



A REVIEW ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF SCHEDULED CASTE AND SCHEDULED TRIBE PEOPLE OF BIRBHUM DISTRICT IN WEST BENGAL

Dr. Sanat Kumar Ghosh

Associate professor, Dept. of Education, Katwa College, West Bengal.

ABSTRACT

After, seventy years of independence of planned development, a large percentage of the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) still remain under developed. The report of human development indicates that the SC and ST population is still belonging to a much lower level as compared to the general population of the country. . The main objective of the study was to identify the educational conditions and socio-economic status of SC and ST people of Birbhum District in West Bengal. The present study is based on government reports and field survey mainly. A critical analysis of data revealed that inspite of high enrollment in all levels of education; the literacy is quiet low in comparison to the other categories. They have been the lowest transition rate from primary to higher education level of education. Several Central and State government initiatives for SC and ST people, they are still remain unreached and vulnerable.

KEYWORDS : Socio-economic status, Education, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe.

INTRODUCTION:

The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes make up a one-fourth of the Indian people. In 2011, the population of SCs and STs in India is about 20.14 crores and 10.43 crores respectively. They constitute 16.66% SCs and 8.6% STs of the total population of India (Source: Census of India, office of Registrar General, India). This backward community lags behind the general population of India in socially and economically, and also in respect of education.

Equity in dissemination of education among different strata of society is a live issue. The following figures illustrated growing disparity during 1961-2011 in literacy percentage between SCs and STs and the total general population.

Table 01: Literacy percentage of General, SC and ST groups (1961 – 2011 census)

Census year	General %	SC %	ST %
1961	28.30	10.27	8.53
1971	34.45	14.67	11.30
1981	43.57	21.38	16.35
1991	52.21	37.41	29.60
2001	65.38	54.76	47.10
2011	74.04	66.10	58.96

Source: Census of India, office of Registrar General, India.

The trend shows that progressively, in the matter of literacy percentage, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes continue to fall backwards, notwithstanding the new policy on education of the Government of India and action taken in accordance therewith.

The low literacy of SC and ST is associated with the miserable poverty, social prejudices, economic deprivations etc. In spite of the concessions and privileges provided to the weaker section of the society. They are still far behind the rest of the population in terms of not only education but also political, socio-economic and environmental aspects.

Keeping the above in view the project will be conducted on SC and ST people of Birbhum District in West Bengal to find out the reasons behind the social backwardness and to estimate their present problems about Education and Socio-economic conditions.

1. Objectives of the study:

The following objectives were laid down for the study:

- 1) To find out the rate of literacy of SC and ST people in the

selected areas.

- 2) To find out the rate of Primary educated people of SC and ST categories.
- 3) To find out the rate of Secondary educated people of SC and ST categories.
- 4) To find out the rate of Higher educated people of SC and ST categories.
- 5) To find out the relationships between Education and Socio-Economic conditions of the SC and ST people in the District of Birbhum.

2. Methodology:

To carry out the study, the aspects of methodology have been followed-

A) Population and Sample:

All the SC and ST people live in the district of Birbhum considered the population of the study. However it is not possible to carry out research work with the total population, thus it is necessary to select the representative samples for the study. To make the study effective at least 150 SC and 150 ST people from the target population were selected as samples.

B) Sampling:

Purposive and Random sampling technique are used for selection of samples.

C) Tools used in this study:

The following tools were used in this study –

- i) Socio-Economic status scale
- ii) Questionnaire: to identify the problems in the field of Education and Socio-economic conditions.

D) Analysis of data:

Data will be analyzed with the following statistical technique-

- i) Measures of Central tendencies,
- ii) Calculation of Percentage,
- iii) Measures of variability and
- iv) t-test

3. Analysis of data pertaining to objective

Table 02: Educational level of the families in the District of Birbhum

Category	Primary Education		Secondary Education		Higher education		Illiterate		Total
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
SC	51	34	56	37.33	28	18.67	15	10	150
ST	63	42	28	18.67	3	2	56	37.33	150

Above table (No.02) indicates the percentage of people

belong to SC and ST categories with their educational level. It has been found that only 18.67% of SC people and 2% of ST people are the higher level of education. Results indicate that 10% of SC people are illiterate but in case of ST group, it is 37.33%. It may be inferred that SC people is better position than ST people in respect of educational level in the District of Birbhum.

Table 03: Educational level of family members of Birbhum District

Category	Primary Education		Secondary Education		Higher Education		Illiterate		Total
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
SC	344	44.1	247	31.67	64	8.2	125	16.03	780
ST	406	59.97	81	11.97	03	0.44	187	27.62	677

Results under table 03 indicates the percentage of people belong to SC and ST categories with their educational level. It has been found that only 8.2% of SC people and 0.44% of ST people belong to higher level of education. Results indicate that 16.03% of SC people belong to illiterate category but in case of ST group, it is 27.62%. It may be inferred that more or less 50% people of both the SC and ST categories belong to primary level of education in the District of Birbhum.

Table 04: Distribution of SC and ST people on the basis of nature of Occupation in Birbhum District

Category	Agriculture		Labour		Service		Hereditary occupations	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
SC	60	40	36	24	41	27	13	9
ST	49	32.67	67	44.67	25	16.66	9	6

Above table (No.4) indicates the percentage of people belong to SC and ST categories with their occupational level in Birbhum District. It has been found that only 27% of SC people and 16.66% of ST people involved in service sector. Results indicate that 9% of SCs and 6% of STs involved in hereditary occupations, where as maximum SC and ST people depend on agriculture or labour to maintain their daily living.

Table 05: Distribution of SC and ST people on the basis of Economic Condition scores in the District of Birbhum

Category	N	High		Average		Low	
		N	Score	N	Score	N	Score
SC	150	45	80.84	60	49.75	45	33.58
ST	150	45	60.42	60	39.55	45	27.79

Table 05 indicates the people belong to SC and ST categories with their degree of Economic conditions. It has been observed from the results that mean score of low economic group of SC category is 33.58 and high economic group is 80.84. The gap between high and low group of SC people is 47.26 in the respect of economic conditions; whereas mean score of low economic group of ST category is 27.79 and high group is 60.42. The gap between high and low group of ST people is 32.63 in the respect of economic conditions.

Table 06: Showing the Mean, SD and 't' between the Socio-economic Conditions score of SC and ST people of Birbhum District.

Category	N	M	SD	SED	't'
SC	150	54.17	22.39	2.16	5.53
ST	150	42.22	14.09		

The value of 't' is significant at .01 level, meaning thereby two groups differ significantly on the basis of their Socio-economic conditions . The mean scores of SC group is higher than that of ST group, so the gain is in favour of SC group, that means SC group shows significantly better scores than the ST group towards Socio-economic conditions.

Table 07: Showing the Mean, SD and 't' between Educational scores of SC and ST people of Birbhum District.

Category	N	M	SD	SED	't'
SC	150	3.32	1.20	.11	9.91
ST	150	2.23	.67		

The value of 't' is significant at .01 level, meaning thereby two groups differ significantly on the basis of their Education. The mean scores of SC group is higher than that of ST group, so the gain is in favour of SC group that means SC group shows significantly better scores than the ST group towards Education.

CONCLUSION:

It may be inferred that SC people is better position than ST people in respect of educational level and more or less 50% people of both the SC and ST categories belong to primary level of education. It has been found from the results that maximum SC and ST people depend on agriculture or day labour and the gap between high and low group of SC and ST people are 47.26 and 32.63 respectively in the respect of economic conditions. Finally results indicate SC and ST groups differ significantly on the basis of their Socio-economic conditions and Education that means SC group shows significantly better scores than the ST group towards Socio-economic conditions and Education in the District of Birbhum.

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