AN ANALYSIS ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF SCHEDULED CASTES POPULATION IN TIROL VILLAGE, ARAMBAGH, HOOGHLY

Sanjib Sardar *1 ✉

*1 Research Scholar, Sri Satya Sai University of Technology and Medical Sciences, Madhya Pradesh, India

ABSTRACT

The present paper is concerned with Socio-Economic background of Scheduled Castes (SCs) population in Tirol village, Arambagh and its major focus is to analyze the main obstacles on the way to socio-economic development. The basic information has been collected through the well-prepared questionnaire and supplemented by relevant secondary data. An intensive study was run over 287 sample household and the result was shown in the tabulated form. The outcome of the study reveals that 88.88 percentage sample population belong to SCs community and the percentage of men and women is 49.64 and 50.36 respectively. The educational level of the study area is not so good among the people of SCs community except the present generation and in terms of higher education the level is very poor. The rate of literacy among women is far behind than men although the number of women is more than men. The monthly income of SCs is not up to the mark. A large number of people of the SCs community are unemployed and the main economic activities are based on agriculture. They usually live in mud house, although there are several concrete houses built with the help of Indira Awas Yojana. So as a whole it is observed from the present study that, the socio-economic condition of SC community is poor and Government should pay attention to socio-economic backwardness and find requisite steps for sustainable development.

1. INTRODUCTION

The word 'Caste' has been derived from the Portuguese term 'Casta' meaning race, family or lineage. M.N. Srinivas defined 'caste' as heredity usually localized group, having a traditional association with an occupational and particular position in the local hierarchy of castes.

Prevalence of 'Caste System' in Indian Hindu society is one of the most discriminatory forms of social stratification. Scheduled castes (SC) are Sub-communities within the framework of the Hindu caste system and they are considered to be of low status in society. According to the Constitution order, 1950 lists, there are 1108 castes across 29 States in its first schedule in India.

As per 2011 census of India, there are around 201.38 million SCs comprising of 103.53 males and 97.84 million females in India. The proportion of SCs in relation to the total population is 16.64% where 8.55% and 8.08% belong to male and female categories respectively.

Punjab has the highest proportion of SCs (31.90%) followed by Himachal Pradesh (25.20%), West Bengal (23.50), Uttar Pradesh (20.70%) and Haryana (20.20%). As regard to the bottom, Mizoram has the lowest proportion of SCs (0.10%) followed by Meghalaya (0.60%), Goa (1.70%), Dadra and Nagar Haveli (1.80%) and Daman and Diu (2.50%).

SCs have faced deprivation and social isolation on accounts of their perceived low social status in India. They also suffered from educational backwardness and many economic problems such as poverty, low property ownership, limited selection of occupation and landlessness. The aforesaid issues are no exception in Tirol village. This paper uses a large sample of SCs dominated Uttarpara, Daspara and Dharapara in Tirol village under C.D. Block, Arambagh, Hooghly, on the basis of assessment, analysis of the socio-economic condition of SCs population.

2. OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of this study are as follows-
- To assess and analyze the socio-economic conditions of SCs population of the study area
- To find out the obstacles in the way of socio-economic development of SCs population and eradication of those socio-economic barriers
- To suggest implementation of proper planning for prospective development

3. DATA BASE AND METHODOLOGY

The study has been conducted on the basis of primary as well as secondary data. The primary data regarding social, economical, educational and occupational condition obtained with the help of well prepared questionnaire. Tirol village under187 C.D. Block Arambagh has been selected for field survey and 287 household have been surveyed for sample survey.

The secondary data have been collected from various sources like published records of the government, published and unpublished records of Non-Government Organizations. Literatures regarding the study area have been collected from Tirol public library and Arambagh Rammohan Pathagar.

The demographic data of the study area have been collected from District Statistical Handbook and C.D. Block wise Primary Census Abstract Data (PCA) of Hooghly District. I have been used lottery method for select sample houses by assigning a unique number and place the number in bowl. Mix the numbers thoroughly and select numbers. The present paper has been accomplished with quantitative as well as qualitative techniques. Primary and secondary data have been classified, computed and tabulated for different cartographic and statistical techniques which are used to assess, analyze and represent the data.

4. STUDY AREA

Tirol village is located in Arambagh Tehsil of Hooghly District in West Bengal, India. It is Situated 8 kilometers away from sub-district headquarter Arambagh and 78.6 kilometers from district headquarter Chinsurah. This area is bounded by Belar-Bhurkunda in North, Bajekumarpur in East, Iyadpur in West and Dongabathan in South. The total geographical area of the village is 583.19 hectares and the village code is 324242. There are about 1026 household in Tirol village.

1. SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF SCHEDULED CASTE POPULATION IN TIROL VILLAGE

Three localities namely Uttarpara, Daspara and Dharapara in Tirol village have been selected for sample survey as this area is SC dominated. In the study area, inequality observed in economic and social status between SCs and General category people.

Table 1: Sample household and population of selected localities of Tirol village

Localities	Sample Total Household	Sample Total Population	Sample SCs Household	Sample SCs Population	Percentage of SCs
Uttarpara	111	482	98	426	88.38

Daspara	80	352	78	343	97.44
Dharapara	96	417	75	337	80.82
Total	287	1251	251	1106	88.88

Source: Field survey (May 2018)

5. DEMOGRAPHIC STRUCTURE

As per 2011 Census Report, Tirol village has a total of 1026 household and a total population of 4523 in which the number of males is 2293 (50.70%) *and females is 2230 (49.30%). In the* case of the SCs the population in Tirol village is 1975, of which the number of males is 978 (49.52%) and the females is 997 (50.48%). SCs dominated 287 household (27.97%) out of 1026 household have been selected for the field survey where the total population is 1251 (27.66%) and the SCs are 1106 (56%). Significantly, the number of SCs in Arambagh is 37.57% (As per 2011 Census Report), while the number of SCs population in Tirol village is 43.67%.

Table 2: Sex Ratio and Caste Composition of Sample Household

Localities	Sex Ratio		Caste Composition					
			Generals		SCs		OBCs	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Uttarpara	238	244	23	25	211	215	4	4
Daspara	175	177	3	2	170	173	2	2
Dharapara	206	211	25	27	168	169	13	15
Total	619	632	51	54	549	557	19	21
Percentage	49.48	50.52	8.39		88.41		3.20	

Source: Field survey (May 2018)

2011 Census report revealed that the number of women (49.30%) in total population is less than the number of men (50.70%) in Tirol Village and it is also less than the national average. However, the number of women (50.48%) is more than the number of men (49.52%) in SCs population. In the case of field survey, it has also been noticed that the number of women is more than the men and it is 632 and 619 respectively. As per sample survey, 1106 SCs population are surveyed where the number of men is 549 and the number of women is 557. On the other hand for these three localities, the general caste population is rare, only 105 while the men and women is 51 and 54 respectively. Here no people belonging to Scheduled Tribes community live and regarding to OBCs, there are only 46 people, including 19 men and 21 women.
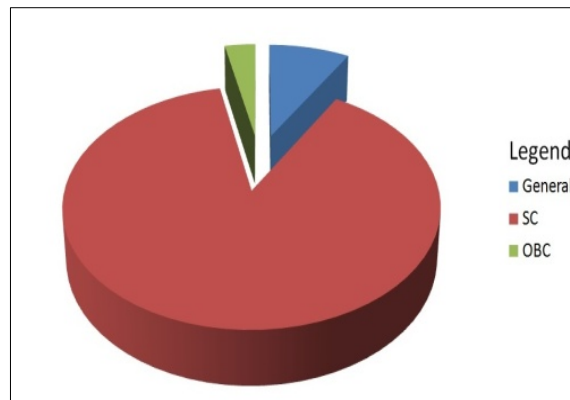

Figure 1: Caste composition of Sample Household

6. EDUCATIONAL STATUS

Education brings awareness in people and keeps them away from superstitious beliefs. In terms of literacy rate women are far behind than men in the study area. Literacy rate among men is 74.o5% and for women is only 65.28%.

There are a large number of people deprived of the light of education here and they are 25.95% of men and 34.72% of women. The most backward locality with regard to literacy rate is Uttarpara where the literacy rate of men and women is 72.99% and 61.86% respectively (Table 3).

Table 3: Literacy Rate of SCs Population of Sample Household

Localities	Literate Population		Illiterate Population		Literacy Rate (%)		Illiteracy Rate (%)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Uttarpara	154	133	57	82	72.99	61.86	27.01	38.14
Daspara	121	112	49	61	71.18	64.74	28.82	35.26
Dharapara	131	117	37	52	77.98	69.23	22.02	30.77
Total	406	362	143	195	74.05	65.28	25.95	34.72

Source: Field survey (May 2018)

The SC population is aware of education but due to poor financial condition and lack of basic facilities, they are unable to move towards the higher education. It is astonishing that only 0.18% (Table 4) of the total SCs population has Postgraduate degrees. Only 5.33% population hold Graduate degrees and 2.44% people go towards technical education. The Peoples with Higher Secondary degree is about 16.91%.
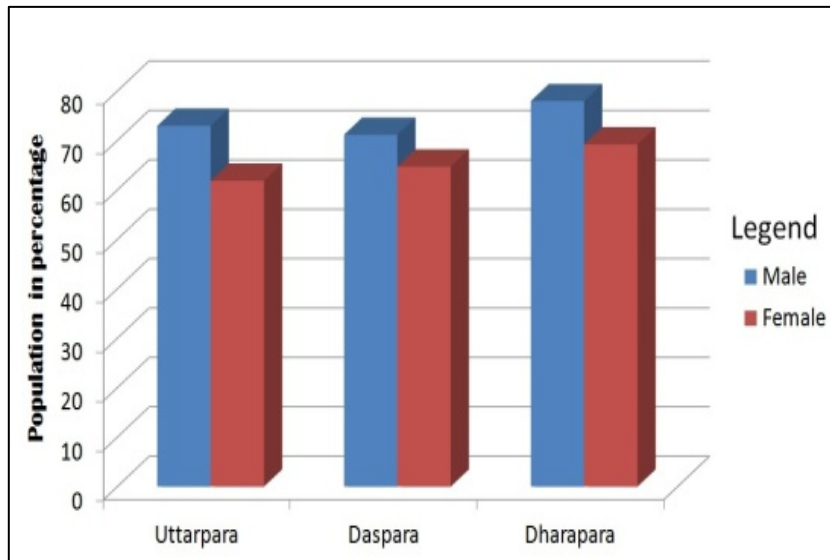

Figure 2: Literacy rate by Sex of sample household

The Secondary with 22.33%, Upper primary with 15.91% and Lower primary with 6.33% literacy rate shows the evidence of testimony of educational backwardness.

Table 4: Educational Level of SCs Population of Sample Household

Localities	Educational Level						
	Lower Primary	Upper Primary	Secondary	Higher Secondary	Technical after H. S	Undergraduate	Postgraduate
Uttarpara	28	60	102	70	7	19	1
Daspara	16	38	78	62	14	25	Nil
Dharapara	26	78	67	55	6	15	1
Total	70	176	247	187	27	59	2
Percentage	6.33	15.91	22.33	16.91	2.44	5.33	0.18

Source: Field survey (May 2018)

7. INCOME STRUCTURE

There is a close relationship between family income and development, including food supply, health, residents and academic performance. The people belonging to the SC community living in these three localities namely Uttarpara, Daspara and Dharapara are far behind in terms of adequate family income.
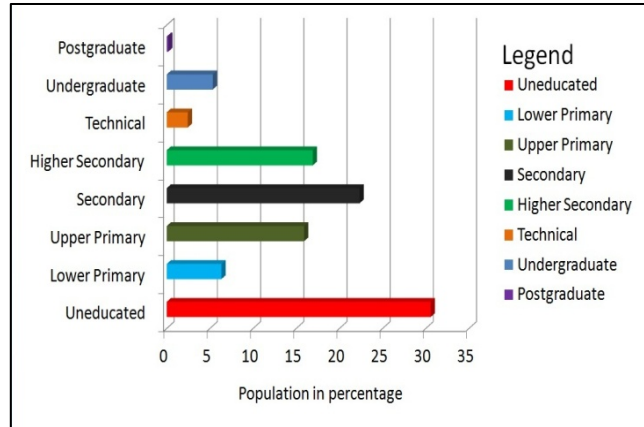

Figure 3: Educational Status of SCs in the study area

There are lack of food, housing, education and other essential requirements of human existences as low family income in the study area. As per field survey, 20.72% of the SCs household had an average monthly income less than 5000 Indian rupees and 21.51% of the household belong to the monthly income group between Rs. 5000 10000. On the other hand, 15.54% household belongs to the income group between 10000-15000 and 20.32% of the income group 15000-2000. About 13.15% of the household belong to the income group between Rs. 20000-25000 and only 8.76% of the SCs household had an average monthly income more than 25000 Indian rupees (Table 5).

Table 5: Monthly Income Structure of the family of SCs Population for Sample Survey

Localities	Monthly Income of the Family in Indian National Rupees					
	<5000	5000-10000	10000-15000	15000-20000	20000-25000	>25000
Uttarpara	27	18	13	17	14	9
Daspara	13	21	7	20	11	6
Dharapara	12	15	19	14	8	7
Total	52	54	39	51	33	22
Percentage	20.72	21.51	15.54	20.32	13.15	8.76

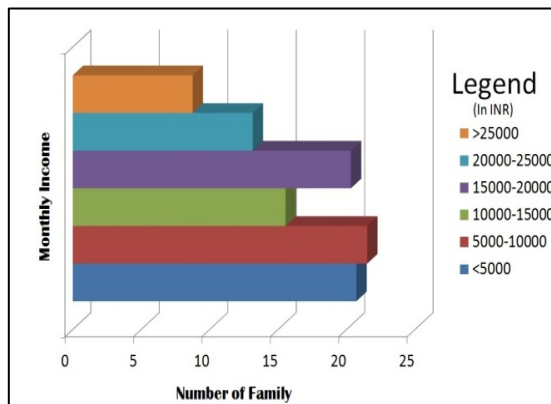*Source: Field survey (May 2018)*

8. OCCUPATIONAL STATUS

Figure 4: Income structure of SCs of sample household

Economic development of any country or region depends on its occupational structure. In developed countries higher proportion of people are engaged in secondary and tertiary sectors while in developing counties higher proportion of people are engaged on primary sectors. As per sample survey, 54.07% (Table 6) of the SCs population are not engaged in any economic activities while 28.84% of the SCs are depending on primary sector. Only 1.18% of the SCs are engaged in secondary sector as this region is not included in industrial zone. 2.53% of the SCs to the study area are involved in mason and only 0.72% employees are in service sector whereas lack of well and competent higher educated person. In regarding business sector, only 4.79% people are engaged. There are few people in Uttarpara is employed as hawker, where no one in Daspara is engaged as hawker. 4.70% of SCs population from the study area connected with transport and communications system. Many people including women and minor here choose 100 days of work as a short-term job.

Table 6: Occupational Structure of SCs population of Sample Household

Localities	Occupational Sector							Unemployed
	Farming	Industrial Worker	Mason	Service	Business	Hawker	Transport, Communications	
Uttarpara	97	3	6	2	30	32	19	237
Daspara	109	4	18	3	14	Nil	12	183
Dharapara	113	6	4	3	9	3	21	178
Total	319	13	28	8	53	35	52	598
Percentage	28.84	1.18	2.53	0.72	4.79	3.16	4.70	54.07

Source: Field survey (May 2018)

9. ACCOMMODATION

Photo plate 1: Accommodation status of sample household

Source: collected by author

The accommodation is one of the basic needs of human beings. In the field survey, it is revealed that the number of room in the total of 251 household is only 626, where 1106 people live. Considering the nature of wall, most of the house walls are made of mud in Daspara and Dharapara, but in Uttarpara most of the houses are made of bricks as Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) has built many houses here. So, the roof of the house of Uttarpara are mainly made of concrete (Table 4). Apart from IAY, most of the house roofs in Dharapara are made of asbestos and thatch. However with regard to wall and roof, in Daspara, a large number of houses are made of concrete.

Table 7: Nature of House of SCs Population of Sample Household

Localities	Total Household	Total Population	No of Room	Nature of Wall		Nature of Roof			
				Brick	Mud	Asbestos	Tin	Concrete	Thatch
Uttarpara	98	426	221	63	35	27	2	56	13
Daspara	78	343	207	25	53	32	4	23	19

Dharapara	75	337	198	7	68	35	5	6	29
Total	251	1106	626	95	156	94	11	85	61
Percentage				37.85	62.15	37.45	4.38	33.86	24.30

Source: Field survey (May 2018)

10. SANITATION FACILITIES

There are poor sanitation and lack of toilets in the study area. Most of the closet made of mud and the condition of the doors in the closet is very frustrating which are not enough to prevent women's embarrassment. The poor sanitation is linked to transmission of diseases such as cholera, diarrhea and dysentery. However, there is a provision of adequate toilets for a number of household initiated by Indira Awas Yojana especially in Uttarpara.
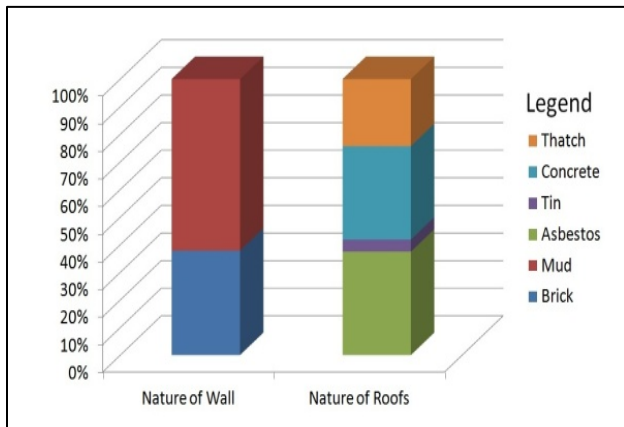

Figure 5: Nature of house of sample household

Photo plate 2: Sanitation condition of sample household
Source: collected by author

11. MAJOR FINDING OF THE STUDY

Major findings of the study are as follows:
- The study area dominated by SC community are far behind regarding socio-economic condition.
- The literacy rate among women of SC population is lower than General women.
- They are not benefited by the reservations policies due to lack of education. They're also not able to apply higher education and job which are reserved for them. Due to lack of progressive outlook and poor economic conditions, they are unable to concentrate themselves towards higher education.
- They are also suffered from low family income, poverty, low property ownership and landlessness.
- The number of population without jobs is too much, so the dependency ratio is very high. The main activities are based on agriculture but they do not have much their own land and high rate of seasonal unemployment has been seen. NEET (youth not in employment, education or training) rate is also high in the study area.
- The condition of accommodation is very unfortunate due to poor financial status. Most of the houses are made of mud which is very difficult for living during the rainy season.
- Here the sanitation system is very unfortunate, which is not enough to maintain good health and hygiene.

12. SUGGESTIONS

There are several suggestions that can be made by reviewing the whole study-
- The concerned authorities will have to take effective steps to eliminate educational backwardness.
- Various types of voluntary organizations can come forward to make the students who are being deprived of education for poverty on the way of higher education.

- Financial assistances should be given to the students by concerned authorities including admission fee, tuition fee, hostel fee, books and other ancillary expenses for higher education.
- They also have to understand by the people of their own community of the facilities provided to them to improve their socio-economic condition.
- The accurate information regarding the constitutional provision for uplift of SCs to given wide publicity through mass media like radio, television, newspaper, wall posters and street theatre.
- Those who are living below the poverty line must ensure food security by the government.
- The unemployed people of SCs community can form self-help group and continue to earn a few earnings that will provide benefits to improve their livelihood.
- The government should ensure the provision of home for every family.
- To maintain good health and hygiene, proper sanitation facilities should be implemented in collaboration with the local government.

13. CONCLUSION

It has been observed that the study area suffers from various problems in terms of infrastructure like education, health and other community services despite the various measures taken by the central as well as the state government. To improve the educational backwardness of SCs students there is need to increase their enrollment in higher education and the government should provide some free cost of books and other learning materials and encourage them for higher education. Various voluntary organizations and well-wisher people should work forward to uplift of SCs population. It should be told to others about the sustainable opportunities of the education by the small number of educated people of their own community.

SOURCES OF FUNDING

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The author have declared that no competing interests exist.

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