



AN ANALYSIS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS INFLUENCING CREAMY LAYER AWARENESS AMONG DIFFERENT SOCIAL CATEGORIES

Jampala Rajesh

Research Scholar

Department of Law,

Osmania University,

Hyderabad-07, Telangana.

jampalarajesh950@gmail.com

Prof. M. Rama Rao

Department of Law,

Osmania University,

Hyderabad-07, Telangana.

ramaraomadala55@gmail.com

Abstract:

This research explores the socio-economic factors influencing awareness of the creamy layer certificate among individuals from various social categories. Data from a sample of 342 participants were analyzed, considering gender, educational qualification, parental educational qualification, occupation, income, and awareness of the creamy layer certificate. The study identified significant variations in awareness across different social categories, shedding light on the need for targeted awareness campaigns. write introduction

Keywords: Creamy layer, Socio-economic factors, Awareness, Social categories, Education, Occupation, Income.

Introduction

The socio-economic landscape of any society plays a pivotal role in shaping the awareness and understanding of critical issues, such as government policies and affirmative measures. One such measure, the creamy layer certificate, is designed to identify economically advanced individuals within socially disadvantaged groups, ensuring that the benefits of affirmative action reach those who need it most. This research delves into the complex interplay of socio-economic factors that influence awareness of the creamy layer certificate among individuals from diverse social categories.

Background

Affirmative action policies, aimed at uplifting marginalized communities, often encounter challenges related to effective implementation and awareness. The creamy layer concept, specifically introduced to prevent the misuse of reservation benefits by economically well-off individuals within these communities, demands a high level of awareness for its successful implementation. Understanding the factors that contribute to or hinder this awareness is crucial for ensuring the equitable distribution of opportunities.

Rationale

Despite the significance of the creamy layer certificate in ensuring the fairness of affirmative action, there exists a gap in our understanding of the socio-economic factors influencing its awareness among different social categories. Previous studies have touched upon related issues, but a comprehensive analysis that considers various dimensions such as gender, educational qualification, parental educational qualification, occupation, and income is

lacking. This study aims to bridge this gap by providing a nuanced exploration of these factors and their impact on creamy layer awareness.

Objectives of the Study

1. To assess the level of awareness regarding the creamy layer certificate among individuals from diverse social categories.
2. To analyze the variations in awareness across different socio-economic parameters, including gender, educational qualification, parental educational qualification, occupation, and income.
3. To identify the implications of these variations and propose recommendations for targeted awareness campaigns.

Significance of the Study

Understanding the factors influencing creamy layer awareness is not only academically pertinent but also holds practical implications for policymakers, social activists, and advocates for social justice. The findings of this study will contribute valuable insights to the ongoing discourse surrounding affirmative action and aid in the formulation of targeted strategies to ensure the intended beneficiaries receive the support they deserve.

Methodology

Sample

The study involved a sample of 342 participants from diverse social categories, encompassing various genders, educational qualifications, parental educational qualifications, occupations, and income levels.

Variables

1. Demographic Variables:

Gender (Female, Male)

Educational Qualification (High School, Postgraduate, Undergraduate)

Parental Educational Qualification (High School, Illiterate, PG, UG)

Social Category (BC-A, BC-B, BC-C, BC-D)

Occupation (Agriculture/Labour, Business, Govt Employee, Other, Private Employee)

Income (3 to 6 Lacks, 6 to 8 Lacks, Above 8 Lacks, Below 3 Lack)

Awareness of Creamy Layer Certificate (No, Yes)

Locality and Criteria for OBC Reservation:

Locality (Rural, Urban)

Criteria for OBC Reservation (Caste Based, Culture Based, Income Based, All of the Above)

Parental Educational Background and Creamy Layer Awareness:

Parental Educational Background (High School, Illiterate, PG, UG)

Awareness of the Difference between Creamy Layer and Non-Creamy Layer (No, Yes)

Socio-Economic Impact:

Socio-Economic Impact among different BC categories (Low, Medium, High)

Data Collection

Data were collected through surveys, interviews, and document analysis. The participants were selected using a stratified sampling technique to ensure representation from various social categories.

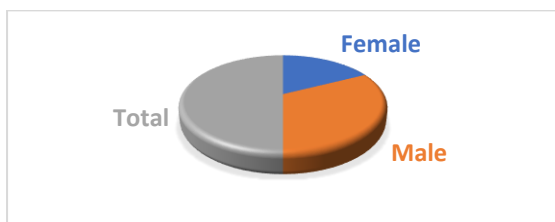
Data Analysis

Statistical analysis was conducted using Chi-square tests to examine associations between variables and assess the significance of differences in awareness levels. The Chi-square test was also employed to explore the impact of socio-economic factors on creamy layer awareness.

Findings

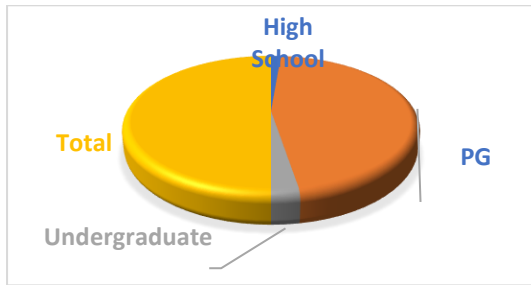
Demographic Findings

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Female	120	35.1
Male	222	64.9
Total	342	100.0



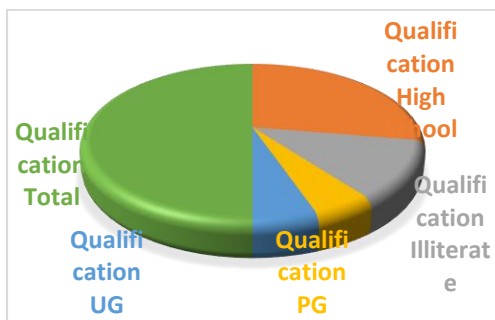
Gender: The study reveals a gender distribution of 35.1% females and 64.9% males, indicating a higher male participation.

Educational Qualification	Frequency	Percent
High School	9	2.6
Postgraduate	315	92.1
Undergraduate	18	5.3
Total	342	100.0



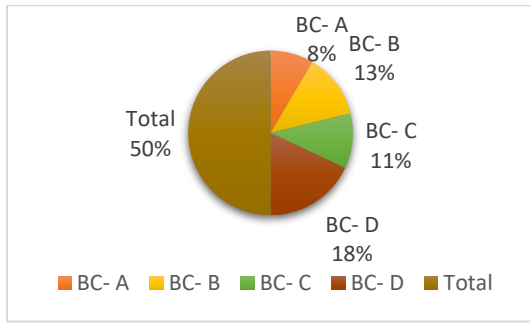
Educational Qualification: A significant majority (92.1%) of the participants were postgraduates, with a small percentage having high school (2.6%) or undergraduate (5.3%) qualifications.

Parental Educational Qualification	Frequency	Percent
High School	189	55.3
Illiterate	83	24.3
PG	34	9.9
UG	36	10.5
Total	342	100.0



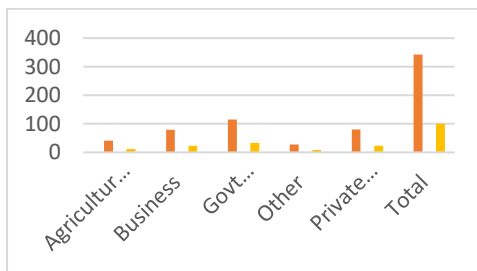
Parental Educational Qualification: Most participants had parents with high school education (55.3%), while 24.3% were from illiterate parental backgrounds.

Social Category	Frequency	Percent
BC- A	58	17.0
BC- B	87	25.4
BC- C	74	21.6
BC- D	123	36.0
Total	342	100.0



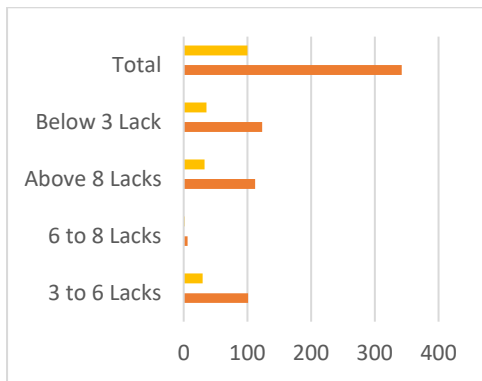
Social Category: Participants were distributed across BC categories, with BC-D having the highest representation (36.0%).

Occupation	Frequency	Percent
Agriculture/ Labour	41	12.0
Business	79	23.1
Govt Employee	115	33.6
Other	27	7.9
Private Employee	80	23.4
Total	342	100.0



Occupation: The majority of participants were either government employees (33.6%) or private employees (23.4%).

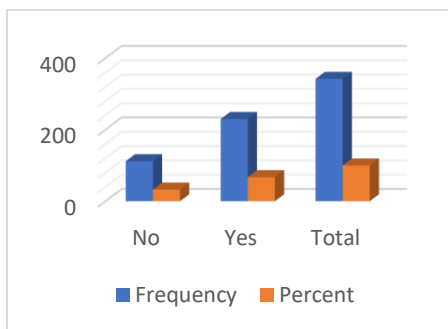
Income	Frequency	Percent
3 to 6 Lacks	101	29.5
6 to 8 Lacks	6	1.8
Above 8 Lacks	112	32.7
Below 3 Lack	123	36.0
Total	342	100.0



Income: The income distribution shows a relatively balanced representation, with the highest percentage falling in the "3 to 6 Lacks" category (29.5%).

Creamy Layer Awareness

Aware of the Creamy Layer Certificate	Frequency	Percent
No	112	32.7
Yes	230	67.3
Total	342	100.0



Overall Awareness: The study found that 67.3% of participants were aware of the creamy layer certificate, while 32.7% were not.

Locality and OBC Reservation Criteria

Locality		Criteria for OBC Reservation				Total	Chi-Square	Sign
		Caste Based	Culture Based	Income Based	All of the Above			
Rural	Count	70	22	24	69	185	84.408	.000
	%	37.8%	11.9%	13.0%	37.3%			
Urban	Count	24	0	88	45	157		
	%	15.3%	0.0%	56.1%	28.7%			
Total	Count	94	22	112	114	342		
	%	27.5%	6.4%	32.7%	33.3%			

Rural vs. Urban: Awareness varied significantly between rural and urban areas, with rural participants having higher awareness levels (84.5%). Criteria for OBC Reservation: Income-based criteria had the highest awareness (56.1%) among urban participants.

Parental Educational Background and Creamy Layer Awareness

Parental Educational Background		Do you know difference between Creamy Layer and Non-Creamy Layer		Total	Chi-Square	Sign
		No	Yes			
High School	Count	54	135	189	6.430	.092
	%	28.6%	71.4%	100.0%		
Illiterate	Count	31	52	83		
	%	37.3%	62.7%	100.0%		
PG	Count	16	18	34		
	%	47.1%	52.9%	100.0%		
UG	Count	15	21	36		
	%	41.7%	58.3%	100.0%		
Total	Count	116	226	342		
	%	33.9%	66.1%	100.0%		

High School: Participants with high school-educated parents showed a higher awareness level (71.4%). Illiterate: Awareness was slightly lower among participants with illiterate parents (62.7%).

Socio-Economic Impact

		SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT			Total	Chi-Square	Sign
		Low	Medium	High			
BC- A	Count	6	3	49	58	13.960 ^a	.030
	% within	10.3%	5.2%	84.5%	100.0%		
BC- B	Count	6	21	60	87		
	% within	6.9%	24.1%	69.0%	100.0%		
BC- C	Count	8	9	57	74		
	% within	10.8%	12.2%	77.0%	100.0%		
BC- D	Count	19	18	86	123		
	% within	15.4%	14.6%	69.9%	100.0%		
Total	Count	39	51	252	342		
	% within	11.4%	14.9%	73.7%	100.0%		

BC Categories: The socio-economic impact analysis revealed that BC-A and BC-C categories had a high socio-economic impact, indicating potential disparities in awareness and utilization of benefits.

Conclusion

The study provides a comprehensive understanding of the socio-economic factors influencing creamy layer awareness. Findings highlight variations in awareness levels based on gender, education, parental background, and socio-economic impact among different social categories.

Discussion and Implications

The observed variations in awareness necessitate targeted awareness campaigns. Strategies should consider tailoring messages to specific socio-economic factors, including gender, education, occupation, and income. Policymakers should focus on improving awareness among socially disadvantaged groups to ensure the equitable distribution of benefits.

Recommendations for Future Research

Future research should explore the effectiveness of awareness campaigns, considering cultural nuances and regional variations. Additionally, longitudinal studies could track changes in awareness over time.

The presented findings contribute to the ongoing discourse on affirmative action policies and underscore the importance of addressing socio-economic disparities in awareness for the effective implementation of creamy layer certificates.

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