DIFFERENTIALS IN LEVELS OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AMONG SCHEDULED CASTES: A STUDY OF SELECT VILLAGES IN JIND DISTRICT

Doctoral Dissertation Abstract (2019)

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Education is a basic requirement and 'Fundamental Right' of the citizens of a nation. The attainment of basic education is important both due to its impact on the living standards of the people and also in augmenting their capabilities. Education helps people in their activities and enables them to get better employment. Educational attainment, especially of women, is regarded one of the important indicators of modernization and status of women in the society. Recognizing this role of education, the Indian government has invested resources to strengthen the educational programmes and make it accessible to the people from the deprived and backward sections of Indian society, namely scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Education is considered as the most essential indicator of human development.

After independence, scheduled castes are undergoing social and economic changes as various constitutional amendments provided various rights to the scheduled castes. They are becoming more conscious about the education and economic development. In the present research work, an attempt has been made to examine the population characteristics, socio-economic characteristics and differentials in levels of educational attainment among scheduled castes in rural areas of Jind district of Haryana.

Objectives

Major objectives of the study are:
- to examine the socio-economic characteristics of scheduled castes.
- to study the levels of educational attainment and gender disparity among scheduled castes.

Database and Methodology

The study is based on both primary as well as secondary sources of data. The primary data have been collected by using well prepared schedules and personal interviews of the head of families. On the basis of stratified random sampling, 890 sample households are selected from twenty select villages from seven blocks of the district for household survey. In depth study at clan/gotra level among the scheduled castes is also carried out taking village Dhathrath as a case study. Secondary data have been obtained from various published sources such as Census handbooks and statistical abstracts.

To identify caste-wise differentials in availability in selected amenities, weighted score has been assigned to selected 50 variables

of nine aspects of population. To find out average composite weighted score of various selected aspects, the total composite weighted score has been divided by the number of households belonging to each caste of the scheduled castes. Finally, differentials among highest and lowest average composite weighted score of all the selected aspects have been identified among different castes of the scheduled castes.

To assess the levels of educational attainment among different castes of scheduled castes, total educated persons have also been divided into seven categories of Primary, Middle, Matriculation, Plus-two, Graduate/ B.Ed, Post graduate and M. Phil level of education. Further, the weighted score has been derived by assigning scores such as 1 to primary, 2 to middle, 3 to matriculation, 4 to plus two, 5 to graduate/B.Ed, 6 to post graduate and 7 to M.Phil qualification. Finally, the weighted aggregate score has been worked out to assess the ranks of educational attainment of each caste which shows the relative position of various castes of scheduled castes regarding levels of educational attainment. Tables and diagrams have been prepared with the help of suitable cartographic techniques and methods. Maps have been prepared with the help of Arc-GIS (version 10.3) software.

Organization of Material

The study has been organized into seven chapters. The first chapter is introductory and deals with the conceptual frame work, objectives of the study, sources of data and research methodology and the review of concerned literature. Chapter second highlights the adopted parameters for selecting the sample villages based on concentration of scheduled castes population, literacy rate of the village, working force rate of the village, town distance from the village and number of scheduled

castes in the village. Third chapter deals with the caste-wise population characteristics (literacy rate, sex ratio and occupational structure) of sample households in the study area. The chapter four has been devoted to examine the socio-economic structure among scheduled castes. Chapter five is devoted to highlight the differentials in levels of educational attainment among scheduled castes in the study area. Chapter six deals with a case study of village Dhathrath. The chapter highlights population characteristics, socio-economic structure and the differentials in levels of educational attainment among different castes as well as clan/gotras of scheduled castes in the village. The chapter seven has been devoted to summary and conclusions and major findings.

Major Observations
- Eight sub-castes among scheduled castes have been identified during field survey. The Chamar, Balmiki and Dhanak are dominant castes in respect of households as well as population and shared more than 85 per cent of total population.
- The literacy rate among scheduled castes is recorded as 75.65 per cent, while male, female literacy rate is 84.68 per cent and 65.13 per cent, respectively. The highest literacy rate is found in Khatik caste followed by Doom, Banjara, Chamar, Dhanak, Sansi, Balmiki and Deh castes. The highest literacy rate is noted in Safidon block while the lowest literacy rate is found in Uchana and Narwana blocks as compared to other blocks because of educational and economic backwardness.
- Nearly 52 per cent of scheduled castes are working. It is found that 97 per cent workers are engaged in other works.

Only one per cent workers are engaged in cultivation because of a few households have ownership of agricultural land among scheduled castes in the study area.

- On account of availability and accessibility of various amenities and facilities Sansi caste recorded highest position in respect of electric appliances, number of rooms, house types and automobiles. While the highest position in respect of the availability of fuel used for cooking and drinking water facilities is recorded in Khatik and Doom castes, respectively. Conversely, Doom and Deh castes have very poor position in furniture, electric appliances, automobiles and house types.

- The block-wise analysis also indicates that Jind block has better position as compared to other blocks in drinking water facilities; fuel used for cooking, furniture, electric appliances, communication facilities and number of rooms. Contrarily, Julana block has very poor position in the aspects like drinking water facilities, sanitation facilities, electric appliances, automobiles, communication facilities and house types in the study area.

- On account of educational attainment, the study reveals that among scheduled castes, 83 per cent acquired education up to matriculation level, while only five per cent could attain Graduate / B.Ed, Post Graduate and M. Phil level of education.

- The Chamar caste obtained highest position in educational attainment, followed by Sansi, Khatik and Balmiki castes, respectively. While Doom and Deh castes occupied lowest position in attainment of education in the study

area.

- The occupational mobility has been more conspicuous among Chamars than other castes. The Chamars are successful in giving up their traditional occupation after independence and were brought under the fold of education under various provisions of the constitution of India.

- Among the blocks, Jind block obtained the first rank in educational attainment among scheduled castes. The Safidon block occupied the second position followed by Pillu Khera and Uchana blocks with the third and fourth rank, respectively.

- The study carried out in Dhathrath village highlights that the Balmiki and Chamar are the dominant castes in respect of households as well as population in the village.

- The clan/gotra wise study of the village reveals that the Solanki, Puwal and Sihmar are dominant clans/gotras having more than fifty per cent population of the village.

- The literacy rate of the village is recorded as 79.81 per cent, while male and female literacy rate is 90.40 per cent and 66.90 per cent, respectively.

- Among the scheduled castes, Dhanak caste recorded highest sex ratio of 1000 females per thousand males. Similarly among the clans, Kangra clan belonging to Balmiki caste witnessed highest sex ratio of 2000 females per thousand males in the village.

- Khatik caste has the highest position in respect of availability of electric appliances, house types and communication facilities in the village. While Chamar and Doom castes were in a better position in respect of fuel used for

cooking and drinking water facilities, respectively.

- It has been noted that Malik clan/gotra which belong to Khatik caste has better position in house types, communication facilities, number of rooms and fuel used for cooking. Likewise, Mehra clan/gotra has better position in drinking water facilities.

- In context of educational attainment, it is recorded that about 83 per cent obtained education up to matriculation level and only six per cent acquired the education up to Graduate/B.Ed, Post Graduate and M. Phil level.

- It is recorded that the Chamars obtained the first rank in educational attainment among scheduled castes in the village, while Khatik occupied the second position followed by the Balmiki, Deh, Dhanak and Doom castes, respectively.

- The Malik clan/gotra obtained the first position in attainment of education followed by Mehra, Siwach, Munde, Puwal clan/gotra, respectively, while Rajora occupied the lowest position in respect of educational attainment in the village.

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