

An Indian-Australian research partnership

Project Title:

Ethnic/Caste Boundary Breaking: Identity, Status, and Education in Inter-caste Marriages

Project Number
HSS1181
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Research Clusters:
Research Themes:

Highlight which of the Academy's CLUSTERS this project will address? (Please nominate JUST <u>one</u> . For more information, see www.iitbmonash.org)		Highlight which of the Academy's Theme(s) this project will address? (Feel free to nominate more than one. For more information, see www.iitbmonash.org)	
1	Material Science/Engineering (including Nano, Metallurgy)	1	Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Computational Modelling
2	Energy, Green Chem, Chemistry, Catalysis, Reaction Eng	2	Circular Economy
3	Math, CFD, Modelling, Manufacturing	3	Clean Energy
4	CSE, IT, Optimisation, Data, Sensors, Systems, Signal Processing, Control	4	Health Sciences
5	Earth Sciences and Civil Engineering (Geo, Water, Climate)	5	Smart Materials
6	Bio, Stem Cells, Bio Chem, Pharma, Food	6	Sustainable Societies
7	Semi-Conductors, Optics, Photonics, Networks, Telecomm, Power Eng	7	Infrastructure
8	HSS, Design, Management		

The research problem

Define the problem

In India, the hierarchical caste system is defined by the practice of endogamy, wherein many castes seek to uphold their dominance through arranged marriages within their own caste. Inter-caste marriages offer a potential means to challenge this rigid social structure. However, despite this potential, the prevalence of intercaste marriages in India remains very low, accounting for only 5.82% in 2011. Therefore, it is crucial to explore the factors that may positively or negatively influence intercaste marriages. Factors such as the education levels of the couple, the socio-economic status of their families, and the position of their castes in the hierarchy may play significant roles. However, the mechanisms driving partner selection in exogamous marriages have yet to be thoroughly examined. Our study aims to fill this gap by utilizing an unique census-scale dataset along with intensive ethnographic studies to shed light on exogamous marriages in India.

Project aims

Define the aims of the project

- To understand the factors affecting partner choice in intercaste marriages in India
- To explore various public policy measures which can create necessary conditions for intercaste marriages

What is expected of the student when at IITB and when at Monash?

Highlight how the project will gain from the students stay at IITB and at Monash

IITB provides the ideal context to understand the sociological milieu, policy environment, and familiarity with the data; the student will also undertake course work at IITB

At Monash, the student will have the opportunity to learn different techniques of data analysis, conducting of data analysis, to interact with and learn from other colleagues at Monash, participate in school/depart seminars, workshops and conferences.

Expected outcomes

Highlight the expected outcomes of the project

The project will generate new and novel understanding about the nature and extend of inter-caste marriages and their association with other social and economic structures. This knowledge will be presented in (i) a dissertation that addresses the above research questions, using both qualitative and quantitative methods, and (ii) refereed publications in high impact journals and conference presentations.

How will the project address the Goals of the above Themes?

Describe how the project will address the goals of one or more of the 6 Themes listed above.

Inter-caste marriages are crucial in weakening the rigid and hierarchical caste structure and contribute to creating and maintaining a sustainable society (theme 6).

Capabilities and Degrees Required

List the ideal set of capabilities that a student should have for this project. Feel free to be as specific or as general as you like. These capabilities will be input into the online application form and students who opt for this project will be required to show that they can demonstrate these capabilities.

The student is expected to have basic level quantitative data analysis skills that will be required to analyse census data. They need to have expertise in one or more qualitative approaches (in-depth personal

interviews, ethnography).

Necessary Courses

Name three tentative courses relevant to the project that the student should complete during his/her coursework at IITB (the student will require to secure 8 point in these courses)

Introduction to Research Methods

Qualitative Data Collection and Analysis Methods

Public Policy: Theory and Practice

Keywords relating to this project to make it easier for the students to apply.

Inter-caste marriage or partnering; social and economic structure; qualitative and quantitative skills