

Research Article

Socioeconomic Status of SCs/STs in India: Upgrading or Degrading?

Vishal Babu Mhadeshwar^{1*} and Prashika Rajendra Kurlikar²

¹MPhil, ²PhD Research Scholar, International Institute for Population Science, Govandi Station Road, Deonar, Opposite Sanjona Chamber, Mumbai-400088, Maharashtra, India
(*Corresponding author) email id: *mhadeshwar16@gmail.com, ²prash.kurlikar@gmail.com

Date of Submission: 15/05/2020; Date of Acceptance: 15/11/2020

ABSTRACT

Background: The socio-economic base of education and employment since ancient times in India was extremely narrow, and the door of education was close for the economically and socially deprived sections of the society. There is a wide inequality in education and employment opportunities between the scheduled and non-scheduled population of India. **Objective:** The main objective of the paper is to analyze the socio-economic profile i.e. the literacy and educational status of scheduled (scheduled caste and scheduled tribes) compared to non-scheduled population castes in India. In addition to this, study also tries to examine whether socioeconomic status of SC and ST is upgrading or degrading. **Data and Methods:** Study has used the census and NSSO data to achieved the above the objective. The Indian Census is the most credible source of information on Demography (Population characteristics), Economic Activity, Literacy and Education, Housing & Household Amenities, and many other socio-cultural and demographic data since 1872. **Results:** Results show that from census and NSSO data, the status of the SC and ST population is slowly improving in both aspects of education and employment. The pace of development quite slow, but it is a continuous process. The gap among SC&ST and other category is persisting, but it will soon disappear and this can achieved only with proper government policy implementation.

Keywords: Education, Employment, Scheduled caste, Scheduled tribes, India

INTRODUCTION

Indian society is highly stratified, with many inequalities among the different social groups. This inequality has segregated social groups into a distinct caste system. Dalit

and tribal are the worst positioned among them (Mosse, 2018). They have been separate from the rest of the society to the extent that they denied even the basic human rights. In Indian society, the most influential factor is caste, which determines a person's dignity in terms of socio economic indicators (Anand, 2005).

The constitution of India has given various provisions for schedule caste and schedule tribes to safeguard and promote their cultural, social, educational, economic, and political interests to bring them in the mainstream of the nation. However, they are still striving to fulfill their basic need for food, clothing, and shelter. Besides these, today, they needed opportunities to live life with self-respect and dignity. Hence, enough opportunities should give to them a secure and dignified life in the 21st century (Punia and Niwas, 2013).

Caste system and Social exclusion is a global issue that has been prevailing in various forms of suppression, the marginalization that is to a noticeable extent (Prasamita Mohanty, 2014). It describes how more than one-fourth of Indian populations are not protected through the Constitution. The root of the caste system is from ancient Indian history. Since ancient times caste systems exist in India, and it exists today. Indian Government has officially recognized the various castes, and the scheduled caste is referring to as Dalit. However, the Indian Government has taken many measures to uplift the socio-economic status of this Dalit population with many plans, programmers, and schemes for the betterment for the scheduled caste; still, the goal is not to achieve yet.

Despite constitutional prohibitions and laws, most recently the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act of 1989, violence and injustices against untouchables continue today, particularly in rural areas of India. The caste system forces people to remain separate. It also negatively influences people's social stability. "The caste system has been going on for a long time and unfortunately also influences a person's faith. (Times of India, 2015).

India is home to about 75% of another category, 16% and 8% of SCs and STs, respectively. However, the decadal growth in the country for the period is different for the marginalized group (SCs & STs) in country from others. The annual growth rate of the population is 1.7%, while it is only 1.6 for others and more for SCs and STs (2.08 and 2.3 respectively) during 2001-2011 in India. The decadal growth rate of lower groups (SCs & STs) is competing with the second-largest growth rate of the country in the world (Pakistan).

The Constitution allowed rights to the Scheduled castes and tribes by providing job reservations and preferential treatment in educational institutes beyond the period initially

specified by the Constitution has divided Indians into two divisive camps- pro and anti-reservationists (Louis, 2003). However, it is argue that merit has often taken second place because of such policies that any way benefits only a particular section, already privileged, among the disadvantaged. Louis from his study argues that SCs and STs continue to represent in government services poorly, and they get far below than most other sections in several development indicators, chiefly literacy (Louis, 2003). Consequently, SCs and STs are poorly affected by bad health, have limited access to essential services; their communities are marked by social disintegration and abject poverty. This inequality is evident in various facets of life, such as ownership of land, education, and employment (Singh P.). The tribes in India constitute 8.63% (Census 2011) of the landless people in India, which is the second-largest section after the Scheduled Castes (16.43%) and they own only 3 percent of the large landholdings (Singh P.)

India ended its “Dominion” status, became a republic on January 26, 1950, and put in impact its new constitution. With an entire section dedicated to “Fundamental Rights,” the Indian Constitution prohibits any discrimination based on religion, race, caste, sex, and place of birth (Article 15[1]). This law extends to all public institutions, such as government-run facilities, access to hotels and restaurants, federal employment and open wells, tanks (human made ponds for water supply and bathing), and roads. The practice of untouchability declared illegal (Article 17). So, has a constitutional commitment to balance opportunities across castes since India becomes a republic? We all know food, cloth, and shelter are the three necessities of a human being. Apart from this, in the modern era, literacy, employment, and household condition is the fundamental human right that helps to reduce disparity in society. In essence, literacy and jobs help to improve the household and economic status.

OBJECTIVE

The present paper tires examine whether socio economic status of SC and ST is upgrading or degrading. The study analyze the socio-economic profile i.e. literacy and employment of the schedule caste and schedule tribe compared to their non-SC ST counterparts. It is very important to understand whether they (SCs & STs) have shown any improvement in literacy and employment with reference to others category, after six decade of reservation policy.

DATA AND METHODOLOGY

For analysis, present used 2001 and 2011 census and NSSO 61st and 68th round data to achieved the above the objective. The Indian Census is the most credible source of

information on Demography (Population characteristics), Economic Activity, Literacy and Education, Housing & Household Amenities, and many other socio-cultural and demographic data since 1872.

Literacy

As per Census, a person aged seven and above who can both read and write with understanding in any language, is treated as literate. A person, who can only read but cannot write, is not literate. In the Censuses prior to 1991, children below 5 years of age were treated as illiterates. It was decided at the 1991 Census that all children in the age group 0-6, would be treated as illiterate by definition and the population aged seven years and above only would be classified as literate or illiterate. Formula to calculate literacy in analysis:

$$\text{Literacy rate} = \frac{\text{Number of literate person aged}}{\text{Population of aged 7 and above}} \times 100$$

$$\text{Specific literacy rate} = \frac{\text{Number of literate person (a,s)}}{\text{Population of a specific group (a, s)}} \times 100$$

Where a= age group

s= social group

Literacy rates are calculated for five age groups in the youth and adolescent category and in the working age group for analysis purposes within social group at India level classified in urban rural and gender wise.

Employment-to-population ratio (EPR)

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development defines the employment rate as the employment-to-population ratio. Formula to calculate EPR:

$$\text{Employment to population ratio} = \frac{\text{Labour force employed (a,s)}}{\text{Total population (a,s)}} \times 100$$

Where a= age group

s= social group

Census gives the employment in four categories. To understand the participation of marginalised group in higher employment NSSO 61st and 68th round on employment is use for study.

RESULTS

Table 1 shows the literacy level of SCs and STs and other categories in all ages. SCs and STs are showing pleasant growth with an increase of 11 and 12%. The literacy rate for others category was healthier in 2001 than SCs and STs, it increased by 8% in 2011. It was surprising that in 2001 in females, only 3.4 out of 10 in STs, and 4.1 out of 10 SCs are literate versus 5.8 out of 10 from other categories. There is considerable difference in male and female literacy rate in India. In 2001 census the gap between female and male literacy for SCs is 24.74% and it reduce to 18.80% in 2011, for STs 24.22% in 2001 reduce to 19.22% in 2011. Analysis of literacy rate is restrict to 25-60 age group to get clear picture of literacy as 15-59 age group overlaps with the population 15-24 whose literacy rate is higher (Table 1).

The condition of SCs and STs are good in urban area than rural area (Table 2 & 3). In rural area, 3.9 and 3.3 person out of 10 from SCs and STs respectively were literate versus 5.9 and 6.08 out of 10 in urban area (2001). Non-SC ST female have high level of literacy in both urban and rural area then their other female counterpart, 49.25% literacy in 2011 increase from 39.57% in 2001 in rural and in urban area it is 77.90% in 2011 against 71.14%. The gap between male and female literacy found more in 2001 and in rural area (both census) for all social group category (Table 2 & 3).

Literacy gap among early adolescent (10-14 years) is found in more in rural area and much more it was only in 2001 census, the gap was 10.12% in 2001 reduces to only 2.56% in others, 12.72% in 2001 decrease to 2.82% in 2011 for SCs and it is now only 4.18% in 2011 for STs reduces from 15.59% in 2001. Literacy among age groups 15-19 and 20-24 are important, as they are the new entrant in the workforce. The literacy in urban areas for 2001 and 2011 is close to 80 percent in both age groups (15-19 & 20-24) and in all social groups. In 2001, the literacy rate in rural areas was low for women. The condition of SCs and STs are worst in 2001. Only 58.82% and 43.03% female from SC category are literate in 2001 that jumps to 82.54% and 67.22% in 2011 for age group 15-19 and 20-24 age groups respectively (Table 4, 5 & 6).

Table 7 shows the analysis of main worker (Employment-to-population ratio) among social group, male-female, urban-rural and in all ages. The figure identifies that the crude work participation rate for the country is 29.94%. The work participation rate among females (15.21%) is less than one third of male (43.83%) work participation rate in India. More involved in main work activity of employment than SCs (28.49%) and others (29.4%) category. Females from marginalized group are more involved in main worker activity among STs (23.48%) and SCs (17.01%) as compared to others (15.49%) category.

Table 1: Literacy rate among social group in 2001 in India

Adolescent & Youth Categories	Total						Other					
	Absolute number			Percent			Absolute number			Percent		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
10-14	102015840	56422368	45593472	81.71	85.97	77.00	77814819	42673962	35140857	83.86	87.57	79.75
15-19	79462115	45837429	33624686	79.29	84.98	72.66	62659164	35669766	26989398	82.19	86.97	76.63
20-24	65731454	38574667	27156787	73.23	83.28	62.51	53293769	30861402	22432367	77.17	85.84	67.75
15-60	376252451	230503717	145748734	64.25	75.97	51.64	309246481	186163988	123082493	68.94	79.84	57.14
25-60	231058882	146091621	84967261	58.40	71.92	44.13	193293548	119632820	73660728	63.74	76.59	50.09
All Ages	560687797	336533716	224154081	54.51	63.24	45.15	452982691	268536224	184446467	58.25	66.56	49.29

Table 1 contd...

Adolescent & Youth Categories	Scheduled Caste						Scheduled Tribe					
	Absolute number			Percent			Absolute number			Percent		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
10-14	16741204	9465731	7275473	78.48	83.66	72.62	7459817	4282675	3177142	69.58	76.65	61.88
15-19	11797385	7158739	4638646	73.18	80.88	63.81	5005566	3008924	1996642	63.71	73.87	52.76
20-24	8799056	5460506	3338550	63.04	76.80	48.75	3638629	2252759	1385870	53.94	69.08	39.77
15-60	47132502	31092710	16039792	51.61	65.92	36.32	19873468	13247019	6626449	43.44	57.44	29.21
25-60	26536061	18473465	8062596	43.33	59.20	26.84	11229273	7985336	3243937	36.05	50.77	21.04
All Ages	75318285	47432887	27885398	45.20	55.10	34.62	32386821	20564605	11822216	38.41	48.23	28.36

Table 2: Literacy rate among social group in 2001 in rural India

Adolescent & Youth Categories	Total						Other					
	Absolute number			Percent			Absolute number			Percent		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
10-14	72909873	40933813	31976060	78.92	84.22	73.04	53160895	29573544	23587351	81.12	85.92	75.80
15-19	52718717	31210560	21508157	75.25	82.68	66.56	39741744	23177737	16564007	78.42	84.95	70.81
20-24	41324791	24893463	16431328	67.31	79.97	54.28	31909918	18923591	12986327	71.53	82.98	59.55
15-60	232770793	148087908	84682885	57.16	70.97	42.65	181963375	113620679	68342696	61.82	75.21	47.71
25-60	138727285	91983885	46743400	50.31	65.81	34.38	110311713	71519351	38792362	55.42	70.82	39.57
All Ages	361870817	223551641	138319176	48.74	58.58	38.33	277769802	169534990	108234812	52.20	61.88	41.92

Table 2 contd...

Adolescent & Youth Categories	Scheduled Caste						Scheduled Tribe					
	Absolute number			Percent			Absolute number			Percent		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
10-14	13057462	7489205	5568257	76.65	82.60	69.88	6691516	3871064	2820452	68.20	75.66	60.06
15-19	8631642	5387138	3244504	70.04	79.13	58.82	4345331	2645685	1699646	61.56	72.38	49.93
20-24	6295515	4010102	2285413	58.73	74.14	43.03	3119358	1959770	1159588	51.42	67.27	36.77
15-60	33746997	22890982	10856015	47.34	62.42	31.36	17060421	11576247	5484174	41.02	55.38	26.52
25-60	18819840	13493742	5326098	39.01	55.18	22.39	9595732	6970792	2624940	33.71	48.62	18.58
All Ages	55806266	35823885	19982381	41.96	52.22	31.02	28294749	18192766	10101983	36.59	46.59	26.38

Table 3: Literacy rate among social group in 2001 in urban India

Adolescent & Youth Categories	Total						Other					
	Absolute number			Percent			Absolute number			Percent		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
10-14	29105967	15488555	13617412	89.65	90.95	88.23	24653924	13100418	11553506	90.45	91.54	89.25
15-19	26743398	14626869	12116529	88.69	90.34	86.78	22917420	12492029	10425391	89.66	90.99	88.13
20-24	24406663	13681204	10725459	86.04	90.05	81.43	21383851	11937811	9446040	87.47	90.82	83.57
15-60	143481658	82415809	61065849	80.41	86.98	72.97	127283106	72543309	54739797	82.52	88.36	75.88
25-60	92331597	54107736	38223861	77.00	85.39	67.59	82981835	48113469	34868366	79.61	87.13	71.14
All Ages	198816980	112982075	85834905	69.49	75.04	63.32	175212889	99001234	76211655	71.37	76.46	65.68

Table 3 contd...

Adolescent & Youth Categories	Scheduled Caste						Scheduled Tribe					
	Absolute number			Percent			Absolute number			Percent		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
10-14	3683742	1976526	1707216	85.70	87.93	83.27	768301	411611	356690	84.52	87.46	81.36
15-19	3165743	1771601	1394142	83.39	86.69	79.54	660235	363239	296996	82.67	86.83	78.10
20-24	2503541	1450404	1053137	77.31	85.27	68.51	519271	292989	226282	76.45	84.28	68.25
15-60	13385505	8201728	5183777	66.82	78.16	54.34	2813047	1670772	1142275	67.58	77.45	56.95
25-60	7716221	4979723	2736498	59.37	73.79	43.79	1633541	1014544	618997	60.84	72.92	47.84
All Ages	19512019	11609002	7903017	58.03	66.39	48.97	4092072	2371839	1720233	58.56	65.97	50.71

Table 4: Literacy rate among social group in 2011 in India

Adolescent & Youth Categories	Total						Other					
	Absolute number			Percent			Absolute number			Percent		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
10-14	120963444	64029680	56933764	91.15	92.24	89.96	88781713	47092277	41689436	91.98	92.92	90.93
15-19	107068901	58347209	48721692	88.83	91.19	86.17	80399349	43713411	36685938	90.26	92.17	88.08
20-24	92744730	51117667	41627063	83.24	88.77	77.32	71361460	39061558	32299902	85.76	90.33	80.81
15-60	539844413	310995520	228848893	72.20	80.98	62.93	428393363	243872574	184520789	75.92	83.93	67.41
25-60	340030782	201530644	138500138	65.93	76.77	54.68	276632554	161097605	115534949	70.57	80.60	60.15
All Ages	763638812	434763622	328875190	63.07	69.76	55.97	598113342	338146009	259967333	66.09	72.38	59.39

Table 4 contd...

Adolescent & Youth Categories	Scheduled Caste						Scheduled Tribe					
	Absolute number			Percent			Absolute number			Percent		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
10-14	21181248	11192190	9989058	90.30	91.46	89.04	11000483	5745213	5255270	86.42	88.34	84.41
15-19	18210653	10018856	8191797	87.12	89.73	84.12	8458899	4614942	3843957	80.22	85.65	74.55
20-24	14893653	8376341	6517312	79.10	86.17	71.55	6489617	3679768	2809849	69.16	79.62	59.01
15-60	77872983	46745432	31127551	63.82	74.52	52.49	33578067	20377514	13200553	54.68	66.21	43.10
25-60	44768677	28350235	16418442	54.39	67.75	40.58	18629551	12082804	6546747	44.91	58.18	31.60
All Ages	113759997	66476964	47283033	56.49	64.21	48.33	51765473	30140649	21624824	49.51	57.36	41.59

Table 5: Literacy rate among social group in 2011 in rural India

Adolescent & Youth Categories	Total						Other					
	Absolute number			Percent			Absolute number			Percent		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
10-14	87506854	46321360	41185494	90.4	91.75	88.92	60999634	32344466	28655168	91.30	92.52	89.97
15-19	73225430	40289746	32935684	87.27	90.40	83.74	52180179	28632956	23547223	88.88	91.52	85.87
20-24	58757521	33174966	25582555	79.58	86.99	71.67	42658991	23905690	18753301	82.43	88.84	75.48
15-60	327962778	195317961	132644817	66.01	76.82	54.67	245336692	144419227	100917465	69.80	80.14	58.92
25-60	195979827	121853249	74126578	57.79	71.04	44.23	150497522	91880581	58616941	62.43	75.30	49.25
All Ages	482793835	281361374	201432461	57.91	65.77	49.62	356011818	206367570	149644248	60.77	68.47	52.61

Table 5 contd...

Adolescent & Youth Categories	Scheduled Caste						Scheduled Tribe					
	Absolute number			Percent			Absolute number			Percent		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
10-14	16607118	8800576	7806542	89.94	91.29	88.47	9900102	5176318	4723784	85.86	87.91	83.73
15-19	13638815	7590450	6048365	86.19	89.33	82.54	7406436	4066340	3340096	79.03	84.91	72.88
20-24	10542347	6073838	4468509	76.38	84.88	67.22	5556183	3195438	2360745	67.11	78.40	56.16
15-60	54172820	33340945	20831875	59.71	71.45	47.28	28453266	17557789	10895477	52.09	64.16	39.97
25-60	29991658	19676657	10315001	49.09	63.45	34.28	15490647	10296011	5194636	41.89	55.65	28.12
All Ages	82020322	48672196	33348126	53.31	61.52	44.62	44761695	26321608	18440087	47.58	55.69	39.38

Table 6: Literacy rate among social group in 2011 in urban India

Adolescent & Youth Categories	Total						Other					
	Absolute number			Percent			Absolute number			Percent		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
10-14	33456590	17708320	15748270	93.18	93.54	92.78	27782079	14747811	13034268	93.50	93.82	93.14
15-19	33843471	18057463	15786008	92.41	93.02	91.71	28219170	15080455	13138715	92.91	93.41	92.34
20-24	33987209	17942701	16044508	90.42	92.27	88.43	28702469	15155868	13546601	91.23	92.78	89.57
15-60	211881635	115677559	96204076	84.47	89.11	79.49	183056671	99453347	83603324	86.04	90.14	81.63
25-60	144050955	79677395	64373560	81.56	87.60	75.14	126135032	69217024	56918008	83.57	88.90	77.90
All Ages	280844977	153402248	127442729	74.47	78.47	70.17	242101524	131778439	110323085	75.87	79.49	71.95

Table 6 contd...

Adolescent & Youth Categories	Scheduled Caste						Scheduled Tribe					
	Absolute number			Percent			Absolute number			Percent		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
10-14	4574130	2391614	2182516	91.63	92.09	91.12	1100381	568895	531486	91.76	92.52	90.96
15-19	4571838	2428406	2143432	90.01	91.00	88.93	1052463	548602	503861	89.78	91.54	87.94
20-24	4351306	2302503	2048803	86.58	89.77	83.27	933434	484330	449104	84.60	88.79	80.50
15-60	23700163	13404487	10295676	75.71	83.43	67.56	5124801	2819725	2305076	75.59	82.69	68.40
25-60	14777019	8673578	6103441	69.70	80.07	58.87	3138904	1786793	1352111	69.68	78.88	60.38
All Ages	31739675	17804768	13934907	66.78	72.92	60.3	7003778	3819041	3184737	66.95	72.28	61.50

Table 7: Employment to population ration in main work among social group in India (2011)

Adolescent & Youth Categories	Total						Other					
	Absolute number			Percent			Absolute number			Percent		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
10-14	3244439	2033172	1211267	2.44	2.93	1.91	2178439	1408350	770089	2.26	2.78	1.68
15-19	17703310	12721891	4981419	14.69	19.88	8.81	12144748	9005884	3138864	13.63	18.99	7.54
20-24	38664170	28977411	9686759	34.7	50.32	17.99	28076336	21636925	6439411	33.74	50.04	16.11
15-60	332212417	250271542	81940875	44.43	65.16	22.53	247991901	191725707	56266194	43.95	65.99	20.56
25-60	275844937	208572240	67272697	53.48	79.46	26.56	207770817	161082898	46687919	53.01	80.59	24.31
All Ages	362565571	273209976	89355595	29.94	43.83	15.21	271370942	209866898	61504044	29.99	44.92	14.05

Table 7 contd...

Adolescent & Youth Categories	Scheduled Caste						Scheduled Tribe					
	Absolute number			Percent			Absolute number			Percent		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
10-14	582156	363363	218793	2.48	2.97	1.95	483844	261459	222385	3.8	4.02	3.57
15-19	3369439	2434101	935338	16.12	21.8	9.61	2189123	1281906	907217	20.76	23.79	17.6
20-24	6694165	4951025	1743140	35.55	50.93	19.14	3893669	2389461	1504208	41.5	51.7	31.59
15-60	53866651	39160683	14705968	44.14	62.43	24.80	30353865	19385152	10968713	49.43	62.99	35.81
25-60	43803047	31775557	12027490	53.23	75.94	29.73	24271073	15713785	8557288	58.51	75.67	41.31
All Ages	58183481	42249359	15934122	28.89	40.81	16.29	33011148	21093719	11917429	31.58	40.14	22.92

Table 8: Employment to population ratio in main work among social group in rural India (2011)

Adolescent & Youth Categories	Total						Other					
	Absolute number			Percent			Absolute number			Percent		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
10-14	2461196	1490267	970929	2.54	2.95	2.10	1536825	958746	578079	2.30	2.74	1.81
15-19	13265532	9213257	4052275	15.81	20.67	10.30	8548056	6134503	2413553	14.56	19.61	8.80
20-24	26970254	19459188	7511066	36.53	51.02	21.04	18292018	13625275	4666743	35.35	50.64	18.78
15-60	222765156	161013519	61751637	44.83	63.33	25.45	155299115	115303147	39995968	44.18	63.98	23.35
25-60	182529370	132341074	50188296	53.82	77.15	29.95	128459041	95543369	32915672	53.29	78.30	27.65
All Ages	245868421	178095330	67773091	29.49	41.63	16.69	172218423	128154046	44064377	29.40	42.52	15.49

Table 8 contd...

Adolescent & Youth Categories	Scheduled Caste						Scheduled Tribe					
	Absolute number			Percent			Absolute number			Percent		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
10-14	471387	288488	182899	2.55	2.99	2.07	452984	243033	209951	3.93	4.13	3.72
15-19	2688313	1904992	783321	16.99	22.42	10.69	2029163	1173762	855401	21.65	24.51	18.66
20-24	5126853	3688477	1438376	37.14	51.55	21.64	3551383	2145436	1405947	42.89	52.64	33.45
15-60	40140070	28482739	11657331	44.24	61.04	26.46	27325971	17227633	10098338	50.02	62.95	37.04
25-60	32324904	22889270	9435634	52.91	73.81	31.36	21745425	13908435	7836990	58.81	75.17	42.42
All Ages	43830747	31115647	12715100	28.49	39.33	17.01	29819251	18825637	10993614	31.69	39.83	23.48

Table 9: Employment to population ratio in main work among social group in urban India (2011)

Adolescent & Youth Categories	Total						Other					
	Absolute number			Percent			Absolute number			Percent		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
10-14	783243	542905	240338	2.18	2.87	1.42	641614	449604	192010	2.16	2.86	1.37
15-19	4437778	3508634	929144	12.12	18.07	5.40	3596692	2871381	725311	11.84	17.79	5.10
20-24	11693916	9518223	2175693	31.11	48.95	11.99	9784318	8011650	1772668	31.10	49.04	11.72
15-60	109447261	89258023	20189238	43.63	68.76	16.68	92692786	76422560	16270226	43.57	69.26	15.89
25-60	93315567	76231166	17084401	52.83	83.81	19.94	79311776	65539529	13772247	52.55	84.18	18.85
All Ages	116697150	95114646	21582504	30.95	48.65	11.88	99152519	81712852	17439667	31.07	49.29	11.37

Table 9 contd...

Adolescent & Youth Categories	Scheduled Caste						Scheduled Tribe					
	Absolute number			Percent			Absolute number			Percent		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
10-14	110769	74875	35894	2.22	2.88	1.50	30860	18426	12434	2.57	3.00	2.13
15-19	681126	529109	152017	13.41	19.83	6.31	159960	108144	51816	13.65	18.05	9.04
20-24	1567312	1262548	304764	31.19	49.22	12.39	342286	244025	98261	31.02	44.73	17.61
15-60	13726581	10677944	3048637	43.85	66.46	20.01	3027894	2157519	870375	44.66	63.27	25.83
25-60	11478143	8886287	2591856	54.14	82.03	25.00	2525648	1805350	720298	56.07	79.70	32.16
All Ages	14352734	11133712	3219022	30.20	45.60	13.93	3191897	2268082	923815	30.51	42.93	17.84

Table 10: Main worker classification among social group in India

Adolescent											
& Youth						Other					
			Cultivators			Agricultural labourers			Household Industry		
Categories	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
10-14	24.28	23.55	25.50	34.18	32.14	37.60	5.27	4.38	6.76	36.27	39.93
15-19	21.03	19.95	23.78	34.85	32.53	40.78	4.40	3.35	7.08	39.72	44.17
20-24	21.95	21.02	24.73	27.21	24.36	35.75	3.66	2.89	5.96	47.18	51.73
15-60	18.59	15.80	28.11	25.58	25.50	25.86	3.76	3.01	6.34	52.06	55.69
25-60	27.58	27.40	28.20	17.28	14.45	26.87	3.56	2.88	5.87	51.58	55.26
All Ages	26.46	26.74	25.60	23.77	20.22	34.60	3.40	2.76	5.36	46.37	50.27
SCs											
& Youth			Cultivators			Agricultural labourers			Household Industry		
Categories	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
10-14	16.68	16.27	17.37	45.48	43.89	48.12	4.24	3.53	5.42	33.59	36.31
15-19	12.63	12.19	13.78	47.21	45.05	52.81	3.35	2.55	5.44	36.81	40.20
20-24	13.14	12.91	13.77	41.99	38.52	51.84	3.02	2.29	5.11	41.85	46.28
15-60	39.65	35.51	50.69	15.51	16.30	13.39	2.77	2.17	4.37	42.07	46.01
25-60	38.72	34.31	50.35	16.09	17.15	13.31	2.69	2.12	4.18	42.50	46.42
All Ages	16.43	17.39	13.88	40.22	36.12	51.07	2.81	2.22	4.38	40.54	44.27
STs											
& Youth			Cultivators			Agricultural labourers			Household Industry		
Categories	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
10-14	32.66	32.90	32.38	48.23	46.19	50.63	1.75	1.55	2.00	17.36	19.36
15-19	30.77	30.19	31.59	49.51	47.07	52.95	1.43	1.11	1.88	18.29	21.63
20-24	34.67	34.9	34.29	42.26	38.45	48.3	1.36	1.04	1.88	21.71	25.6
15-60	36.23	31.31	44.92	40.10	42.30	36.21	1.32	1.04	1.81	22.35	25.34
25-60	41.81	44.41	37.04	34.06	28.94	43.47	1.30	1.04	1.79	22.82	25.61
All Ages	40.87	43.28	36.62	36.18	31.26	44.88	1.33	1.06	1.82	21.61	24.40

Table 11: Main worker classification among social group in rural India

Other											
Adolescent & Youth						Other Workers					
Cultivators			Agricultural labourers			Household Industry			Other Workers		
Categories	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Persons	Males	Females
10-14	30.96	31.04	30.83	43.18	41.81	45.30	4.19	3.38	21.67	23.77	18.44
15-19	27.36	26.81	28.63	44.28	42.56	48.19	3.57	2.63	24.78	28.00	17.47
20-24	30.66	30.41	31.28	37.01	34.20	44.30	3.19	2.42	29.15	32.96	19.26
15-60	27.58	24.24	37.23	39.37	40.75	35.39	3.37	2.62	29.68	32.39	21.88
25-60	42.49	43.93	38.41	25.63	22.21	35.39	3.17	2.52	28.71	31.35	21.17
All Ages	37.76	39.60	32.93	32.93	29.00	43.26	2.95	2.34	26.37	29.07	19.27

SCs											
Adolescent & Youth						Other Workers					
Cultivators			Agricultural labourers			Household Industry			Other Workers		
Categories	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Persons	Males	Females
10-14	20.00	19.87	20.20	54.14	53.15	55.69	3.66	3.02	22.20	23.96	19.43
15-19	15.49	15.23	16.14	56.65	54.99	60.69	2.94	2.20	24.92	27.59	18.45
20-24	16.79	16.94	16.40	52.33	49.21	60.32	2.74	2.03	28.14	31.82	18.72
15-60	50.33	46.16	60.51	20.31	21.86	16.54	2.54	1.98	26.81	30.00	19.03
25-60	21.27	23.20	16.60	49.49	44.94	60.52	2.48	1.95	26.76	29.91	19.13
All Ages	21.28	23.01	17.03	50.51	46.39	60.59	2.56	2.01	25.65	28.58	18.47

STs											
Adolescent & Youth						Other Workers					
Cultivators			Agricultural labourers			Household Industry			Other Workers		
Categories	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Persons	Males	Females
10-14	34.58	35.07	34.02	50.23	48.38	52.38	1.68	1.49	13.51	15.07	11.69
15-19	32.85	32.59	33.21	52.06	49.98	54.91	1.34	1.02	13.75	16.41	10.09
20-24	37.57	38.38	36.33	45.13	41.60	50.53	1.28	0.96	16.01	19.05	11.37
15-60	39.08	34.15	47.50	43.97	46.98	38.84	1.23	0.96	15.71	17.91	11.97
25-60	46.06	49.52	39.91	36.88	31.66	46.14	1.22	0.96	15.85	17.86	12.28
All Ages	44.66	47.85	39.20	38.90	33.96	47.37	1.25	0.98	15.19	17.21	11.73

Table 12: Main worker classification among social group in Urban India

Other											
Adolescent & Youth						Other Workers					
Categories	Cultivators		Agricultural labourers		Household Industry		Other Workers		Persons	Males	Females
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males			
10-14	3.29	2.99	3.97	5.89	5.61	6.52	8.66	7.12	82.16	84.28	77.37
15-19	2.08	1.94	2.61	6.68	6.20	8.45	6.86	5.21	84.39	86.64	75.89
20-24	1.86	1.80	2.12	4.61	4.24	6.24	4.76	3.85	88.77	90.10	82.91
15-60	3.54	3.07	5.70	2.47	2.48	2.41	4.43	3.58	89.56	90.86	83.47
25-60	2.77	2.76	2.79	3.35	2.87	5.62	4.22	3.43	89.66	90.93	83.61
All Ages	2.66	2.68	2.57	4.46	3.80	7.38	4.36	3.54	88.52	89.98	82.09

SCs											
Adolescent & Youth						Other Workers					
Categories	Cultivators		Agricultural labourers		Household Industry		Other Workers		Persons	Males	Females
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males			
10-14	2.58	2.39	2.97	8.65	8.21	9.58	6.70	5.51	82.07	83.90	78.27
15-19	1.34	1.26	1.61	9.94	9.28	12.23	5.01	3.82	83.72	85.64	77.03
20-24	1.18	1.14	1.34	8.17	7.28	11.84	3.95	3.03	86.70	88.54	79.09
15-60	8.44	7.10	13.14	1.45	1.48	1.33	3.44	2.68	86.67	88.73	79.44
25-60	1.49	1.55	1.32	8.39	6.94	13.34	3.28	2.57	86.84	88.95	79.62
All Ages	1.61	1.66	1.45	8.78	7.43	13.46	3.57	2.80	86.03	88.11	78.85

STs											
Adolescent & Youth						Other Workers					
Categories	Cultivators		Agricultural labourers		Household Industry		Other Workers		Persons	Males	Females
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males			
10-14	4.47	4.37	4.60	18.90	17.35	21.18	2.76	2.31	73.88	75.97	70.79
15-19	4.41	4.20	4.84	17.18	15.53	20.61	2.48	2.00	75.94	78.27	71.06
20-24	4.55	4.30	5.17	12.42	10.78	16.48	2.20	1.73	80.83	83.19	74.98
15-60	10.49	8.68	14.98	5.14	4.92	5.70	2.09	1.66	82.28	84.74	76.16
25-60	11.68	9.54	17.05	3.40	3.49	3.15	2.05	1.63	82.87	85.34	76.69
All Ages	5.48	5.29	5.94	10.73	8.90	15.20	2.15	1.72	81.65	84.09	75.66

In SCs, around 40% of people fall in other workers' categories and agricultural labors, followed by only 16.43% work as cultivators. Populations from STs are more involved in farm production from table analysis indicating that 40.87% work as cultivator and 36.18% work as agriculture labour (Table 7).

Classification of main worker in urban and rural areas gives a clear picture of distribution of work (Table 8 & 9). In urban area (89.10%), more people are involved (Table 11 and 12) in other worker category than rural area (28.48%) as the urban area is more depends on secondary and tertiary sector of economy. In rural area more people are involved in cultivators (40.76%) and agriculture labour (27.42%) as people mainly rely on the agriculture economy than urban area (only 2.72% work as cultivator and 64% as agriculture labour).

The working-age (15-59) population measure is use to give an estimate of the total number of potential workers within an economy (INVESTOPEDIA). In India, about 44% of people are working as main worker in urban as well as in rural area. The employment rate for STs (49.43%) is higher than SCs (44.14%) and others category (43.95%) in country. The reason of high employment rate in STs and SCs understood by looking at employment rate gender wise. In SCs 20.01% from rural area versus 26.46% from urban are participating in workforce. Whereas in STs 25.83% from rural area versus highest among all i.e. 37.04% female from urban participating in workforce. In others (15-59 years age group), people mainly involved in non-agricultural activity (52.06%) followed by agricultural labors (25.58%) and cultivator (18.89%). More than three fourth (76.33%) of STs are depend on agro-economy for employment. Large numbers of STs are primarily work as agricultural labour (40.10%) followed by cultivator (36.23%) and other worker (22.35%). Household industries are poorly performing in Indian employment sector (In other category 3.76%, in SCs 2.77% and low for STs i.e. only 1.32%). In urban area, still large number of STs (15.64%) and SCs (9.77%) are more involved in agricultural activity (agricultural labourers and cultivators) than non-SC&ST (6.01%). This review is help to understand that people from STs are heavily depends on agricultural economy in India.

In India, today 2.44% (2.93% male and 1.91% female) of children age 10-14 years are working. The percentage seems to be low but the absolute number (3,244,439, for male 2,033,172 and for female 1,211,267) is shocking. Children from STs (3.86%) and are more involved in child labour compare to others (2.26%) category but the absolute number are showing that child labour is more in others category (2,178,439) than STs (483,844). It is very but obvious that population of others category in child labour is more than SCs and STs as the base of others category population is larger than marginalized group.

One interesting point can be noticed that the percentage of working in household industry is more among the 10-14 years age group. In others category, 8.66% in urban and 4.19% in rural area are working in household industry.

DISCUSSION

The literacy rate for SCs and STs is improving gradually. Literacy increased in two-decade among SCs and STs this because of increasing female literacy among the group. The literacy rate is different for one cohort of age groups to another cohort in two census periods. Growth in literacy is quite faster for youth than the working-age group in the country. Particularly in the age group, 10-14 achieve about 90% of literacy in all social groups, within gender, and within rural-urban India. The picture of literacy among 10-14 age groups is promising toward growth and reduction of discrimination within social groups and gender. From the three cohorts of youth age groups 10-14, 15-19, and 20-24, we can indeed say that the perception for literacy is starting to reduce. In the next census, we have more than 90% literacy rate in youth population in all social groups, urban-rural and male-female. The barrier for literacy is starting to fall. The participation of female employment is lower among other categories, but it is at a proper level among SCs and STs, and that results in a higher employment-population ratio for SCs and STs (Roy, 2012; Dhende, 2017; Singh, 1989; Chanana, 1993). Other categories of social groups are involved mainly in another work category. At the same time, people from STs depend on agricultural economies in rural areas, and SCs are showing mixed pictures in the work category (Singh, 1989; Reddy, 1989; Kumar, 2013). Child labor is higher among the STs followed by SCs and then others category. More Male child labor is found than a female child. NSSO data gives information on employment (Kumar, 1983; Sharma, 1996). Two periods of NSSO, SCs, and STs show remarkable improvement in higher employment. More STs and SCs are still working in elementary occupation (NSSO) as compared to other categories, but over two rounds of the survey, it shows improvement. In SCs and STs, People from elementary occupations moved to other sectors over two rounds of the survey. Previous studies also pointed to the similar observation of improvement of SC and ST in educational status (Dhende, 2017 & Roy, 2015; Kamble, 1989). From the census, it can be concluded that female participation among STs and SCs is quite better than other category. NSSO data for two time periods shows that there is an improvement in employment among SCs and STs in different zones and, ultimately in all over India. So it is found that employment conditions among SCs and STs begin to improve, but there is still a difference between employment patterns of SC ST with other categories (Rao, 2002; Chitnis, 1975). It is but obvious that it will take time as they are educationally backward, but within a short span (2004-2011), SCs and STs showed good improvement, and they improve further

CONCLUSION

The analysis of the data clearly indicates that the status and condition of the SCs and STs are developing in two aspects (Literacy and employment). The effort of the government needed to reduce disparity and to bring all social groups in one flow that can see from the result. The pace of development is quite slow, but it is a continuous process. The gap among SC&ST and other category is persisting, but it will soon disappear, and we can see the sunrise of equality one day.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the International Institute for Population Sciences for allowing us to utilize Census and NSSO data for our analysis. This research has no specific grant from any funding agency in public, commercial or not-for-profit sectors. Our study is an intervention study, based on the secondary data (Census and NSSO). The data are available in the public domain and it has been taken from the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) website [<http://www.iipsindia.ac.in/>]. Therefore, ethical clearance is not required for this study. We submitted a request to IIPS by briefly stating the objectives of this study and thereafter received permission to download the dataset.

Conflict of interest Statement: We declare that authors have no competing interests

Financial support: None

REFERENCES

- Anand, M. (2005) *Dalit Women, Fear and Discrimination*, ISHA Books, Delhi.
- Chanana, K. (1993) 'Accessing Higher Education: The Dilemma of Schooling Women, Minorities, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Contemporary India', *Higher Education*, Vol. 26, No. 1, pp. 69-92.
- Chitnis, S. (1975) 'Education of Scheduled Castes', *Journal of Higher Education*, Vol. 1, No. 2, pp. 167-178.
- David, M. (2018) 'Caste and development: Contemporary perspectives on a structure of discrimination and advantage', *World Development*, Vol. 110, No. 2, pp. 422-436. doi: doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2018.06.003.
- Debasish, R. (2015) 'Socio Economic Status of Scheduled Caste in Kanupur Village, in Birbhum District', *Journal of Business Management & Social Sciences Research*, Vol. 4, No. 2, p. 23.
- Debjani, R. (2012) 'Socioeconomic Status of schedule Tribes in Jharkhand', *Indian Journal of Spatial Science*, Vol. 3, No. 2, pp. 26-34.
- Digambar, D. (2017) 'A Study of Scheduled Caste and Higher Education Scenario in India', *International Journal of Engineering Technology Science and Research*, Vol. 4, No. 11, p. 23.
- Kamble, N.D. (1989) 'Socio-economic and political profiles of Scheduled Castes', *Indian Dissertation*, Vol. 18, No. 2, pp. 285-295.

- Kumar, K. (1983) 'Educational Experience of Scheduled Castes and Tribes', *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 18, No. 36, pp. 1566-1572.
- Louis, P. (2003) 'Scheduled castes and Tribes: The Reservation Debate', *Economic and Political Weekly*, pp. 2475-2478.
- Mohanty, P. (2014) 'From exclusion to Cohesion-Critical reviews on fundamental social Issue', *European Academic Research*, Vol. 2, No. 1, pp. 1075-1099.
- Punia, V. and Niwas, R. (2013) 'The effect of Socio-economic status on language creativity of scheduled caste student', *International Journal of Science Research*, Vol. 2, No. 2, pp. 60-64.
- Raj Kumar, P. (2013) 'Analysis of socio-economic status of scheduled tribes in Andhra Pradesh', *International Journal of Development Research*, Vol. 3, No. 11, pp. 136-140.
- Rao, S. (2002) 'Dalits in Education and Workforce', *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 37, No. 29, pp. 2998-3000
- Reddy, T.C. and Kaliappam, U.R. (1989) 'Caste and Leadership in Rural Communities', *Social Change*, Vol. 19, No. 1, pp. 40-46.
- Sharma, C.L. (1996) 'Social Mobility among Scheduled Castes', M.D. Publications Private Limited, New Delhi.
- Singh, P. (1989) 'Problem of Education among Scheduled Castes', Mittal Publications, New Delhi.
- Singh Priti. 'Poverty Alleviation Strategies of Cates and Tribes in India', Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi-110067. http://www.chereum.umontreal.ca/activites_pdf/Session%201/Singh_Poverty%20Alleviation%20Strategies.pdf.

How to cite this article: Mhadeshwar, V.B. and Kurlikar, P.R. (2021) 'Socioeconomic Status of SCs/STs in India: Upgrading or Degrading?', *Journal of Exclusion Studies*, Vol. 11, No. 2, pp. 223-243.