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GENERAL STUDIES 2: SOCIAL JUSTICE

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TOPIC: RESERVATION

Social Justice for Muslims should not be about reservations

Why Muslims Need Affirmative Action

- **Educational and Economic Gaps:** Similar educational levels to SCs/STs and income levels to OBCs.
- **Higher Education Barriers:** Lesser participation in higher education and professional courses compared to upper-caste Hindus with similar economic backgrounds.

Why Reservation Isn't Suitable

- **Legal Constraints:** Indian Constitution and judiciary reject religious-based reservation.
- **Diverse Community:** Muslims have varied socioeconomic statuses within different biradaris.
- **Political Backlash:** A separate quota may incite conflict and worsen conditions for Muslims.

Alternative to Reservation

- **Expand OBC Inclusion:** More Muslim communities should be recognized as OBCs, especially the more backward ones.
- **Reclassify OBCs:** Introduce sub-categories like "extremely backward" within OBCs.
- **SC Status for Dalit Muslims:** Amend rules to include Dalit Muslims and Christians in SC benefits.
- **Anti-Discrimination Laws:** Implement robust laws and an Equal Opportunity Commission.

Additional Support Measures

- **Improve Infrastructure:** Target development in areas with high Muslim populations to ensure direct benefits.
- **Support Muslim-Dominated Industries:** Provide assistance to traditional Muslim businesses.
- **Encourage Private Sector Diversity:** Use government contracts and subsidies to promote diversity.
- **Community Engagement:** Enhance efforts by NGOs and self-help groups in education and employment initiatives for Muslims.



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Conclusion

Addressing the unique challenges faced by Muslims through tailored non-quota measures and broader OBC inclusion can foster economic and educational advancement without the need for direct reservations, navigating legal and sociopolitical hurdles effectively.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/vogendra-yadav-writes-social-justice-for-muslims-should-not-be-about-reservations-9841512/>

