



A Pilot Study on Socio-Enterprise Status of Dalit Entrepreneur in Tiruchirappalli District

KEYWORDS

Dalit Entrepreneurs, Socio-Enterprise profile, Service Sector, Untouchable, Exploited Caste

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ABSTRACT *Dalit in India is a powerful segment in terms of population, vote bank and workforce but in business is very rare due to social structure of the country which depresses these people whenever they come up in life. In this regard, the study on socio-economic profile of the dalit entrepreneurs in Tiruchirappalli district becomes a useful study which, helps to explore the status of dalit entrepreneur in the district. This paper makes an attempt to understand the social and entrepreneurial profile of the dalit entrepreneurs in Tiruchirappalli district of Tamilnadu.*

INTRODUCTION

That a dalit can become an entrepreneur is still a challengeable one in the modern day society, due to the social system of the country. From origin itself dalits are oppressed by upper caste people through socio-religious sentiments. The history of categorizing some castes as scheduled castes commenced with the Government of India Act 1935. The Government of India for the first time, provided for notification of socially disadvantaged castes as 'scheduled caste' and a list of such castes was accordingly notified in the Government of India. Thus the scheduled castes category initially comprised castes that were isolated and disadvantaged. At present there are about 55 sub-castes that have been recognized as scheduled castes in Tamilnadu, with poor entrepreneurial profile

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The problems are arising in the process of new transition from socio-economic bonded to that of independent self-esteemed wealth and income as job generators. The problems of industrial entrepreneurship development are definitely complex. They range from total absence of physical resources to illiteracy, absence of skills, identification of genuine youth who really want to start their own small-scale industrial units for training etc.

Dalit entrepreneurs have lived in deep social and economic isolation. They were socially and economically disintegrated from the mainstream of societal living and the working of its concomitant viz., economy. Accordingly, a large number of these households have very poor socio-economic receptivity for modern change and development. This is supported by their illiteracy, inferiority complex, blind belief etc. All this will make them serve the village land-owners either as laborers or by supplying some goods at very nominal prices like slippers, furniture, baskets, mats etc. In this regard the present study examines the socio-enterprise status of dalit entrepreneurs in Tiruchirappalli district on pilot a study basis.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

To know the Socio-enterprise status of dalit entrepreneur in Tiruchirappalli district

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study covers the Tiruchirappalli district of Tamilnadu. There are 10 Registered Dalit Industries selected for pilot study for the purpose of the collection and analysis of data.

Simple Percentage method will be used as the sampling technique. It is simple to design and interpret and calculate the estimate of the population and the sampling technique.

Sample size for the pilot study comprises 10 respondents, of which 5 are from rural part and 5 from urban part of Tiruchirappalli district.

The study requires both secondary and primary data. Primary data were collected with the help of interview schedule. Secondary data were collected from various books; periodicals research publications, websites and official publications of Government and other agencies.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE

The table given below indicates the study socio-economic profile of the some respondents in the study area.

TABLE – 1 SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF DALIT ENTREPRENEURS

S. No	Profile	Particulars	No. of Respondent	Percent
1	Gender of the Respondent	Male	6	60.0
		Female	4	40.0
		Total	10	100.0
2	Age of the Respondent	Up to 0 - 35	6	60
		36 – and Above	4	40
		Total	10	100
3	Marital Status	Married	10	100
4	Education Status	Illiterate	1	10.0
		Primary middle	1	10.0
		High School	2	20.0
		Intermediate	4	40.0
		Graduate	2	20.0
		Total	10	100.0
5	Sub caste	Pallan	7	70.0
		Paraiyar	2	20.0
		Arunthathiyar	1	10.0
		Total	10	100.0
6	Annual Income	Less than 1 Lakh	7	70.0
		1 Lakh - 5 Lakhs	3	30.0
		Total	10	100.0
7	Type of family	Nuclear	5	50.0
		Joint	5	50.0
		Total	10	100.0
8	Total Members in the Family	Up to 3	3	30.0
		4-5	6	60.0
		6-8	1	10.0
		Total	10	100.0
9	Type of House	Own	7	70.0
		Rented	3	30.0
		Total	10	100.0

Source: Primary data

Table No.1 shows the general profile of the respondents of whom 6 belong to male and 4 belong to female entrepreneurs. A maximum of entrepreneur age group belong to 35 years and all the respondents were got married.

As regards the educational status of the dalit entrepreneurs, 4 respondents have completed intermediates and followed by 2 who have completed graduation and high school study respectively.

A maximum of (70%) of the respondents belong to the sub caste of Pallan followed by Paraiyan (20%) and Arunthathiyar (10%).

ENTERPRISE PROFILE

The table given below indicates the enterprise profile of the dalit entrepreneur in Tiruchirappalli district of Tamilnadu.

Table – 2 Enterprise profile of Dalit entrepreneurs

S. No	Profile	Particulars	No. of Respondent	Per cent
	Location of Enterprise	Rural	5	50.0
		Urban	5	50.0
		Total	10	100.0
	Type of Entrepreneur	First generation	8	80.0
		Second generation	2	20.0
		Total	10	100.0
	Mode of Inducement	Own interest	5	50.0
		Father	4	40.0
		Circumstances	1	10.0
	Total	10	100.0	
	Registered Enterprise	Registered	10	100.0
	Place of Enterprise	Residential place	9	90.0
		Shopping complex	1	10.0
		Total	10	100.0
	Nature of Building	Rent on lease	10	100.0
	Amount Invested	Up to 1 lakh	4	40.0
		1 - 5 Lakhs	4	40.0
		5 - 10 Lakhs	2	20.0
		Total	10	100.0
	No. of Employees	Up to 9	10	100.0
	Ownership status	Single owner / Sole proprietor	10	100.0
	Size of The Enterprise	Micro	5	50.0
		Small	5	50.0
		Total	10	100.0
	Sector of Activities	Manufacturing sector	3	30.0
		Service sector	6	60.0
		Repairing and Maintenance sector	1	10.0
		Total	10	100.0
	Nature of Activities	Restaurants	1	10.0
		Cookware	3	30.0
		Communication center	1	10.0
		Construction supplies	1	10.0
		Electronic / Hardware works	3	30.0
		Wholesale / Retail / Petty cash shops	1	10.0
Total	10	100.0		
	Purpose of own business	Money Making	6	60.0
		Social status	2	20.0
		Self – achievement	1	10.0
		Freedom to own decision	1	10.0
		Total	10	100.0

Source: Primary data

Table No.2 reveals the enterprise profile of dalit entrepreneurs.

As regards the location of enterprise 5 are found in rural and 5 in urban area. A maximum of 8 respondents belong to first generation and remaining two respondents belong to second generation entrepreneurs.

Out of 10 respondents, 5 have become entrepreneurs due to their own interest and 4 were induced by their fathers and one was due to circumstances.

Only registered industries were taken into consideration as sample respondents for this research study.

90% of the industries are located in Residential place and remaining 10% of the industries were located in shopping complex. Almost all the industries are functioning only in rented buildings.

As regards the amount invested in business 4 entrepreneurs have invested ranging from rupees 1 lakh and up to 5 Lakhs. Only 2 have invested more than 5-10 Lakhs. A maximum of 9 employees are working in all the industries.

All the enterprises belong to sole proprietorship form off ownership off which 5 belong to micro enterprises and 5 belong to small enterprises. 6 enterprises belong to service sector; 3 belong to manufacturing sector and the remaining one belongs to Repairing and Maintenance sector.

FINDINGS

The majority of dalit entrepreneurs is (60%) belong to male and 40% belong to female entrepreneurs.

A maximum of entrepreneurs belong to the age group of 35 years.

The majority of dalit entrepreneurs are educated up to intermediate courses.

A maximum of (70%) of the respondents belong to the sub caste of Pallan

Majority of respondents are earning less than one lakh rupees.

The maximum of (60%) respondents have 4-5 family members in their family.

Maximum of respondents belong to first generation of dalit entrepreneurs

The majority of entrepreneurs have interest in business

The majority of dalit enterprise owned by single owners.

The maximum 90% of the industries are located in residential places.

SUGGESTIONS

Dalit becoming an entrepreneur in India is still highly challengeable due to the social system of the country. With the help of education and awareness, a few dalits want to start some business of their own, but the society and institutional setup are major obstacles in all aspects. Government has implemented various schemes and programmes to promote the dalit entrepreneurs. But the success is not encouraging. Government, organisation and officials have not whole heartily encouraged the dalit entrepreneurship; hence there is a need of a through study on the implementation of the schemes to find out the status of beneficiaries in our country. Dalits also have their own draw backs such as poor awareness about entrepreneurship low involvement, poor risk taking capacity etc. They must come forward to start the business and

fight against their discriminations.

Components of dalits in business compared to overall performance are always below in all aspects. Hence, the Government should take appropriate steps to overcome these drawbacks and concentrate more about the dalit entrepreneurship in the study area.

CONCLUSION

Entrepreneurship is the only way to improve the sustainable development of the country which brings fruitful results in employment, flow of capital, innovation, utilization of resources and overall socio-economic conditions of the people particularly those who are downtrodden in the society.

Dalit in business is an emerging area in the socio-economic issues of the country; members of dalit entrepreneurs involving themselves in entrepreneurship have gradually increased due to changing attitude of the educated dalit youth, Government policies encouraging entrepreneurship and so on. Hence, it is concluded that the socio-enterprise profile of dalit entrepreneurs in Tiruchirappalli district has been proved and established. This pilot study focus only on their socio-enterprise profile and not on other issues.

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