

# Caste and Campus

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## Caste and Campus : The Persistence of Caste Discrimination in Universities

Caste discrimination in universities leads to **exclusion, bias in grading, and psychological harassment**, often causing **dropouts and suicides**.

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### Extent of Discrimination

- **IITs:** 70% of Dalit & Adivasi students reported discrimination.
  - **Admissions:** Only **1.6% ST & 7.5% SC** in IIT-Bombay PhD admissions (2015-2019).
  - **Placements:** Low-caste applicants sent **20% more resumes** for the same callbacks.
  - **Suicides:** **122 student suicides** (2014-2021), many from marginalized groups.
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### Legal Protections

- **SC/ST Act, 1989:** Criminalizes caste discrimination.
  - **UGC Guidelines:** Requires **anti-discrimination cells** in universities.
  - **Articles 15 & 17:** Prohibit caste-based exclusion.
  - **Reservation Policy:** Ensures SC/ST/OBC representation.
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### Challenges & Solutions

- **Low Faculty Representation:** Lack of SC/ST mentors.
  - **Weak Compliance:** 40% of universities ignore UGC guidelines.
  - **Stronger Laws Needed:** UGC must criminalize caste bias.
  - **Awareness & Inclusion:** Training & affirmative policies needed.
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### UGC's Draft Regulations (2025)

- **Punitive Actions:** HEIs may face **de-recognition & funding cuts**.
- **Equity Committees:** Must include **SC/ST & female representatives**.

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## Conclusion

Legal protections exist, but **caste bias persists**. Stronger enforcement & proactive measures are needed for **inclusive campuses**.



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