



A CRITICAL STUDY OF DRAVIDIAN MOVEMENT POLITICS IN TAMIL NADU AND ITS IMPACT ON RESERVATION

AUTHOR – GOVARDHAN S, STUDENT AT SAVEETHA SCHOOL OF LAW, SAVEETHA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL AND TECHNICAL SCIENCES (SIMATS) CHENNAI. EMAIL ID: SENTHILGOVARDHAN@GMAIL.COM

BEST CITATION – GOVARDHAN S, A CRITICAL STUDY OF DRAVIDIAN MOVEMENT POLITICS IN TAMIL NADU AND ITS IMPACT ON RESERVATION, ILE MULTIDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL, 4 (1) OF 2025, PG. 911-933, APIS – 3920-0007 | ISSN – 2583-7230.

ABSTRACT

This research paper critically examines the Dravidian movement politics in Tamil Nadu and its profound impact on the state's reservation policies. Rooted in anti-Brahmin and anti-caste ideologies, the Dravidian movement, led by figures like E.V. Ramasamy (Periyar), has significantly shaped Tamil Nadu's socio-political landscape by advocating for social justice, rationalism, and self-respect. The movement's influence is notably reflected in the state's reservation policies, which exceed the 50% ceiling set by the Supreme Court of India. This study explores the evolution of these policies from their inception with the 1921 Communal Government Order, which instituted caste-based reservations in education and government jobs, to their contemporary manifestations. The research employs an empirical method, using data collected from a sample of 200 respondents through a questionnaire. Key variables include gender, age, educational qualifications, occupation, and locality, with dependent variables focusing on awareness of the Dravidian movement, perceptions of its influence, and support for reservation policies. Findings indicate widespread awareness and support for reservations, highlighting their role in promoting social equity and addressing historical injustices. However, the study also underscores the need for a nuanced approach that balances social equity with merit to maximize the potential of all students. This paper provides valuable insights into how regional political ideologies can shape affirmative action, emphasizing the ongoing relevance of the Dravidian movement's principles in contemporary debates on social justice and educational access in Tamil Nadu.

Keywords: Dravidian, Politics, Reservation, Discrimination, Casteism

INTRODUCTION

The Dravidian movement, which emerged in the early 20th century, has played a transformative role in the socio-political landscape of Tamil Nadu. Rooted in the anti-Brahmin and anti-caste ideologies, the movement sought to challenge the hegemony of the Brahmin community and advocate for the rights and upliftment of non-Brahmin communities.

Pioneered by leaders like E.V. Ramasamy, popularly known as Periyar, the movement was instrumental in promoting social justice, rationalism, and self-respect among the Dravidian people. This paper delves into the intricate dynamics of Dravidian movement politics and its profound impact on the

reservation policies in Tamil Nadu. Reservation, as a tool of affirmative action, has been a contentious yet pivotal aspect of Indian social policy, aimed at addressing historical injustices and providing equitable opportunities to marginalized communities.

In Tamil Nadu, the Dravidian parties have been at the forefront of advocating for extensive reservation policies, significantly influencing the state's socio-economic framework. The state's reservation policy, which exceeds the 50% ceiling set by the Supreme Court of India, reflects the deep-rooted influence of Dravidian ideology.

This paper critically examines the evolution of reservation policies in Tamil Nadu, tracing their



origins to the Dravidian movement, and evaluates their socio-political impact over the decades. By exploring the intersection of Dravidian movement politics and reservation policies, this study aims to provide a nuanced understanding of how regional political ideologies can shape and redefine affirmative action in a diverse and complex society like India.

Through a comprehensive analysis of historical documents, legislative measures, and socio-political discourse, this paper seeks to highlight the unique trajectory of Tamil Nadu in the broader context of Indian politics and social justice. The reservation policies in Tamil Nadu have been a direct manifestation of the Dravidian movement's core principles, which emphasize social equity and the dismantling of caste hierarchies.

Periyar's relentless campaign against Brahminical dominance laid the groundwork for the systemic changes that followed. His ideology inspired subsequent Dravidian leaders like C.N. Annadurai and M. Karunanidhi, who played crucial roles in institutionalizing these policies. The Dravidian movement's approach to reservation was not merely a political strategy but a profound socio-economic reform aimed at creating a more just and egalitarian society.

One of the critical milestones in the evolution of reservation policies in Tamil Nadu was the introduction of the Communal G.O. (Government Order) in 1921, which provided for caste-based reservations in educational institutions and government jobs. This was a revolutionary step at the time, setting a precedent for affirmative action across India. In the case of *Senbagalakshmi v. Union of India* caused the Constitutional Amendment for Reservation which was a product of the Dravidian Movement.

The Dravidian movement's emphasis on education as a tool for empowerment was evident in this policy, which sought to provide opportunities for the marginalized sections to rise socially and economically. The Dravidian movement's influence on Tamil Nadu's

reservation policies underscores the importance of regional political ideologies in shaping national discourse on social justice.

The movement's emphasis on rationalism, self-respect, and social equity has left an indelible mark on the state's policies, making Tamil Nadu a unique case study in the implementation of affirmative action. This paper, by analyzing the historical and socio-political context of the Dravidian movement and its impact on reservation policies, provides valuable insights into the transformative power of regional political movements in addressing deep-seated social inequalities.

This study highlights the unique trajectory of Tamil Nadu's reservation policies, illustrating the profound influence of Dravidian ideology on the state's approach to social justice. Through this analysis, we gain a deeper understanding of how regional political movements can drive meaningful socio-economic change in a diverse and complex society like India.

OBJECTIVES

- To determine the awareness on the Dravidian Movement.
- To analyze if Dravidian movement's influence has been positive or negative for Tamil Nadu's development.
- To Support the reservation of seats in institutions based on social categories (e.g., caste, race, gender).
- To find out the Benefits of reservation policies in institutions
- To examine if Reservation system in Tamil Nadu has achieved its objectives of social justice and uplifting disadvantaged communities.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Robert L. Hardgrave (2022) On the eve of Independence, E. V. Ramaswami Naicker, leader of the newly formed Dravida Kazhagam in Madras, called upon the Dravidian peoples of South India "to guard against a transfer of power from the British to the Aryans."1 Fearing Brahmin dominance under Aryan "imperialism," Naicker called for the formation of a separate South Indian State, Dravidasthan, enjoining his



followers to sign a pledge of support for complete separation from the Indian Union.

Maurice Duverger(1951) A minority may, on the other hand, be represented by a political party of its own creation. Such a party may, as pointed out by Duverger, assume the role of an arbiter and acquire considerable influence, either electorally or in parliament. Holding the crucial balance, the party may be able to shift its position in such a way as to make or break governments. Duverger indicates, however, that “if a party is clearly in a minority in the country as a whole but in a majority in certain districts its attitude becomes autonomist or even secessionist, which may imperil the unity of the country

Sree Govind Bharatvaraj (2023) During the 1990s, the VCK emerged as a radical Dalit movement under Thirumavalavan, mobilizing lower castes in Tamil Nadu as Dravidian parties like DMK and AIADMK shifted focus from caste issues to Tamil nationalism. The VCK initially promoted anti-caste Tamil nationalism and liberative Tamil Buddhism but later diverted attention to Tamil Eelam politics. Pa. Ranjith's film Madras explores these political shifts, criticizing both Dravidian parties' linguistic nationalism and VCK's drift from anti-caste advocacy, portraying a nuanced Dalit perspective on Tamil politics.

R. Kumaravel (2022) Muthuramalinga Thevar, revered as a deity among Tamil Nadu's Mukkulathor community, holds a significant place alongside Periyar, Anna, and Karunanidhi. M.K. Karunanidhi leveraged Tamil literary heritage within political discourse, institutionalizing it through state power, shaping the Tamil public sphere in the 20th century. Despite their socio-economic influence, Thevars faced limited access to education and jobs, and struggled with the stigma of being listed under the British Criminal Tribes Act. This study provides an overview of Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar's political journey with Dravidian parties, highlighting his enduring legacy and challenges.

Lucian Pye (1962) Political behaviour is largely determined by the social stains of the individual and his personal Uies. This condition, according to Lucian Pye, “places severe limits on the effectiveness of any who come from the outside to perform a political role, be it that of an administrative agent of the national government or of a representative of a national party. Indeed, the success of such agents generally depends more on the manner in which they relate themselves to the social structure of the community than on the substance of their political views. Thus, the fundamental framework of non-Western politics is a communal one, and all political behaviour is strongly colored by considerations of communal identification.

Amy-Ruth Holt(2016) This article explores the near-divine persona of former DMK chief minister M. Karunanidhi, shaped by political monuments and image debates with AIADMK chief minister J. Jayalalitha. In Tamil Nadu, political leaders attain a sacred identity through reinterpretation of cultural heritage, propagated via Hindu imagery in film, television, and campaign posters, and through expansive political monuments. Karunanidhi and Jayalalitha's rivalry, spanning nearly three decades, has seen their images take on god-like proportions, with frequent creation and destruction of monuments in Chennai. This study uses a socioreligious methodology to explain the unique, near-divine treatment and nationalistic appeal of these artworks.

S. Narayan(2021) Narayan's book The Dravidian Years offers an insider's perspective on Tamil Nadu's political economy during its most transformative period, through the lens of a former public administrator with three decades in the Indian bureaucracy. The book chronicles the state's evolution from a deeply casteist British province to one driven by a radical social justice agenda. Over time, this agenda evolved into a diluted hybrid, combining capitalistic economic development with a deep-rooted ethos of populist social welfare, highlighting the



complex dynamics of Tamil Nadu's socio-political landscape.

D. Nault (2012) The widespread usage of English in India today can be attributed to both colonial and contemporary globalization influences, as well as local initiatives and policy decisions. A critical factor was the resistance from the Dravidian-speaking South to New Delhi's post-independence plans to make Hindi the sole official language, which helped maintain English in education and government. This linguistic and ethnic discord laid the groundwork for the spread of English, facilitating its role in reservation policies that promote social equity and inclusivity in Tamil Nadu and beyond. This highlights the complex interplay between language policy and social justice in India's educational landscape.

Venugopal S (2022) Iyothee Thass was South India's first anti-caste militant, social worker, Tamil scholar, and psychiatrist, and a pioneer in the Dravidian movement. He worked extensively in politics, religion, and literature to uplift oppressed communities, advocating for the conversion of Pariyars to Buddhism, their original religion. Proficient in Tamil, Sanskrit, Pali, and English, Thass coined the term 'Dravidian' as a political term and was a key proponent of Dravidian and Tamil identities. He laid the groundwork for later figures like Periyar and Ambedkar, promoting rational reservation, social change, caste eradication, and anti-Hinduism policies, making significant strides in social reform and justice. ,

Vishal Vasanthakumar(2022) Dravidian parties assert that economic changes alone cannot lead to social justice if upper castes retain social capital. They emphasize that economic justice must be preceded by social justice, a view championed by Dravidian movement leaders like Periyar E.V. Ramasamy, C.N. Annadurai, and M. Karunanidhi. Periyar, as a key aggregator and disseminator of earlier social justice ideas, made significant contributions to the Dravidian political ethos. The Dravidian party governments' focus on affirmative action, administrative reform, and legislation reflects

this ethos. Comparing Tamil Nadu's development indicators with other states reveals the profound impact of Periyarist thinking, which targets caste inequalities as the root of class inequalities.

B. Guru(2015) The benefit of reservation in various posts and services under the Central or State Government has yet to be derived uniformly by all the SC/ST communities. Articles 330, 332, and 334 provide for seats for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies for a period of ten years after the commencement of the Constitution of India.

Snehalata Panda(2001) Reservation of seats in the union and state legislatures is, therefore, mooted to facilitate entry of women to high-level decision-making institutions but the debate on the proposed bill has stalled its passage indicating the lack of will to restructure democratic representation by including women.

S. Kumar (2017) In this paper, we look at the mediation of public policies in different areas of governance. Editorials appearing in an Indian English language newspaper during the period of an intense public debate on the issue of affirmative action in favor of a section of the population, the Other Backward Classes (OBC) – a popular reference to the socially and educationally backward classes of citizens under India's constitution constitute the sample for the study.

Sangeetha M. Thomas(2023) The Government of Karnataka had, in October 2022, promulgated an ordinance to increase the reservation limit of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to 17 percent and 7 percent respectively. The ordinance was promulgated in furtherance of the recommendations made by the Justice HN Nagamohandas Commission which is also supported by the Justice Subhash Adi Committee report.

Shamsher Alam(2023) This article attempts to understand and analyze the nature of the state's affirmative action policy to include Muslims in higher education in India. In analysing so, it tries to shed light on the



Scheduled Castes' status for Arzal or Dalit Muslims to ensure their representation in higher education. It also strives to map the reservation policy for the backward Muslims and argues that various castes among Muslims are not included in the OBC list.

Md. Eftekhar Alam(2023) The inspiration for this project is to limit and curtail the difficulties and issues related to the Bus transport framework in any organization i.e schools, colleges, and universities. There is no denying the fact that the Transport Division of these organizations faces challenges in certain issues day to day related to transport, and our commitment is to limit the issues identified with it.

B. Kaur(2019) The women constitute half of the society. The feudal attitudes of looking down upon the abilities of women and not promoting them, is still continuing in different degrees at various levels of our society. While women have made many advances, their inferior status to men continues to be a global phenomenon. At a time of unprecedented economic growth, India is experiencing a dramatic intensification of violence against women and the majority of girls are still not getting equal educational opportunity.

Vidhan Sabha(2019) The major responsibilities of the Panchayat are to administer local infrastructure (public buildings, water, roads) and identify targeted welfare recipients. In a landmark move, 34% of all seats under Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) were to be reserved for women under the 73rd amendment. The policy promised to radically change Indian political dynamics, in a time when less than 7.6% of Lok Sabha members and 3.8% of candidates in the general elections identified as female.

S. Parween(2014) Indian government has made various attempts at Gender Quota reforms.

Quota for women in representative institution has long been debated in India. They first appeared in 1935 as part of the government of India Act, disappeared in 1950 as per the provision of the new constitution, and resurfaced again in 1988 as part of the government of national perspective plan on women. Finally it appeared in the form of 81 amendment bill commonly known as WRB in parliament on 1996.

Sanjeev.C. Shirpurkar(2020) According to the report of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, 50% of seats were reserved for women in panchayats in 20 states like Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand, and West-Bengal".

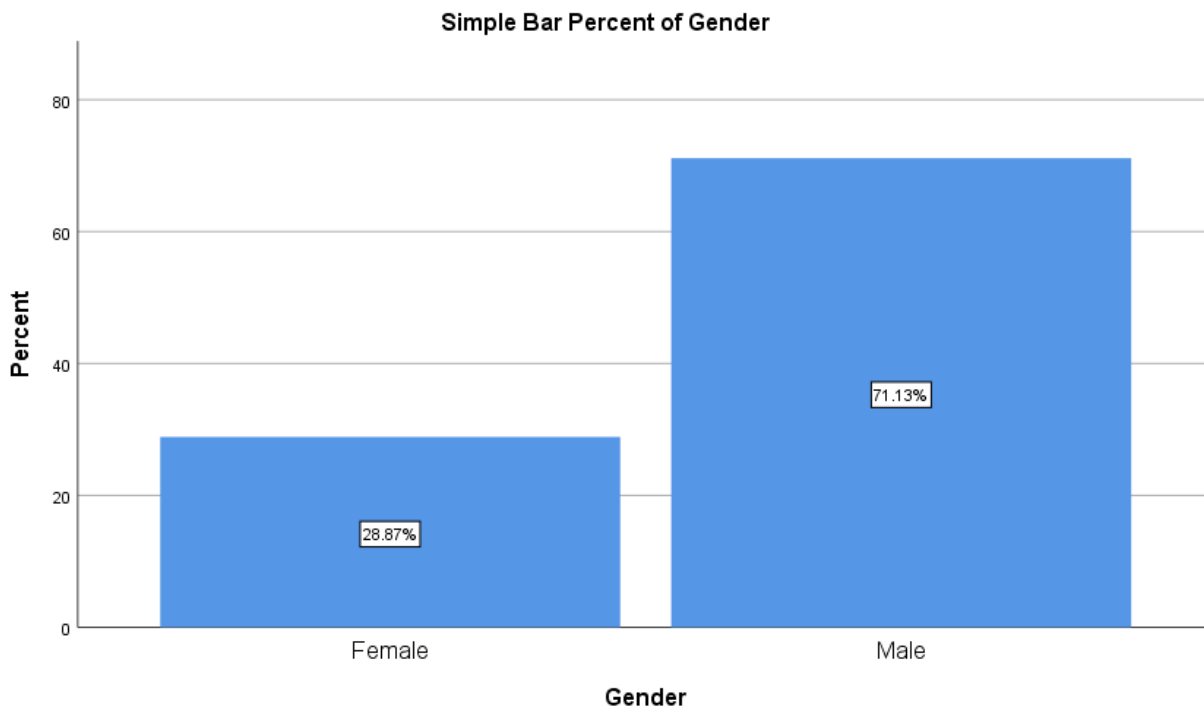
METHODOLOGY

The research method followed is empirical research. The data is collected through a questionnaire and the sample size is 200. The Convenient Sampling method is adopted in the study to collect the data. The independent variables are gender, age, and education qualification, Occupation and Locality of respondents. The dependent variables are Awareness on the Dravidian Movement, Dravidian movement's influence has been positive or negative for Tamil Nadu's development, Support the reservation of seats in institutions based on social categories (e.g., caste, race, gender), Benefits of reservation policies in institutions, Reservation of seats in institutions is an essential measure to promote social equity and inclusivity in our society, Reservation system in Tamil Nadu has achieved its objectives of social justice and uplifting disadvantaged communities.



ANALYSIS

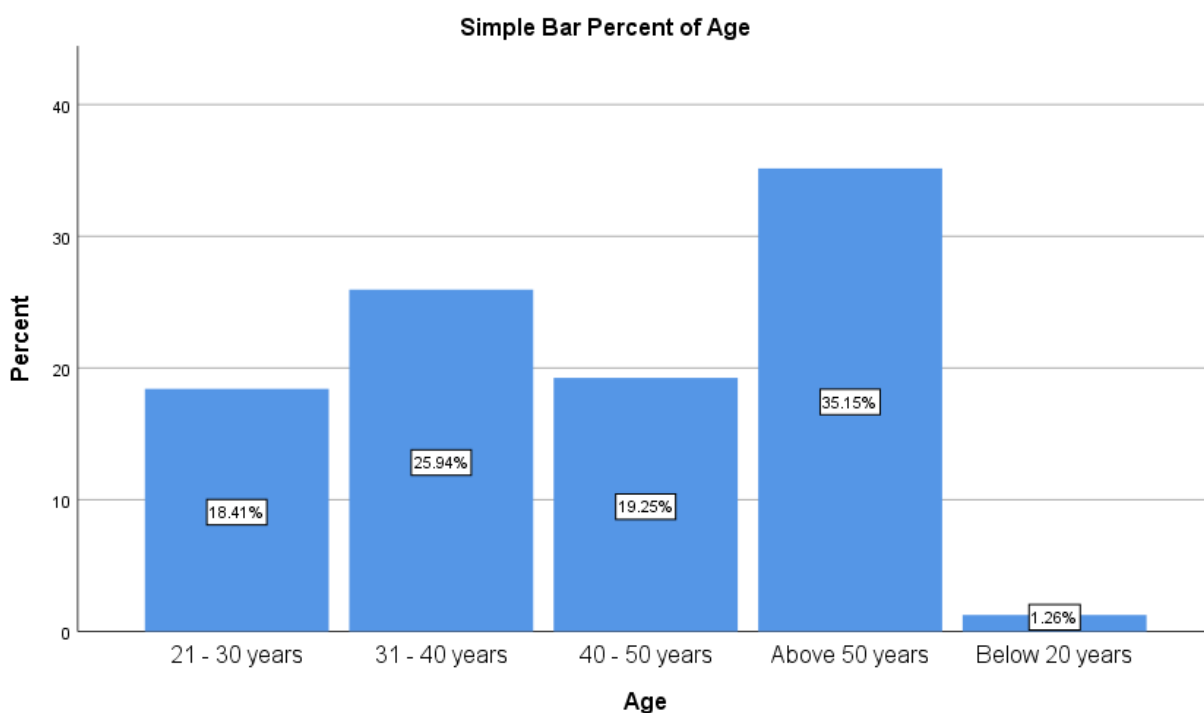
FIGURE 1



LEGEND

Figure 1 shows the respondents according to their gender out of which 71.13% are Male and 28.87% are Female

FIGURE 2

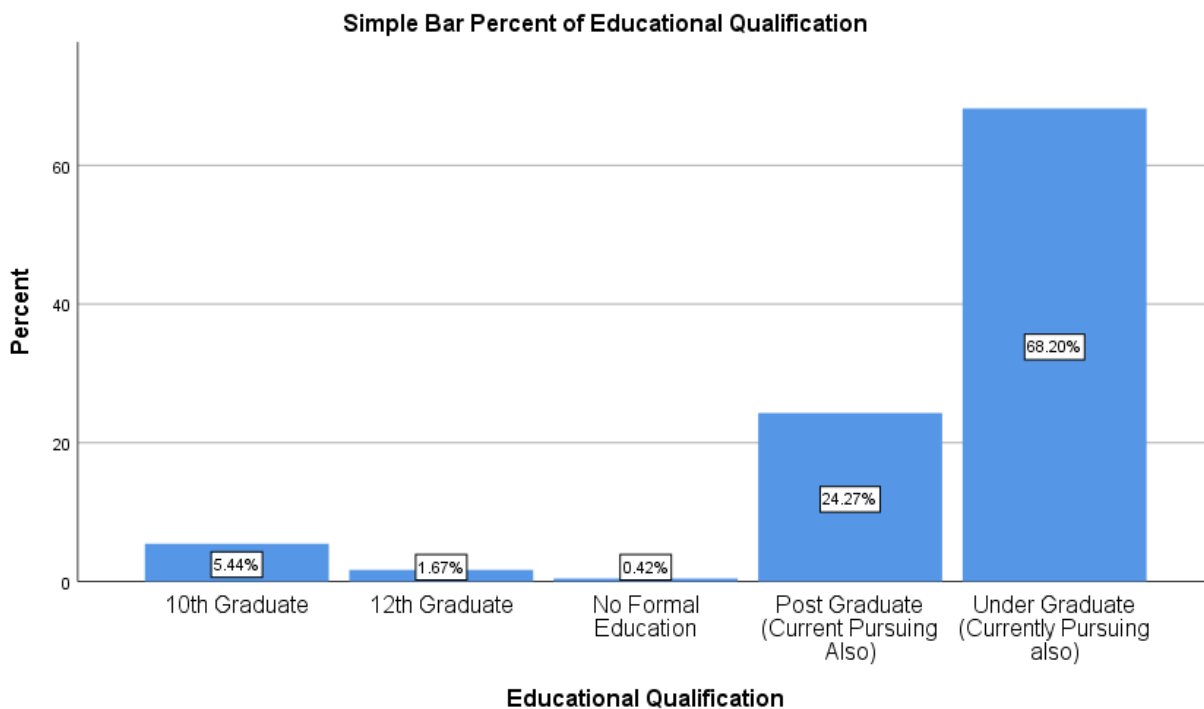


LEGEND

Figure 2 shows the respondents according to their Age, of which 1.26% are Below 20 years, 18.41% are 21-30 years, 25.94% are 31-40 years, 19.25% are 40-50 years, 4.66% are Above 50 years.



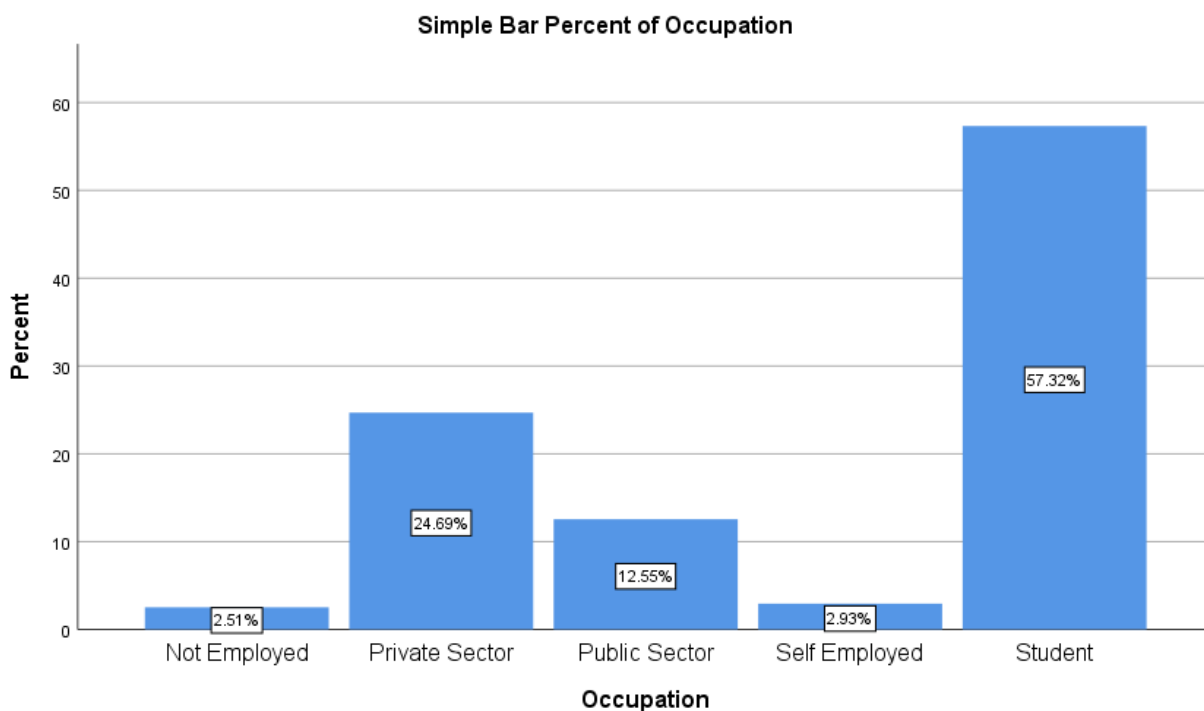
FIGURE 3



LEGEND

Figure 3 shows the respondents according to their Educational Qualification, of which 5.44% are 10th Graduates, 1.67% are 12th Graduates, 68.20% are UG Graduates, 24.27% are PG Graduates.

FIGURE 4

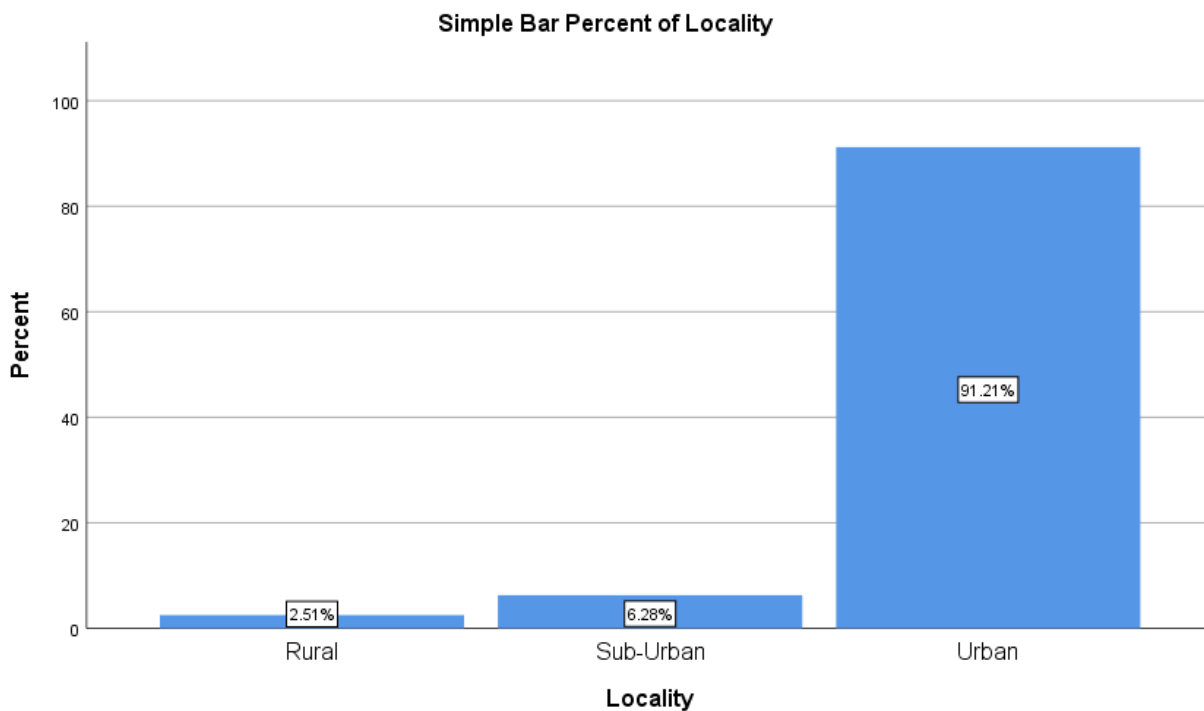


LEGEND

Figure 4 shows the respondents according to their Occupation out of which 57.32% are Students, 12.55% are from Public Sector, 24.69% are from Private Sector, 2.93% are Self Employed.



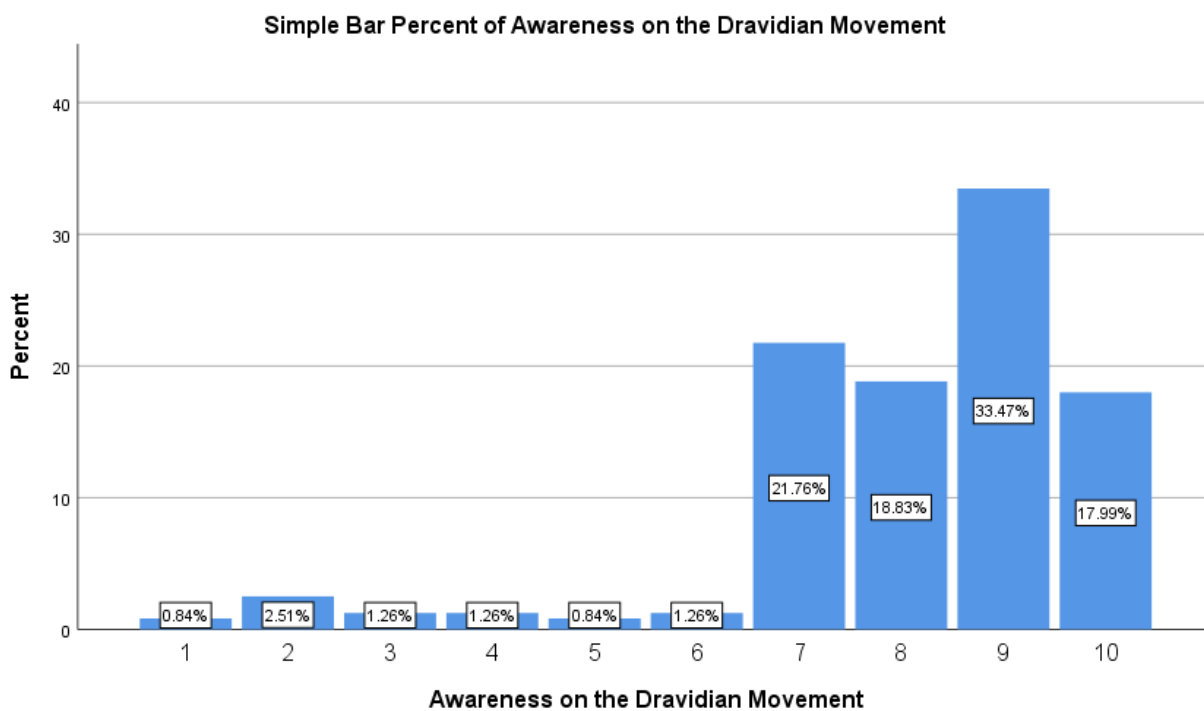
FIGURE 5



LEGEND

Figure 5 shows the respondents according to their Locality out of which 91.21% are Urban residents and 6.28% are Suburban residents, 2.51% are Rural Residents.

FIGURE 6



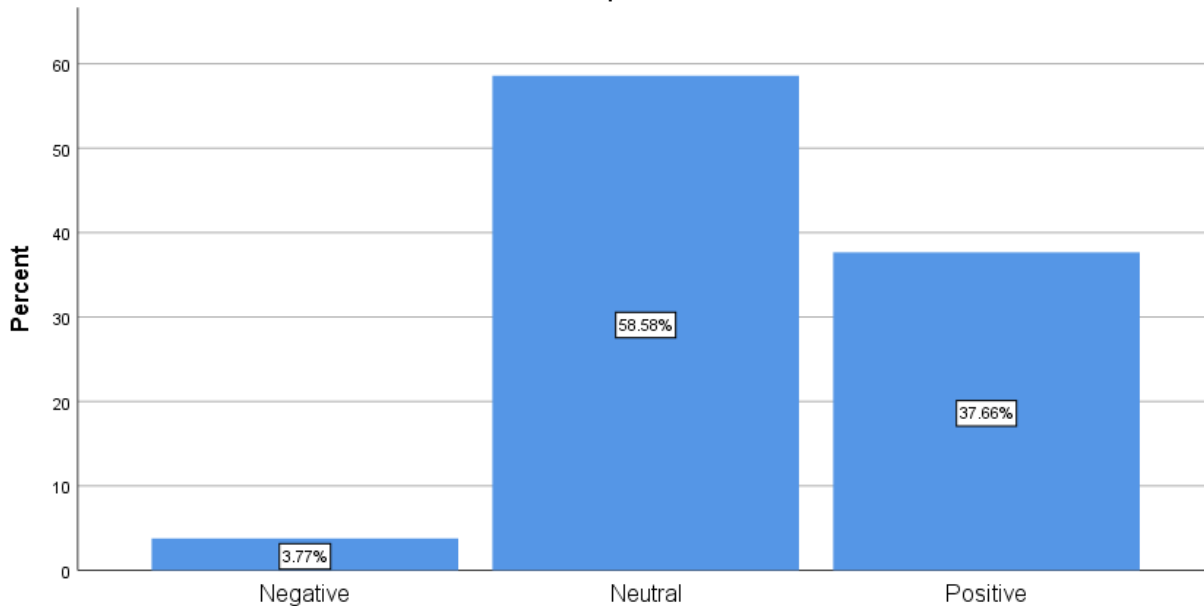
LEGEND

Figure 6 represents the Awareness of the Dravidian Movement by the respondents.



FIGURE 7

Simple Bar Percent of Dravidian movement's influence has been positive or negative for Tamil Nadu's development



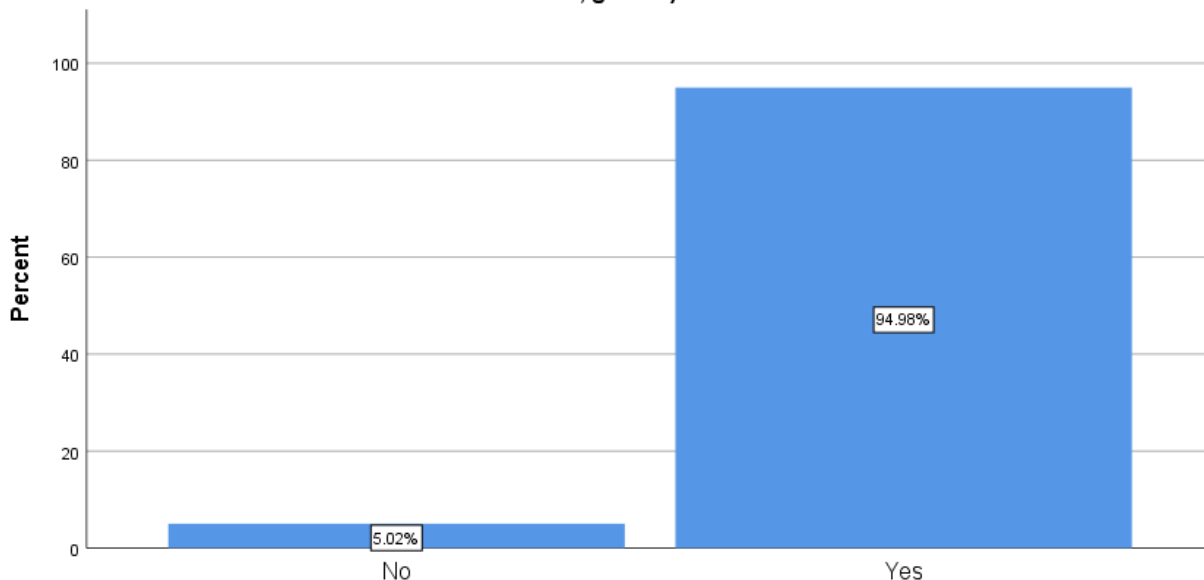
Dravidian movement's influence has been positive or negative for Tamil Nadu's development

LEGEND

Figure 7 represents the opinion of respondents if Dravidian movement's influence has been positive or negative for Tamil Nadu's development.

FIGURE 8

Simple Bar Percent of Support the reservation of seats in institutions based on social categories (e.g., caste, race, gender)



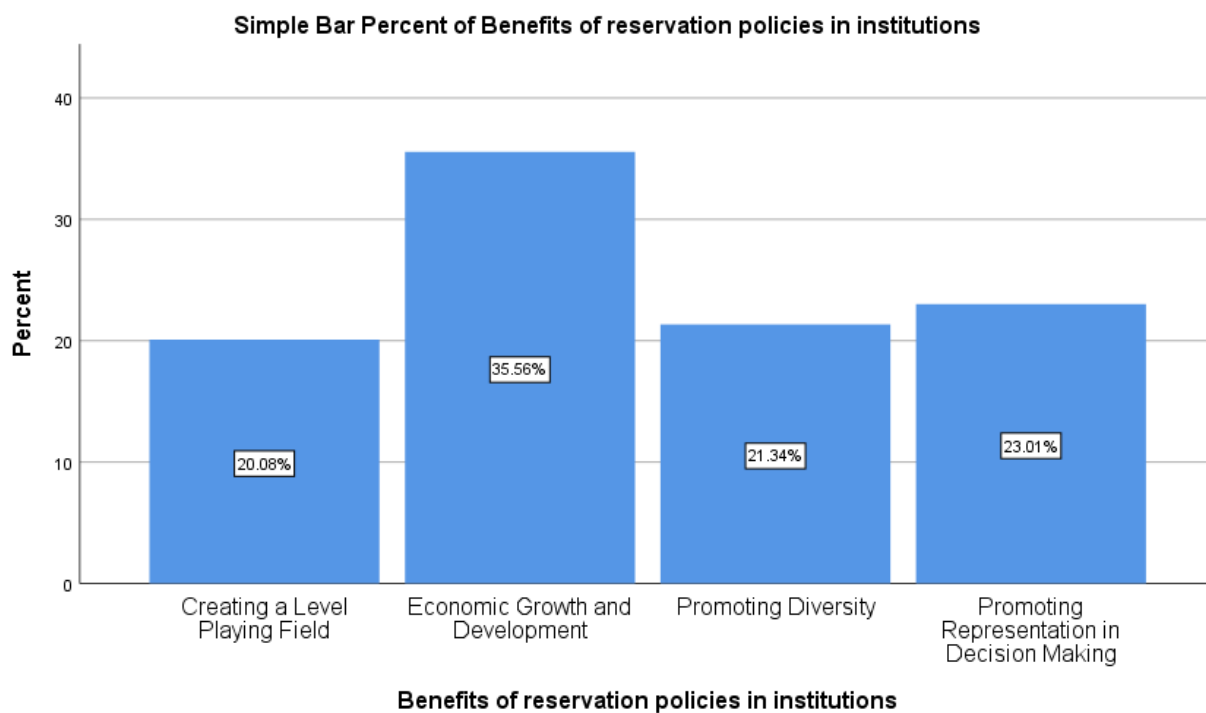
Support the reservation of seats in institutions based on social categories (e.g., caste, race, gender)

LEGEND

Figure 8 represents if people Support the reservation of seats in institutions based on social categories (e.g., caste, race, gender)



FIGURE 9

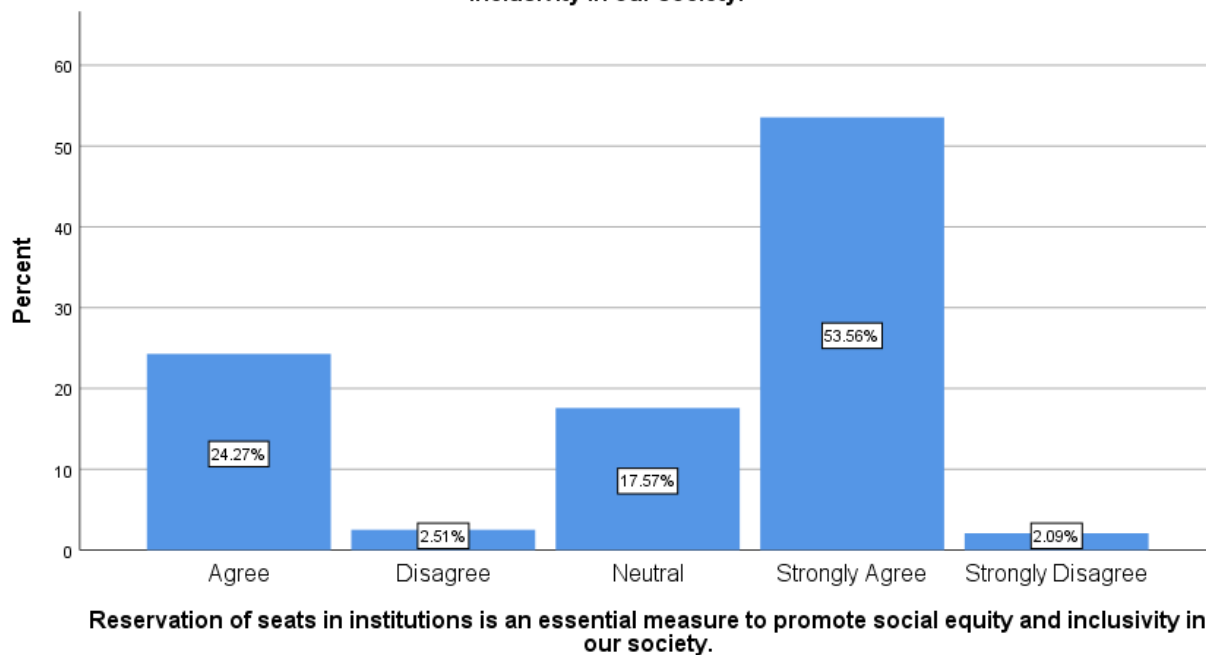


LEGEND

Figure 9 represents the Benefits of reservation policies in institutions according to the respondents.

FIGURE 10

Simple Bar Percent of Reservation of seats in institutions is an essential measure to promote social equity and inclusivity in our society.



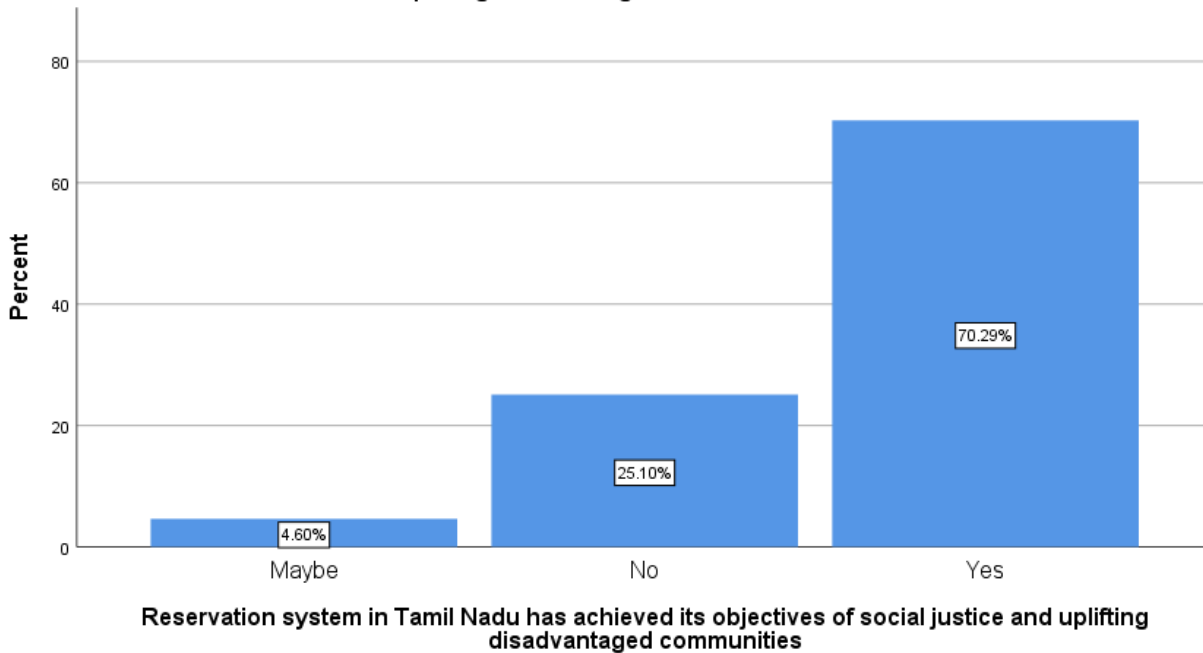
LEGEND

Figure 10 represents if respondents agree that the Reservation of seats in institutions is an essential measure to promote social equity and inclusivity in our society.



FIGURE 11

Simple Bar Percent of Reservation system in Tamil Nadu has achieved its objectives of social justice and uplifting disadvantaged communities

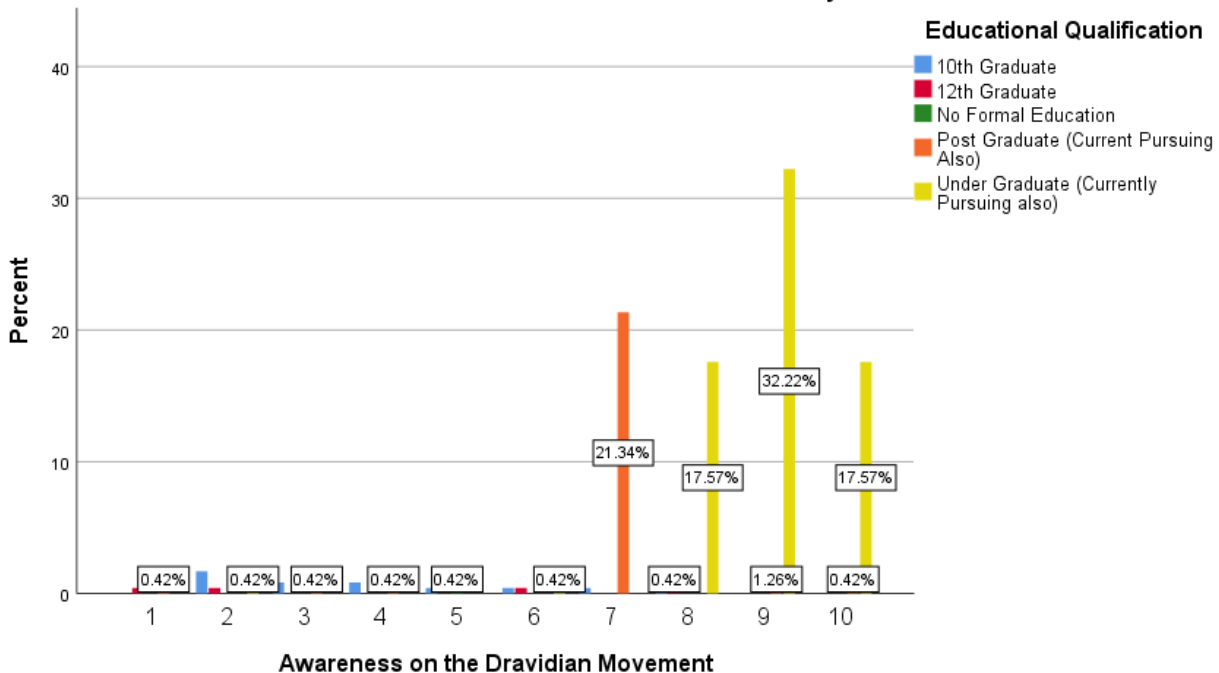


LEGEND

Figure 11 represents if Reservation system in Tamil Nadu has achieved its objectives of social justice and uplifting disadvantaged communities

FIGURE 12

Clustered Bar Percent of Awareness on the Dravidian Movement by Educational Qualification



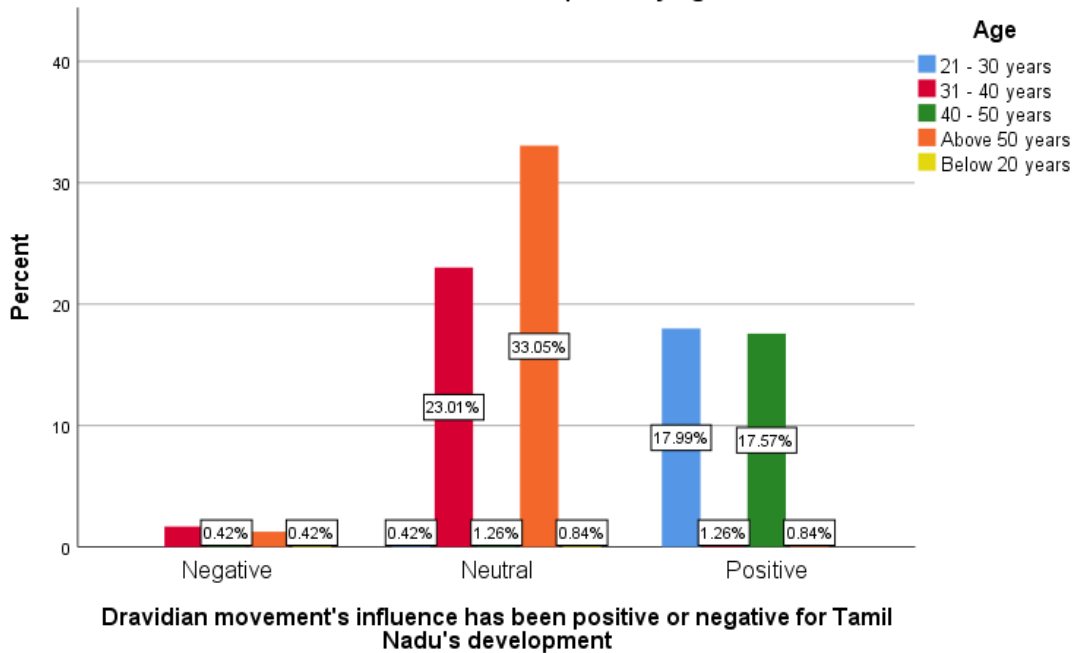
LEGEND

Figure 12 represents the Awareness of the Dravidian Movement by the respondents according to their Educational Qualifications.



FIGURE 13

Clustered Bar Percent of Dravidian movement's influence has been positive or negative for Tamil Nadu's development by Age

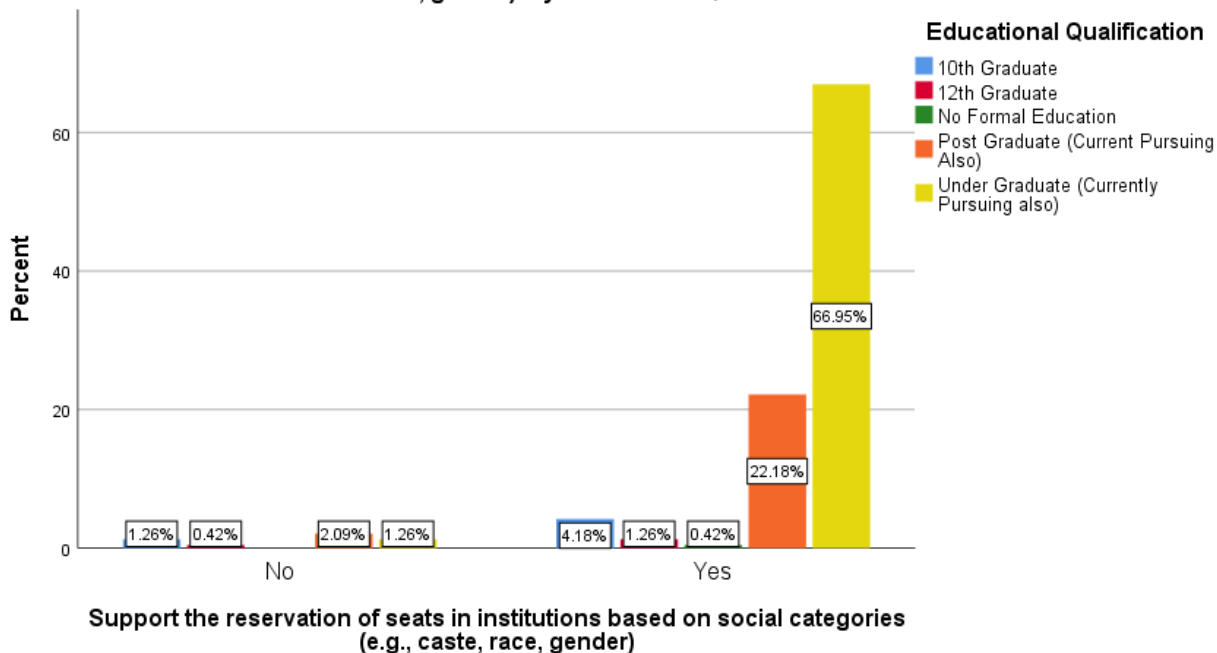


LEGEND

Figure 13 represents the opinion of respondents if Dravidian movement's influence has been positive or negative for Tamil Nadu's development according to their Age.

FIGURE 14

Clustered Bar Percent of Support the reservation of seats in institutions based on social categories (e.g., caste, race, gender) by Educational Qualification

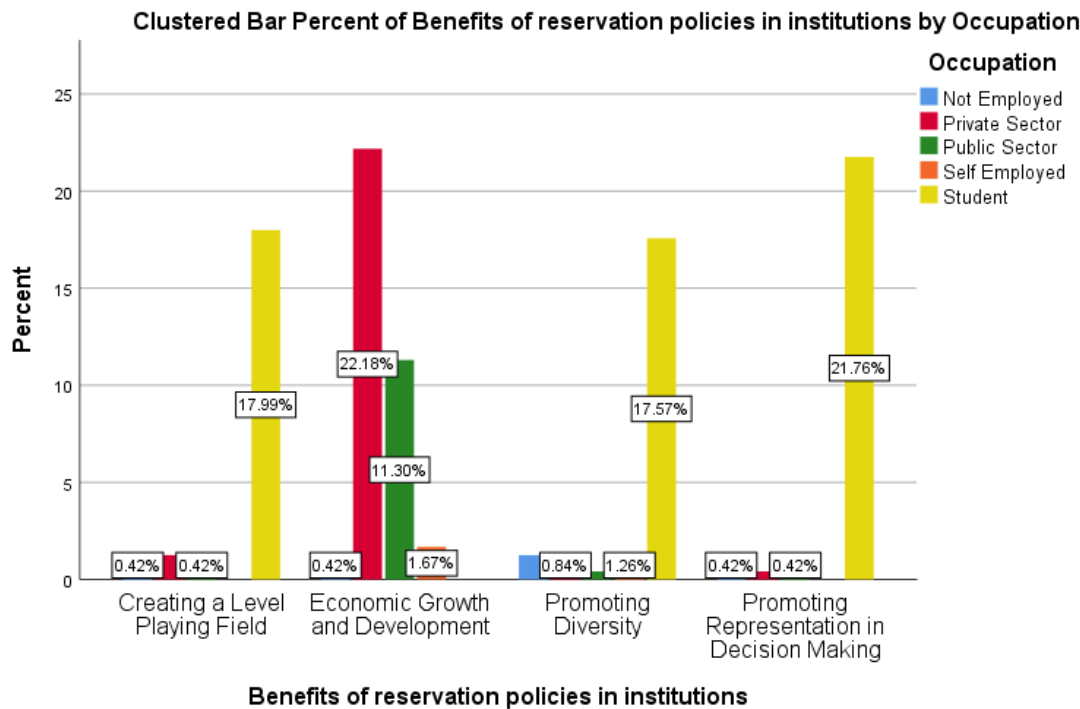


LEGEND

Figure 14 represents if people Support the reservation of seats in institutions based on social categories (e.g., caste, race, gender) according to their Educational Qualifications.



FIGURE 15

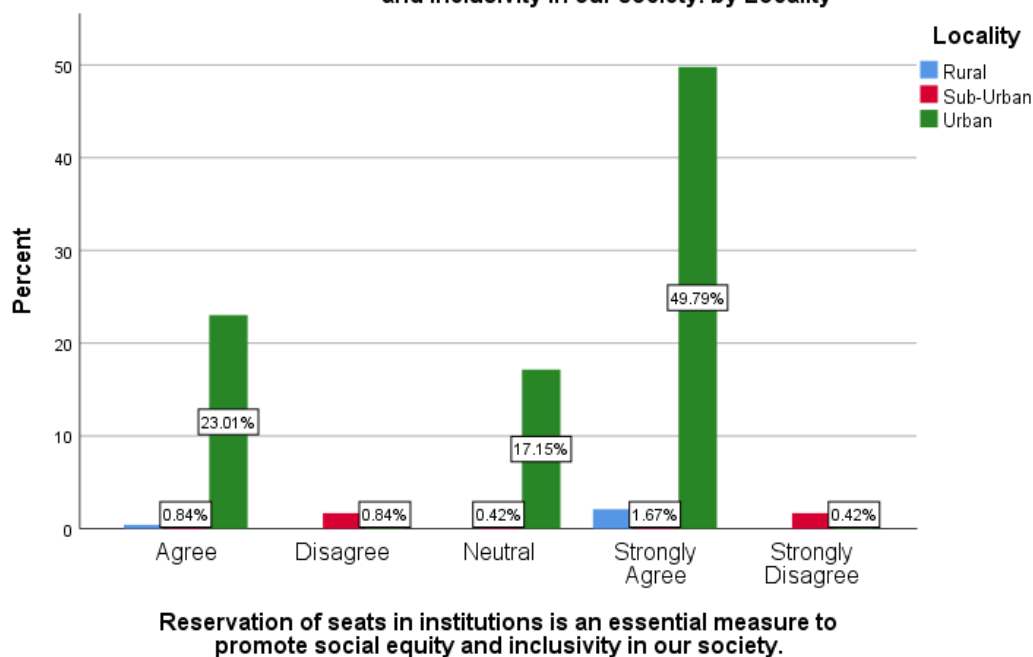


LEGEND

Figure 15 represents the Benefits of reservation policies in institutions according to the respondents according to their Occupation.

FIGURE 16

Clustered Bar Percent of Reservation of seats in institutions is an essential measure to promote social equity and inclusivity in our society. by Locality



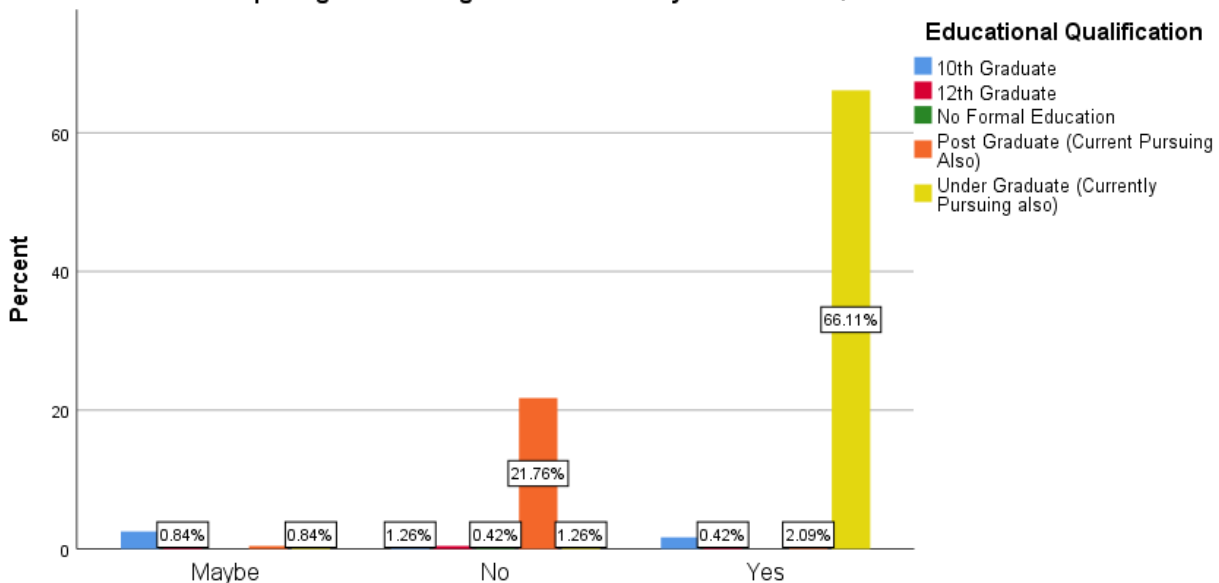
LEGEND

Figure 16 represents if respondents agree that the Reservation of seats in institutions is an essential measure to promote social equity and inclusivity in our society according to their Locality.



FIGURE 17

Clustered Bar Percent of Reservation system in Tamil Nadu has achieved its objectives of social justice and uplifting disadvantaged communities by Educational Qualification



Reservation system in Tamil Nadu has achieved its objectives of social justice and uplifting disadvantaged communities

LEGEND

Figure 17 represents if the respondents agree that the Reservation system in Tamil Nadu has achieved its objectives of social justice and uplifting disadvantaged communities according to their Educational Qualification.

FIGURE 18

Clustered Bar Percent of Awareness on the Dravidian Movement by Occupation

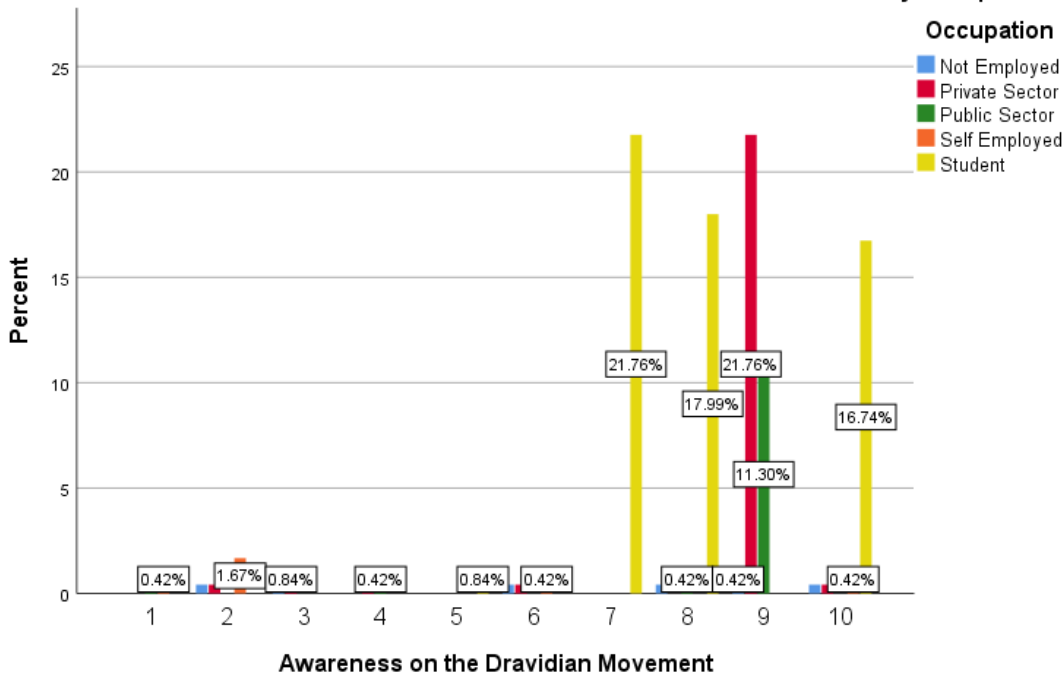
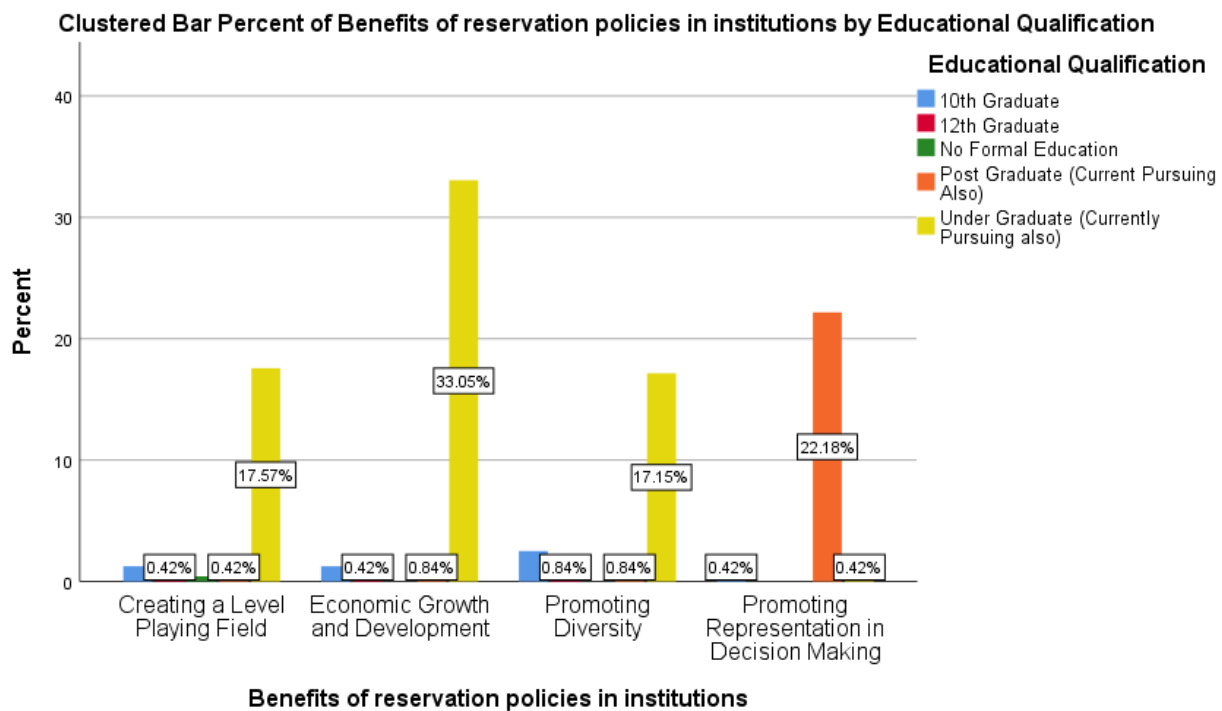
**LEGEND**

Figure 18 represents Awareness of the Dravidian Movement by the respondents according to their Occupation.



FIGURE 19

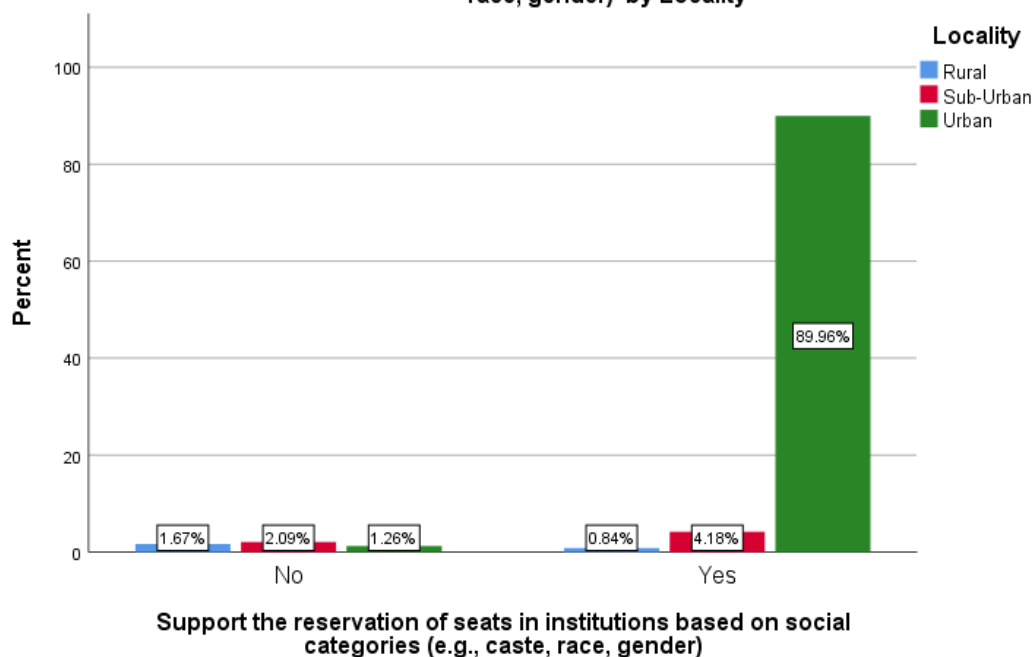


LEGEND

Figure 19 represents the Benefits of reservation policies in institutions according to the respondents according to their Occupation.

FIGURE 20

Clustered Bar Percent of Support the reservation of seats in institutions based on social categories (e.g., caste, race, gender) by Locality



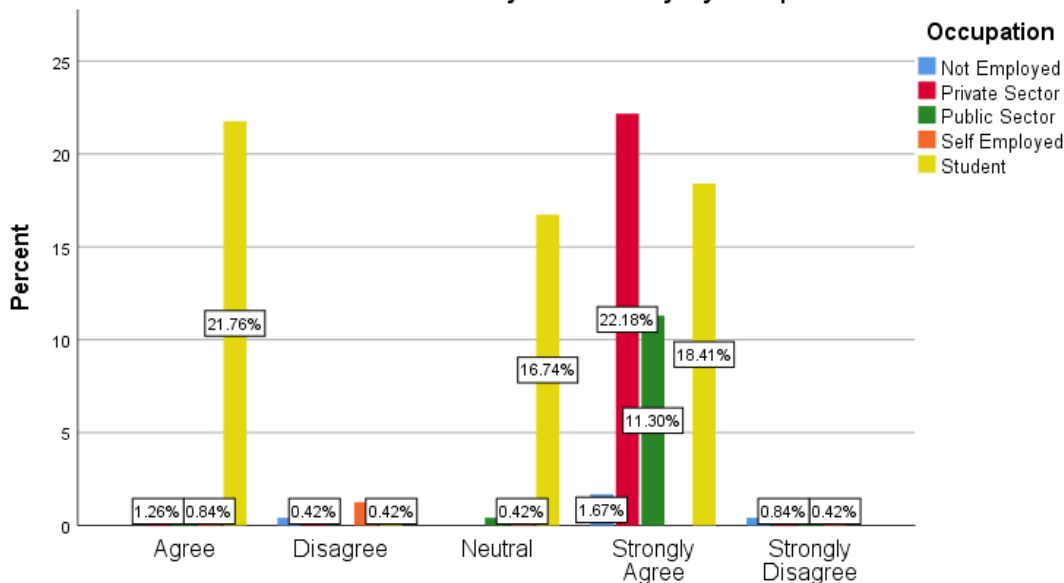
LEGEND

Figure 20 represents if people Support the reservation of seats in institutions based on social categories (e.g., caste, race, gender) according to their Locality.



FIGURE 21

Clustered Bar Percent of Reservation of seats in institutions is an essential measure to promote social equity and inclusivity in our society. by Occupation



Reservation of seats in institutions is an essential measure to promote social equity and inclusivity in our society.

LEGEND

Figure 21 represents if the respondents agree that the Reservation system in Tamil Nadu has achieved its objectives of social justice and uplifting disadvantaged communities according to their Occupation.

CHI-SQUARE ANALYSIS

Case Processing Summary

	Valid		Cases Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
Educational Qualification * Awareness on the Dravidian Movement	239	100.0%	0	0.0%	239	100.0%

Educational Qualification * Awareness on the Dravidian Movement Crosstabulation

Count

		Awareness on the Dravidian Movement										Total
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Educational Qualification	10th Graduate	0	4	2	2	1	1	1	2	0	0	13
	12th Graduate	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	4
	No Formal Education	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Post Graduate (Current Pursuing Also)	1	0	1	1	0	0	51	0	3	1	58
	Under Graduate (Currently Pursuing also)	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	42	77	42	163
Total		2	6	3	3	2	3	52	45	80	43	239

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	495.447 ^a	36	.000
Likelihood Ratio	307.379	36	.000
N of Valid Cases	239		

a. 42 cells (84.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .01.

LEGEND

Chi-Square shows that $p < 0.05$, Null Hypothesis not accepted, thus proving that Educational Qualification does influence on Awareness on the Dravidian Movement.

**RESULTS:**

Figure 6 represents the Awareness of the Dravidian Movement by the respondents and a majority of respondents are aware about it whereas a few have briefly heard of it and a few are unaware.

Figure 7 represents the opinion of respondents if the Dravidian movement's influence has been positive or negative for Tamil Nadu's development. Most respondents state a neutral opinion and a positive opinion whereas a few state it as Negative.

Figure 8 represents if people Support the reservation of seats in institutions based on social categories (e.g., caste, race, gender) and most respondents have voted Yes and few vote No.

Figure 9 represents the Benefits of reservation policies in institutions according to the respondents everyone has voted for Promoting Diversity, Creating a Level Playing Field, Economic Growth and Development, and Promoting Representation in Decision Making.

Figure 10 represents if respondents agree that the Reservation of seats in institutions is an essential measure to promote social equity and inclusivity in our society and most of the respondents agree to the statement.

Figure 11 represents if Reservation system in Tamil Nadu has achieved its objectives of social justice and uplifting disadvantaged communities and most of the respondents have voted Yes and few voted No.

Figure 12 represents the Awareness of the Dravidian Movement by the respondents according to their Educational Qualifications and a majority of UG and PG respondents are aware about it whereas a few 10th and 12th Graduates have briefly heard of it and a few are unaware.

Figure 13 represents the opinion of respondents if Dravidian movement's influence has been positive or negative for Tamil Nadu's development according to their Age those 21-30 and 40-50 state Positive influence and Most above 50 and 31-40 vote Neutral and few Negative.

Figure 14 represents if people Support the reservation of seats in institutions based on social categories (e.g., caste, race, gender) according to their Educational Qualifications and most UG AND PG respondents have voted Yes and few vote No and a few 10th and 12th Graduates also vote Yes.

Figure 15 represents the Benefits of reservation policies in institutions according to the respondents according to their Occupation and everyone has voted for Promoting Diversity, Creating a Level Playing Field, Economic Growth and Development, and Promoting Representation in Decision Making.

Figure 16 represents if respondents agree that the Reservation of seats in institutions is an essential measure to promote social equity and inclusivity in our society according to their Locality most Urban and Rural respondents Agree and few have a neutral opinion, those in Sub-Urban disagree.

Figure 17 represents if the respondents agree that the Reservation system in Tamil Nadu has achieved its objectives of social justice and uplifting disadvantaged communities according to their Educational Qualification and most UG Students have voted Yes and PG have voted No and 10th and 12th have a neutral opinion.

Figure 18 represents Awareness of the Dravidian Movement by the respondents according to their Occupation and most students are aware about it.

Figure 19 represents the Benefits of reservation policies in institutions according to the respondents according to their Occupation and everyone has voted for Promoting Diversity, Creating a Level Playing Field, Economic Growth and Development, and Promoting Representation in Decision Making.

Figure 20 represents if people Support the reservation of seats in institutions based on social categories (e.g., caste, race, gender) according to their Locality and most Urban respondents vote Yes and a few Sub-Urban residents say yes and a few say No.



Figure 21 represents if the respondents agree that the Reservation system in Tamil Nadu has achieved its objectives of social justice and uplifting disadvantaged communities according to their Occupation and most of the students agree to the statement

DISCUSSION

Figure 6 represents the Awareness of the Dravidian Movement by the respondents and a majority of respondents are aware about it whereas a few have briefly heard of it and a few are unaware. The majority awareness of the Dravidian Movement among respondents suggests a significant level of knowledge about this historical and socio-political movement. This widespread awareness could be attributed to its profound impact on the region's cultural and political landscape. However, the existence of a segment that has only briefly heard of it or is unaware indicates a need for further educational outreach to ensure comprehensive understanding across all demographic groups.

Figure 7 represents the opinion of respondents if the Dravidian movement's influence has been positive or negative for Tamil Nadu's development. Most respondents state a neutral opinion and a positive opinion whereas a few state it as Negative. The mixed opinions on the Dravidian Movement's influence reflect the complexity of its impact on Tamil Nadu's development. The predominance of neutral and positive views suggests a recognition of its contributions, while the minority negative opinions highlight areas of perceived shortcomings or controversies. This diversity in perception underscores the importance of nuanced discussions about the movement's legacy.

Figure 8 represents if people Support the reservation of seats in institutions based on social categories (e.g., caste, race, gender) and most respondents have voted Yes and few vote No. The strong support for reservation policies among respondents indicates a widespread belief in the necessity of these measures to address social inequalities. The few dissenting opinions, however, point to ongoing debates

about the implementation and effectiveness of such policies. This support aligns with broader trends favoring affirmative action as a tool for promoting equity.

Figure 9 represents the Benefits of reservation policies in institutions according to the respondents. Everyone has voted for Promoting Diversity, Creating a Level Playing Field, Economic Growth and Development, and Promoting Representation in Decision Making. The unanimous recognition of the benefits of reservation policies highlights a collective agreement on their positive impacts. These include promoting diversity, leveling the playing field, driving economic growth, and enhancing representation in decision-making. This consensus suggests a strong endorsement of these policies' goals and their perceived success in achieving them.

Figure 10 represents if respondents agree that the Reservation of seats in institutions is an essential measure to promote social equity and inclusivity in our society and most of the respondents agree to the statement. The overwhelming agreement on the necessity of reservation policies for promoting social equity and inclusivity underscores their perceived importance in fostering a fair and inclusive society. This strong consensus reflects a broad acknowledgment of the role these policies play in addressing systemic inequalities.

Figure 11 represents if the Reservation system in Tamil Nadu has achieved its objectives of social justice and uplifting disadvantaged communities and most of the respondents have voted Yes and few voted No. The majority opinion that the reservation system has achieved its objectives in Tamil Nadu suggests a general satisfaction with its outcomes in promoting social justice and uplifting disadvantaged communities. The few dissenting votes indicate areas where improvements might be needed or differing perspectives on its efficacy.

Figure 12 represents the Awareness of the Dravidian Movement by the respondents according to their Educational Qualifications



and a majority of UG and PG respondents are aware about it whereas a few 10th and 12th Graduates have briefly heard of it and a few are unaware. The higher awareness of the Dravidian Movement among UG and PG respondents compared to 10th and 12th graduates highlights the role of higher education in enhancing knowledge about socio-political movements. This disparity suggests that educational interventions at earlier stages could be beneficial in increasing awareness across all levels of education.

Figure 13 represents the opinion of respondents if Dravidian movement's influence has been positive or negative for Tamil Nadu's development according to their Age. Those 21-30 and 40-50 state Positive influence and Most above 50 and 31-40 vote Neutral and few Negative. The variation in opinions across different age groups regarding the Dravidian Movement's influence points to generational differences in perception. Younger and middle-aged respondents (21-30 and 40-50) tend to view its influence positively, possibly reflecting its ongoing relevance to current issues. In contrast, the neutral or negative views among older respondents (above 50 and 31-40) may stem from a more critical or historical perspective.

Figure 14 represents if people Support the reservation of seats in institutions based on social categories (e.g., caste, race, gender) according to their Educational Qualifications and most UG and PG respondents have voted Yes and few vote No and a few 10th and 12th Graduates also vote Yes. The strong support for reservation policies among UG and PG respondents, with some support from 10th and 12th graduates, indicates a broad consensus across educational levels on the importance of these measures. This support reflects an understanding of the role of reservations in promoting equity and inclusion, although the varying degrees of support among different educational qualifications suggest room for further advocacy and education.

Figure 15 represents the Benefits of reservation policies in institutions according to the respondents according to their Occupation and everyone has voted for Promoting Diversity, Creating a Level Playing Field, Economic Growth and Development, and Promoting Representation in Decision Making. The unanimous support for the benefits of reservation policies across different occupations indicates a widespread recognition of their positive impacts on society. This cross-occupational agreement underscores the universal value attributed to diversity, equality, economic growth, and representation, highlighting the broad acceptance of these policies' goals.

Figure 16 represents if respondents agree that the Reservation of seats in institutions is an essential measure to promote social equity and inclusivity in our society according to their Locality. Most Urban and Rural respondents agree and few have a neutral opinion, those in Sub-Urban disagree. The agreement on the necessity of reservation policies among urban and rural respondents, contrasted with the disagreement from suburban respondents, reveals differing perspectives based on locality. This variation suggests that the impact and perceived need for reservation policies may differ across urban, rural, and suburban settings, highlighting the importance of context-specific approaches to policy implementation.

Figure 17 represents if the respondents agree that the Reservation system in Tamil Nadu has achieved its objectives of social justice and uplifting disadvantaged communities according to their Educational Qualification and most UG Students have voted Yes and PG have voted No and 10th and 12th have a neutral opinion. The differing opinions on the success of the reservation system in Tamil Nadu based on educational qualifications reflect diverse perspectives on its efficacy. The positive view among UG students contrasts with the skepticism among PG respondents and the neutrality of 10th and 12th graduates, indicating



that educational experiences may shape perceptions of policy outcomes.

Figure 18 represents Awareness of the Dravidian Movement by the respondents according to their Occupation and most students are aware about it. The high awareness of the Dravidian Movement among students suggests that educational institutions play a crucial role in disseminating knowledge about significant socio-political movements. This awareness among students highlights the effectiveness of educational curricula in promoting historical and cultural understanding.

Figure 19 represents the Benefits of reservation policies in institutions according to the respondents according to their Occupation and everyone has voted for Promoting Diversity, Creating a Level Playing Field, Economic Growth and Development, and Promoting Representation in Decision Making. The unanimous agreement on the benefits of reservation policies across various occupations reinforces the perceived value of these policies in fostering diversity, equality, economic development, and representation. This consensus indicates strong support for the continuation and enhancement of reservation policies to achieve these goals.

Figure 20 represents if people Support the reservation of seats in institutions based on social categories (e.g., caste, race, gender) according to their Locality and most Urban respondents vote Yes and a few Sub-Urban residents say yes and a few say No. The strong support for reservation policies among urban respondents, with mixed views from suburban residents, suggests that urban areas may have a higher acceptance of these measures. The varying opinions in suburban localities indicate a need for targeted awareness and advocacy efforts to address concerns and promote the benefits of reservation policies.

Figure 21 represents if the respondents agree that the Reservation system in Tamil Nadu has achieved its objectives of social justice and uplifting disadvantaged communities according to their Occupation and most of the

students agree to the statement. The agreement among students that the reservation system in Tamil Nadu has achieved its objectives highlights a positive perception of its effectiveness among the younger generation. This perspective may be influenced by their educational environment and exposure to the benefits of social justice initiatives, suggesting a promising outlook for the future support of these policies.

LIMITATION

The survey has been limited to Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The number of surveys has been limited to 200. the study's scope is confined to a specific regional context, which may limit the generalizability of the findings to other states or regions with different socio-political dynamics. Thirdly, the demographic diversity of the sample might not fully capture the nuanced perspectives of all sub-groups within the population, particularly those from underrepresented or marginalized communities. Additionally, the historical and qualitative nature of the data sources used for analysis might result in selective emphasis on certain aspects of the movement, potentially overlooking other significant factors. Lastly, while the study aims to provide a comprehensive overview, the complexity and evolving nature of social justice policies mean that ongoing developments may not be fully accounted for in this research.

SUGGESTION

The reservation of seats in educational institutions is a topic that holds immense social, political, and academic significance. It pertains to the allocation of a certain percentage of available seats to specific categories of individuals, often based on factors such as caste, tribe, gender, economic status, or physical disability. In the context of Tamil Nadu, the Dravidian Movement has played a crucial role in shaping reservation policies. This movement, rooted in the struggle against social discrimination and the promotion of social justice, has had a profound impact on the implementation and perception of reservations



in the state. However, it is suggested that reservations should also be considered on the basis of merit, alongside social categories (e.g., caste, race, gender). This approach could ensure that the potential of all students is maximized, preventing the exclusion of meritorious individuals who may not fall within the traditional reservation categories. Balancing social equity with academic excellence can help create a more inclusive and competitive educational environment.

CONCLUSION

The reservation of seats in educational institutions is a topic that holds immense social, political, and academic significance. Through a critical study of Dravidian Movement politics in Tamil Nadu, it has been found that people are largely aware of the reservation policy for seats in various institutions. The Dravidian Movement, with its historical roots in challenging social hierarchies and promoting equality, has significantly influenced public opinion and policy frameworks concerning reservation in Tamil Nadu.

The Dravidian Movement's advocacy for social justice has deeply permeated the social fabric of Tamil Nadu, leading to a widespread acceptance and support for reservation policies. These policies are perceived as vital tools for redressing historical injustices and creating opportunities for marginalized groups. As a result, there is a strong consensus among the population regarding the necessity of reservations based on social categories such as caste, race, and gender.

This broad-based support underscores the movement's success in highlighting the importance of social equity and inclusion. The benefits of reservation policies in institutions are multifaceted. They play a crucial role in promoting diversity, which is essential for a rich educational experience and fostering mutual understanding among students from varied backgrounds. Diversity in educational settings prepares students for global citizenship and encourages a more inclusive society.

Furthermore, reservations contribute to creating a level playing field by ensuring that individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds have access to the same educational opportunities as their more privileged counterparts. This is critical for breaking the cycle of poverty and social exclusion that many marginalized communities face. Economic growth and development are also significant benefits of reservation policies. By enabling access to education for all sections of society, reservations help in the development of human capital, which is a key driver of economic progress. Educated individuals contribute to the economy through various professional and entrepreneurial endeavors, leading to broader economic benefits. Additionally, reservation policies promote representation in decision-making processes.

When individuals from diverse backgrounds are represented in various fields, including education, government, and business, it leads to more inclusive and equitable policies and practices. Moreover, the study reveals that reservation policies have personally affected individuals' educational and professional opportunities. Many respondents acknowledge that without such policies, they might not have had the chance to pursue higher education or advance in their careers.

This personal impact reinforces the importance of maintaining and refining reservation policies to ensure they continue to serve their intended purpose effectively. However, while the benefits of reservation policies are clear, the study also suggests the need for a more nuanced approach. It is recommended that reservations should also take into account merit alongside social categories.

This dual focus can help maximize the potential of all students and prevent the exclusion of meritorious individuals who may not fall within traditional reservation categories. Balancing social equity with academic excellence can create a more inclusive and competitive educational environment, benefiting society as a whole.



This study underscores the importance of preserving these values while adapting policies to meet the evolving needs of society. In conclusion, the reservation of seats in educational institutions, deeply influenced by Dravidian Movement politics, remains a crucial mechanism for promoting social justice and inclusivity in Tamil Nadu. The widespread awareness and support for these policies reflect their importance in addressing historical inequities and fostering a diverse, equitable society. Moving forward, it is essential to refine these policies to balance social equity with merit, ensuring that all students have the opportunity to achieve their full potential. The Dravidian Movement's enduring impact highlights the power of sustained advocacy and inclusive policymaking in creating lasting social change.

REFERENCES

1. Robert L. Hardgrave (2022) The Dravidian Movement ISBN: 9781003300427 (ebk) DOI: 10.4324/9781003300427
2. Maurice Duverger, Political Parties (London: Methuen & Co., 1954), p. 294 ISBN-10: 0416683207
3. Lucian Pye, Politics, Personality, and Nation Building: Burma's Search for Identity (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1962), pp. 16–17. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1065912964017001>
4. Sree Govind Bharatvaraj (2023) Anti-Dravidian Politics, Anti-Caste Tamil Nationalism and the VCK's Lost Track: Reading the Politics of Madras <https://doi.org/10.1080/02759527.2023.2267833>
5. R. Kumaravel(2022) Muthuramalinga Thevar and Dravidian Politics – An Overview DOI:10.29322/ijssrp.12.04.2022.p12451 Corpus ID: 248425574
6. Amy-Ruth Holt(2016) A Secular Tamil Saint? Karunanidhi's Use of Divine Imagery in Dravidian Politics <https://doi.org/10.1093/jhs/hiw018>
7. Book Review: S. Narayan. 2018. The Dravidian Years: Politics and Welfare in Tamil Nadu. DOI:10.31235/osf.io/a84n5 Corpus ID: 243526495
8. D. nault (2012) English in India's National Development: Hindi-Dravidian Politics and the Retention of a Colonial Language DOI:10.1080/13488678.2012.10801320 Corpus ID: 143508002
9. Venugopal S (2022) Social Thinker Iyothee Thass Pandithar DOI:10.34256/irjt22s515Corpus ID: 250614455
10. Vishal Vasanthakumar(2022) Caste, then Class: Redistribution and Representation in the Dravidian Model DOI:10.26812/caste.v3i1.348 Corpus ID: 249030071
11. B. Guru (2015) Reservation benefits for SCs and STs in India Corpus ID: 114696490
12. Snehalata Panda(2001) Reservation for Women in Union and State Legislatures: A Perspective DOI:10.1177/0019556120010405
13. S. Kumar (2017) Breaching The Limit: A Critical Evaluation Of The Increase In Reservation Limit In Karnataka DOI:10.55662/iplr.2023.805
14. Sangeetha M. Thomas(2023) Breaching The Limit: A Critical Evaluation Of The Increase In Reservation Limit In Karnataka DOI:10.55662/iplr.2023.805
15. Shamsheer Alam(2023) Debating with the Reservation Policy for Muslims in Higher Education DOI:10.1177/2455328x231169635
16. Md. Eftekar Alam(2023) IoT Based Seat Reservation System for University Bus with Wireless Network DOI:10.1109/ICREST57604.2023.10070092
17. B. Kaur(2019) Panchayati Raj Institutions and Women Empowerment: A Case Study of Gram Panchayats of Malwa Region of Punjab DOI:10.26643/think-india.v22i3.8543



18. Vidhan Sabha(2019) Token Representation?: Impact of Female Reservations in Panchayati Raj Institutions in Elections to State and National Legislatures Corpus ID: 210897759
19. S. Parween(2014) Gender Quota: Travails of the Women Reservation Bill in India DOI:10.9790/0837-193498103
20. Sanjeev.C. Shirpurkar(2020) WOMEN REPRESENTATION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PANCHAYATI RAJ SYSTEM IN INDIA- EMERGING TRENDS AND CHALLENGES DOI:10.36713/epra5490

