasters, functioning under adverse conditions like war, riots etc. need different mental and aesthetic preparation,” believes Khadak.

Composition of frame for story telling comes with experience and we keep learning through new stories. I like doing stories where I can explore my creativity,” adds Khadak.

With three years of experience in hand, this camera expert believes that this field offers a decent income to those who are creative and have good networking. In a good organization one can easily earn between Rs 45,000 to 50,000. In fact, if one has a strong network and is known for his camera work, freelancing can be another option. “I have earned Rs 4,500 to Rs 5,000 a day as freelance. If an organization is not very big, the minimum offered in freelancing will not be less than Rs 1,500 a day. So, if you wish to enter this field, get trained and explore your creativity beyond the obvious…”

Deepa.r.mishra@gmail.com