

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**.

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**.

Conclusion

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



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