

Solution for Reservations

The debate over reservations in institutes of higher education has produced much heated controversy and divided friends, and even members of the same family. I think I have found the perfect solution that can heal wounds and be acceptable to everybody.

Students from rural or poor families are seeking reservations primarily because they have little working acquaintance with English as a medium of instruction, and hence get lower marks than students educated in better schools in the English medium. At the same time students who get higher marks are agitating for entrance to institutions to be decided purely on merit, and their cause is very just since all youngsters should have a level playing field, so to speak.

Hence I propose that to judge entrance purely on merit, students from English medium schools be asked to write their exams in any Indian language of their choice, including their mother tongue, while the poorer students battle it out in English which is truly a "foreign language" for them. Then let marks obtained decide the issue.

VITHAL RAJAN
Hyderabad

NREGA: Absence of Ownership

It was quite interesting to go through the field observations on the implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in Jharkhand (July 22, 2006), which suggest that

the NREGA programme may well follow the same path as the earlier wage employment programmes. The involvement of students from Delhi University and Jawaharlal Nehru University in the field investigation should be appreciated. It may be a trendsetter for involving students in a similar exercise in other parts of the country.

We are convinced that the "absence of owning by the political parties" is an important issue that needs to be addressed. Our field experiences on the pre-launch preparedness of NREGA in Kerala have thrown up similar observations. The authors' point that the "absence of gram panchayats and gram sabhas in the state" has created an institutional vacuum at the field level is also revealing. We agree with their argument that the institutionalisation of the panchayati raj system is required for better administration of the NREGA. However, this may not be a single precondition for better implementation of NREGA, as evident from our Kerala experience. There are larger issues of political economy involved. An analysis of political economy may bring out a possible explanation for the current status of NREGA administration in different parts of the country.

We understand that the authors are undertaking similar studies in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. It would be quite revealing, if a similar study is done in Kerala as well.

(Continued on p 3440)

Correction

In the review, 'Development Economics: Old, New and Newer' (July 8), the author of the chapter on 'Social Capital' should be John Harriss, not John Sender as published.

Subscription

Inland

	(Rs)			
	Six months	One year	Two years	Three years
Institutions	-	1250	2300	3300
Individuals	500	935	1750	2500

Concessional Rates

Teachers/Researchers	-	685	-	1800
Students	-	450	-	-

Concessional rates are available only in India. To avail of concessional rates, certificate from relevant institution is essential. Remittance by money order/bank draft preferred. Please add Rs 35 to outstation cheques towards bank collection charges.

Nepal and Bhutan

Institutions	-	1500	-	4150
Individuals	-	1250	-	3500

Foreign

	(US \$)					
	Air Mail			Surface Mail		
	Institutions					
	1yr	2yrs	3yrs	1yr	2yrs	3yrs
Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh	80	150	200	65	120	175
Other countries	150	275	375	90	170	240
	Individuals					
Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh	50	90	125	30	50	75
Other countries	100	175	240	65	120	170

All remittances to:

Economic and Political Weekly

Economic and Political Weekly

Hitkari House, 284 Shahid Bhagatsingh Road,
Mumbai 400 001

Phones: 2269 6072/73 Fax: (022) 2269 6072
epw.mumbai@gmail.com edit@epw.org.in
Editor (December 1969-January 2004): Krishna Raj

Editor : C Rammanohar Reddy

Deputy Editor : Bernard D'Mello

Assistant Editors : Anuradha Kumar,
Vimala Subramanian, Sheba Tejani
Bharati Bhargava (Delhi)

Editorial Staff : Prabha Pillai

Editorial Consultant : Gautam Navlakha (Delhi)

Circulation : Gauraang Pradhan (Manager),
B S Sharma
circulation@epw.org.in

Advertisement Manager : Kamal G Fanibanda
advt@epw.org.in

General Manager
and Publisher : K Vijayakumar

EPW Research Foundation

C 212, Akurli Industrial Estate, Kandivali (East)
Mumbai 400 101, Phones: 2887 3038/3041
Fax: (022) 2887 3038.
epwrf@vsnl.com

Director : S L Shetty

(Continued from p 3338)

Some of the observations on Jharkhand can be tested in this state as well.

JOS CHATHUKULAM AND K GIREESAN
Kottayam

Broadbasing of Indian Democracy

The article by Sankaran Krishna (June 10, 2006) on the autobiography of Raja Ramanna captures the real picture of the Indian middle class and its aspirations.

The middle class and its authoritarian mindset keeps revealing itself in the Indian public sphere. The Nehruvian period was dominated by the upper caste-oriented Indian middle class. The Emergency brought out its real character. The total support of this middle class to the ruling elite in such periods revealed its fascist nature.

The Mandal I implementation by the central government showed the anti-subaltern mindset of this class. Currently, the anti-reservation struggle of upper caste students is bringing out the age-old 'manuvadi' mindset of the Indian professional

middle class, which is also expressed through its overall dominance in the media.

It forgets the ongoing process of broadbasing of Indian liberal democracy. The social justice movement of India has been democratising the social base of the Indian middle class. The upper caste-oriented middle class has to accept this reality – that it is losing its monopoly – although it has obtained a new space in the “globalised” middle class.

C K VISHWANATH
Kannur, Kerala

Notes to Contributors

Here are some guidelines for authors who wish to make submissions to the journal.

Special Articles

EPW welcomes original research papers in any of the social sciences.

- ★ **Articles must be no more than 8,000 words, including notes, references and tables. Longer articles will not be processed.**
- ★ **Contributions should be sent in a hard copy format accompanied by a floppy/CD version. A soft copy can also be sent by email. Hard and soft copy versions of articles are essential for processing.**
- ★ **Special articles should be accompanied by an abstract of a maximum of 150-200 words.**
- ★ Papers should not have been simultaneously submitted for publication to another journal or newspaper. If the paper has appeared earlier in a different version, we would appreciate a copy of this along with the submitted paper.
- ★ Graphs and charts prepared in MS Office (Word/Excel) or equivalent software are preferable to material prepared in jpeg or other formats.
- ★ Every effort is taken to complete early processing of the papers we receive. Since we receive more than 35 articles every week and adequate time has to be provided for internal reading and external refereeing. **It can take up to four months for a final decision on whether the paper is accepted for publication.**
- ★ **Articles accepted for publication can**

take up to six to eight months from the date of acceptance to appear in the *EPW*. Every effort will, however, be made to ensure early publication. Papers with immediate relevance for policy would be considered for early publication. Please note that this is a matter of editorial judgment.

Commentaries

EPW invites short contributions to the 'Commentary' section on topical social, economic and political developments. These should ideally be between 1,000 and 2,500 words and exclusive to the *EPW*. Short contributions may be sent by email.

Book Reviews

EPW sends out books for review. It does not normally accept unsolicited reviews. However, all reviews that are received are read with interest and where a book has not been sent out for review, the unsolicited review is on occasion considered for publication.

Letters

Readers of *EPW* are encouraged to send comments and suggestions (300-400 words) on published articles to the Letters column. All letters should have the writer's full name and postal address.

Discussion

EPW encourages researchers to comment on Special Articles. Submissions should be 1,000 to 2,000 words.

General Guidelines

- ★ **Writers are requested to provide full details for correspondence: postal**

address, day-time phone numbers and email address.

(The email address of writers in the Special Article, Commentary and Discussion sections will be published at the end of the article.)

- ★ Authors are requested to prepare their soft copy versions in text formats. PDF versions are not accepted by the *EPW*. Authors are encouraged to use UK English spellings (Writers using MS Word or similar software could change the appropriate settings in the Language menu of the application).
- ★ Contributors are requested to send articles that are complete in all respects, including references, as this facilitates quicker processing.
- ★ When there are major developments in the field of study after the first submission, authors can send a revised version. ***EPW* requests writers not to send revised versions based on stylistic changes/additions, deletions of references, minor changes, etc, as this poses challenges in processing.**
- ★ All submissions will be acknowledged immediately on receipt with a reference number. Quoting the reference number in inquiries will help.
- ★ *EPW* posts all published articles on its web site and may reproduce them on CDs.

Address for communication:

Economic and Political Weekly,
Hitkari House,
284 Shahid Bhagatsingh Road,
Mumbai 400 001, India.
Email: edit@epw.org.in,
epw.mumbai@gmail.com