

Economic Inequality Among Social Groups in Madhya Pradesh

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INTRODUCTION

About India

India is the world's largest democracy and it is moving ahead with its potential. Since independence we have stepped so far that now we are world's second largest growing economy. India is blessed with many natural resources and bio fuel, which makes it different from other countries of the world. We are also world's largest exporter of spices and handicrafts. With various religious thoughts and diversified cultural beliefs, India always has been the country to be explored for foreign tourists. India made a remarkable status in Information Technology, Researches, Engineering, and Entrepreneurship in the world. India is not far to become the world's strongest economy. With educated youth and experienced professional, the dream of becoming super power is only a few years away. Although India is one of the developing nations in the world, yet its GDP is growing at a good pace and is the second fastest growing economy in the world. As it has been proved earlier in the theories of development, that during the development of the country or we can say that when countries are in their developing phase, an inequality can be seen within its economy. Inequality of income, social status, standard of living, health amenities etc. are most commonly found among the developing nations. Development should be inclusive in its nature, i.e. when the country is growing in terms of its goods and services, the overall welfare of the society should also be taken under consideration. Every sector of the economy should grow at an equal pace, but the disparities always exist due to limited resources and priorities given to small sections. In the process of development of any country, lack of proper education, unemployment, poverty, unequal distribution of income among the citizen etc, can be easily seen. Agriculture is the main occupation for majority of people in India. Many of the developing states rely totally on agriculture for their economic growth. But the people of those developing states are deprived of their basic needs. Due to lower economic status, many land owners sell their land to big industrialists or mortgage it for availing loans. At the same time, industrialization is growing at a rapid pace, and many agricultural lands are used for building manufacturing units. Thus, we can see inverse relationship between agriculture and industries. With growing urbanization, majority of rural population is migrating to major cities of the country in search of employment and business opportunities but end up as just slum dwellers of the city.

About Madhya Pradesh

India comprises of 29 States and every state has got its own uniqueness and governance. They work as sovereign and make their own policies and regulation. With geographical location at 22.42° N and 72.54° E, Madhya Pradesh is situated at the centre of the country and also known as the "Heart of India". It is the second largest State of the country in terms of its area, stretched over 3, 08,252 sq. km and accounts for 9% of the total land area of the country. Undivided Madhya Pradesh was founded on 1 November 1956 and on 1 November 2000; it was divided into two different States, i.e. Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. The State shares its borders with Maharashtra from South, Uttar Pradesh from North-East, Rajasthan from North-West, Gujarat from West and Chhattisgarh from South-East. Madhya Pradesh is divided into 10 divisions and comprises 50 districts. The State is endowed with rich natural resources including eleven agro-climatic zones, five crop zones and varying land use, rainfall and water resources, forest, and minerals. The commonly spoken language of the State is Hindi, which is also the national language. Madhya Pradesh has been an agrarian economy since its establishment and it still relies mostly on agriculture. Maximum area of the state is under forest due to which 8% area is either uncultivated or a waste. This state depends only on agriculture for its growth, as industrialization is still a hope for many young educated people of the state. Talking about the

composition of population in the state, it is constituted of number of castes, tribes, ethnic groups and other communities. Major population of the state is Schedule Tribes (ST's) and Schedule Castes (SC's) and about 20% of the total population is only tribes. These SC's and ST's form a different group in the society and they have also been benefited with various reservation schemes of State and Central Government.

Review of Literature

Rohit Mulatkar (2005), studied that, in terms of absolute poverty, the rate of decline in the extent of poverty has been faster for the other castes as compared to Schedule caste and Schedule tribes. He also states that, SC's & ST's are not homogeneous group in terms of their level of living and quality of life; therefore poverty is seen within the group. Hence disparities exist between and within the groups which leads to the miserable condition of SC's and ST's. Looking at the disparities in terms of castes, **Suman Kumar Bhaumik and Manish Chakraborty (2006)**, examine the difference in the variety of discrimination and confirm the popular wisdom that the upper castes are better off on an average than SC's, ST's and OBC's. Also, Authors have found that Hindus are better off than Muslims (because of minority constrain), while other religions are better off than Hindus. Income (earning) is taken as determinant for such investigation. On the similar context, **Madhura Swaminathan and Vikas Rawal (2011)** studied eight rural villages and they estimated the mean per capita income of schedule caste and schedule tribe households and found that they are at disadvantage in terms of income in each of these eight villages. Study concludes that income of medium dalit household is lesser than of other households, therefore the most prosperous agricultural villages were characterized by high income inequality as well as marked caste segregation.

Amitabh Kunda (2009), carried a study on employment and inequality outcome, suggested that migration from rural to urban in search of employment emerge as a tool of poverty alleviation irrespective of the type of work, size of class etc. Concluded that migration into large cities have greater chance of alleviation their poverty than migrant migrating into small towns. Also reveals that education is the vital factor in deciding the type of employment and wages, literate migrant having greater chance of attaining good job than the illiterate one, who will involve himself into some unorganized sector and this will further deepen the poverty.

Nor Azam Abdul Razak (2006), reveals the study of inequality on the basis of wealth inherits to individual from its parents. Study states that, if sufficient amount of wealth is inherited, it will spend sufficiently on education and people will become skilled worker and those who don't inherit will become either unskilled workers or credit-constrained due to the interest which they have to pay for borrowing money on credit. Study also relates education with the size of family and their proper sustainability. Therefore, study reveals the importance of initial income or wealth which is been unequally distributed and its effect on education attainment. **Alexis Palma (2007)**, studied the effect of education, price, female participation in reducing income inequality in "Chile". Author concluded that, change in income inequality can only be reduced with the increase in the level of education. Highly educated is paid higher wages, which generate a large increase in inequality between educated and uneducated. According to the author, fluctuation in the price of skills of an individual character is the main source of fluctuation in wage inequality. In the similar context, **Bryan Cordes and Dr Gerald Milles** studied the case of America, in which educational inequality is directly related to the wealth distribution. Thus the key solution to minimize the widening gap between the rich and rest of American population is to increase education equally among Americans regardless of gender and race. Therefore, concluded that government should also initiate in funding to weaker section of society and for quality education to avoid inequality.

Objectives of the Study

1. To examine inequalities with respect to education among SC and ST.
2. To study inequalities about occupational pattern and nature of employment among SC and ST
3. To assess inequalities with respect to standard of living among SC and ST.

Rationale of the Study

Study of the inequality between different social groups i.e., Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes with other well established social groups of the society. The basic aim is to find how much these deprived groups (SC's & ST's) are different from other privileged groups. Our history has witnessed that Scheduled Castes have always been the victim of discrimination. They were given the work which others were reluctant to do. But it has not always been true that all SC's are below the poverty line. There were well known personalities even from pre independence era, who had shown their mettle, and became equally respected in the society. On the other hand, Scheduled Tribes were not treated as untouchables, but they were also not a part of the society. ST's lived in close flocks and was unaware of the outer world. Earlier, ST's led a nomadic life and rarely went for education. This group felt unsafe from other communities and lived in isolation. Some of the areas of the country are completely captured by Schedule tribes, and many criminal activities are also seen in these areas. GOI has made various provinces for ST's, to promote their standard of living and to provide basic needs to them like shelter, clothing food and education. Education has been purposely taken in the list of basic needs because it is impossible to live without education in today's world.

Analysis of data

Demographic profile of Schedule Tribes (ST)

Schedule Tribes formally acknowledged as Depressed Group and popularly known as "Aadi vasis". In the Article 342, Scheduled Tribes are the tribes or tribal community or group, who live in forest and hilly region. Over half of the total tribal population are cultivators and are mainly involved in primary activities and the rest are agricultural laborers. They live in close habitation and are rarely in contact to other communities. Population of ST is in good proportion of total population of the country. In 2011, Change in total population of ST's is 23.7% from 2001 i.e. the growth of tribal population in 10 years. Out of total ST population estimated in 2011, rural population is 89%, whereas urban is only 11% of Tribal population in the country. But it can be seen that the change in urban population in last 10 years is 49.7% (as shown in table 1), which means that the urban tribal population is showing better sign of improvement and the tribal's are moving towards the cities. This clearly notifies that major portion of the tribal population live in rural region of the country. This is astounding that, when country is moving in the direction of industrialization, yet their crores of population is residing in rural areas, whose major livelihood is still agriculture.

Table 1

Scheduled Tribe population and decadal change by residence : 2011					
Scheduled Tribe population 2011			Decadal Change 2001-2011(%)		
Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
INDIA	104,281,034	93,819,162	23.7	21.3	49.7

Source: Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Tribal profile- May 2013.

Male-Female ratio in ST's has shown better than the overall ratio of the country. The division of work between male and female of ST are similar and the participation of both sexes is also the same. So the discrimination between male and female child is less in compare to other social groups. We can see that the ratio of female in per 1000 males is 990 in 2011, compare to 978 in 2001 (as shown in table 4). The decadal change is positive in terms of sex ratio in total tribal population as well as in both rural and urban regions.

Table 2

Scheduled Tribe population by sex and residence : Census 2011					
MALE			FEMALE		
TOTAL	RURAL	URBAN	TOTAL	RURAL	URBAN
INDIA	5,24,09,823	4,71,26,341	5,18,71,211	4,66,92,821	51,78,390

Source: Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Tribal profile- May 2013

As per the census 2011, the proportion of ST population to total population of Madhya Pradesh is 21.1% (as shown in table 3). The ratio of urban-rural is also getting better. If we examine state wise, then we can easily say, the state having large tribal population is at the bottom in the list of development. Table shows proportion of tribal population to total population of 21 States in India (Table 5). The state with maximum tribal population is Rank 1 and the State with lesser tribal population is Rank 21 (as shown in Table 5). It means that on the basis of tribal population the rank has been allotted.

Table 3

Scheduled Tribe population in Madhya Pradesh			
	Total Population	ST Population	Percentage of ST Population
Madhya Pradesh	72626809	15316784	21.1

Source: Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Tribal profile- May 2013

The proportion of tribal population in developed States is less than the underdeveloped States. Top ranked States are basically an under developed States or “Sick” States. Therefore, we can say that the States with more than 50% of tribal population are at the bottom of development list among other States.

Table 4

Sex Ratio among Scheduled Tribes by residence : 2001 - 2011						
Sex Ratio 2001				Sex Ratio 2011		
Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	
INDIA	978	981	944	990	991	980

Source: Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Tribal profile- May 2013

Table 5

	STATE	Total Population	Trible Population	Percentage of Tribles	No of Districts More than 50% Trible Population	No of Districts between 25%- 50% Trible Population	RANK (Trible Population)
1	Jammu & Kashmir	12541302	1493299	11.9	2	3	17
2	Himachal Pradesh	6864602	392126	5.7	2	1	21
3	Rajasthan	68548437	9238534	13.5	3	3	15
4	Sikkim	610577	206360	33.8	1	3	8
5	Arunachal Pradesh	1383727	951821	68.8	13	3	5
6	Nagaland	1978502	1710973	86.5	11	0	3
7	MANIPUR (Excl. 3 Sub-Divisions of Senapati Distt.)	2570390	902740	35.1	5	0	7
8	Mizoram	1097206	1036115	94.4	8	0	2
9	Tripura	3673917	1166813	31.8	1	3	9
10	Meghalaya	2966889	2555861	86.1	7	0	4
11	Assam	31205576	3884371	12.4	2	5	16
12	Jharkhand	32988134	8645042	26.2	5	8	11
13	Odisha	41974218	9590756	22.8	8	6	12
14	Chhattisgarh	25545198	7822902	30.6	7	6	10
15	Madhya Pradesh	72626809	15316784	21.1	6	13	13
16	Gujarat	60439692	8917174	14.8	5	4	14
17	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	343709	178564	52	1	0	6
18	Maharashtra	112374333	10510213	9.4	1	3	18
19	Andhra Pradesh	84580777	5918073	7	0	1	20
20	Lakshadweep	64473	61120	94.8	1	0	1
21	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	380581	28530	7.5	1	0	19
	Total	90	62				

Source: Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Tribal profile- May 2013

Madhya Pradesh has 21.1% tribal population to total population and it is ranked 13(as shown in table 5). If we compare to other Indian States, Proportion of Tribal's is less in Madhya Pradesh. But if we combine Chhattisgarh with Madhya Pradesh, then the proportion would become 51% and undivided Madhya Pradesh would have been at rank 7. If we talk about number of districts having tribal population, then things would have been different. Madhya Pradesh has 13 such districts whose 25-50% population is tribal, and 6 districts comprise more than 50% tribal population. Arunachal Pradesh (ranked 5) comprises of 13 such districts which have more than 50% Tribal Population, and Nagaland (ranked 3) have 11 districts with more than 50% Tribal population (as shown in table 5). It is clear from the statistics that, Madhya Pradesh can be better in overall proportion, but the number of districts consisting tribal population is higher than other States.

Tribal Population can be seen across India and their settlement is mainly in the forest area, which is away from main stream of urban habitat. In recent times, various criminal activities from tribal's areas came into consideration. This tribal population may easily be influenced and usually become victim of ugly politics. But still this social group is part of India and should be taken care off.

Demographic Profile of Schedule Caste (SC)

Caste system prevails in the Indian society from many years. This division of caste is on the basis of birth not by occupation. Irrespective of individual's education attainment, aptitude, skill acquired, the lower caste individual is always seen as poor and deprive of equal entitlement in the society. Many of the marginalized groups are uneducated and are unaware of government uplifting policies for them, so they are involve in various unorganized sector for employment and are been always victim of exploitation from rich. Due to the lack of education, they are mainly involve in manual works, for which they are been paid less and the economic condition is throughout the same for such groups. As we are in 21st century, caste is no more the definitive mode of organizing economic and social relation in India, but is still it has impact on the socio-economic and social life of communities. The Hindu caste system is divided into four board categories Brahmins (priest), Kshatriyas (Warriors), Vasihyas (traders) and Shudras (menial works). The castes of Ati Shudras (Most menial workers) were designed outside to four categories and it is this outcaste that is today referred as Schedule Caste (**Mona Setwal and Sangeeta Kamat, 2008**).

Scheduled Castes have been referred as "Untouchable" by Hindu caste society and as "Harijan" by Mahatama Gandhi i.e. "Children of God". These terms are deemed as unconstitutional and were rejected as derogatory by the scheduled castes themselves. The word "Dalit" was been popularized from within the scheduled castes community to show up their subjugated status and create unique identity and regard as "Others" within Hindus. Education level in this group has been better in compare to the Schedule Tribes. Socio- Economic condition of SC's has improved in last 50 years, but not to the extent that this group would be considered privileged.

Economic growth and social justice was the prime objective of India since Independence. But, to what extent, the poor has been benefited from this entire growth objective on which India has emphasized. Reduction of poverty, equality in education and health facilities, equal access to public properties and services, equal education opportunity and improvement in overall standard of living, such issues have been always in the mind of policy makers.

Scheduled caste holds a good proportion in the total population of India. The total population of scheduled caste in India is 20,13,78,086. With some states having less or no proportion of SC's, there are most of the states which have a large population of scheduled caste people. Taking picture in the view of all the states we can see that the major portion of total SCs live in the rural region of the country as compared to the urban region. Talking of our state Madhya Pradesh there has been a significant increase in the number of the population in the last decade. According to the census 2011, total population of SC's in M.P is 1,13,42,320 (comprising both rural and urban population). Table below shows a comparative arrangement of population of all the states in the last two decades.

State-wise Scheduled Caste (SC) Population (Rural/Rural+Urban) (2001 and 2011)				
States	Rural		Rural+Urban	
	2001	2011	2001	2011
Andhra Pradesh	10,219,409	10,846,333	12,339,496	13,878,078
Arunachal Pradesh	3,062	-	6,188	-
Assam	1,553,691	1,825,761	1,825,949	2,231,321
Bihar	12,178,555	15,344,215	13,048,608	16,567,325
Chhattisgarh	1,899,055	2,511,949	2,418,722	3,274,269
Delhi	188,378	82,183	2,343,255	2,812,309
Goa	10,720	9,461	23,791	25,449
Gujarat	2,180,441	2,281,573	3,592,715	4,074,447
Haryana	3,210,917	3,720,109	4,091,110	5,113,615
Himachal Pradesh	1,403,050	1,606,535	1,502,170	1,729,252
Jammu & Kashmir	636,016	751,026	770,155	924,991
Jharkhand	2,588,094	3,152,863	3,189,320	3,985,644
Karnataka	6,417,243	7,495,763	8,563,930	10,474,992
Kerala	2,553,725	1,818,281	3,123,941	3,039,573
Madhya Pradesh	6,914,726	8,268,002	9,155,177	11,342,320
Maharashtra	6,093,829	7,494,819	9,881,656	13,275,898
Manipur	20,802	47,563	60,037	97,042
Meghalaya	7,065	11,573	11,139	17,355
Mizoram	65	298	272	1,218
Nagaland	-	-	-	-
Odisha	5,378,788	6,218,642	6,082,063	7,188,463
Punjab	5,318,254	6,496,986	7,028,723	8,860,179
Rajasthan	7,739,926	9,536,963	9,694,462	12,221,593
Sikkim	23,872	20,335	27,165	28,275
Tamil Nadu	8,308,890	9,475,475	11,857,504	14,438,445
Tripura	455,623	437,993	555,724	654,918
Uttar Pradesh	30,816,596	35,685,227	35,148,377	41,357,608
Uttarakhand	1,256,122	1,496,665	1,517,186	1,892,516
West Bengal	15,524,925	17,095,107	18,452,555	21,463,270
All-India	133,010,878	153,850,562	166,635,700	201,378,086
<i>Sources: Census of India, 2001; 2011.</i>				

It is clearly visible through the data that the major portion of SC's still resides in the rural area. When the other established castes being modernized and moving ahead with the world, the SC's are still untouched by the charm of the urbanization and thus this caste didn't had the fair chance of development. In the last decade many SC's have moved to the urban area and this may be because of the slight increase in the awareness about the education within the caste. Though the literacy rate has moved slightly higher for this caste but still they are not able to receive quality education which is necessary for their uplift.

Findings

The following analysis will show as to what extent disparity exists between the scheduled population and the non scheduled population in Madhya Pradesh on the basis on Education, Employment and Standard of Living.

(I) Education

Education plays a key role in development, whether it is a nation, state or a person. Quality education imparts knowledge to a person to become apprehensive which helps him to lead a successful life. The level of education helps people to earn recognition and respect in the society. India has always been a nation where inequality prevails in the matter of education and this major issue needs to be solved as early as possible. While there are some states having a high literacy rate like Kerala which enjoy 93.9% literacy rate, there are others which have a very low literacy rate like Bihar having 63.8%. Madhya Pradesh enjoys a literacy rate of 70.6%. Though the percentage rate of education in M.P is not that good but it has certainly shown the signs of improvement in the last decade. To raise the standard of living in the scheduled population, it is important to create an urge within to acquire education which is the only instrument to break the isolation and barriers in the society to pave way for social mobility.

Table below shows **the literacy rate of scheduled population in Madhya Pradesh** (census 2011).

	Total literate population	Total illiterate population
Total	6313661	9003123
Rural	5723449	8553425
Urban	590212	449698

There is a wide gap in the number of literate and illiterate population of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe in Madhya Pradesh. As most of the scheduled population lives in the rural area and they couldn't have proper education so this caste remains socially backward to the other caste of the society. Talking about the urban region of the state, here the literacy rate for this caste has considerably gone up. So we can say that inequality exists within the caste too where urban people are becoming more educated and modern whereas the rural population is not able to match them. The dropout rate of students of scheduled caste/tribes is 64.6%. Not all the students who take admission in the school are able to complete their academic courses and this is because that major portion of this population is unaware about the importance of education and the societal constraints they are facing. The other reason is their poor economic condition where the families are not able to support the education of all their children. Sometimes the elder child is retained at home for the domestic chores.

Dropout rate of SC/ST in Madhya Pradesh

	Males	Females	Total
Madhya Pradesh	58.7%	71.9%	64.6%

Source: statistics of school education (2010-2011)

Female dropout ratio (71.9%) is higher than that of males (58.7%) of this caste and this is due to the orthodox belief which prevails in the society that females don't need to be given education which in turn makes the whole caste socially backward. They fail to understand that the knowledge of one woman can change her family first and society indirectly.

(II) Employment

Working of people is necessary for any caste to develop economically. The stability and development of society rest on the ability to maintain a low unemployment rate. For the scheduled population, labour is the only asset they can use to earn their livelihood. The route to poverty eradication in scheduled caste/tribe and for their personal well being is through decent work. As this caste is not treated equally in the society, sometimes they are not given a fair chance to get a job worth their talent or to prove their mettle at the workplace. Table below shows about the employment scenario of scheduled population in Madhya Pradesh (according to census 2011).

	Total population	Total work population	Male working population	Female working population	Unemployed force
Total	15316784	7640148	4105887	3534261	7676636
Rural	14276874	7248796	3843157	3405639	7028078
Urban	1039910	391352	262730	128622	648658

A glance over the data given above shows that just about half of the population of this caste is employed. Females are less into employment as compared to the male population of this caste because females are retained at home to look after the house or their siblings and also because of the insecurities about their safety and orthodox beliefs. In the rural region, this caste is mostly into the labour and menial work which others are reluctant to do. Talking about the urban region, only 37.6% of the total population is employed indicating poor employment condition within this caste. Even the income generated by the employed force is not sufficient to support a serene lifestyle. Most of the population is unaware about governmental schemes reserved for their betterment. Only a few households of this caste are able to take advantage of MGNREG job scheme by the government. Many could not seek the MGNREG job card (only 541 out of 1000 households were able to get the job card). A tabular arrangement of labour force participation rate (LFPR), working population ratio (WPR) and proportion unemployed (PU) particularly of scheduled tribe of Madhya Pradesh is given below.

LFPR, WPR, PU according to the usual status for Madhya Pradesh

	LFPR	WPR	PU
Rural	461	457	4
Urban	360	344	16
Rural + Urban	456	452	4

Source: employment & unemployment situation among social groups in India (NSS 66th round).

The employment force eligible for working (according to age) is more in the rural area than the urban region. Many people migrate to the city for the employment purpose but end up being unemployed because of the harsh competition they had to face with the other caste in the society and less opportunity available to them. The lucky ones who were able to get good education used the opportunity to their favor and thrived the competition and moved ahead in life, others are just at the same stage.

(III) Standard of Living

The standard of living is closely related to quality of life, which means the level of wealth, comfort, material goods and necessities available to a certain socio-economic class. Various quantitative indicators can be used as measuring rods, including access to quality healthcare, quality and availability of education, access to nutritious food, a safe water supply, transportation and quality of housing. If a society lacks any of these facilities then it may bring a drop in standard of living and conversely, an increase in social benefits may bring about a rise.

Condition of Houses in Madhya Pradesh

		ALL				Scheduled		
	Total houses	Good houses	%having sanitation facility within the premises	%having separate kitchen inside	Total houses	Good houses	%having sanitation facility within the premises	%having separate kitchen inside
M.P	14967597	52.3	28.8	46.8	3213683	38.8	8.5	36.6

It has been clear from above statistics that, condition of the houses of scheduled castes and tribes are in not good condition; only 38% of houses are in good condition in comparison to 52.3% of others. The matter of concern is sanitation facilities available inside the house, only 8.5% houses having sanitation inside, therefore this would lead to unhealthy condition of many individuals who are residing in these houses.

Main Source of lightning

	Electricity		Kerosene		Solar energy		Other	
	ST	All	ST	All	ST	All	ST	All
M.P	54.0	67.1	44.6	32.1	0.6	0.3	0.8	0.5

Location of main source of drinking water

	Total no. of HH(All)			Total no. of HH(ST)		
	Within the premises	Near the premises	Away	Within the premises	Near the premises	Away
M.P	23.9	45.6	30.5	8.4	50.1	41.5

Type of fuel used in cooking

ALL			ST		
Firewood/crop residue/cow dung/coal/lighite/charcoal	Kerosene/LPG/PNG/electricity		Firewood/crop residue/cow dung/lighite/charcoal	Kerosene/LPG/PNG/electricity	
79.42	20.53		95.90	4.07	

Households having bank a/c and possessing few durable assets (In Madhya Pradesh)

	Bank services	T.V	Computer/laptop	Landline & mobile	Two wheeler	Four wheeler	...
ST	41.54	9.7	3.0	0.7	5.6	0.4	56.0
ALL	46.6	32.1	4.5	3.0	18.8	2.7	32.6

As indicated by the above data, the scheduled population lags behind the other castes in the society in all the basic amenities required for the satisfactory and serene life. About half of the households of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe still have to go far away from their place to avail safe drinking water. When the whole nation is adopting advanced technology to make living easier, this caste still struggles to get basic necessities. Household condition is really poor as many of them don't even have proper sanitation facility within their premises or a separate kitchen for their family. Moreover, there are some households which do not have any bank or conveyance facility which is now a basic need.

Conclusion

We can conclude saying that our society can be divided in two broad categories. One moving at a good pace to become a superpower and the other still trying to find it's identity. While the established caste in the society enjoys all the comforts and luxuries of life, the scheduled caste/ scheduled tribe is deprived of the basic needs. It can be said that there is a big difference in the stature of scheduled population and other caste in the society. For the scheduled population to progress, it is important to break the barriers in the mindset of the people within the caste. It is important for the Government to take some active steps in order to provide equal

education, equal employment opportunity and a good life standard. Only making reservation in all the sectors for this caste are not sufficient. It is required that the authorities keep a check on the schemes they make for this caste so that they are purely to uplift them. The social discrimination which is prevailing in the society from the past centuries considering them as backward and low must soon be changed because it creates a hindrance in the positive development of our nation.

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