Measures to eliminate caste-based discrimination

Caste is a social formation of class which people follow a hereditary lifestyle factored by an occupation or ritual status that is passed on through generations. What seems to simply be a matter of tradition has evolved to become an issue which segregates and discriminates people in day-to-day jobs in their ability to obtain a job, be treated fairly in public and to even have a family. Many countries that have upheld their castes systems through the decades are beginning to face many problems as we see the many human rights violations that take place in the name of honoring one’s caste and keeping the purity of the caste. Many countries

Factors to consider:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social crime justified on the terms of caste</th>
<th>The purity of caste is a major social, religious and cultural issue, in fact in many countries the major problem with the caste system is that they are intertwined with religion which ultimately leads to the issue needing more fragility when dealing with it. In India, honor killings have become a sad reality as we see families publicly hang their loved ones when they discover they are a part of an inter-caste relationship. With such strong rooted values that are present in the majority of the country’s population (including their members of their government and also members of the national protection force) there is an issue with reducing the bias and crime that is justified with the reason of preserving the purity of a caste.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discrimination in the job market</td>
<td>Based on one’s caste, many countries such as Nepal and India have reported that there is a lot of segregation present in the workplace. Some have reported it to be in the likeness of racial segregation with cases such as segregated water areas for different castes and the inability to accept one’s authority due to his lower caste. Additionally, there are also cases where a caste is exclusively categorized to their profession. An example of this is in India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, where sanitization jobs such as street cleaning and trash disposal are exclusively seen to only go to those from the Dalit caste. These issues have made the problem harder to resolve as we see that it is inbuilt into social systems despite many efforts to resolve it through political reform.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic issues</td>
<td>Many of the castes that are deemed to be lower are also poorer, and have very little opportunities to rid themselves of their outcome. Many will find that once born into a caste, they are only provided to a limited number of jobs that pertain to their group. Usually what this implies is that people from castes that are affected by severe poverty find they are only open to low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
paying jobs due to their social standing point. They may also be refused to right to an education and usually can’t afford it. This allows poverty to prevail and creates an endless cycle with which the basis on the caste system’s hierarchy lies on. In order to resolve this issue, the system must be broken which will reinstate people of lower castes back to a regular society where they can progress through professional ranks rather than have them defined for them due to their ancestral origins.

Consequences of the Issue

The identity of a person in many of these nations is based on their caste and it is evidently seem as an integral part of their value as humans as it is not uncommon to find a person’s caste to be a required detail in school applications and job applications.

Discrimination creates many issues within a country. On a political scale, the caste system is seen to have a larger effect on the amount of power a person rather that their educational and awareness background. This has questioned the validity of the governments in many member states such as India, as citizens wonder if their elected members will actually help the nation as a whole or simply to what is best to preserve the sanctity of their respective caste. This creates a country where citizens and the government become disconnected or have developed civil tension, making way for opposing political initiatives such as rebel groups and extremists.

Socially, there are many issues that the caste system creates. Multiculturalism is stopped in many places as castes conform to their own respective rules and practices, ultimately creating a segregated environment. Families based on inter-caste relationships are broken and many are persecuted for their attempts to bring impurity as castes are mixed. People are silenced and killed in the name of honor and this is usually supported by many state governments due to their staff also having values heavily linked to their caste. This in itself creates an issue of corruption within countries.

Potential Solutions/Guiding Questions

How can governments reduce the corruption of the staff in the national protective force? Perhaps training initiatives must be started to reinforce the importance of being an unbiased unit that are meant to serve all people, regardless of caste.

Additionally, how can the influence of one’s caste be reduced in the job market?

How can economic cycle that keeps low castes degraded be broken? This could call for government policies that are perhaps reviewed by UN members to ensure there is no bias provided to a specific class.

Jerusha Bambino
Deputy Secretary General