An examination of the socio-economic and demographic factors affecting social mobility among Scheduled Castes in the Hamirpur district of Himachal Pradesh

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Abstract

The term "caste" is commonly used to refer to the many social strata that make up Indian and Hindu societies. Ambedkar was the first to try to eradicate casteism by publicly burning the Manusmriti in 1929. Harijans are considered the "children of God," a term Gandhiji coined in 1929 when he launched the Harijan movement. He was deeply committed to the advancement of the Shudra caste. In 1933, he established a support group for the economically disadvantaged Harijan caste in India. The socio-economic status of a person is a major factor in determining his or her social standing within the schedule caste. Since gaining their independence, the schedule caste has seen an increase in their literacy rate. They are not as highly educated as the average person. Despite their meager income, they have advanced in social standing. Survey research methodology was used for this investigation. This research strategy makes use of both quantitative and qualitative information to provide an explanation and a description of the phenomenon under investigation. This study drew from both primary and secondary sources for its findings. Keeping in mind the researcher's available time and resources, we chose a sample size of one-third (or 89) and then randomly selected an additional nine (90) respondents to round it out. This means that there were a total of 90 people in the sample. The sample from the population will be selected using a basic random sampling method, while the villages will be selected using a stratified and judgments samplings method.

Key words:

Schedule caste, socio- economic, Dalits, Educaton, Harijan, Social Mobility

Introduction

One's family is the fundamental building block of civilization. A family establishes its social standing through its various productive and unproductive endeavors'. Activities that generate income are essential for survival, but those that don't help us out financially actually strengthen our social bonds. The economic and social standing of a family is based on a number of factors that interact with one another. A family's socioeconomic standing is established by its members' educational attainment, income potential, place of residence, and state of health.The opinions, assertions, propositions, and systems of thought, according to Karl Mannheim, are not taken at face value but rather are evaluated in the context of the speaker's personal circumstances. Thus, it is evident that our social experiences shape the way we think. This viewpoint from a well-known sociologist exemplifies the justification for examining the respondents' socioeconomic backgrounds in social research.

Caste comes from the Spanish word "casta," which refers to a person's racial background or the traits they were born with. Like the Portuguese word 'casta,' it means "race" or "kind" in this context. The Portuguese phrase "homem de boa casta" means "good man of the family." In the 16th century, the Portuguese used the phrase to describe different social strata within India. The reserved castes were referred to as "Antyja," "Panchama," and "Chandala" in ancient Indian literature, and as "Harijans" in more recent times. But now you might hear them called "Dalits."

The scheduled castes in India are afforded special safeguards by the country's founding constitution from 1949 in the sake of ensuring that all citizens enjoy justice, liberty, fraternity, and equality. Article 16(1), 16(4), and 335 provide for reservation in employment to ameliorate the socio-economic conditions of scheduled castes and equality of opportunity in employment regardless of religion, race, caste, creed, or gender; Article 15 provides for the removal of disabilities and discrimination against scheduled castes; Article 17 provides for the abolition of; and Article 16(1), 16(4), and 335 provide for reservation in employment to ameliorate the socio-economic conditions of scheduled castes (22.5 percent reservation for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes). The interests of the economically and educationally disadvantaged, especially those belonging to the scheduled castes, are prioritized by Article 46.

Education status of schedule caste people

Literacy and Educational Level

The overall literacy rate among Himachal Pradesh's Scheduled Castes increased from 53.2% in the 1991 census to 70.3% in the 2001 census. This is 15.6 percentage points higher than the national average for SCs (54.7%). During 1991-2001, the male literacy rate climbed from 65% to 80%, while the female literacy rate increased from 41% to 60.4%.

Review of literature

In his research, **Noor Mohammad (2006)** looked at how members of the "scheduled castes" were faring economically and socially. The education levels of the scheduled castes differed across rural and urban areas, he discovered. Scheduled castes in rural areas have lower levels of education than their urban counterparts. The majority of the population, including those from the so-called "scheduled castes," have benefited economically from various rural development programmes and policies, especially those aimed at bolstering agriculture. He also discovered that many people from the scheduled castes work in many professions.

In their **2010 study, Sethi Rajiv and Somanathan Rohini** investigated caste hierarchy and social mobility in India. He correlated the demographic compositions of geographic units with their capacity to take resources from the state, hence fostering increased mobility.

According to the research of **Baseria pragya (2012)** on the upward mobility of the Modinagar scheduled caste in the Ghaziabad district of Uttar Pradesh, India. She picked a random sample of 100 of the responses she received. She found that in Modinagar, people from the schedule caste had improved their chances of getting a college degree and getting a good job over the course of several generations.

In 2015, Butool falak and Sing.P.k. examined the occupational mobility of the scheduled caste people in Lucknow. Despite reservations, their research shows that more and more scheduled caste individuals are working in agriculture. This suggests that scheduled castes' economic and social progress varies slightly depending on where they live.

A study of the village Mugalmagri in the Rupnagar district of Punjab, **Kaur Amrit (2015)** examined the socioeconomic mobility of schedule caste. The sample comprised one hundred rural respondents. She demonstrates that the key determinants of social mobility, namely education and occupation, are receiving information about new government programmes via television and radio. All respondents were found to have their own homes, with the majority residing in pucca dwellings. Globalization and urbanisation have also had an impact on the way of life of scheduled caste individuals. Due to this, upper castes have begun accepting meals from lower castes and both castes now participate in social activities.

Research methodology

Area of Research

The research was conducted in Anu Panchayat, Hamirpur District, Himachal Pradesh. Four villages comprise the Anu Panchayat: Anu Kurd, Anu Kalan, Ghnal Khurd, and Ghnal kalan. The Panchayat consists of 696 households with a total population of 2671 (1,373 + 1,298) individuals. The overall population of the General category is 1515 (male 777, female 738), the population of the Scheduled caste is 1003 (male 512, female 491), and the population of the OBC category is 154 (Male 84, Female 70).

Research method

The methodology of the study is based on survey research. Two types of data enrich this explanatory and descriptive research design. In this Research, both primary data and secondary data were collected.

Data collection

The data will be gathered using a structured questionnaire Method of interview and discussion. Observation was also employed during the data collection process. The secondary data will be obtained from books, journals, magazines, newspapers, the internet, and the yearly reports of various government offices, as well as the block offices in the district.

Sample size

Using the Panchayat record, a complete list of all scheduled caste families in the research region was compiled. The sample for this investigation was chosen at random. The survey encompasses all 266 scheduled caste families in the region. To keep the sample size reasonable and in consideration of the researcher's available resources and time, a sample of one-third, or

89, was chosen, and 90 additional respondents were chosen at random to round out the sample. Thus, the actual number of respondents in the sample is 90.

Sampling Method

For the selection of villages, stratified and judgment sampling methods will be applied, whilst simple random sampling will be used for the population sample.

Objectives of the study

- The purpose of this research is to examine the socioeconomic and demographic characteristics of the study region and the participants.

-This research aims to examine the impact of economic and social factors on upward mobility among scheduled-caste individuals.

Results and Discussion

Table provides a district – wise demographic profile of Himachal Pradesh.

Table 1.1

District –wise Demographic profile of Himachal Pradesh (census-2011)

District	Population	Male	Female	Growth Rate	Sex Ratio	Literacy	Density of population
Bilaspur	382056	192827	189229	12.08	981	85.67	327
Chamba	518844	260848	257996	12.58	989	73.19	80
Hamirpur	454293	216742	237551	10.08	1096	89.01	406
Kangra	1507223	748559	758664	12.56	1013	86.49	263
Kinnaur	84298	46364	37934	7.61	818	80.77	13
Kullu	437474	224320	213154	14.65	950	80.14	79
Lahul-spiti	31528	16455	15073	-5.1	916	77.24	2
Mandi	999518	496787	502731	10.89	1012	82.81	253
Shimla	813384	424486	388898	12.58	916	84.55	159
Sirmour	530164	276801	253363	15.61	915	79.98	188
Solan	576670	306162	270508	15.21	884	85.02	298
Una	521057	263541	257516	16.24	977	87.23	338

Source :- (Himachal Pradesh census 2011 officially record)

The table below details the demographics of Himachal Pradesh's 12 administrative districts, including total population, male-Female population, growth rate, sex ratio, literacy rate, and population density. With a total of 150, 7223 residents, the Kangra district is the state's most populous. Both the male and female are numbered 748559 and 758664. Una has the fastest-growing population of any county in the state. Presently, the expansion rate is 16.24. Hamirpur district has the greatest sex ratio. The male to female ratio is 1096 to 1. Hamirpur has a literacy rate of 89.01 percent, making it the state's most literate district; Chamba, on the other hand, has a rate of only 73.19 percent. The Hamirpur district has the highest population density.

Age- wise Distribution of the Respondents

Sr.No.	Age Groups (In years)	No. of Respondent	Percentage
1	35-45	11	12.22
2	46-55	34	37.78
3	56-65	19	21.11
4	66-75	11	12.22
5	76-85	13	14.45
6	86 and Above	2	02.22
	Total	90	100.00

According to the data in the table, the largest demographic of respondents is between the ages of 46 and 55. The next largest group is made up of those aged 21.11 to 56. The table also reveals that 12.22% of respondents are between the ages of 35 and 45 and 12.22% are between the ages of 66 and 75. Very few people (2.22%) in the sample are aged 86 and up. This means that the majority all respondents are between the ages of 46 and 55.

Distribution of the Respondents by Caste

Sr.No.	Caste	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Chamar	71	78.89
2	Dumma	10	11.11
3	Lohar	6	06.67
4	Chimba	2	02.22
5	Sehnai	1	01.11
	Total	90	100.00

From the data in the table, we can see that 78.89% of the sample is composed of members of the chamar caste, which falls under the scheduled castes category. The percentage of Dumna respondents is 11.11 percent. 6.667% of respondents are Lohar, and 0.2822% is Chimba, as seen in the table. The percentage of Sehnai Caste individuals is extremely low at.011 percent.

Distribution of the Respondents by their Education status

Sr.No	Educational Status	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Illiterate	19	21.11
2	Primary/middle	42	46.67
3	Metric/10+2	18	20.00
4	B.A/B.sc	5	05.56
5	M.A/M.sc	2	02.22
6	Professional and Technical Diploma	4	04.44
	Total	90	100.00

(It includes engineering, I.T.I, and PHD, etc.)

The percentage of sample members who are unable to read or write is shown to be 21.11 in the table below. Most responders (46.67%) had only completed primary/middle school, followed

by Matric /10+2 (20.00%), B.A./B.sc. (5.56%), and M.A./M.sc. (2.22%). Only 4.44 percent of respondents have any kind of post-secondary technical or professional training. This demonstrates that the vast majority of responders are college-educated, and that residents in the area are coming to appreciate the value of education.

Occupation-wise Distribution of the Respondents

Sr.No	Occupation	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Govt.Sector	33	36.67
2	Private Sector	7	07.78
3	Businessmen	3	03.33
4	Labour	35	38.89
5	Any other	12	13.33
	Total	90	100.00

The table shows that 38.19% of the sample is comprised of workers. The government accounts for 36.67% of respondents' workplaces, whereas just 7.78% of respondents work in the private sector. Only 3.33 percent of respondents are businessmen, whereas 13.33 percent are employed in non-business fields. Therefore, most of the people who filled out the survey are workers.

Gross Annual family Income of the Respondents

Distribution of the Respondents by their Gross Annual Income

Sr. No	Family Annual (Income in Rs.)	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Up to 50,000	14	15.56
2	50,001 to 100000	41	45.56
3	100001 to 1,50000	7	07.77
4	1,50001 to 20000	6	06.67
5	2, 00001to 250000	4	04.45
6	2,50001to 300000	7	07.77
7	3,00001to Above	11	12.22
	Total	90	100.00

The table shows that 45.56 percent of respondents have an annual family income between Rs. 5,0001 and Rs. 100,000, followed by 15.56 percent with an annual family income up to Rs. 50,000, 12.22 percent with an annual family income above Rs. 3,00,000, 7.78 percent with an annual family income between Rs. 2,501,000 and Rs. 300,000, 7.77 percent with an annual family income between Rs. 1,001,000 and Rs. 1,500,000, and 6.67 percent with an annual family income of less than Rs According to the data in the table, most respondents come from households with a comfortable annual income. Every member of the family helps bring in money by working in the fields. It's clear from this that the vast majority of responders come

from financially secure backgrounds. As a result, respondent families enjoy a relatively high socioeconomic level and improved standard of living.

Distribution of the Respondents by their Annual Income (self)

Sr.No	Annual Income (in Rs.)	No. of Respondents Percentage	Percentage
1	Up to 50,000	16	17.78
2	50,001 to 100000	37	41.11
3	100001 to 1,50000	12	13.33
4	1,50001 to 200000	15	16.67
5	200001to 2,50000	5	05.56
6	2,50001 to 300000	2	02.22
7	3,00001 to Above	3	03.33
	Total	90	100.00

As shown in the table below, nearly half of all respondents (41.11 percent) earn between Rs. 50,001 and Rs. 100,000 annually from their own endeavor's, while another 17.78 percent earn up to Rs. 50,000, 16.67 percent earn between Rs.1, 5001 and Rs.200,000, 13.33 percent earn between Rs.100,001 and Rs.1,500,000, and 5.56 percent earn between Rs.200,001 and Rs.300,000. Among the respondents, just 2.22 percent report a gross yearly income of between Rs. 2,5001 and Rs. 300,000. According to the examination of the respondents' incomes, the vast majority of respondents have modest annual gross incomes.

Structure of House of the Respondents

Sr.No.	Structure of house	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Pucca	65	72.22
2	Semi – Pucca	18	20.00
3	Kuccha	7	07.78
	Total	90	100.00

When asked about the type of house they live in, 72.22 percent said they own a pucca house, while 20.00 percent said they lived in a semi-pucca house, and 7.78 percent said they inhabited a kuccha house. Because of the terrain and weather, it is worth noting that mud, wood, and slates are the most popular building materials for homes in the area. Semi-pucca and kuccha houses are those that use these materials, while pucca houses are those that use concrete.

Distribution of the Respondents by their utilization of Basic Amenities

Sr.No	Structure of houses	No. of Respondent	Percentage
A	Separate Kitchen		
1	Yes	66	73.33
2	No	24	26.67
	Total	90	100.00
B	Separate Toilet		
1	Yes	80	88.89
2	No	10	11.11
	Total	90	100.00

C	Separate Bathroom		
1	Yes	36	40.00
2	No	54	60.00
	Total	90	100.00
D	Separate Cattle Shed		
1	Yes	73	81.11
2	No	17	18.89
	Total	90	100.00
E	House electrified		
1	Yes	90	100.00
2	No	-	-
	Total	90	100.00
F	Telephone facilities		
1	Yes	76	84.44
2	No	14	15.56
	Total	90	100.00

According to the data in the table, 73.33 percent of respondents have their own kitchen and 26.67 percent do not. Eighty-eight point nine percent of respondents have their own private toilet, while eleven point eleven percent does not; sixty percent of respondents have their own private bathroom, while forty percent do not. Additionally, 81.11 percent of responders have their own dedicated cattle shed, while 8.89 percent do not. All 90 households are wired for electricity, and while only 15% of households do not have a telephone, 84.4% of households do. In light of the conveniences enjoyed by respondents, it appears that the people who reside in the research area have a high level of living and a high quality of life.

Conclusion:

The economic and social conditions in this area have a major impact on the lives of everyone classified as a member of a scheduled caste. They're basic necessities that no home should be without. Most families have good annual incomes, which is sufficient to cover the fundamental demands of living, as shown by the responses to our survey's question on respondents' annual incomes. The majority of respondents live in pucca or semi-pucca style homes, and all respondents own their own homes outright. Some of the ladies come from privileged families and are therefore highly educated and employed in the public sector. It's not uncommon for the district's less educated residents to look for job at the Aganwadi centre. Given that their socioeconomic conditions facilitate social advancement.

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