



## Problems and Challenges of Scheduled Caste Women in Gulbarga District

### KEYWORDS

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**ABSTRACT** *Scheduled caste women constitute half of scheduled caste population and are deprived, suppressed and oppressed due to their caste, gender and poverty. As such, to study the problems and challenges faced by these women, a survey based study is made in Gulbarga district. The primary data was collected from total 400 scheduled caste women and interview schedule was used to collect the primary data. Gulbarga district is located at Karnataka state. It was found that though scheduled caste women are living in twenty-first century, still they are suffering and facing many problems due to their caste and gender. The paper discussed the problems and challenges faced by these women in Gulbarga district.*

### Introduction:

The terms 'Dalits', 'Shudras', 'Scheduled Castes', 'Mlechhas', 'Chandals', etc are used synonymously to mean Scheduled Castes in India. The history of categorizing some castes as Scheduled Castes commenced with the Government of India Act, 1935. This step, on the part of the then British Government, was meant to treat the most oppressed and exploited castes with a degree of special political dispensation.

Scheduled caste women in India are targeted for violence and discrimination not just because of their gender, but also on the basis of their caste, community, religious affiliation and other factors. Rape, abduction and humiliation of scheduled caste women are common forms of violence perpetrated against Indian women include: female feticide (selective abortion based on the fetus' gender); domestic violence; dowry death; mental and physical torture; sexual trafficking; and public humiliation (Meena Anand, 2005).

The scheduled caste women are oppressed by the broader Hindu society, their own community's men and also their own husbands. Thus, they are triply disadvantageous. The issues of scheduled caste women are different from that of other Indian women. They have been deprived from all kinds of human rights, education, income, dignity, social status, religious rights, etc. They have to face outside world necessitated by economic deprivation, and an urgent need to earn for livelihood. Thus, their subjugation is more acute- being Dalit they are treated with great contempt by upper caste men and women alike, and their own men folk. Despite that they have hugely contributed to the development of India by their seer hard work and labour. But, their contributions have never been recognized. Their voices and protests are almost invisible. In fact, when we talk of marginalization of women in the development process, or feminization of poverty or woman's contribution to the unorganized sector in India, we are referring to them without even being conscious about their specificity (Chandra and Sangha Mitra, 2003). It is regrettable to note that mainstream women's movement in India also ignored and neglected the pitiable condition of Dalit women (Verma, 1999).

Hence, the situation of scheduled caste women in India needs special attention. They are one of the largest social-

ly segregated groups anywhere in the world, and make up 2% of the world's total population. Scheduled caste women (or Dalit women) are discriminated against three times over: they are poor, they are women, and they are Dalits.

A study entitled 'Gender-Violence and Access to Justice for the Dalit Woman: Final Report December 2011', was undertaken by Navsarjan Trust in collaboration with Minority Rights Group International, London. It was focused on three districts of Rajkot, Kutch and Bhavnagar. It covers the atrocities cases on Dalit women registered from 2004 to 2009. The study shows that it is more difficult for Dalits to get justice in the court of law for their traumatic sufferings. The study indicates that in the cases of violence by non-Dalits on Dalit women, no non-Dalit accused have been convicted so far, and in cases of violence by Dalits on Dalit women, there have been convictions only in six cases. The data received for the study shows a more gloomy picture of delivery of justice to the victims. Of 889 registered cases —185 cases of violence by non-Dalits and 704 cases of violence by Dalits, only 6 cases (or 0.7% of the total) resulted in conviction of the accused (Jha, 2011). It is observed from the above stated discussion that, scheduled caste women are suffering different problems and challenges in society. Hence, the present study is made to look into the problems and challenges of scheduled caste women in backward area- Gulbarga district.

### Objectives of the Study:

#### The present study is made:

- To study the gender equality of scheduled caste women in family and society;
- To explore the attitudes of family and society towards the scheduled caste women;
- To look into the problems faced by scheduled caste women in family and society; and
- To know whether the scheduled caste women are facing violence due to their caste in family and society.

### Methodology and Limitations:

As discussed above, the present study deals with scheduled caste women and to derive theoretical background, the authors collected secondary literature on the status and problems of scheduled caste women. Based on theoretical background, the survey of scheduled caste women in Gulbarga district is made. Gulbarga district is located

at Hyderabad-Karnataka region of Karnataka state. As the geographical territory is vast to cover all the scheduled caste women, due to time limitations, total 400 scheduled caste women were interviewed to collect the primary data. The collected primary data is analyzed and discussed as under.

### 1. Age of the Respondents:

Age of the respondents plays significant role in awareness and knowledge of scheduled caste women in different aspects such as social culture, legal rights, different occupational skills, etc. Hence, the primary data was collected from the respondents on the age and presented in the following table.

**Table No. 1. Age of the Respondents**

| Particulars        | Scheduled Caste Women   |      |                        |      |                     |      |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------|------------------------|------|---------------------|------|
|                    | Employed/ Self-employed |      | Unemployed/ Housewives |      | Total               |      |
|                    | No., of Respondents     | %    | No., of Respondents    | %    | No., of Respondents | %    |
| 18 to 25 Years     | 32                      | 16.0 | 25                     | 12.5 | 57                  | 14.2 |
| 26 to 35 Years     | 53                      | 26.5 | 54                     | 27.0 | 107                 | 26.7 |
| 36 to 45 Years     | 49                      | 24.5 | 37                     | 18.5 | 86                  | 21.5 |
| 46 to 60 Years     | 48                      | 24.0 | 63                     | 31.5 | 111                 | 27.7 |
| More than 60 Years | 18                      | 9.0  | 21                     | 10.5 | 39                  | 9.7  |
| Total              | 200                     | 100  | 200                    | 100  | 400                 | 100  |

As expressed by all the respondents, 57 (14.2%) are between 18 to 25 years, 107 (26.7%) are between 26 to 35 years, 86 (21.5%) are between 36 to 45 years, 111 (27.7%) are between 46 to 60 years and the remaining 39 (9.7%) are of more than 60 years. To know the problems of scheduled caste women of all age groups, the respondents from all the age groups are selected while collecting the primary data.

### 2. Marital Status:

Marital status of the respondents is significant to determine the social background of the respondents and thereby to find out the problems faced by scheduled caste women in their families and society. In this regard, the collected primary data is shown as under.

**Table No. 2. Marital Status**

| Particulars                    | Scheduled Caste Women   |      |                        |      |                     |      |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|------|------------------------|------|---------------------|------|
|                                | Employed/ Self-employed |      | Unemployed/ Housewives |      | Total               |      |
|                                | No., of Respondents     | %    | No., of Respondents    | %    | No., of Respondents | %    |
| Unmarried/ Single              | 08                      | 4.0  | 11                     | 5.5  | 19                  | 4.7  |
| Married                        | 164                     | 82.0 | 169                    | 84.5 | 333                 | 83.2 |
| Widow                          | 17                      | 8.5  | 14                     | 7.0  | 31                  | 7.7  |
| Divorcee/ Separated/ Alienated | 11                      | 5.5  | 06                     | 3.0  | 17                  | 4.2  |
| Total                          | 200                     | 100  | 200                    | 100  | 400                 | 100  |

As stated by all the respondents, 19 (4.7%) are unmarried and single, 333 (83.2%) are married and living with their husbands, 31 (7.7%) are widows and 17 (4.2%) are divorcees, separated or alienated from their husbands.

### 3. Problem in Residential Environment:

It is noted that many of the scheduled castes are living in the areas concentrated by their own castes or communities. Further, they are poor and as such, majority of the scheduled caste are living in slums or backward areas. The slum areas and backward areas are with unhygienic environment with reference to contaminated drinking water, poor roads, poor sanitation, etc. Hence, it was asked to the respondents that whether their areas are with problems of residential environment and the collected primary data is tabulated as under.

**Table No. 3. Problem in Residential Environment**

| Particulars | Scheduled Caste Women   |      |                        |      |                     |      |
|-------------|-------------------------|------|------------------------|------|---------------------|------|
|             | Employed/ Self-employed |      | Unemployed/ Housewives |      | Total               |      |
|             | No., of Respondents     | %    | No., of Respondents    | %    | No., of Respondents | %    |
| Yes         | 133                     | 66.5 | 156                    | 78.0 | 289                 | 72.2 |
| No          | 67                      | 33.5 | 44                     | 22.0 | 111                 | 27.7 |
| Total       | 200                     | 100  | 200                    | 100  | 400                 | 100  |

Majority of the respondents that is, 289 (72.2%) are having problems at their residential environment, whereas only 111 (27.7%) have no any problems at their residential environment.

#### 4. Specific Problems at Residential Environment:

As remarked by 289 of all the respondents, there are problems at their residential areas and the particular problems of their residential environment are discussed as under.

**Table No. 4. Specific Problems at Residential Environment**

| Particulars                                 | Scheduled Caste Women   |      |                        |      |                     |      |
|---|-------------------------|------|------------------------|------|---------------------|------|
|   | Employed/ Self-employed |      | Unemployed/ Housewives |      | Total               |      |
|   | No., of Respondents     | %    | No., of Respondents    | %    | No., of Respondents | %    |
| Poor Sanitation                             | 55                      | 27.5 | 62                     | 31.0 | 117                 | 29.2 |
| Scarcity of Drinking Water                  | 36                      | 18.0 | 29                     | 14.5 | 65                  | 16.2 |
| Poor Roads/ Lack of Adequate Transportation | 33                      | 16.5 | 45                     | 22.5 | 78                  | 19.5 |
| Lack of Health Centre/ Schools              | 28                      | 14.0 | 36                     | 18.0 | 64                  | 16.0 |
| Any Other                                   | 09                      | 4.5  | 05                     | 2.5  | 14                  | 3.5  |
| Not Applicable                              | 67                      | 33.5 | 44                     | 22.0 | 111                 | 27.7 |
| Total                                       | 200                     | 100  | 200                    | 100  | 400                 | 100  |

It is highlighted from the above table that many of the respondents are facing more than one type of problems at their residential environment. Among all the respondents, 117 (29.2%) have stated that there is poor sanitation in their residential environment, 65 (16.2%) have mentioned that there is scarcity of drinking water in their areas, 78 (19.5%) have remarked that there are poor roads or inadequate transportation in their areas, 64 (16.0%) have expressed that there is lack of health centres or schools at their areas, 14 (3.5%) have mentioned that there are also other problems at their residential environments and it is not applicable to 111 (27.7%) of the respondents as they have already stated that there are no any problems at their residential areas.

#### 5. Decision Making Authority in Family:

The society is male dominated, especially among the scheduled castes. As such, generally, elder male members only are making the family decisions in their families. As such, scheduled caste women are deprived from family decision making. But it is noted that due to increase in education and employment among scheduled caste women, a few of such women are also participating in family decision making. In this regard, the collected primary data is as under.

**Table No. 5. Decision Making Authority in Family**

| Particulars             | Scheduled Caste Women   |      |                        |      |                     |      |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------|------------------------|------|---------------------|------|
|                         | Employed/ Self-employed |      | Unemployed/ Housewives |      | Total               |      |
|                         | No., of Respondents     | %    | No., of Respondents    | %    | No., of Respondents | %    |
| Parents/ Parents-in-law | 53                      | 26.5 | 60                     | 30.0 | 113                 | 28.2 |
| Husbands Only           | 43                      | 21.5 | 75                     | 37.5 | 118                 | 29.5 |
| Husband & Self          | 71                      | 35.5 | 43                     | 21.5 | 114                 | 28.5 |
| Self Only               | 21                      | 10.5 | 13                     | 6.5  | 34                  | 8.5  |
| Others                  | 12                      | 6.0  | 09                     | 4.5  | 21                  | 5.2  |
| Total                   | 200                     | 100  | 200                    | 100  | 400                 | 100  |

Of all the respondents, 113 (28.2%) have expressed that their parents or parents-in-law are making their family decisions, 118 (29.5%) have remarked that their husbands are making family decisions, 114 (28.5%) have remarked that they are making family decisions along with their husbands, 34 (8.5%) have mentioned that they are making their family decisions and the remaining 21 (5.2%) have stated that others like their children are making family decisions.

### 6. Status in Family:

As discussed above, in male dominated society, there is subjugated position for females. Consequently, females have not gained equality in family compared to male members. In this regard, the primary data was collected and presented in the following table.

**Table No. 6. Status in Family**

| Particulars                | Scheduled Caste Women   |      |                        |      |                     |      |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|------|------------------------|------|---------------------|------|
|                            | Employed/ Self-employed |      | Unemployed/ Housewives |      | Total               |      |
|                            | No., of Respondents     | %    | No., of Respondents    | %    | No., of Respondents | %    |
| Superior over Male Members | 09                      | 4.5  | 05                     | 2.5  | 14                  | 3.5  |
| Equal to Male Members      | 63                      | 31.5 | 36                     | 18.0 | 99                  | 24.7 |
| Subjugated to Male Members | 128                     | 64.0 | 159                    | 79.5 | 287                 | 71.7 |
| Total                      | 200                     | 100  | 200                    | 100  | 400                 | 100  |

Of all the respondents, 287 (71.7%) have stated that their status is subjugated in their families to male members, 99 (24.7%) have remarked that they are equal to male members in their families and 14 (3.5%) have expressed that their status is superior over male members in their families.

### 7. Attitudes of Husband Towards Respondents:

In family matters, many of the husbands treat wives as equal and in many families, husbands turns violent. In case of lower castes like scheduled castes, females are neglected by their husbands in family matters and even females are facing domestic violence. In this regard, the attitudes of husbands in family matters with wives are varied and different. Hence, information was collected on the attitudes of husbands towards the respondents and presented in the following table.

**Table No. 7. Attitudes of Husbands Towards Respondents**

| Particulars               | Scheduled Caste Women   |      |                        |      |                     |      |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|------|------------------------|------|---------------------|------|
|                           | Employed/ Self-employed |      | Unemployed/ Housewives |      | Total               |      |
|                           | No., of Respondents     | %    | No., of Respondents    | %    | No., of Respondents | %    |
| Violent, Abuse & Neglect  | 26                      | 13.0 | 44                     | 22.0 | 70                  | 17.5 |
| Dominant & Suppress       | 83                      | 41.5 | 94                     | 47.0 | 177                 | 44.2 |
| Cooperate & Equally Treat | 37                      | 18.5 | 20                     | 10.0 | 57                  | 14.2 |
| Always Give Importance    | 18                      | 9.0  | 11                     | 5.5  | 29                  | 7.2  |
| Not Applicable            | 36                      | 18.0 | 31                     | 15.5 | 67                  | 16.7 |
| Total                     | 200                     | 100  | 200                    | 100  | 400                 | 100  |

On the attitudes of their husbands towards the respondents, 70 (17.5%) of the total respondents have expressed that their husbands are violent, abuse and neglect them, 177 (44.2%) have mentioned that their husbands are dominant and suppress them, 57 (14.2%) have stated that their husbands are cooperative and equally treat them and 29 (7.2%) of all the respondents have remarked that their husbands are always give importance to them and it is not applicable to 67 (16.7%) of the respondents as they include widows, divorcees and unmarried respondents.

### 8. Facing Domestic Violence:

Many of the scheduled caste women are illiterates or low-educated, poor and neglected in society. As such, they are facing inequality, atrocities and discrimination in society and even in their families, they are facing many of the problems and domestic violence is the major problem faced by scheduled caste women in their families. It was asked to the respondents that whether they are facing domestic violence and the collected primary data is tabulated as under.

**Table No. 8. Facing Domestic Violence**

| Particulars    | Scheduled Caste Women   |      |                        |      |                     |      |
|----------------|-------------------------|------|------------------------|------|---------------------|------|
|                | Employed/ Self-employed |      | Unemployed/ Housewives |      | Total               |      |
|                | No., of Respondents     | %    | No., of Respondents    | %    | No., of Respondents | %    |
| Yes            | 28                      | 14.0 | 35                     | 17.5 | 63                  | 15.7 |
| No             | 136                     | 68.0 | 134                    | 67.0 | 270                 | 67.5 |
| Not Applicable | 36                      | 18.0 | 31                     | 15.5 | 67                  | 16.7 |
| Total          | 200                     | 100  | 200                    | 100  | 400                 | 100  |

Of all the respondents, it is noted that, 63 (15.7%) are facing domestic violence, whereas a great majority that is, 270 (67.5%) are not facing domestic violence and it is not applicable to 67 (16.7%) of the respondents as they include divorcees, widows and unmarried respondents.

### 9. Particular Acts of Domestic Violence:

As discussed above, 63 of the total respondents are facing domestic violence and information was collected from the respondents on the particular acts of domestic violence in their families and tabulated as under.

**Table No. 9. Particular Acts of Domestic Violence**

| Particulars                                       | Scheduled Caste Women   |      |                        |      |                     |      |
|---|-------------------------|------|------------------------|------|---------------------|------|
|   | Employed/ Self-employed |      | Unemployed/ Housewives |      | Total               |      |
|   | No., of Respondents     | %    | No., of Respondents    | %    | No., of Respondents | %    |
| Use of Filthy Language, Abuse                     | 10                      | 5.0  | 14                     | 7.0  | 24                  | 6.0  |
| Physical Violence, Attack, etc.                   | 07                      | 3.5  | 11                     | 5.5  | 18                  | 4.5  |
| Mental Depression, Harassment, Exploitation, etc. | 16                      | 8.0  | 13                     | 6.5  | 29                  | 7.2  |
| Any Other   | 03                      | 1.5  | 02                     | 1.0  | 05                  | 1.2  |
| Can't Say   | --                      | --   | --                     | --   | --                  | --   |
| None  | 136                     | 68.0 | 134                    | 67.0 | 270                 | 67.5 |
| Not Applicable                                    | 36                      | 18.0 | 31                     | 15.5 | 67                  | 16.7 |
| Total   | 200                     | 100  | 200                    | 100  | 400                 | 100  |

Though majority of the respondents are not facing any domestic violence, still it is observed that a few of the respondents are facing domestic violence of more than one type. 24 (6.0%) of all the respondents are facing use of filthy language and abuse, 18 (4.5%) are facing physical violence, attack, etc, 29 (7.2%) of the total respondents are facing mental depression, harassment, exploitation, etc, 05 (1.2%) are facing other types of domestic violence, 270 (67.5%) are not facing any domestic violence and it is not applicable to 67 (16.7%) of the respondents as they include widows, divorcees and unmarried respondents.

### 10. Attitudes of Society:

The respondents are suppressed, oppressed, depressed, discriminated and exploited by society due to their caste and gender. As such, the information was collected on the attitudes of society towards the respondents and presented in the following table.

**Table No. 10. Attitudes of Society**

| Particulars                 | Scheduled Caste Women   |      |                        |      |                     |      |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------|------------------------|------|---------------------|------|
|                             | Employed/ Self-employed |      | Unemployed/ Housewives |      | Total               |      |
|                             | No., of Respondents     | %    | No., of Respondents    | %    | No., of Respondents | %    |
| Cooperative & Sympathetic   | 28                      | 14.0 | 15                     | 7.5  | 43                  | 10.7 |
| Equal & Helpful             | 34                      | 17.0 | 27                     | 13.5 | 61                  | 15.2 |
| Feel Inferior & Neglect     | 112                     | 56.0 | 121                    | 60.5 | 233                 | 58.2 |
| Untouchable & Deprivation   | 11                      | 5.5  | 14                     | 7.0  | 25                  | 6.2  |
| Discrimination & Alienation | 15                      | 7.5  | 23                     | 11.5 | 38                  | 9.5  |
| Total                       | 200                     | 100  | 200                    | 100  | 400                 | 100  |

On the attitudes of society and of all the respondents, only 43 (10.7%) have mentioned that they are getting cooperation or sympathy from society, 61 (15.2%) have stated that they are getting equal and help from society, 233 (58.2%) have expressed that they are facing inferiority and negligence from society, 25 (6.2%) are facing untouchability and deprivation from society and 38 (9.5%) are facing discrimination and alienation from society.

### 11. Social Problems Faced/ Facing Due to Caste:

The scheduled castes are associated with different kinds of atrocities and problems such as untouchability, social discrimination, alienation, exploitation, etc. The social problems faced or facing due to their castes by the respondents are as under.

**Table No. 11. Social Problems Faced/ Facing Due to Caste**

| Particulars                           | Scheduled Caste Women   |      |                        |      |                     |      |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|------|------------------------|------|---------------------|------|
|                                       | Employed/ Self-employed |      | Unemployed/ Housewives |      | Total               |      |
|                                       | No., of Respondents     | %    | No., of Respondents    | %    | No., of Respondents | %    |
| Untouchability                        | --                      | --   | --                     | --   | --                  | --   |
| Discrimination/ Alienation            | 35                      | 17.5 | 42                     | 21.0 | 77                  | 19.2 |
| Exploitation/ Harassment              | 44                      | 22.0 | 76                     | 38.0 | 120                 | 30.0 |
| Suppression, Oppression & Inferiority | 61                      | 30.5 | 50                     | 25.0 | 111                 | 27.7 |
| Any Other                             | 04                      | 2.0  | --                     | --   | 04                  | 1.0  |
| None                                  | 56                      | 28.0 | 32                     | 16.0 | 88                  | 22.0 |
| Total                                 | 200                     | 100  | 200                    | 100  | 400                 | 100  |

As stated by the total respondents, 77 (19.2%) are facing discrimination and alienation, 120 (30.0%) are facing exploitation and harassment in society, 111 (27.7%) are facing suppression, oppression and inferiority, 04 (1.0%) are facing other social problems and 88 (22.0%) are not facing any of such problems.

### 12. Facing Exploitation and Harassment in Society:

It was asked to the respondents that whether they are facing any type of exploitation and harassment in society and the collected primary data is tabulated as under.

**Table No. 12. Facing Exploitation and Harassment in Society**

| Particulars | Scheduled Caste Women   |      |                        |      |                     |      |
|-------------|-------------------------|------|------------------------|------|---------------------|------|
|             | Employed/ Self-employed |      | Unemployed/ Housewives |      | Total               |      |
|             | No., of Respondents     | %    | No., of Respondents    | %    | No., of Respondents | %    |
| Yes         | 44                      | 22.0 | 76                     | 38.0 | 120                 | 30.0 |
| No          | 156                     | 78.0 | 124                    | 62.0 | 280                 | 70.0 |
| Total       | 200                     | 100  | 200                    | 100  | 400                 | 100  |

As stated by the total respondents, 120 (30.0%) are facing exploitation and harassment in society, whereas the remaining 280 (70.0%) are not facing any exploitation or harassment in society.

### 13. Types of Exploitation Faced in Society:

As discussed above, 120 of the respondents are facing exploitation and harassment and the information furnished by the respondents on the types of exploitation faced in society is tabulated as under.

**Table No. 13. Types of Exploitation Faced on Society**

| Particulars                      | Scheduled Caste Women   |      |                        |      |                     |      |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|------|------------------------|------|---------------------|------|
|                                  | Employed/ Self-employed |      | Unemployed/ Housewives |      | Total               |      |
|                                  | No., of Respondents     | %    | No., of Respondents    | %    | No., of Respondents | %    |
| Physical Violence, Attacks, etc. | --                      | --   | --                     | --   | --                  | --   |
| Mental Suppression & Depression  | 16                      | 8.0  | 30                     | 15.0 | 46                  | 11.5 |
| Lower Treatment at Public Places | 35                      | 17.5 | 53                     | 26.5 | 88                  | 22.0 |
| Sexual Harassment & Exploitation | 09                      | 4.5  | 05                     | 2.5  | 14                  | 3.5  |
| Any Other                        | --                      | --   | --                     | --   | --                  | --   |
| Not Applicable/ None             | 156                     | 78.0 | 124                    | 62.0 | 280                 | 70.0 |
| Total                            | 200                     | 100  | 200                    | 100  | 400                 | 100  |

It is highlighted that only few of the respondents are facing exploitation and harassment in society and these respondents are also facing more than one type of exploitation and harassment. As stated by all the respondents, 46 (11.5%) are facing mental suppression and depression, 88 (22.0%) are facing lower treatment at public places, 14 (3.5%) are facing sexual harassment and exploitation and it is not applicable to 280 (70.0%) of the respondents as they are not facing any of such exploitation and harassment in society.

### Suggestions from the Study:

#### Following suggestions are made from the present study:

1. Higher education and employment are essentially needed for scheduled caste women;
2. Self-employment training, financial assistance to start income generating activities, formation of Self-Help Groups, joining of Self-Help Groups, etc are suggested for scheduled caste women;
3. The men in scheduled caste must realize gender equality and also give respect and cooperation to women; and
4. The society must change their attitudes towards caste and gender based inequalities and must treat scheduled castes with equality and respect.

### Conclusion:

To conclude, it is essential to increase self-confidence among scheduled caste women. Compared to self-employed or employed scheduled caste women, unemployed housewives are suffering from more problems. Of course, employment or self-employment has given scheduled caste women status, equality and respect apart from economic benefits. Hence, it is essential to empower unemployed housewives among scheduled castes. To serve this purpose, it is needed to provide self-employment training to these women, so that they can earn and generate their own income. Though there are good numbers of schemes of self-employment, many of these women are not aware about these schemes. Hence, it is necessary to increase awareness of scheduled caste women in self-employment training, financial assistance, education, empowerment, etc. Self-Help Groups are playing important role in empowerment of scheduled caste women. Hence, it is suggested to Panchayats, Banks, Non-Governmental Organizations and Anganawadis to increase awareness about benefits of Self-Help Groups, self-employment, income generating activities, etc and help scheduled caste women to get benefits from different schemes of the Government formulated for the welfare of scheduled caste women.

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