

## SIGNIFICANCE OF EDUCATION AMONG SCHEDULED CASTE FEMALES AT AGRA DISTRICT IN UTTAR PRADESH

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### Abstract

In India modern education is seen as a significant tool to bring about justice, liberty, equality and fraternity among the citizens of multilingual, multi-religious and multi-ethnic country. Education in this respect is conceived as an instrument of social and economic change for the future democratic society. The castes included under Scheduled Caste category are characterized by extreme social, educational and economic backwardness occurred due to traditional practice of untouchability. Thus, the scheduled caste females face multiple problems and suffered the curse of untouchability and discrimination among discriminated against socially, economically and educationally for long ages.

**Keywords :** Justice, Liberty, Equality, Untouchability, Discrimination.

### INTRODUCTION

India is a diversified county with a variety of cultures, religions, social groups. Among the many other Social groups, the Scheduled Castes comprises approximately 201.4 million population which constitutes about 16.6 percent of India's population [Census of India, 2011], comprising 1,108 castes across the 28 states in its first Schedule. The SCs remain one of the most deprived, disadvantaged and downtrodden section of the society. Usually, they are treated as slaves, outcastes or untouchables in the past. Education is the most crucial tool of empowering people, the primary vehicle by which economically and socially marginalized adults and children can be empowered to lift themselves from the existing levels of poverty and obtain the means to participate fully in their communities (Das and Halder, 2018; Babu and Chandrasekarayy; 2015).

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Unless these underprivileged sections of the society receive the minimum education, they cannot exercise the civil, political, economic and social freedom as enshrined in the constitution of India (Chandidas, 1969).

After independence, the Scheduled Castes were given reservation status guaranteeing their economic, political and social representation and development [Chatterjee, 1996]. Though the literacy rate in India among the general and SCs population is increasing day by day, but there still lies a huge difference in terms of regions, place of residence, religion, gender and even within their sub-communities (Wankhede, 2001). The proportion of the population belonging to SCs in higher education is considerably low (Dhende, 2017).

## **LITERATURE REVIEW OF THE RESEARCH STUDY**

SC female's experience that endemic gender and caste discrimination and violence as the outcome of severely imbalanced social, economic and political power equations. Scheduled caste male and female both were deprived of education. They were not allowed to join schools for education. With regard to perception of Ambedkar on development, many studies across countries and states have been undertaken and examined. Vivek Kumar (2009) explores dalit women in Indian society are triply exploited on the basis of caste, class and gender. After defining the term dalits sociologically that dalit women are different from general caste women on the basis of their structural location, occupations they perform and treatment meted out to them by society in general. Thorat S.K (2005) argues and provides reasons for a reservation policy in the private sector as a remedy against discrimination of the weaker sections communities have been experiencing over centuries. He points out the fact that discrimination has been taken place across various environments- social, economic and political - on the basis of caste, religion, race, ethnicity, etc.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The major objectives of the research study are to know the Scheduled caste female gives importance to the education and the changes occurred duly in the study area and to explain the occupational backgrounds and their challenges of the Scheduled Caste females in the study area.

## **AREA AND SAMPLE**

The population for the sample study constitutes the educated scheduled caste females at Agra district in Uttar Pradesh. Though they are spread over the entire length and breadth of the research area district, for this present study purpose we have chosen 80 educated scheduled caste females with different employment background like Elementary and High School Teachers in private sector, Governmental employees, House wives, worked in different private sectors, self employed females etc. Nearly 43 House wives have been selected in a particular area identified

for the purpose of the present study Jagdishpura has been selected for this purposes as almost all of the households here are belong to scheduled castes community.

## METHODOLOGY

For the present study data have been collected from both, the primary and secondary sources. Secondary data collected from the government and private institutions such as schools, government employees, worked in different private sectors like hospitals, insurance sector, marketing field etc. Primary data collected for the respondents were randomly selected. For the present study scheduled caste females community were selected and the unit of the study is individual female in the selected area.

For the present study tools and techniques were used. They are mainly interview schedules, observation and formal and informal interview methods. For Data analysis and interpretation tables were created according to the findings of the research. Governmental employees, House wives, worked in different private sectors, self employed females.

**TABLE:1- RESPONDENTS OCCUPATION BELONG TO SCHEDULED CASTE FEMALE**

| <b>SAMPLE SIZE OF THE RESPONDENTS</b> |   |                      |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| <b>Sl. No.</b>                        | <b>Type of Occupation</b>   | <b>No. of female</b> |
| 1                                     | Elementary and High School Teachers in private sector                 | 12                   |
| 2                                     | Governmental employees (Government teacher,)                          | 01                   |
| 3                                     | worked in different private sectors (hospitals, insurance and others) | 12                   |
| 4                                     | Self- employed females (tailoring, beauty parlor, tutor etc.)         | 13                   |
| 5                                     | House wives   | 42                   |
| <b>Total</b>                          |   | <b>80</b>            |

In this research, these 42 House wives have been educated but they are not employed in where, because they play important role in their family like take care of children and all responsibility of whole family etc. There is no support and guidance to get earning opportunity for self-dependency. For the present study, we found 12 elementary and high school Teachers are

worked with private institutions selected. The study had been conducted in the areas of Jagdishpura at Agra district in Uttar Pradesh. In these areas nearly 50 schools are present. In different private sectors 12 scheduled caste female employees have been selected from hospitals, insurance sector, and other institutions which are located in Agra district. Self-employed 13 scheduled caste females have been selected for this study that's worked like tailoring, beauty parlor, tutor etc. Nearby 12 scheduled caste female respondents worked in different private sectors such as hospitals, insurance and others field. Only 01 respondent found government employees who are employed in Department of Basic Shiksha Parishad as assistant teacher in primary schools that has been selected. These respondents have been identified through a random sample covering the selected research area for the purpose of the present study. The specific area was selected as majority of the respondents are from scheduled caste community and among them most of the females are engaged in diversified activities as mentioned under sampling procedure.

### EDUCATION LEVEL OF THE RESPONDENTS SCs FEMALES

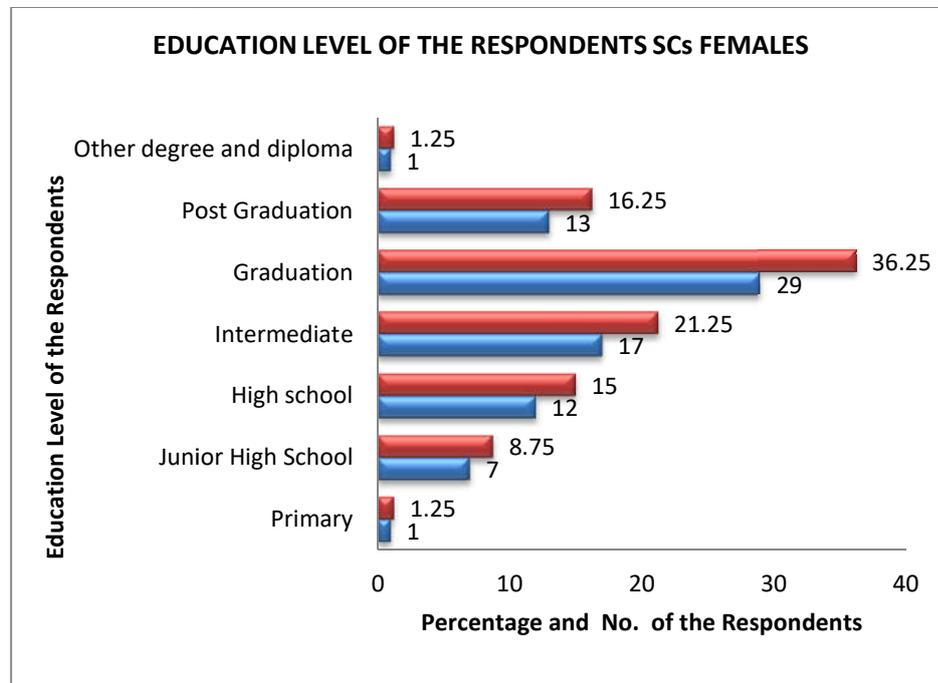
In the present study, education level of the SCs female respondents shows that the majority of 36.25 per cent of them have reported that their education is graduation. 16.25 per cent of the SCs female respondents have replied that their education level is Post-Graduation in different subjects. 21.25 per cent of the respondents briefed that their level of education is intermediate only. While 15 per cent of SCs female respondents observed that high school is their level of education. 8.75 per cent of the respondents have informed that they are junior high school as shown in table-2.

**TABLE: 2- EDUCATION LEVEL OF THE RESPONDENTS SCs FEMALES**

| SL. NO | EDUCATION LEVEL          | NO. OF RESPONDENTS | PERCENTAGE |
|--------|--------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| 1.     | Illiterate               | -                  | -          |
| 2      | Primary                  | 01                 | 1.25       |
| 3      | Junior High School       | 07                 | 8.75       |
| 4      | High school              | 12                 | 15         |
| 5      | Intermediate             | 17                 | 21.25      |
| 6      | Graduation               | 29                 | 36.25      |
| 7      | Post Graduation          | 13                 | 16.25      |
| 8      | Other degree and diploma | 01                 | 1.25       |
| Total  |                          | <b>80</b>          | <b>100</b> |

And Remaining 1.25 per cent of the SCs female respondents have revealed that their education level is Primary and (1.25) reported other degree and diploma holder. Thus, according to this research study it can be concluded that most SCs female respondents' education attainment are only graduates from data collected.

CHART - 1



### **SOCIO - ECONOMIC FAMILY BACKGROUND AND PARENTAL EDUCATION OF EDUCATED RESPONDENTS**

The Scheduled Caste has been the last on the hierarchical ladder of the society's structure in India. Even after India's independence, education and desired education achievement is a wide challenge for the Scheduled Caste. There are so many reasons for non-achieved developed life style for them. Maximum population of scheduled caste economically suffer from low income, low productivity, low wages for labour, conditions of work often onerous and no permanent employment for their livelihood. The standard of living according to their earnings opportunity is miserably low and their daily lives reflect a phenomenon of large scale of underemployment and their family survival problem. They are asset less, unskilled and having high dependency ratio.

The standard of living which their earnings permit is miserably low and their daily lives reflect a phenomenon of large scale of underemployment and the problem of health, finance, social evils, preference of male oriented society etc. They are asset less, unskilled and having high dependency ratio. The sources of any self-business are very limited. From political angle they are not allowed to represent frontline leader even government provision of Caste representation at various levels.

In India basically, women are not treated on par with men. Moreover, the Scheduled Caste female are oppressed among the oppressed in society.

Education is a multiple process developing and promoting social, economic, health, cultural and other consciousness among human beings. It is through the process of education both formal and non-formal, that human standards and ideas are raised to the highest point. Therefore educational development is the essential pre - requisite to the all-round development of any community.

The following table 3 gives the data on the parental education of the respondents-.

**TABLE: 3- EDUCATION LEVEL OF RESPONDENTS'S PARENTS**

| S. No. | Educational Qualification | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|--------|---------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| 1      | Illiterate                | 19                 | 23.75      |
| 2      | Primary                   | 27                 | 33.75      |
| 3      | Junior High School        | 18                 | 22.5       |
| 4      | High school               | 9                  | 11.25      |
| 5      | Intermediate              | 7                  | 8.75       |
| 6      | Graduation                | -                  | -          |
| 7      | Post Graduation           | -                  | -          |
|        | Total                     | 80                 | 100        |

The present study on parental educational qualification of the respondents shows that the majority 33.75 per cent of the respondents have reported that their parent's educational qualification is primary. 23.75 per cent of the respondents have replied that their parents are illiterate. 22.5 per cent of the respondents said that their parent's educational qualification is till junior high school level. While 11.25 percent of the respondents informed that their parents are high school. 8.75 percent of the respondents said that their parent's educational qualification is intermediate. Therefore, it may be concluded from the above data that the majority of scheduled caste women's parents educational qualification is primary. But there is no respondent's parents found graduate and postgraduate qualification, it is very measurable issue for this community.

**TABLE:4- PARENT'S MONTHLY INCOME OF THE RESPONDENTS**

| S. No. | Parent's Monthly Income | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|--------|-------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| 1      | Below- 1000             | 9                  | 11.25      |
| 2      | 1000-5000               | 14                 | 17.5       |
| 3      | 5000-10,000             | 22                 | 27.5       |
| 4      | 10,000-15000            | 18                 | 22.5       |
| 5      | 15000-20,000            | 10                 | 12.5       |
| 6      | 20,000 and above        | 7                  | 8.75       |
|        | Total                   | 80                 | 100        |

The present research study on parent's monthly income of the respondent's shows that the majority 27.5 per cent of the respondents reported that their parent's monthly income between 5,000- 10,000. 22.05 per cent of the respondents replied that their parent's monthly income was between 10,000-15000 and above. 17.5 percent of the respondents informed that their parent's monthly income was between 1000 – 5,000. 12.5 per cent of the respondents said that their parent's monthly income was between 15,000 - 20,000. 11.25 per cent of the respondents reported that their parent's monthly income was below 1000 and remaining 8.75 percent of the respondents informed that their parent's monthly income was above 20,000. Therefore, it may be concluded from the above data that majority of scheduled caste female's parents monthly income was between 5,000-10,000.

## EDUCATIONAL GOAL OF SCHEDULED CASTE FEMALES

Education is backbone of human society and also brings equal opportunity for both men and women. Educated people will be able to create a better society. Without a good education, a better society can't be formed. Its importance in life can't be ignored as lack of education gives birth to numerous social problems like poor health, internal conflict, poor living standards and many more. Lack of education creates problems like superstition, domestic violence, poor health, and poor living standards. Due to lack of education, many illiterate people suffer the hardships of discrimination, untouchability & injustices prevailing in the society but with the advancement of a good education. If all the people will be educated; this ultimately leads to the upliftment of economically weaker sections of society. Education brings equal opportunity for both men and women and educated people will be able to create a better society. Education also helps in empowering women. Education helps to become self-dependent and build great confidence among them to accomplish difficult tasks. On getting an education, their standard of life gets improved.

The following table gives the information about educational Goal of the sample respondents.

**TABLE :5- EDUCATIONAL GOAL OF THE SCHEDULE CASTE FEMALES (RESPONDENTS)**

| S. No. | Educational Goal of the Respondents     | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|--------|---|--------------------|------------|
| 1      | To become Self-dependent                | 6                  | 7.5        |
| 2      | To economic help in their family        | 9                  | 11.25      |
| 3      | To get knowledge                        | 8                  | 10         |
| 4      | To get job                              | 10                 | 12.5       |
| 5      | To improve their socio- economic status | 05                 | 6.25       |
| 6      | To fulfill their needs                  | 11                 | 13.75      |
| 7      | All above facts                         | 31                 | 38.75      |
|        | Total                                   | 80                 | 100        |

The present study on educational goal of the schedule caste females shows that 13.75 per cent of the respondents have reported that their educational goal is to fulfill their needs. While 12.5 per

cent of the respondents replied that their educational goal is to get job and 11.25 percent of the respondents informed that their aim of education is to economic help in their family, while 10 per cent sample respondents reveal that their educational goal is to get knowledge. 7.5 per cent respondent's goal of education is to become self-dependent and 6.25 per cent respondents communicated to improve their socio-economic status. While 38.75 respondents appear all mention factors is responsible for their education goal.

## CONCLUSION

I evaluate the progress of SC's women's achievement by their betterment .The sample respondent's views on women's education it's very essential for developed society. The bright future of any society, there cannot be without educated women. That is why probably it was held that to educate a man is to educate an individual while to educate women is to educate a nation.

Appropriate education is very essential for negative or positive situation of life and its supplies durability and energy to strong handling. SC's female have lagged behind in race of education. Education is important not only for emulsifier of civilized society but is also an essential indicator for accelerating development cycle in all.

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