



## SCs and STs at School Level in India: Who Holds a Better Position?

### KEYWORDS

SCs, STs, GER, DOR.

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**ABSTRACT** *The present paper tends to seek the position of SCs and STs at schools in terms of attaining education. Education is one of the important measures in upliftment of the socially backward and marginalised groups in the society. It envisages carrying out a comparative study in terms of Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) and Drop-Out Rates (DOR) of SCs and STs at schools. The GER has been rising in case of both SCs and STs. The DOR has been declining for both SCs and STs at school level in India in the recent times. It will remain important to see which community is ahead of the other in terms of attaining education at school level.*

### Introduction and Review of Literature

**“The only way to help a backward group is to give opportunities for good education.”- Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru**

Education is considered as one of the most important aspect of one's life. It plays a very vital role in transformation of human life. Be it at primary, secondary or tertiary level, education plays a pivotal part in doing something constructive. Education is the mantra for personal growth. The more one has knowledge, the more one grows. Good education is essential for everyone to be a good citizen and a dependable worker. It allows us to think right and make better decisions.

Education helps the socially backward and marginalised groups' viz. SCs and STs et cetera to overcome their problems of poverty and inequality. Education imparts training and skills which in turn enables such groups to work at better places and help them earn a better living for themselves.

Education is a vital matter for the SCs to uplift their social status (Chouhan, 2013). In his study of Maldah district, he finds out that literacy of SCs plays an important role in raising their standards of living. It will help them to be at par with the other groups in the country.

In recent times, it has been observed that the GER of SCs and STs have increased and their drop-out rates have gone down at school level (Statistics of School Education). Education is the mainstream for these groups to come out of the shackles of the poverty and raise their socio-economic standards. It is through educational attainment that these groups can transform their lives in a better way.

The GER of SCs has been increasing since 2001-02. In the year 2001-02, the GER of SCs at school level (senior secondary) was 32.6 and it has increased to 63.3 in the year 2013-14 (Ministry of Human Resource Development, GO). The GER at same level of school education has also increased in case of STs in India. In the year 2001-02, the GER for STs at senior secondary level in India was 25.7. It has now increased to 52.1 in 2013-14.

The DOR for both SCs and STs has been declining at schools in India. DOR for SCs and STs in the year 2001-02 at secondary level was 72.7 and 81.2 respectively (U-DISE-NUEPA Enrolment Data). And now in the year 2013-14, it has declined to 50.1 and 62.4 for SCs and STs respectively

at secondary education level.

Pathak, et al. (2013) lays emphasis over the education of marginalised groups so as to allow them to participate in the process of development by being the part of human capital formation. Moreover, the women folk can contribute up to a large extent in human capital formation thus helping in increasing the pace of the growth process of the economy of India.

40% of the people of India are forced to live under US\$ 1.25 a day as most of them are engaged in informal sector. About 90% of them find work in sectors flooded with informality. Mainly SCs and STs are amongst them. Therefore education and vocational training becomes important in uplifting the social and economic status of SCs and STs.

### Prime Objectives of Study

- To study the GER of SCs and STs at schools in India.
- To analyse the DOR of SCs and STs at schools India.

### Hypotheses

**H0 A:** The GER of SCs is higher than the GER of STs at school level in India.

**H1 A:** The GER of SCs isn't higher than the GER of STs at school level in India.

**H0 B:** The DOR of SCs is lower than the DOR of STs at school level in India.

**H1 B:** The DOR of SCs isn't lower than the DOR of STs at school level in India.

### Methodology

The study is based on secondary data which is availed from sources such as periodicals, journals, papers, government websites such as MHRD, U-DISE, AISHE PORTAL et cetera. Exploratory study is carried out. Simple tables are used for analysis of data. School education is the size of the universe of the study and SCs and STs at schools is the sample size of the study. GER and DOR at school level in India are the prime parameters of the study. The time period of the study has been 2010-11 to 2013-14.

### Data Analysis and Interpretation

It has been observed that the GER of SCs from class IX-XII has been increasing more than those of STs. The same picture has been depicted in Table 1. In Table 1, the GER for SCs and STs from 2010-11 to 2013-14 (P) has been rising for both SCs and STs, GER of SCs being higher than

STs. In the year 2010-11 the GER of SCs stood high at 54.9 than that of STs at 41.5. In the following years 2011-12 and 2012-13 (P), SCs GER was 61.8 and 58.2 whereas STs GER was low at 43.9 and 47.5. In the year 2013-14 (P), SCs GER was higher than the STs GER. It was 63.3 for the former and 52.1 for the latter. Table 1 reveals that the GER of both SCs and STs from class IX-XII has been rising but the GER of SCs at the same level has been above the GER of STs from class IX-XII at schools.

**Table 1: GER of SCs and STs at School from Class IX-XII.**

Year	SCs Students	STs Students
2010-11	54.9	41.5
2011-12	61.8	43.9
2012-13 (P)	58.2	47.5
2013-14 (P)	63.3	52.1
P- Provisional		
Sources: Statistics of School Education and U-DISE-NUEPA		

The DOR of SCs and STs at schools from class I-X has been represented in Table 2. It has been observed that the DOR of STs has been higher than that of SCs at school level from class I-X. In Table 2, the DOR of SCs and STs from class I-X during 2010-14 has been depicted. In the year 2010-11, the DOR of SCs from class I-X has been 56.1 whereas the DOR of STs at same level stands high at 70.9. In the year 2011-12, the DOR for SCs falls to 55.3 and the DOR for STs falls to 65.9. But DOR of STs still stands higher than that of SCs from class I-X. In the following years 2012-13 (P) and 2013-14 (P), the DOR for SCs from class I-X has fallen to 52.5 and 50.1 respectively whereas DOR for STs from class I-X has fallen (but stood higher than that of SCs) to 62.7 and 62.4 respectively. It has been observed that there has been a tremendous decline in the DOR of SCs at school level from class I-X whereas the DOR in case of STs at same level has been quite high.

**Table 2: DOR of SCs and STs at School from Class I-X**

Year	SCs Students	STs Students
2010-11	56.1	70.9
2011-12	55.3	65.9
2012-13 (P)	52.5	62.7
2013-14 (P)	50.1	62.4
P-Provisional		
Sources: Statistics of School Education and U-DISE-NUEPA		

### Findings and Recommendations

The present study has tried to work within the limits of its core objectives. It has been seen that the GER is rising for both SCs and STs from class IX-XII but SCs GER is above the STs GER at schools. It has also been observed that the DOR for both SCs and Ts from class IX-XII has been declining but the DOR at school level is more in case of STs than SCs. It can be clearly understood that the SCs position at schools is better than the STs. It is recommended that government funding should be raised so as to bridge the gap between SCs and STs educational attainment. The study further recommends that government policies working in favour of SCs and STs should be implemented to strengthen their positions.

### Limitations of Study

- The study hasn't considered higher education.
- The study hasn't dealt with social groups other than SCs and STs.
- The study doesn't explain the reasons for better position of SCs than STs at schools.

### Conclusion

The study has kept in focus the prime objectives to carry out the research with respect to GER and DOR of SCs and STs. It is found that the position of SCs is better than STs at school level in India. More of SCs students are getting enrolled at school levels than STs. The DOR of STs is higher than SCs at schools which further strengthens the position of SCs at schools in India. The null hypotheses of the study are not rejected whereas the alternative hypotheses of the study are rejected.

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