

A Study on Origins and Contemporary Impact of the Caste System in India

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Abstract: *The Varna System, commonly known as the caste system, finds its origins in the ancient Rig Veda and has been discussed in texts like the Purusha Sukta, Manusmriti, and the Mahabharata. This intricate social structure encompasses a range of factors, including race or ethnicity, economic status, religious beliefs, endogamy, hereditary occupations, social identity, hierarchy, exclusion, and power dynamics. This research is designed to delve into how individuals perceive the castes they are born into, uncover the root causes and consequences of the caste system, and suggest potential solutions. Various factors such as age, gender, educational background, and occupation are considered as independent variables, while participants' opinions about their castes, awareness of the prevalence of the caste system, historical challenges faced due to the caste system, and the identification of its causes and effects serve as dependent variables. This system has led to discrimination, inequality, and social injustice, with lower castes often facing economic and social disadvantages.*

Keywords: Caste system, Inequality, Social injustice, Discrimination, Lower castes