

## Socio-Economic Status of Scheduled Castes in Hisar District of Haryana State

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**Abstract:** *In view of Indian society, caste is still the most influential factor in determining an individual's dignity in terms of socio-economic indicators. The caste system has created an unequal opportunity structure. It is the worst thing that it intensifies and perpetuates the sufferings of the marginalized section. The social status and economic condition of S.C are very pathetic, even after the many economic plans have taken place. In our constitution the provisions made for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes have been grouped under areas as: (I) Development Measures (II) Protective Measures and (III) Positive discriminate measures. The case study was conducted in villages of Hisar district of Haryana state, to analyse the social and economic status of Scheduled caste people in the concerned district. Along with it to know about the changes that took place in their household activities, external works, educational condition and living standard.*

**Keywords:** *Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, development, Hisar, Haryana, Socio-economic status.*

**Introduction:** In the constitution of India the provision has been made of economic justice, social security, equality of status, equal opportunities and sustained of every individual dignity irrespective of religion or castes. Even then among especially scheduled castes and scheduled tribes social and economic deprivation has been a great problem during the pre and post independence. It has already been mentioned here that irrespective of religion or caste in constitution the provisions have been made for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes safeguard and promote their cultural, social, educational, economic and political interests in order to bring them in the mainstream of nation. The

concerned case study especially has been conducted on the socio-economic status of the scheduled castes in Hisar district of Haryana state. For the objective 200 cases have selected from the scheduled castes of males as well as women. For recording their narratives, interview, qualitative analysis and interpretations were prepared.

The narratives were recorded, processed, analysed and tabulated in order to drive major themes and sub-themes. The results obtained based on qualitative research it reveals that the socio-economic condition some of the respondents is not good. It is very difficult for them to afford the expenditure of education for their wards. During the case study it has been found that most of the families are dependent on agricultural employments, but due to some various reasons the agro production remained low, which released negative results on their life. Most of the respondents are living in semi kucha house, it has also found that most of the families have the facilities of electricity, water connection and toilet.

In the study it was observed that all of the respondents were familiar about only one employment programme run by the government it was MGNREGA, and many of them secured the benefits of concerned scheme. Some of the respondents provided the information that took loan for education, health and for some other purposes. All of the respondents have mobile facility but least of them have vehicle facility. The children of many respondents are getting education in Govt. school within village. Most of people are not aware about the education programmes run by governments. Most of the respondents have livestock as cows, buffaloes, sheep and goats etc. for the purpose of milk instead for business. Dowry system is existed in the society. Caste system also prevalent in the society, due to that the respondents and their wards many times have to become the victims of atrocities and biasedness in the society. MGNREGA released good impact financially on women and became of this now many of them have prominent member of the family in decision making. Resultantly among the confidence level also enhanced. Undoubtedly social and

economic status of the scheduled castes has improved in comparison of earlier days. This change could transpire only because of education and reservation in employment in different sectors of the government.

All of us are well familiar with this fact that our Indian society is depleted with many glaring inequalities. Our society is compounded with so many social parameters as they are applied based on castes. In such system the most bad condition is of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. In view of Indian society, caste is still the most influential factor in determining an individuals dignity in terms of socio-economic indicators. The constitution of India is enriched with number of provisions for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes to safeguard and promote their social, cultural, educational, economic and political interests, so that socially and economically most back-warded this segment of society may be brought in the main stream of society.

Today we are living in the era of globalization where on country is termed as a developing nation or it is in the race of to be turned as a developed national and around seventy years have passed on getting freedom, still a large part of our society is struggling for the very need of food.

In our Indian society the caste system is the result of Hindu belief in "Karma". Earlier in the society the system was of four varnas later this system turned into a social 3000 sub castes all around the country. Untouchables have their place in the bottom of list. According to the Hindu ideology once the person born in a particular caste will take rebirth in the same caste. And as per the theory of this ideology the profession is determined according to caste, instead of talent or qualification secured by the individual.

The caste system has segregated the Dalits from the rest of the society to such an extent that they were denied even the basic human rights that one must enjoy. The caste system has created an unequal opportunity structure. It is the worst thing that it intensifies and perpetuates the sufferings of marginalized section. The social status and economic condition of S.C are very pathetic, even after the many economic plans have taken place.

In the Indian constitution the provisions have been made for weaker sections of the society and various acts and legal provisions were made for the protection and development of down-trodden segment of society. No doubt strong financial position ensure freedom of choice. In the constitution the provisions made for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes have been grouped under areas as: (I) development Measures (II) Protective Measures and (III) Positive discriminate measures. Development measures include centrally sponsored schemes educational, economic and cultural development. In this context the Special component plan was adopted in 1979-80, onward for the development and welfare of scheduled castes.

Scheduled Caste Finance and Development corporation was established 1979 for the purposes of economically to develop the scheduled castes. In the same way National Scheduled caste and scheduled Tribe Finance and Development Corporation was established in 1989 to play an important role in promoting self employment and to develop entrepreneurial and skilled abilities among the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The National Scheme of liberation and rehabilitation of scavenger and their dependents, which were launched in March 1992 and have been extended upto Eleventh Five Year Plan period. Importantly the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation has been made operative in 1997 for the purposes of to promote economic development, self employment to provide training in technical and entrepreneurial skills and extending loan to the students from the Safai Karamchari community for getting higher education.

In our country often census is conducted in every decade, census provided many information related to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, and the record information assisted to evolve suitable plans for the upliftment of downtrodden section. When the information are collected during the census, it becomes the duty of the person who is collecting information he/she should care that every information related to downtrodden section of the society be recorded honestly and with full awareness. Although conducting census is a time

concerning and large money required process. And during the census process if any mistake takes place, the resurvey is not possible and in such condition plans about the upliftment of downtrodden sections of society could not be made.

The case study was conducted in villages of Hisar district of Haryana state. The objective of the case study was to analyse the social and economic status of Scheduled caste people in the concerned district. Along with it to know about the changes took place in their household activities, external works, educational condition and living standard.

The case study was organized very carefully keeping in mind their values and ethics of the community people. The study ensures that many changes have taken place in comparison of the earlier days.

The main objective of the case study is towards on grass root level within the society and to know about the social and economic conditions of the concerned people.

**Table 1** shows that more respondents come under the age of forty five to fifty five and small number of the respondents in the age group of twenty five to thirty five. Table shows that there are 110 respondents are male and 90 are female. Out of two hundred respondents, 130 respondents belong to joint family and 70 respondents belong to nuclear family. Table shows that out of two hundred respondents, 144 are Hindu and 56 are belong to Buddhism religion.

**Table - 1**

<b>Personal Profile :</b>	
<b>Ages of respondents :</b>	
Age	No. of respondents
25-35	35
35-45	40
45-55	72
55-65	53
<b>Sex of Respondents</b>	
Male	Female
110	90
<b>Type of Family :</b>	
Type of Family	No. of Respondents
Nuclear	130
Joint	70

**Table 2** shows that out of the 200 respondents, 60 are illiterate, 55 educated at the primary level, 40 at the higher secondary, 30 at the senior secondary, 10 at the graduate and 05 respondents are educated at the post graduate level.

Table shows that 15 respondents are Govt. employee, 20 are on private job, 105 are daily wager and 60 respondents are agricultural labourers. It is revealed from the table that 71 family members earning between 3000-5000, 59 between 5000-7500, 51 between 7500-10000 and 19 family member earning are above 10000.

**Table - 2**

<b>Family Profile :</b>	
<b>Family Education</b>	
Particulars	No. of Respondents
Illiterate	60
Primary School	55
Higher Secondary	40
Senior Secondary	30
Graduate	10
Post Graduate	05
<b>Family Occupation :</b>	
Particulars	No. of Respondents
Govt. Employee	15
Private Job	20
Daily Wager	105
Agricultural Labourers	60
<b>Family Income :</b>	
Particulars	No. of Respondents
Less than 3000-5000	71
5000-7500	59
75000-10000	51
10000 and Above	19

**Table 3** shows that all 200 hundred respondents live in village. All respondents are the permanent member of the village. 147 respondents have the knowledge of Govt. Development Programe and 53 respondents not have this type knowledge. 189 respondents have working in

MGNREGA and 11 respondents have not. It is revealed that 90 respondents have not faced any discrimination and 110 respondents have faced discrimination by the upper caste in the village. 120 respondents have not faced any conflicts with higher caste people and 80 have faced conflicts with higher caste people in the village. It is revealed from the table that all respondents have disclosed their caste at work place.

**Table - 3**

<b>Social and Economic Status</b>	
<b>Where do you reside :</b>	
Particular	No. of Respondents
Within the Village	200
Outside the village / town	0
<b>Permanent resident of the village :</b>	
Particular	No. of Respondents
Yes	200
No	0
<b>Years of living in village :</b>	
Particular	No. of Respondents
Less than 20 years	0
20 to 30 years	0
More than 30 years	200
<b>Knowledge about Govt. development Programme :</b>	
Particular	No. of Respondents
Yes	147
No	53
<b>Working in MNREGA :</b>	
Particular	No. of Respondents
Yes	189
No	11
<b>Discrimination by the higher caste :</b>	
Particular	No. of Respondents

Yes	110
No	90
<b>Conflict with higher caste :</b>	
Particular	No. of Respondents
Yes	80
No	120
<b>Discrimination in work place :</b>	
Particular	No. of Respondents
Yes	73
No	127
<b>Caste disclosed at workplace</b>	
Particular	No. of Respondents
Yes	200
No	0
<b>Factor which determine the social status :</b>	
Particular	No. of Respondents
Education	70
Income level	120
Other	10
<b>Improvement in social status of SC in comparison of earlier time :</b>	
Particular	No. of Respondents
Yes	200
No	0
<b>Economic status when compare to father are better :</b>	
Particular	No. of Respondents
Yes	200
No	0
<b>Is any family member is alcoholic :</b>	
Particular	No. of Respondents

Yes	133
No	67
<b>Have any girl child :</b>	
Particular	No. of Respondents
Yes	193
No	7
<b>Afraid to giving dowry :</b>	
Particular	No. of Respondents
Yes	65
No	135
<b>Problem faced related to dowry :</b>	
Particular	No. of Respondents
Yes	56
No	144
<b>Right age of marriage :</b>	
Particular	No. of Respondents
10 to 15	0
15 to 20	30
20 to 25	150
25 to 30	20
<b>Thinking about child marriage :</b>	
Particular	No. of Respondents
Good Practice	0
Wrong Practice	200

Table shows that all the respondents have believe that their economic status is better than their fathers in the village. 120 respondents believe that social status is depend on the economic level. 70 respondents believe that social status is depend on education level.

**Table - 4**

<b>HOUSING</b>	
<b>Are you staying in your own house?</b>	
Particular or own home	No. of Respondents
Yes	200
No	0
<b>Type of house :</b>	
Particular	No. of Respondents
Kacha	60
Pucca	130
Semi-pucca	10
<b>No. of rooms :</b>	
Particular	No. of Respondents
1 to 2	155
2 to 3	45
<b>Do you have the following facilities in your house :</b>	
<b>A) Separate Kitchen :</b>	
Particular	No. of Respondents
Yes	35
No	165
<b>B) Electricity :</b>	
Particular	No. of Respondents
Yes	130
No	70
<b>C) Water Connection :</b>	
Particular	No. of Respondents
Yes	71
No	129
<b>D) Latrine</b>	
Particular	No. of Respondents
Yes	195
No	05

**Table 4** shows that all respondents have their own house in village. 60 respondents lives in Kacha house, 130 respondents have Pucca house and 10 respondents have semi-pucca house. 45 respondents have two to three rooms and 155 respondents have one to two rooms. Out of 200

respondents, 35 have kitchen and 165 not have kitchen. 195 respondents have separate latrine facility and 5 respondents have not separate latrine facility in the village.

## **Suggestions**

The government has implemented many developmental programmes for the welfare and employment of downtrodden section of the society. Economic development programmes are very important for employments creating and for income generation for the S.C. Effective implementation and fund utilization under these scheme will definitely be instrumental in removing the poverty and creating job opportunities for scheduled castes. The government need to create awareness among the people about the programme run by it for the purpose socially and economically development of scheduled castes people.

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