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DISTRIBUTIONAL PATTERN AND OCCUPATIONAL MOBILITY OF DHANAK CASTE IN RURAL HARYANA

Doctoral Dissertation Abstract (2016)

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Caste system is a specific characteristic of Indian social fabric. In Indian context, there is an association between caste and occupation. A person carrying a specific occupation is automatically considered belonging to a specific caste or vice-versa. For example, scheduled castes are a collective and constitutional name for those groups of people who belong to lower strata in 'Hindu Society' in India. Dhanak caste is one of the deprived castes among scheduled castes in Haryana. The occupation of Dhanak caste is weaving. However, due to improvement in literacy rate, educational attainment and occupational mobility, noticeable changes have been observed in population characteristics, traditional occupations, living and housing conditions of Dhanak people. At present they are engaged in many services in government as well as private sector and business activities. However, a large part of Dhanak population in rural area is still working as labourers in agricultural activities, poultry farming, construction, roadside labourers, masonry, cloth seller, watchmen etc.

In the present study, the characteristics of Dhanak population and their occupational structure have been analyzed. It includes social and economic characteristics like, household

size, sex ratio, levels of educational attainment and employment status of Dhanak caste in rural Haryana. The aspects like occupational structure, distribution of monthly income, expenditure and saving, modern assets like furniture, electric appliances, kitchen appliances, automobiles, communication facilities, type of fuel used for cooking, drinking water facilities, sanitation facilities, house types and occupational mobility of Dhanak caste in rural Haryana have been studied. The occupational mobility among different castes and social groups in a model village has also been analyzed.

Study Area

Haryana lies between 27°39'0" to 30°55'5" north latitudes and 74°27'8" to 77°36'5" east longitudes. The total rural population of Haryana is 165.09 lakh in which males are 87.74 lakh and females 77.35 lakh (Census of India, 2011). The total scheduled castes population in rural Haryana is 37.20 lakh with 19.73 lakh males and 17.47 lakh females. Out of 37 scheduled castes, Chamar, Balmiki and Dhanak together constitute 81 per cent of the total scheduled caste population of the state. In Haryana, the total rural population of Dhanak caste is 370011 persons i.e. 11 per cent

in proportion to total rural scheduled caste population of Haryana.

Objectives of the Study

Major objectives of the present research work is to study the population characteristics, socio-economic structure, occupational mobility among Dhanak caste and caste-wise occupational mobility among scheduled castes and non-scheduled castes in a model village.

Sources of Data and Research

Methodology

Primary as well as secondary data have been used in the present study. The secondary data have been collected from the published as well as unpublished reports of Census of India, books and other materials. The concentration of Dhanak caste population at district level has been identified with the help of Location Quotient (LQ). On the basis of highest LQ values, five districts namely Rohtak, Jhajjar, Rewari, Gurgaon, and Sirsa have been selected to identify three villages each for further micro-level study. The primary data have been collected from the head of the households using structured questionnaire from 15 villages of five selected districts during the period 2013-2014.

Organization of the Material

First chapter of this study is devoted to introduction, conceptual frame work, review of literature, description of study area, objectives of the study, sources of data, research methodology and scheme for organization of material. The genesis of the Dhanak caste and their distribution is discussed in chapter two. Apart from India, Dhanaks are found in Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh. In India Dhanaks considered as scheduled castes are found in

states like Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh.

Population characteristics of Dhanak caste are presented in chapter three. The study includes size of household, sex ratio, child sex ratio, literacy rate and levels of educational attainment. As per survey of 320 households, the study area contains total population of 1653 persons, comprising 902 males and 751 females. The rural sex ratio is 833, which is less than rural sex ratio of 882 (Census of India, 2011) of the state as a whole and among children there are 718 females per 1000 males. The average size of household is 5.2 persons in rural Haryana. The average literacy rate of Dhanak caste in rural Haryana is 55 per cent, while sex-wise 63 per cent males and 47 per cent females are literate. Out of the total educated persons, 32 per cent have attained education up to primary level, 32 per cent up to middle level, 16 per cent up to matriculation, 13 per cent to senior secondary level, 5 per cent to graduation and only 0.2 per cent to post-graduation level. On the whole, the study reveals that about 94 per cent educated persons have obtained education up to senior secondary level.

Socio-economic structure of Dhanak caste in rural Haryana has been discussed in chapter four. Socio-economic structure of population is an important characteristic to understand the social status of population. Occupation is one of the important features among the social aspects of population, because it executes essential impact on many personal, social and demographic characteristics of population. Out of the total workers, 22 per cent are engaged in primary activities, 13 per cent in secondary activities and 65 per cent in tertiary activities.

The distribution of income, expenditure and savings are important aspects of socio-

economic structure of a community. The selected districts have been classified into different groups on the basis of distribution of income of households. Out of the total, 62 per cent households come under the income group of Rs. 5000 or less; 25 per cent in Rs. 5001-10,000; 6 per cent in Rs. 10001-15,000; 5 per cent in Rs. 15,001-20,000 and nearly 2 per cent earn more than Rs. 20,000 per month. However, the average monthly income of Dhanak caste in rural Haryana is Rs. 6418. Out of the total the maximum expenditure is recorded on food that is 56 per cent followed by 15 per cent on clothing, 11 per cent on education, 6 per cent on religious activities, 5 per cent on lighting, 4 per cent on fuel, and 3 per cent on luxurious activities. Similarly, out of the total, 88 per cent households have saving less than Rs. 3500 per month, 6 per cent households between Rs. 3500-7000 and 6 per cent households save between Rs. 7001 and above.

The modern assets play an important role to sustain the development of rural area. About 36 per cent households of Dhanak caste do not possess any type of furniture in rural Haryana. Out of total households, 85 per cent have fans, 67 per cent have T.V. set, 21 per cent have refrigerator and 11 per cent possess coolers. Nearly 13 per cent households of Dhanak caste use motor cycle, 2 per cent use scooter, 2 per cent bicycle and only 1 per cent households use car in rural Haryana. About 62 per cent are getting drinking water from municipal water supply, 22 per cent from hand pumps, 11 per cent from tube-wells and 5 per cent from wells. Apart from this, about 65 per cent households of Dhanak caste use latrine/pit toilet and about 4 per cent use flush toilets in rural Haryana. Conversely, 21 per cent households have no facility of sanitation. Nearly 44 per cent dwellings have two rooms followed by one room dwelling (23 per cent)

and 33 per cent dwellings have more than two rooms. Two types of houses have been identified in rural Haryana pertaining to Dhanak caste on the basis of building materials i.e. *pacca* house and mixed house. About 32 per cent houses are *pacca* and are made of walls, roof and floor with burnt bricks, cement and tiles.

In chapter five, occupational mobility among Dhanak caste in rural Haryana has been analyzed. The occupational mobility from respondent's grandfather to father and respondent's father to respondent has been identified. As per survey, it is observed that there are 38 occupations among Dhanak caste in rural Haryana, of which respondent's grandfather engaged in 21 occupations, father engaged in 24 occupations and respondents engaged in 33 occupations. Further, it is recorded that occupational mobility from grandfather to father is 23 per cent which increased from father to respondent by 33 per cent. Finally, it is recorded that the occupational mobility has been diverted from traditional activities to tertiary activities among Dhanak caste in Rural Haryana.

In chapter six, the 'occupational mobility' of Dhanak caste among scheduled castes and non-scheduled caste has also been studied from respondent's grandfather to father and father to respondent in a model village Sisar Khas which is situated in Rohtak district of Haryana. The primary data of 178 households have been collected from 10 selected castes in proportion to their number of households using purposive sampling method. The occupations of respondent's grandfather, father and respondent (three generations) have been calculated in per cent in proportion to number of households of all the selected castes. Finally, occupational mobility has been identified from grandfather to father and father

to respondent. It has been observed that respondent's grandfather had been engaged in 12 occupations among different castes, while respondent's father in 13 occupations. The highest occupational mobility have been recorded in Dhanak caste from grandfather to father. The occupational mobility from father to respondents is observed from ancestral activities to tertiary activities. Now most of the respondents are engaged in many new occupations among scheduled castes and non-scheduled castes. In general, the occupational

mobility is observed from ancestral occupations to tertiary activities among all the social groups.

The last chapter is devoted to summary, conclusions and major findings of the study. The study will be useful for the researchers who have to take up such studies in their own areas. The study can be helpful for the government to formulate the policies for the upliftment of Dhanak caste, particularly residing in rural areas of Haryana.