Mandal Commission was set up in 1979 January by Morarji Desai government to identify the socially or educationally backward classes to consider the question of seat reservations and quotas for people to redress caste discrimination, and used eleven social, economic, and educational indicators to determine backwardness. The commission submitted the report to the president on December 30, 1980. It recommended 27% reservation quota for OBC. It was implemented from August 1990. After the vacation of a temporary stay order issued by the Supreme court, the central government started implementing it from 1992 for jobs in central government public sector undertakings.

The socially backward castes which still carry the stigma undoubtedly deserve reservation. But the formula of 'preferential treatment' may be considered wherein the most disadvantaged socially backward classes are given preference over the well to do people among the caste groups. In this background the present Seminar focuses its attention on various issues both at the macro and micro levels to discuss the following sub-themes:

Sub-themes:

- 1. Evolution of reservation affirmative policy National and International perspective
- 2. Ideological issues and Demands of intermediary castes
- 3. Welfare schemes, development plans and the progress of backward classes
- 4. Socio-economic and political implications of reservations
- 5. Legal issues and judicial review
- 6. Issues such as creamy layer, sub-categorization, proportional representation, and reservations in legislature bodies and so on.
- 7. Reservations in private sector
- 8. Impact of globalization on backward classes
- 9. Impact analysis and future of reservations.

Call For Abstracts/Papers:

Participants may please send the Abstract of their paper in about 300 words and the Full paper in about 3500-4500 Words in MS Word File with Times New Roman 12 Point font, Single Space. The Abstract or Full Paper may be Sent to the Seminar Director via mail

Email:reservations.seminar2020@gmail.com

Last Date for Submission of Abstract: 20th March, 2020.

Last Date for Submission of Full Paper: 26th March, 2020.

Hospitality:

Accommodation and Local hospitality will be provided to out station participants during the Two days of the Seminar.

Registration:

Registration fee includes Conference Kit, Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner/Tea/Snacks during the Seminar.

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TWO-DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR ON

PROTECTIVE DISCRIMINATION &

DISTRIBUTIVE JUSTICE

- A CRITIQUE ON RESERVATIONS 28th & 29thMarch 2020

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University Arts& Science College (Autonomous)
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Kakatiya University,
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Seminar Director
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About the College:

The University Arts & Science College, Subedari, Warangal is the oldest Higher Educational Institution Located in the Northern Telangana Region. It has many distinctions to its Credit. It is re- accredited with 'A' grade by the NAAC and also recognized as College with Potential for Excellence by the UGC. Evolution of this college can be traced back to the year 1927 when it was started as Collegiate High School, Hanamkonda. The College now offering as many about 42 Different Courses (32 UG and 10 PG). The College has a well equipped library, sophisticated English Language Laboratory, airconditioned seminar hall, computer lab, auditorium, Health Centre, Multi-Gym and a large play ground. The entire college campus is covered by the Campus Network with INTERNET facility. The Department of Sociology established in the college initially for under graduate course and later it is upgraded to Post Graduation. Later on keeping view of the demand and job oriented in nature, the Master of Social Work course introduced.

About the Seminar:

Reservations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the other Backward Castes in various realms are guaranteed by the Constitution of India. This provision has attracted the attention of several intermediary castes which began demanding their inclusion in one of the aforementioned categories. While Protective Discrimination as a policy is meant to undo the historical injustice meted out to the disadvantaged sections of the society, its utilization needs to be dissected to learn whether the targeted beneficiaries have received the fruits of the policy.

During the last two decades New elite seem to have evolved out of the backward classes and is providing leadership to the respective caste groups. Those who politically active among the urban elite Stated undertaking serious mobilization of their caste people in order to gain political advantage. They began to represent the voice and aspirations of backward classes of the society. These elite groups constitute a minority of their total caste group numbers, but they hold a lead among their respective communities. Given their advanced levels of knowledge as compared with their low class brethren, they grab most of the limited opportunities in the spheres of education and employment offered by the state.

Though the social distance between the Scheduled Castes and the rest of the society is shrinking in urban areas where class is taking precedence over caste. In villages however untouchability still prevails because the class of the so called untouchables remains unchanged despite numerous policies and schemes for their welfare. A few of them manage to raise their class and some of them migrate to other places to pursue their employment or business. But the masses in the villages are still chained by the traditional social system. Excepting moderate rise in life, any decisive move is resisted by the village. Often such bold initiatives attempted by them result in atrocities against them perpetrated by the members of the Dominant Caste groups of the village. So the oppression still continues. While Affirmative Action provides a solution for their inclusion in the mainstream society, it has not reached the most backward sections of the excluded groups. The effects of the lopsided reservation policy are manifold. Money continues to play a significant role in Indian electoral politics. Politicians try to hold sway over the masses with political parties wooing the voters on the eve of elections through their manifestos by promising welfare schemes and measures. In their race towards attaining power, the parties adopt a safer strategy irrespective of dispensing justice to the really disadvantaged groups.

Large scale privatization dwindles the prospect of employment to the people in the margins. While the limited quota of reservations is appropriated by the elite sections among the 'backward classes' the masses are left with no assured resources. Having acquired education in vernacular medium, their knowledge and skill are not compatible with the emerging employment opportunities in the private sector. The private sector is predominantly the domain of the elite and the masses have no space.

If John Rawls theory of Justice is applied to the present context of reservations, it must be examined whether the created inequalities are beneficial to the worst-off members of the

targeted sections. Evidently, most disadvantaged people still remain in the margins despite the constitutional safeguards they are entitled. Though the constitution guarantees them the safeguards, the rational approach is not adopted in distributing the benefits to the intended beneficiaries. Hence, the need of the hour is to dissect the reservation policy so as to evolve a rational framework to derive true benefits of the policy.

At the regional level several state governments have constituted BC/OBC Commissions and on their recommendations provided reservations to BC/OBC in education and employment. In some states sub-quota reservations have been extended to much more marginalized groups so as to ensure their fair representation and avoid competition within the broad category of a little more developed caste-groups. Later after prolonged delay the central government initiated steps to implement reservations in employment to OBCs. This has almost made the dominant castes furious and there was a virtual division of nation on caste -lines, supporting and opposing reservations.

Later as several issues like creamy layer, subcategorization, reservations in private sector, quota in extending financial incentives etc., become the major issues for confrontation between caste-groups and intellectual discourses and the situation in the context of LPG became much more complex, which needs greater debate.

Kaka Saheb Kalelkar Commission appointed in 1953 formulated certain rational eligibility criteria to qualify socially backward classes for reservation. Inter alia the criteria include social and educational backwardness and inadequate representation in government service, trade, industry, etc. While such effective prescriptions are not incorporated in the reservation policy, the static model is still in force. Such a model improves the lives of a minority of caste group the majority continue to reel under deprivation.