



GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Office of the Principal
Maulana Azad College



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Policy on Reservation

Introduction

The reservation policy is a constitutional mechanism aimed at ensuring equitable access to higher education for historically marginalized communities. This policy provides a certain percentage of seats in admission in educational institutions remaining reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBC A & OBC B), and differently-able individuals. Maulana Azad College, Kolkata is committed to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in its admission process by strictly complying the reservation policies as laid down by the Government. This policy in fact outlines that reservation criteria for admission to various courses offered by the college.

Objectives of the Reservation Policy

- **Social Justice:** To redress historical discrimination and underrepresentation of marginalized communities in higher education.
- **Educational Equity:** To ensure diverse and inclusive educational environments that reflects the social fabric of the country.
- **Economic Upliftment:** To facilitate access to education for economically weaker sections, thereby improving their socio-economic status.
- **Promotion of Merit:** Through the creation of opportunities for all, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds, ensuring that merit is recognized within a level playing field.

Constitutional Legal Framework

The reservation policy in India is guided by various constitutional provisions, primarily:

- **Article 15(4):** Allows the state to make special provisions for the advancement of socially and educationally backward classes or for SC and ST.
- **Article 16(4):** Provides for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which, in the opinion of the state, is not adequately represented in the services under the state.
- **Article 46:** Promotes the educational and economic interests of weaker sections of the people, particularly the SC and ST.
- **The 93rd Constitutional Amendment (2005):** Added Clause 5 to Article 15, allowing the state to make special provisions for the admission of socially and educationally backward classes, SC, and ST to educational institutions, including private institutions.
- **The West Bengal State Higher Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2013:** This act provides the legal basis for the implementation of reservation policies in higher educational institutions within the state.

Reservation Structure in Admission in West Bengal

1. Scheduled Castes (SC): 22%
2. Scheduled Tribes (ST): 6%
3. Other Backward Classes - A (OBC-A): 10%
4. Other Backward Classes - B (OBC-B): 7%



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5. The state also has provisions for the reservation of seats for Persons with Disabilities (PWD) as per the norms prescribed by the central government, typically 5% across all categories.
6. Economically Weaker Sections (EWS): Up to 10% (as per the 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019, and its implementation in the state)

Orders of Government West Bengal

1. **Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal Notification No. 07-Edn (U)/IU-89/13 dt.02/01/2014 and West Bengal Government Order No. 289-Edn (U)/1U-89/13 dt. 08/04/2014:**

These orders outline the implementation of SC, ST and phased implementation of OBC-A and OBC-B reservations in higher educational institutions over several years to reach the full quota.

2. **Government Order No. 507-Edn (U)/IU-37/14 dt.13/05/2014:**

This order provides guidelines for horizontal reservations for PWD across all categories, ensuring that a 5% reservation is maintained for differently-abled students in higher education institutions.

3. **Government Order No. 325-PAR(AR)/3P-1/2019 dt. 09/07/2019**

It pertains to the implementation of the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) reservation in West Bengal. This government order was issued in response to the 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019, which introduced a 10% reservation for EWS in education and government jobs.

The order outlines the criteria for determining EWS status, including income thresholds and property holdings. Families with an annual income below a specified limit and without substantial land or property holdings qualify for this reservation.

5. **Government Order No. 339-Edn (CS)/7M-74L/2023 dt. 26/05/2023** pertains to the admission procedures and seat reservation policies in colleges and universities in West Bengal for the academic session 2023-2024. It includes detailed instructions on the online admission process, deadlines, and documentation requirements. The order reaffirms the reservation policy in line with existing state laws.
6. **Government Order No. 628-Edn (CS)/OM-74L/2023 dt. 18/09/2023** likely pertains to directives issued by the West Bengal government regarding education, particularly in relation to college and university admissions, policies, or other administrative matters for the ongoing or upcoming academic sessions in higher educational institutions in West Bengal. The order likely reaffirms or updates the implementation of reservation policies for various categories such as SC, ST, OBC, EWS, and PWD in state-run and state-aided institutions.

Implementation

- **Admission Processes:** Reserved category seats are filled through a merit-based system, where candidates compete within their respective categories. In cases where reserved seats are not filled, they may be converted to unreserved categories following specific guidelines.



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- **Hostel Admission:** Applications for Students are given priority on the basis of reservation policy.

The admission process will follow the guidelines set by the West Bengal Government and the University of Calcutta. The college will prepare a merit list based on marks obtained in the qualifying examination, and reservations will be applied accordingly.

Recent Developments

- **NEP 2020 Impact:** The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasizes equitable access to education, including continued support for affirmative action through reservation policies.

Hostel Admission:

We strive to maintain the reservation policy for seat allocation of hostel boarders.

Review and Revision:

This policy will be reviewed and revised as necessary, in accordance with changes in government regulations and college policies.

Conclusion

The reservation policy in Indian colleges plays a crucial role in promoting social justice and educational equity. The success of this policy lies in balancing meritocracy with inclusivity, creating a robust educational system that empowers all sections of society.

Sanjay Chattopadhyay

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