

Youth among the Disadvantaged Classes

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The youth population of India presents a heterogeneous age-group that is divided within on many grounds. The division marked by social, economic and educational inequalities has necessitated special policies and programmes to correct the distortions that plague the social order. It has ruled out identification of anyone or set of problems as the youth problem. A vast section of the youth population is in need of special assistance to combat its backwardness and catch up with the rest of the population.

This section of disadvantaged youth consists of two groups - The scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes listed as such in the Constitution. Together, they constitute about 24.4 percent of the population. Apart from the two, the government has recognised certain castes as Other Backward Classes (OBC) on the basis of social and educational backwardness and has been granting them certain concessions and privileges. Besides these three groups, there are people below the poverty line determined on certain economic criteria who cut across caste and communal divisions

Structure and Distribution of SC and ST Population

The term "Scheduled Castes" has not been-defined in the Constitution. It has been adopted in the place of the term "Depressed Classes" used by the British Government to a social category consisting of castes then considered untouchables, aboriginal and hill tribes, and "criminal tribes". Presently, the scheduled castes are identified as such by the President of India and put under a schedule under Article 341. They are specific castes, races, or tribes, or parts of, or groups within castes, races or tribes in a state or union territory. Nor is the term "Scheduled Tribes" defined in the Constitution. They are declared as such by the President through a notification initially and scheduled in the Constitution. Any amendment can be done by an Act of Parliament. The list of scheduled tribes is state specific and the tribes have been identified on the basis of certain characteristics like primitive traits, distinctive culture, geographical isolation, social and economic backwardness and shyness of contact with others. There are about 709 tribes in India and some of them are found in more than one state and some have sub-tribes known by different names.

There are 166.6 million scheduled caste (SC) population and 84.3 million scheduled tribe (ST) population. Their growth has been slightly higher than that of the total population of India (Table 10.1).

SC and ST Child and Youth Population

By age-group and sex, the population of scheduled caste children and youth enumerated in the census of 2001 comprises less female than male in the total and up to 20-24 age-group (Table 10.2). Similar is the age-structure of the scheduled tribes with less difference between male and female. However, the age given by the people

	SC	ST	Total Population of India
Total population	166635700	84326240	1028610328

% of Total population of India	16.20	8.20	
Sex Ratio	978	977	933
Child Sex Ratio	938	972	919
Source: Census of India. 2001.			

Table 10.2: SC and ST Children and Youth Population by Age-group and Sex

Scheduled Castes			
Age-group	Total	Males	Females
0-4	19446272	9977298	9468974
5-9	22662508	11778026	10884482
10-14	21332322	11314211	10018111
	16120667	8851508	7269159
20-24	13957965	7109731	6848234
25-29	13140261	6502353	6637918
30-35	16909402	8758098	31 5.1304
Scheduled Tribes			
0-4	10535555	5324400	5211156
5-9	11990558	6128221	5862337
10-14	10721378	5587180	5134198
15-19	7857411	4073351	3784060
20-24	6745721	3260929	3484792
25-29	6641651	3235544	3406107
30-35	8525665	4369068	4156597

Source: Census of India 2001, C2

cannot be accepted as accurate in the absence of total registration of births. Single year age returns show incredible inconsistencies. For example, STs of 18 years number 217447. of 19 years 926226 and of age 26 again increasing to 2233860. There can be no valid reason for such jumps. The age returned by the people can be taken as only approximate.

Youth population (13-35 years) constitutes about 40.29 percent of the total scheduled caste population and a little less than that in the tribal population. Tables 10.3 and 10.4 show the size of the youth population of these two

communities and its proportion to total youth population of these communities. Males among children and youth population of both scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes outnumber females (Table 10.3 and 10.4).

The proportion of SC and ST youth population to the total population of the age-group is furnished in Table 10.5.

Table 10.3: Scheduled Caste Children and Youth Population (0-35 years) – 2001

Age-group	Persons	Males	Females
0-14 (children)	63441102(38.07)	33069535 (38.41)	30371567 (37.70)
10_ 19 (adolescents)	37452989(22.48)	20165719(23.42)	17287270 (21.46)
13-35 (youth)	67130426 (40.29)	34889285 (40.5)	32241141 (40.03)

Note: Figures in brackets are percentages to total SC population.

Source: Calculated from Census of India 2001, Table C.

Table 10.4: Scheduled Tribe Children and Youth Population (0-35 years) - 2001

Age-group	Persons	Males	Females
0-14 (children)	33247492(39.42)	17039801 (39.96)	16207691 (38.88)
10-19 (adolescents)	18578789 (22.03)	9660531 (22.66)	8918258 (21.39)
13-35 (youth)	33264771 (39.45)	16754035 (39.29)	16510736 (39.61)

Note: Figures in brackets are percentages to total ST population.

Source: Same as for Table 10.3.

Table 10.5: Percentage of SC and ST Youth to Total Population of the Age-group		
Age-group	Percentage to Total Population of Age-group	
	SC	ST
13 - 14	16.48	8.22
15-19	16.09	7.84
20-24	15.55	7.51
25-35	15.83	7.99

Source: Based on 2001 Census.

The fact that the SC and ST population are largely rural people is a factor to be taken into account in planning. Scheduled caste children (0-14 years) in rural areas number more than four times the size of urban children. But among SC youth the trend is towards rural-urban migration as rural SC youth (15-34 years) form just 3 ½ times the size of urban SC youth population. In the case of scheduled tribes, the size of rural child population is over twelve times the size of urban child population.

The size of the rural SC youth population (13-35 years) is 52048585 (27036634 males and 25011951 females) that is 77.53 per cent of the total SC youth. The size of the urban SC youth is 15081841 (7852651 males and 7229190 females), that is, 22.47 percent of total SC youth. The size of rural ST youth population (13-35 years) 30082398 (15128621 males and 14953777 females), that is, 90.43 percent of total ST population. Urban ST youth population (13-35 years) number 3182373 (1625414 males and 1556959 females) which is 9.57 percent of total ST population.

The distribution of SC and ST population in the country is very uneven. Nearly 20 percent of the SC population reside in Uttar Pradesh, but Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh among the major states have less than 8 percent of them. In the state population, SCs form over 20 percent in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, between 15 and 20 percent in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh, Delhi, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, and Uttaranchal. In the north-eastern states including Assam, SC proportion in the population is very small.

While SC population is distributed throughout India, there is noticeable concentration of ST population in the north-eastern states, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Lakshadweep, and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. In Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand, STs constitute over 40 percent of the population of the state. There are, tribal pocket areas in Andhra-Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, and Rajasthan put in the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution for which certain special administrative arrangements are made. In the states of the north-eastern region, tribals form an overwhelming majority within their states though smaller in number compared to some states in the central India. The number and percentage of SC and ST population in the census of 2001 shown in Table 10.6 may illustrate the point.

In terms of geographical location, the distribution of tribal population is classified in seven zones as given below.

1. North-Eastern Region: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura.
2. Eastern Region: Bihar, Orissa, Sikkim, West Bengal.
3. Northern Region: Himachal Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh

Table 10.6: State-wise SC and ST Population		2001 (in thousand)		
	SC		ST	
States	Number	%	Number	%
Andaman & Nicobar Islands			29	8.3
Andhra Pradesh	12339	16.2	5024	6.6
Arunachal Pradesh	6	0.6	705	64.2
Assam	1826	6.9	3308	12.4
Bihar	13049	15.7	758	0.9

Chandigarh	158	17.5	-	-
Chhattisgarh	2419	11.6	6616	31.8
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	4	1.9	137	62.2
Daman & Diu	5	3.1	11.4	8.8
Delhi	2343	16.9	-	-
Goa	24	1.8	6	0.0
Gujarat	3593	7.1	7481	14.8
Haryana	4091	19.4		-
Himachal Pradesh	1502	24.7	244	4.0
Jammu & Kashmir	- 770	7.6	1 105	10.9
Jharkhand	3189	11.8	7087	26.3
Karnataka	8564	16.2	3464	6.6
Kerala	3124	9.8	364	1.1
Lakshadweep	-		57	94.5
Madhya Pradesh	9155	15.2	12233	20.3
Maharashtra	9882	10.2	8577	8.9
Manipur	60	2.8	741	34.2
Meghalaya	11	0.5	1993	85.9
Mizoram	3	0.03	839	94.5
Nagaland	-		1774	89.1
Orissa	6082	16.5	8145	22.1
Pondicherry	158	16.2	-	
Punjab	7029	28.9		0.0
Rajasthan	9694	1 7.2	7100	12.6
Sikkim	27	5.0	111	20.6
Tamil Nadu	11858	19.0	651	1.0
Tripura	556	17.4	993	31.1
Uttaranchal	1517	17.9	256	3.0
Uttar Pradesh	35148	21.2	108	0.1
West Bengal	18452	23.0	4407	5.5
INDIA	166636	16.2	84326	8.2

4. Central Region: Madhya Pradesh.
5. Western Region: Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Gujarat, Goa, Daman and Diu, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan.
6. Southern Region: Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.
7. Island Region : Andaman and Nicobar, and Lakshadweep

A scholar has pointed out that there is a difficulty in generalising the trend of tribal fertility in terms of geographical location due to socio-cultural diversities. (Maharatna, 2005:137-42). This difficulty in generalisation is true of many aspects of tribal life. Generally, studies concentrate on specific tribes in particular areas like Onges in Andaman and Nicobar, Nag in Ranchi district, Irulas in the Nilgiris and so on and do not attempt a wholesale approach.

Between 1992-93 and 1998-99, fertility rate for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes slightly reduced and definitely declined for non-SC&ST population in the country as a whole and in all the major states. The performance in different states varies for all of them (Table 10.7).

The TFR for scheduled tribes in 1998-99 is lower than that for scheduled castes and others in a number of states. The high rates in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and

Table 10.7: Fertility Rate (TFR) of SC, ST and Non-SC, ST

States	SC	ST	Non- SC/ST	SC	ST	Non- SGST
INDIA	3.9	3.6	3.3	3.2	3.1	2.7
Andhra Pradesh	2.6	3.7	2.5	2.5	2.8	2.0
Assam	2.8	3.7	3.5	2.6	2.1	2.4
Bihar	4.0	3.4	4.1	3.9	2.5	3.1
Gujarat	3.0	3.3	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.5
Himachal Pradesh	3.1	4.2	2.9	2.2	NA	2.1
Karnataka	3.2	2.2	2.9	2.5	2.4	2.2
Kerala	1.4	1.3	2.9	1.5	NA	1.9
Madhya Pradesh	4.7	4.1	3.8	3.9	3.7	2.5
Maharashtra	3	3.2	2.8	2.4	2.9	2.6
Orissa	3.7	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.7	2.1
Rajasthan	4.3	3.9	3.4	4.3	4.3	3.4
Sikkim	-	-	-	3.4	2.7	2.7
Tamil Nadu	2.8	NA	2.4	2.3	2.4	1.7
Uttar Pradesh	5.6	5.9	4.7	4.4	4.8	3.8
West Bengal	3.5	3.0	2.9	2.3	2.3	2.2

Source: Select columns from Maharatna (20051, Table 4.2.

Uttar Pradesh are reflection of the general situation in the state. Tribal studies at micro-level point to differential perceptions and varied fertility among different tribes. Though no generalisation seems possible, studies have pointed out the practice of traditional fertility control methods among tribals.

Sex ratio has been declining even among the tribal population as recorded in the census. This seems to be a result of non-tribal influence on tribals in India, as historically all over the world, sex ratio among tribal population is said to be rather balanced. Between 1951 and 2001, in six census operations, sex ratio of tribal population has declined from 1021 in 1951, 982 in 1971 to 977 in 2001.

Literacy and Education of SCs and STs

Literacy rates for general and SC and ST population (Table 10.8), a leading indicator for educational status clearly show that the weaker sections have a long way to go even to catch up with the general population which itself has to go a long way to improve its human development index. The gap between scheduled tribes and scheduled castes is large and that between the tribes and non-scheduled population does not merit any comparison. The proportion of households without any adult literate member is much higher among scheduled caste and scheduled tribe households compared to Other Backward Classes (OBC) in both rural and urban India, according to the 7th Quinquennial Survey report of the NSSO released in October 2006.

State-wise, literacy rates for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes reveal some encouraging and some discouraging features as mentioned below.

1. Rural-Urban divide is significant for both SC and ST.
2. In the case of scheduled castes, on the whole, rural male literacy rate is higher than that of urban female, but in the case of scheduled tribes, urban female has recorded higher literacy than rural male. There are, however, some exceptions to this like Mizoram for SCs and Chhattisgarh or Madhya Pradesh for STs among major states.
3. In many north-eastern states, rural-urban difference is small.

Table 10.8: Literacy Rates of General, SC and ST Population

	General			SC			ST		
	1981	1991	2001	1981	1991	2001	1981	1991	2001
Total	36.23	52.21	65.38	21.38	30.06	54.69	16.35	23.63	47.10
Males	46.89	64.13	75.96	31.12	40.24	66.64	24.52	32.50	59.17
Females	24.82	39.29	54.28	10.93	19.03	41.90	8.04	14.50	34.76

Source: Primary Census Abstract, General Population, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, 1981, 1991, 2001.

4. In Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Rajasthan, male-female difference in literacy shows a wide gap in rural as well as in urban areas.

All these and many other conclusions can be drawn from Tables 10.9 and 10.10.

Expansion of tribal education over the years has been noteworthy despite several constraints. In 1961, tribal literacy was just 8.53 percent. This has risen to nearly 30 percent in 1991 and 47.10 percent in 2001. Male-female difference and rural-urban divide with regard to literacy are present and more than that tribal converts to Christianity have had the benefits of some amount of education. Many tribes in the north-east region have achieved higher levels of literacy than in other regions. On the whole, gains in literacy between 1991 and 2001 show that the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are not behind non-scheduled people and the problem is to get over the inherited backwardness. Table 10.11 may illustrate the situation.

School education is not available to majority of school-age population belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Schooling is availed mostly between seven and 14 years of age; thereafter the percentage of those attending an educational institution drastically comes down for both boys and girls (Table 10.12).

According to census reports of 2001, nearly one-third of SC literates have not completed primary level of education. One among ten SC literates has completed matric. Only 3.1 percent of the literates among scheduled castes have reported their educational level as "graduates and above" with 2.1 percent reporting this level in rural areas and 5.8 percent in urban areas. Sex-wise differentials are significant among the educational levels "Matriculation/Secondary" and "Higher Secondary" - males being higher both in urban and rural areas.

The dropout in school stage gives quite a gloomy picture but the one on the general population (chapter IV) is not any bright. In Table 10.13 and 10.14 the rates given in "the Annual Report of the HRD for 2004-2005 are reproduced. On the whole, the state of SCs is better than that of STs. Bihar, Orissa and Rajasthan among major states leaving out the North-East Region have high dropout rates even in classes I-V for both SC and ST. Kerala has recorded no dropout of SCs in classes I-VIII. On the whole, 71.25 percent of SCs and 78.97 percent of STs who join schools do not cross class X. The situation is really grave and demands concentrated efforts.

In the age-group between 15 and 34 years, few are joining colleges for higher education (Table 10.15).

This is reflected in the NSSO finding in 1999-2000 regarding very small percentage of graduates in various castes/communities particularly in rural areas. The state of higher education among the SC, ST and OBC was found much behind that of non-backward classes. An interesting finding is the relative progress made by scheduled tribes in urban areas ranking higher than scheduled castes, Muslims and

Table 10.9: State-wise Literacy Rates of Scheduled Castes – 2001

States	Rural			Urban		
	persons	Male	Females	persons	Male	Females
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-
Andhra Pradesh	50.32	60.63	39.79	68.66	77.25	60.05
Arunachal Pradesh	65.87	73.83	54.37	69.28	78.59	55.57
Assam	64.92	74.21	54.94	76.86	84.08	69.08
Bihar	26.93	38.66	14.13	49.11	60.63	35.70
Chandigarh	65.82	73.63	55.25	67.85	76.47	57.41
Chhattisgarh	62.47	77.81	47.27	69.28	81.81	56.31
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	75.73	86.68	63.80	83.90	92.06	74.55
Daman & Diu	86.11	94.26	77.28	83.65	93.66	73.70
Delhi	70.82	82.40	57.18	70.85	80.63	59.24
Goa	70.77	81.27	60.34	72.88	81.79	63.53
Gujarat	65.59	79.16	51.17	77.90	87.62	67.33
Haryana	54.13	65.88	40.64	60.19	70.67	48.11
Himachal Pradesh	69.54	79.45	59.44	81.06	87.28	73.83
Jammu & Kashmir	57.10	68.02	45.26	67.90	76.52	57.96
Jharkhand	32.52	46.57	17.73	58.14	71.24	43.11

Karnataka	47.25	58.71	35.56	69.27	78.32	59.88
Kerala	81.65	87.22	76.39	87.12	91.83	82.70
Madhya Pradesh	55.39	69.73	39.44	68.02	80.06	54.69
Maharashtra	67.88	80.56	54.71	78.27	87.58	68.41
Manipur	70.76	79.79	61.38	73.14	82.86	63.77
Meghalaya	51.91	61.75	40.55	63.57	72.72	52.99
Mizoram	88.89	88.33	100.00	89.30	88.49	91.67
Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-	-
Orissa	54.23	69.51	38.76	65.31	77.56	52.38
Pondicherry	64.29	74.11	54.61	75.20	83.87	66.82
Punjab	54.35	61.63	46.27	61.93	68.72	54.33
Rajasthan	49.86	66.93	31.18	61.35	76.83	44.22
Sikkim	60.23	67.56	52.63	81.99	87.92	76.05
Tamil Nadu	59.61	70.48	48.79	71.45	80.17	62.77
Tripura	73.59	80.98	65.88	79.51	85.78	73.15
Uttar Pradesh	44.52	59.03	28.33	58.17	69.08	45.51
Uttaranchal	61.53	76.34	46.11	72.01	81.29	61.42
West Bengal	57.09	69.10	44.46	68.99	77.76	59.51
INDIA	51.16	63.66	37.84	68.12	77.93	57.49

Note: Excluding Mao-Maram, Paomata and Purul sub-divisions of Senapati district of Manipur.

Source: Censt/5 of India 2001, Primary Census Abstract. Selected Educational Statistics 2003-04.

Table 10.10: State-wise Literacy Rates of Scheduled Tribes - 2001

States	Rural			Urban		
	persons	Male	Females	persons	Male	Females
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	65.82	72.68	58.62	93.71	97.01	89.49
Andhra Pradesh	35.43	46.09	24.48	56.39	66.16	45.99
Arunachal Pradesh	45.04	54.33	35.83	77.39	85.92	69.05
Assam	61.29	71.29	51.04	86.75	92.43	80.62
Bihar	25.91	37.57	13.30	65.67	74.18	55.28
Chhattisgarh	50.95	63.96	38.21	71.71	82.87	59.77
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	38.94	53.82	24.60	69.18	81.54	56.73
Daman & Diu	62.83	73.95	51.05	65.72	75.34	55.40
Goa	44.59	55.17	31.43	61.44	67.88	54.55
Gujarat	46.45	58.06	34.60	61.76	71.01	51.78
Himachal Pradesh	64.78	77.18	52.50	87.19	92.03	81.15
Jammu & Kashmir	35.74	46.44	23.88	70.37	79.01	59.34
Jharkhand	38.08	51.67	24.38	67.80	77.83	57.38
Karnataka	45.26	56.92	33.32	64.57	74.39	54.34

Kerala	63.65	70.20	57.28	81.21	84.96	77.70
Lakshadweep	84.71	91.26	78.18	87.90	93.29	82.64
Madhya Pradesh	40.01	52.51	27.24	57.23	67.47	45.89
Maharashtra	52.31	64.52	39.88	74.18	82.98	64.70
Manipur	65.09	72.44	57.58	80.94	87.94	74.28
Meghalaya	56.36	58.72	53.97	86.67	88.95	84.58
Mizoram	82.00	86.11	77.71	96.77	97.55	96.01
Nagaland	62.55	67.09	57.72	88.70	91.63	85.60
Orissa	36.13	50.35	22.07	58.12	69.80	45.77
Rajasthan	43.70	61.23	25.22	60.79	75.74	42.97
Sikkim	65.37	72.32	58.03	84.89	89.32	80.59
Tamil Nadu	38.41	47.19	29.48	58.60	66.56	50.68
Tripura	55.46	67.19	43.35	91.97	94.45	89.26
Uttar Pradesh	32.99	46.71	18.34	51.10	60.61	39.54
Uttaranchal	61.65	75.29	47.36	85.91	91.55	79.48
West Bengal	42.35	56.60	27.88	58.67	68.57	48.20
INDIA	45.02	57.39	32.44	69.09	77.77	59.87

Note and Source: Same as for Table 10.9.

other backward classes (Table 10.16). Residence in rural areas seems to be a greater hindrance to education than the social backwardness of a caste.

The educational status of the different tribes within the scheduled tribe population is not equal. The Mizos of Mizoram, for instance, form one of the highest literate group. Gender difference is also minimal where Christianity has opened schooling for tribals.

Table 10.11: Literacy Gains for Various Categories - 1991 – 2001

Category	2001	1991	Gain
Rural Female ST	32.4	16.0	16.4
Rural Female SC	37.6	19.5	18.1
Rural Female Non-SC &ST	50.2	35.4	14.8
Rural Male SC	53.7	46.0	7.8
Rural Male ST	57.4	38.5	19.0
Rural Male Non SC&ST	74.3	63.4	10.9
Urban Female SC	57.5	42.3	15.2
Urban Female ST	59.9	45.7	14.2

Urban Female Non SC & ST	75.2	67.5	7.7
Urban Male ST	77.8	66.6	11.2
Urban Male SC	77.9	66.5	11.4
Urban Male Non SC&ST	87.6	83.4	4.2

Note: There may be some slight discrepancy with Table 10.9 and 10.10 because of rounding at different points at the source.

Calculated from Census 2001, Primary Census Abstracts.

Selected Educational Statistics 1999-2000, Ministry of HRD.

Source: National Focus Group on Problems of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Children.

Table 10.12: SC and ST Children and Youth Attending Educational Institution (in percentage)

Scheduled Castes				Scheduled Tribes			
Age	person	Males	Females	Age	Persons	Males	Females
5	16.31	16.84	15.73	5	13.85	14.67	12.99
6	37.26	38.86	35.54	6	35.16	37.55	32.70
7	68.40	71.10	65.53	7	60.94	64.97	56.76
8	70.50	73.85	66.35	8	62.47	67.31	57.37
9	80.57	83.68	77.24	9	71.82	76.73	66.67
10	72.96	77.17	68.13	10	63.50	69.56	56.98
11	81.21	85.28	76.64	11	73.58	79.39	67.12
12	69.74	75.41	63.17	12	59.07	66.36	51.11
13	70.73	77.24	63.75	13	61.88	69.85	53.35
14	62.05	69.08	54.13	14	53.82	61.84	45.07
15-19	36.87	42.95	29.47	15-19	33.41	40.18	26.13
20-24	10.10	14.15	5.90	20-24	11.31	15.14	7.74

Note: Percentage is to SC/ST population in the age-group.

Source: Calculated from Census of India, 2001, Table C-10SCandC-WST.

Marital Status of SCs and STs

The marital status of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as recorded in the census of 2001 does not show any great difference from that of non-scheduled population

Table 10.13: Dropout Rates of SC Students in Classes 1-V, 1-VIII and 1-X 2004-2005

States /UTs	Classes 1-V			Classes 11-VIII			Classes 1-X		
	Boys	Girls	total	Boys	Girls	total	Boys	Girls	total

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
Andhra Pradesh	32.77	34.40	33.58	62.22	67.53	64.83	68.42	72.59	70.39
Arunachal Pradesh	17.50	26.67	20.00	34.29	45.00	38.18	17.86	15.38	17.07
Assam	55.85	49.86	53.15	70.15	70.49	70.30	72.65	68.98	71.01
Bihar	44.02	74.10	54.83	81.88	81.76	81.84	89.83	92.10	90.61
Chhattisgarh*	-		-	-	-	~	-	-	-
Goa	53.68	58.66	56.10	62.50	69.25	65.72	79.69	77.69	78.71
Gujarat	23.3	25.6	24.4	39.23	56.59	47.34	57.88	70.72	63.90
Haryana	15.73	13.41	14.63	39.04	45.52	42.13	60.87	69.94	65.11
Himachal Pradesh'	16.12	16.96	16.53	31.42	35.08	33.24	47.62	48.60	48.09
J&K	33.30	16.60	26.25	25.24	21.31	23.56	60.67	59.84	60.29
Jharkhand*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Karnataka	24.22	14.90	19.95	42.82	51.93	47.32	64.46	65.70	65.04
Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23.24	14.04	18.74
Madhya Pradesh	18.41	11.57	15.39	39.62	41.57	40.45	61.81	72.25	66.23
Maharashtra	6.66	8.71	7.65	25.44	34.38	29.76	54.71	58.21	56.38
Manipur	37.14	25.68	31.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.17	1.15	1.16
Meghalaya	52.04	46.25	49.41	63.38	61.32	62.37	76.08	74.85	75.48
Mizoram	-	-	-	--				-	--
Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-	--	-	-	-
Orissa	48.10	39.42	44.58	65.86	66.17	66.00	70.61	71.94	71.20
Punjab	32.05	25.87	29.20	53.67	51.12	52.46	65.32	66.10	65.69
Rajasthan	54.49	57.59	55.83	67.55	78.05	71.97	77.14	86.72	80.74
Sikkim	51.82	45.19	48.55	79.83	70.09	75.49	86.13	84.11	85.23
Tamil Nadu	15.77	10.10—	- .13.66	28.37	25.42	26.98	62,66	61.76	62.23
Tripura	35.20	35.33	35.26	62.29	70.22	66.20	66.77	73.55	70.02
Uttar Pradesh	25.81	38.41	30.60	51.03	67.35	57.17	64.51	86.95	72.92
Uttaranchal*		-	-	-	-			-	--
West Bengal	51.77	58.33	54.93	70.22	75.31	72.55	79.72	81.07	80.25
A&N Islands		-	-		-				-
Chandigarh	9.65	10.82	10.20	60.41	54.31	57.53	85.93	80.78	83.83
D & N Haveli	15.15	8.22	11.51	18.46	25.42	21.77	20.37	44.68	31.68
Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.62	1.52	3.05	2.25	4.17	3.11
Delhi	4.67	5.28	4.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	70.36	67.72	69.15
Lakshadweep	-			--		-			-
Pondicherry	1.01	2.89	1.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	21.56	24.23	22.89
INDIA	32.73	36.14	34.21	55.20	59.95	57.26	69.11	74.17	71.25

* Dropout rates are shown combined with the respective parent state.

Source: Ministry of HRD, Annual Report 2006-2007.

Table 10.14: Dropout Rates of ST Students in Classes I-V, I-VIII and I-X 2004-2005

States /UTs	Classes I-V	Classes I-VIII	Classes I-X
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	Boys	Girls	total	Boys	Girls	total	Boys	Girls	total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
Andhra Pradesh	51.27	56.94	54.04	76.57	81.46	78.81	81.16	85.11	82.87
Arunachal Pradesh	47.91	47.74	47.83	68.03	66.58	67.37	73.38	74.89	74.05
Assam	58.65	50.15	54.98	74.17	77.41	75.53	78.15	75.89	77.18
Bihar	59.16	62.99	60.82	76.27	76.10	76.20	88.02	90.29	88.96
Chhattisgarh"	-	-		-	--		-	--	-
Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gujarat	50.00	47.30	48.80	64.47	70.19	67.08	72.45	76.61	74.36
Haryana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Himachal Pradesh	0.11	6.67	3.40	11.55	22.48	17.01	37.84	43.07	40.35
J&K	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	66.00	79.49	71.79
Jharkhand*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Karnataka	9.42	6.36	7.97	44.39	51.28	47.56	62.38	64.09	63.17
Kerala	4.43	4.25	4.34	21.11	23.51	22.26	55.40	50.18	52.87
Madhya Pradesh	17.36	7.35	13.07	45.37	51.44	48.04	74.57	80.22	76.92
Maharashtra	28.24	36.98	32.35	54.86	62.43	58.42	73.57	83.64	78.26
Manipur	46.12	56.27	51.00	57.69	56.53	57.16	72.27	72.07	72.18
Meghalaya	54.17	47.36	50.80	70.68	68.40	69.55	82.00	82.87	82.43
Mizoram	50.77	48.68	49.79	68.39	63.85	66.28	69.21	63.80	66.64
Nagaland	39.71	37.71	38.78	44.78	40.81	42.93	68.66	68.86	68.75
Orissa	58.67	58.54	58.62	80.18	79.88	80.06	83.00	83.61	83.24
Punjab	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rajasthan	53.72	59.51	56.22	66.27	73.74	69.14	70.24	83.80	75.30
Sikkim	30.51	18.27	24.47	52.14	36.05	44.49	73.02	61.74	67.72
Tamil Nadu	12.41	10.00	11.67	44.12	23.74	35.31	65.00	53.13	59.68
Tripura	57.27	60.59	58.84	79.83	83.11	81.40	85.09	87.06	85.99
Uttar Pradesh	27.13	16.29	22.70	23.14	23.50	23.29	50.42	57.41	53.32
Uttaranchal*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Bengal	48.93	47.71	48.40	81.06	73.01	78.47	89.55	83.41	87.90
A&N Islands	7.34	7.94	7.62	24.76	20.67	22.87	55.92	47.09	51.85
Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
D&N Haveli	25.35	42.31	33.34	50.82	69.10	59.01	70.10	79.13	74.11
Daman & Diu	1.69	.0.80	1.28	38.20	38.42	38.30	76.51	81.34	78.94
Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.72	33.61	23.37
Lakshadweep	1.03	8.24	4.5	0	0	0	19.05	19.08	19.07
Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
INDIA	42.55	42.04	42.32	64.97	67.09	65.87	77.75	80.66	78.97

Source: Ministry of HRD, Annual Report, 2006-2007

Table 10.15: Percentage of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Youth Attending College

Age-group	SC	ST
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15-19	2.93	2.25
20-24	5.35	4.81
25-29	0.91	1.08
30-34	0.19	0.24

Note: Percentages are to the total SC/ST population in the age-group.

Table 10.16: Percentage of Graduates in Population Aged 20 and above

Caste/ Community	Rural	Urban
Scheduled Tribe	1.1	10.9
Scheduled Caste	1.2	4.7
Muslim	1.3	6.1
Hindu OBC	2.1	8.6
Sikh	2.8	25.0
Christian	4.7	23.7
Hindu Upper Caste	5.3	25.3
Other Religions	5.4	31.5
All India Average	2.6	15.5

Source: Based on NSSO Survey. 55th Round, 1999-2000.

Table 10.17: Marital Status of Scheduled Castes by Age-group, and Sex

Age-group	Never Married			Married			Widowed			Divorced/Separated		
	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F
10-14	98.04	98.89	97.07	1.83	1.02	2.74	0.06	0.05	0.13	0.04	0.04	0.04
15-19	82.45	93.45	69.10	17.25	6.45	30.40	0.15	0.7	0.23	0.15	0.06	0.26
20-24	37.21	57.83	15.81	61.73	41.57	82.65	0.55	0.34	0.76	0.50	0.25	0.77
25-29	12.48	21.44	3.71	85.66	77.37	93.79	1.15	0.76	1.53	0.70	0.42	0.97
30-34	3.99	6.57	1.43	93.15	91.71	94.57	2.07	1.23	2.90	0.79	0.43	1.10

P - Persons, M - Males, F - Females

Note: Percentages are to the total population of the age-group.

Source: Calculated from Census of India, 2001, Statement C2-SC.

Early marriage is the rule; divorce is an exception. However, some significant differences between the two can be deduced. In the age-group 15-19 years, 30.40 percent of scheduled caste girls are married. Among scheduled tribe girls in this age-group, only 25.64 percent are married. Occurrence of child marriage even below 14 years is more frequent among scheduled castes than among scheduled tribes (Tables 10.17 and 10.18). These are some results of continuing traditional cultural practices.

Table 10.18: Marital Status of Scheduled Tribes by Age-group, and Sex

Age-group	Never Married			Married			Widowed			Divorced/Separated		
	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F
10-14	98.67	99.27	98.02	1.23	0.67	1.84	0.06	0.03	0.10	0.03	0.03	0.04
15-19	84.04	93.60	73.74	15.57	6.21	25.64	0.15	0.08	0.22	0.24	0.10	0.39
20-24	36.24	53.33	20.26	62.21	45.71	77.66	0.65	0.43	0.86	0.88	0.52	1.21
25-29	12.83	19.41	6.59	84.77	78.94	90.30	1.35	0.92	1.76	1.04	0.72	1.35
30-34	4.76	6.61	2.97	91.84	91.21	92.43	2.33	1.42	3.22	1.07	0.75	1.38

Note: Percentages are to the total population of the age-group.

Source: Calculated from Census of India, 2001, Statement C2-ST.

Sex ratio for both scheduled castes and scheduled tribes has been declining as in the general population. But the ratio has been better among tribals compared to the scheduled castes as well as general population. The sex ratio during 1961 and 1991 has declined from 957 to 922 for scheduled castes from 987 to 922 for scheduled tribes and from 941 to 927 for the total population. The mean age at marriage for the scheduled castes and tribes has been lower than that for the total population

Employment Status

The census of 2001 has enumerated a large number of children and teen-aged youth of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes as workers as well as students. A total of 276734 children and youth are enumerated as main workers and 696173 as marginal workers among scheduled castes in the age-group 5-19 years attending some educational institution. Among them 199910 males and 76284 females are main workers and 444364 males and 251809 females are marginal workers enumerated in the census of 2001. Of these working student population, 84 percent of the main

workers and 95 percent of the marginal workers are rural residents. This condition is at the back of many problems like heavy dropout and difficulty in coping with the demands of the educational system.

So also, among scheduled tribe children and teen-aged in the age-group 5-19 years, 174495 main workers and 643007 marginal workers are attending some educational institution. Of these 110323 males and 64172 females are main workers and 367868 males and 275139 females are marginal workers.

Of the main workers among scheduled tribe youth of this age-group, 164784 (94 percent) are rural residents attending educational institutions and 9711 (6 percent) urban residents. Among the marginal workers attending some educational institution, 623192 (97 percent) are rural residents and 19815 (3 percent) urban. Combining work and education is common among both rural and urban scheduled tribe children and more so in villages

These tables cannot be interpreted as evidence of SC and ST young workers Attending educational institutions. The situation is not so simple. For, a large proportion of scheduled tribe children and youth come under the category of marginal workers. An interesting analysis of this group by their main non-economic function as students, household activities, dependent, and others shows a very small percentage as students and about three-fourths in the age-group 15-34 as engaged in household activities. Marginal work holds an important place in the household economy of the poorer sections (Table 10.19).

The scheduled castes depend on wage labour and casual labour much more than others. Less than 40 percent get regular wages or salaries. Indeed, the salaried people among "others" also form a minority. The situation in the late 1.980s and the early 1990s does not show any big change

The economic backwardness of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes is mainly due to their employment mostly in the primary sector. In the 1990s the NSSO surveys have found that among scheduled castes 77.11 percent were employed in the primary sector, 9.83 percent in the secondary sector, and 13.06 percent in the tertiary sector. Among the scheduled tribes, the respective percentages were 90.03, 3.85, and 6.12 in the three sectors. The average status of scheduled caste cultivators was recorded by the NSSO as "marginal"; and 60 percent were said to be bonded labourers in some form. Rural wage labour and that too predominantly in agriculture has been the mainstay of the scheduled castes without any substantial change. Even in urban areas, casual labour provides the means of living for more than one-quarter of the population of these classes. The Annual Report of the Ministry of Social Justice and

Table 10.19: Proportion of SC and ST Marginal Workers by Main Non-Economic Activity by — Broad Age-group

Scheduled Castes												
Age-group	Student			Household activities			Dependent			Others		
	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F
Total	4.49	7.14	2.59	50.27	13.83	76.38	2.99	4.09	2.20	41.81	74.33	18.51
5-14	32.63	40.67	25.39	37.27	19.52	53.28	8.98	23.39	15.01	10.99	16.26	6.23

15-34	4.11	7.01	1.85	48.14	12.10	76.22	1.53	2.08	1.10	46.09	78.65	20.73
Scheduled Tribes												
Total	5.60	10.36	3.35	58.51	23.17	75.20	2.76	4.24	2.06	32.82	61.73	19.17
5-14	27.82	36.70	21.23	47.66	31.67	59.53	3.68	16.16	11.84	10.80	15.41	7.37
15-34	4.69	9.03	2.54	56.09	20.20	73.79	1.18	1.80	0.88	37.97	68.86	22.73

P - Persons, M = Males, F - Females.

Source: Census of India - Dora Highlights - Statements B11 to B14.

Empowerment of 2006-07 has given a comparative picture of occupational category of total population and SCs in four groups, namely, cultivators, agricultural labourers, household industry and other workers. The percentage of population engaged in each category is shown respectively as 33.11, 20.29, 3-90, and 42.70 for the total population, and 22.08, 39.16, 3.71 and 35.05 for the scheduled castes.

The Report states that occupational diversification is taking place among the SCs. As per 2001 census, the dependence of SCs on agriculture has declined from 74.50 percent in 1991 to 61.24 percent in 2001. The share of agricultural labourers came down from 49.06 percent to 39.16 percent.

Other Backward Classes

Besides scheduled castes and scheduled tribes there are other socially and educationally backward classes eligible for special treatment under the Indian Constitution. Identification of these classes has not been an easy job and the states, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu, where special privileges for the other backward classes has a history going back to pre- independence days, have been making their own lists, the central feature of which is identification by caste.

The Mandal Commission, the Second Backward Classes Commission appointed by the Government of India, recommended adoption of the reservation policy in central services and evolved eleven indicators for determining backwardness in social, educational and economic areas. Among the criteria are included dependence mainly on manual labour for livelihood, marriage below the legal minimum age, out-of-school children and high dropout rates, lack of basic amenities, and indebtedness for consumption purposes.

The Commission estimated the size of the OBC population by subtracting from the total population of Hindus, the population of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and that of forward Hindu castes and communities and it worked out to 52 percent. It was assumed that among non-Hindus also, the same percentage was backward. The number of OBC listed by the Commission comprised 292 in Andhra Pradesh, 135 in Assam, 108 in Bihar, 105 in Gujarat, 76 in Haryana, 57 in Himachal Pradesh, 63 in Jammu and Kashmir, 333 in Karnataka, 208 in Kerala, 279 in Madhya Pradesh, 272 in Maharashtra, 49 in Manipur, 37 in Meghalaya, 5 in Mizoram, 224 in Orissa, 83 in Punjab, 140 in Rajasthan, 10 in Sikkim, 288 in Tamil Nadu, 136 in Tripura, 116 in Uttar Pradesh, 177 in West Bengal, 17 in Andaman and Nicobar, 10 in Arunachal Pradesh, 93 in Chandigarh, 10 in Dadra and Nagar Haveli, 82 in Delhi, 18

in Goa, Daman and Diu, and 260 in Pondicherry. A sample survey of the NSSO has put the percentage of the OBC as 41.²

However, for implementing the recommendations of the Mandal Commission, the states have been asked to prepare the lists of eligible castes. The percentage of the OBC calculated state-wise is presented in Table 10.20.

Economically Poorer Sections

A total of about 42.6 million population is reported as slum dwellers in the census of 2001, consisting of about 15 percent of the urban population of the country. Of these 11.2 million were in Maharashtra, 5.2 million in Andhra Pradesh, 4.4 million in Uttar Pradesh, and 4.1 million in West Bengal. Greater Mumbai Municipal Corporation has returned the largest number of 6.5 million slum population.

Table 10.20: State-wise Percentage of Other Backward Classes – 2001

States	Percentage Other Backward Classes
INDIA	36
Andhra Pradesh	45
Arunachal Pradesh	3
Assam	19
Bihar	51
Goa	4
Gujarat	28
Haryana	27
Himachal Pradesh	11
Jammu & Kashmir	10
Karnataka	36
Kerala	52
Madhya Pradesh (combined)	40
Maharashtra	25
Manipur	28
Meghalaya	1
Mizoram	1
Nagaland	3
Orissa	29
Punjab	14
Rajasthan	32
Sikkim	37
Tamil Nadu	66
Tripura	23
Uttar Pradesh (combined)	42
West Bengal	6

Note: This is an estimate only as there has been no enumeration of the population by caste after 1931.

Source: Wikipedia on the basis of government sources.

A total of 6 million in the age-group 0-6 years has been enumerated in slums in India. Maharashtra houses 1.6 million children in slums.

The census of 2001 has also returned 7.4 million of the slum population. (17.47 percent) as belonging to the scheduled castes, and one million (2.35 percent) as belonging to the scheduled tribes. Child sex ratio in the age-group 0-6 years is calculated as 919 in the slum population which is higher than 904 for the non-slum urban population. Literacy rates in slums were also found lower than over-all non-slum literacy rates³. For many slums, many basic facilities are not available within one kilometer, according to a sample survey by the NSSO.⁴

Housing shortage is growing as a serious problem and it affects the youth migrants moving for employment. Houseless households numbered over 448 thousand with about 2 million population in the beginning of the decade.

Estimates of poverty for the country as a whole shows the rural situation in a bad shape which also means comparatively higher poverty ratios among scheduled castes in the total. However, substantial reduction in poverty ratio has taken place in the last quarter of the last century as also the size of the poor (Table 10.21).

The proportion of population below poverty line (BPL) differs widely between states from 6.35 in Punjab to 44.30 in Bihar in 1999-2000. (Table 10.23). By 2004-05, poverty ratio in the country has declined to about 22 percent.

The Reports of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes indicate that the bulk of these communities are located among the poorest of the population. As in the total population, the percentage of BPL people among SCs and STs is also decreasing. Between 1993-94 and 1999-2000, the difference in the poverty ratio of scheduled castes and the general population reduced from 10.84 percent to 9.25 percent. Estimates of BPL population by different agencies vary a great deal. In the case of rural ST population, the difference between the average poverty figure and that for ST population which was 15 percentage points in 1993-94 is estimated to have risen to 19 percentage points in 1999-2000. In urban areas, the difference was estimated to have reduced by nearly 3 percentage points for scheduled castes

Table 10.21: Poverty Estimates

Poverty Ratio				
Year	Total Poor	Rural Poor	Urban Poor	Ratio of Rural Poor to Urban Poor
1987-88	38.9	39.1	38.0	75.5
1993-94	36.0	37.3	32.4	76.2
1999-2000	26.1	27.1	23.6	74.2

Note: Poverty ratios are to respective population.

Source: Economic Survey 2001-02.

Table 10.22: State-wise Percentage of Population below Poverty Line

<i>States</i>	<i>1993-94</i>	<i>1999-00</i>
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	32.48	20.55
Andhra Pradesh	15.92	11.05
Arunachal Pradesh	45.01	40.04
Assam	45.01	40.04
Bihar	58.21	44.30
Chandigarh	11.35	5.75
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	51.95	17.57
Daman & Diu	5.34	1.35
Delhi	1.90	0.40
Goa	5.34	1.34
Gujarat	22.18	13.17
Haryana	28.02	8.27
Himachal Pradesh	30.34	7.34
Jammu & Kashmir	30.34	3.97
Karnataka	29.88	17.38
Kerala	25.76	9.38
Lakshadweep	25.76	9.38
Madhya Pradesh	40.64	37.06
Maharashtra	37.93	23.72
Manipur	45.01	40.04
Meghalaya	45.01	40.04
Mizoram	45.01	40.04
Nagaland	45.01	40.04
Orissa	49.72	48.01
Pondicherry	32.48	20.55
Punjab	11.95	6.35
Rajasthan	26.46	13.74
Sikkim	45.01	40.04
Tamil Nadu	12.48	20.55
Tripura	15.01	40.04
Uttar Pradesh	42.28	31.22
West Bengal	40.80	31.85
INDIA	37.27	27.09

Note: States in the North-East Region are taken together. Source: Government of India, Economic Survey 2001 -2002.

Almost 60 percent of Bihar's rural ST population, 56 percent of this section in Madhya Pradesh and 50 percent in West Bengal were below poverty line in 1999-2000. In the cyclone-hit Orissa, a drastic increase to push 74 percent of rural ST population below poverty line and a sudden increase in urban ST poverty ratio in West Bengal give a miserable picture of the economic status of these communities.⁵ This status also is not stagnant

Disabled among SC and ST Children and Youth

Social disabilities apart, certain physiological disabilities that affect anybody, affect these communities also. The number affected in rural and urban areas is shown in Table 10.23.

As in the general population, nearly one-half of the disabled suffer disability in "seeing" among both scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The number of male disabled is much higher than the female in both communities. This factor needs probe to find out whether it is the reality or suppression of physical/ mental disability of the female.

Table 10.23: SC and ST Disabled Children and Youth by Residence-2001 Scheduled Castes

	Rural			Urban		
Age-group	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
Total	3036356	1738176	1298180	674754	389701	285053
0-4	179862	96015	83847	35795	19395	16400
5-9	317643	178172	139471	61889	34521	27368
10-19	636728	378979	257749	158952	92250	66702
20-29	421961	250143	171818	116574	69446	47128
30-39	372294	220940	151354	91451	54075	37376
0-39	1928488	1124249	804239	464661	269687	194974
Scheduled Tribes						
	Rural			Urban		
Age-group	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
Total	1500725	835854	664871	117441	68045	49396
0-4	92089	48612	43477	6294	3373	2921
5-9	153298	84189	69109	11050	6078	4972
10-19	293828	165318	128510	27941	15919	12022
20-29	196327	112283	84044	19599	11692	7907
30-39	188187	112633	75554	16307	10008	6299
0-39	923729	523035	400694	81191	47070	34121

Source: *Census of India 2001, Table C- 207.*

Constitutional and Legal Provisions

The Constitution, while guaranteeing freedom and equality to all, has made certain special provisions for the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and for other socially and educationally backward classes of citizens to help them overcome their disabilities and realise equality. The main provisions which are vitally significant to the youth population of these classes are presented in Table 10.24.

Table 10.24: Constitutional Provisions for Youth of the Weaker Sections

Article	Provision
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15(4)— Fundamental Rights	Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth with the proviso—"Nothing in this article or in clause (2) of Article 29 shall prevent the state from making any special provision for the advancement of any socially or educationally backward classes of citizens or for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes".
16(4)— Fundamental Rights	Equality of opportunity in matters of employment and provides: "Nothing in this article shall prevent the state from making any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which, in the opinion of the state, is not adequately represented in the services under the state".
16 (4-A)	Extends provision to non-aided institutions
17	"Untouchability" is abolished and its practice in any form is forbidden. The enforcement of any disability arising out of "untouchability" shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law.
23(1)	Traffic in human beings and beggars and other similar forms of forced labour are prohibited and any contravention of this provision shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law.
320 (4) - Services	Defining the functions of the Public Service Commission provides: "Nothing in clause (3) shall require a Public Service Commission to be consulted as respects the manner in which any provision referred to in clause (4) of Article 16 may be made or as respects the manner in which effect may be given to the provisions of Article 335".
335	The claims of the members of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes shall be taken into consideration, consistently with the maintenance of efficiency of administration, in the making of appointments to services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or of a State.
330,332,334	Reservation of seats for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in Lok Sabha. Legislative Assembly of the states in proportion to their population.

Table 10.24: Constitutional Provisions for Youth of the Weaker Sections (contd.)

Article	Provision
Part IX - Panchayats - 243(D)	<p>(1) Seats shall be reserved for</p> <p>(a) The scheduled castes; and</p> <p>(b) The scheduled tribes</p> <p>in every panchayat and the number of seats so reserved shall bear, as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in that panchayat as the population of the scheduled castes in that panchayat area and of the scheduled tribes in that panchayat area bears to the total population of that area and such seats may be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a panchayat.</p> <p>(2). Not less than one-third of the total number of seats reserved under clause (1) shall be reserved for women belonging to the scheduled castes or, as the case may be, the scheduled tribes.</p> <p>(3). Not less than one-third (including the number of seats reserved for women belonging to the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes) of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every panchayat shall be reserved for women and such seats may be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a panchayat.</p> <p>(4). The offices of the chairpersons in the panchayats at the village or any other level</p>

	<p>shall be reserved for the scheduled castes, the scheduled tribes and women in such manner as the legislature of a state, may, by law, provide:</p> <p>Provided that the number of offices of chairpersons reserved for the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes in the panchayats at each level in any state shall bear, as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the total number of such offices in the panchayats at each level, the population of the scheduled castes and of the scheduled tribes in the state bears to the total population of the state:</p> <p>Provided further that not less than one- third of the total number of offices of chairpersons in the panchayats at each level shall be reserved for women;</p> <p>Provided also that the number of offices reserved under this clause shall be allotted by rotation to different panchayats at each level.</p> <p>(5). The reservation of seats under clauses (1) and (2) and the reservation of offices of chairpersons (other than the reservation for women) under clause (4) shall cease to have effect on the expiration of the period specified in Article 334.</p> <p>(6). Nothing in this part shall prevent the legislature of a state from making any provision for reservation of seats in any panchayat or offices of chairpersons in the panchayats at any level in favour of backward class of citizens.</p>
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Table 10.24: Constitutional Provisions for Youth of the Weaker Sections (contd.)

<i>Article</i>	<i>Provision</i>
Part IX—A, Municipalities - 243(T)	Similar provisions for election to municipalities as for panchayats.
46—Directive Principles of State Policy	The state shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and in particular, the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.
338 - Special Provisions Relating to Certain Classes	There shall be a Special Officer to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes under the Constitution and report to the president upon the working of these safeguards at such intervals as the president may direct, and the president shall cause all such reports to be laid before each House of Parliament.

To supplement the functioning of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Government of India has set up a high level commission consisting of persons of eminence and status in public life in 1978. It was vested with four functions—all of which are significant to the youth of these sections, namely, (i) to investigate all matters relating to safeguards provided for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the Constitution including review of the manner in which reservations stipulated in public services for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are implemented; (ii) to study the implementation of protection of Civil Rights Act, 1976 which is the amended version of the Untouchability Offences Act 1955, with particular reference to the objective of removal of untouchability within a period of five years; (iii) to ascertain the socio-economic and other relevant circumstances accounting for the commission of offences against persons belonging to the scheduled castes or scheduled tribes in order to ensure the removal of impediments and recommend remedial measures for implementation of the laws; and (iv) to enquire into

individual complaints regarding denial of any safeguards provided. The reports of the commission provide a rich source material pertaining to the all-round development and the impact of various schemes for these communities.

The Scheduled Castes and The Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 is intended to prevent commission of atrocities against these classes, to provide special courts for the trial of such offences and to provide for the relief and rehabilitation of the victims of such offences. This Act provides protection against social disabilities, personal atrocities, sexual exploitation, atrocities affecting properties, malicious persecution, political disabilities, and economic exploitation. The Act provides punishment for violations. Social status of these classes has improved a great deal in urban areas, but in villages, instances of ill-treatment of these classes are frequently

Reference has already been made to the abolition of the Bonded Labour System in chapter II. The Act is not exclusively for SCs and STs but benefit them most as they are more vulnerable to labour exploitation. The object of this Act is to prevent the economic and physical exploitation of the weaker sections of the people. Various forms of forced labour under social custom and known by different names such as Adiyamar, Bhagela, Pannaiyal, Sewak, Vert, etc., stand abolished under the Act, and every bonded labourer is freed and discharged from any obligation to render any bonded labour. The Act also provides for constitution of Vigilance Committees in each district by the state governments to ensure implementation of the Act, provide for economic and social rehabilitation of the freed labourers, to keep a watch over offences under the Act and to defend any suit against freed labourer for recovery of debt. Offences under the Act are cognisable and punishable.

The constitutional post of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was abolished and a multi-member National Commission for SCs and STs was created in 1992 by an amendment of the Constitution and later this was bifurcated. A National Safai Karmachari Commission was also established in 1992. The National Commission for Backward Classes was constituted as a permanent body in 1993. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment was bifurcated in October 1999 with a view to providing more attention to the scheduled tribes and a separate Ministry of Tribal Affairs was constituted. A separate National Commission was also established under an amendment of the Constitution in 2003-04.

Social Defence

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is to ensure equitable treatment to such sections of society which have suffered social inequalities, exploitation, discrimination and injustice. The Social Defence Bureau of the Ministry caters to the requirement of the following categories:

1. Neglected and marginalised people
2. Abandoned destitute
3. Neglected and delinquent juveniles who need care and protection for want of support or are in conflict with the society or the law
4. Children of the sex workers
5. Street children
6. Drug addicts and offenders
7. The aged and a host of others who need special care, protection and support.

The programmes and policies of the Bureau aim at equipping these groups to sustain a life of respect and honour and to become useful citizens. The Bureau has promoted voluntary action. State governments, autonomous bodies, NGOs and even the corporate world are involved in formulating and implementing the policies. All the programmes are meant to prevent neglect, abuse, and exploitation and provide assistance to those deprived and bring them in the mainstream.⁶

Special Schemes for SC and ST Youth

Major central schemes for SC and ST are provision of post-matric scholarships, book banks, and hostels. Pre-matric assistance is mostly provided by state governments which extend other facilities also like free textbooks and notebooks, uniforms, etc. With the introduction of centrally assisted midday meals programme and intense drive through Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, there is some progress in school education among the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes. Residential schools for SC and ST are set up and bridge courses for children in slums and on streets are organised.

Of these, the post-matric scholarship is considered as the one that has effectively lifted SC and ST students to enter higher education; the value of the scholarship includes maintenance allowance, compulsory fees, study tour charges, and such essential items of expenditure.

To upgrade the merit of the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe students, full central assistance is extended to state governments to arrange remedial and special coaching classes for classes IX to XII. Special coaching is also given to equip them to compete for admission to professional courses and competitive examinations. National Merit Scholarships at school level, National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for study abroad exclusively meant for these classes are offered. Assistance to students in public schools, residential schools and bridge courses for SC and ST students have been taken up.

A central sector scheme of Special Education Development Programme for SC girls belonging to very low literacy level districts is being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to provide a package of educational inputs through residential schools for classes I to V where "tradition and environment" are said to be "not conducive to their learning". SC girls from families of first generation learners living below poverty line constitute the target group. The scheme is implemented in particular districts mostly in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh through the zilla parishads. A small cash incentive is provided to parents like monthly allowance of Rs.50 as incentive to send their girls to these educational residences.

Mahila Samakhya is a programme aimed at empowerment of women through education. The focus is on village women particularly the SC and ST women. It is operated in selected districts in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, and Uttar Pradesh. Under this, women's groups called "sanghas" are formed to deal with common issues like supply of water and health care and promote economic activities.

Vocational Training in Tribal areas, started in 1992-93 is one of the most important schemes meant for tribal youth to make them fit to take up gainful employment or engage in self-employment activities. The scheme is implemented through state governments/union territory administration, local bodies, autonomous institutions, cooperatives or

NGOs. Each centre offers five vocational courses in traditional skills relevant to the area and every student gets training in two courses for a duration of 6 months. At the end, the trained boys and girls are attached to a Master Craftsman for a period of 6 months to learn practical skills. The scheme also provides a monthly stipend and required raw material for work for the trainees.

For providing quality education to the tribal students to enable them to avail of the facility of reservation in higher education and professional courses, and in higher level jobs, Model Residential Schools having classes VI to XII are being established. The project Eklavya Model Residential School in Dhangera in Orissa, for instance, has been taken up to provide better infrastructure facilities for tribal students of the area. The Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowships are awarded to ST students to pursue higher studies.

Out of the allotted budgets of the Departments of Elementary Education and Literacy, and Secondary and Higher Education, 16.33 percent and 8.01 percent respectively are allocated under the Special Component Plan and the Tribal Sub-Plan. Most of the states have abolished tuition fees for SC and ST students up to the senior secondary level. Incentives like free textbooks, school uniforms and school bags are offered. In educational programmes like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, and National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education, SC and ST Students are given priority. Reservation Policy is applicable in central government institutions of higher education, and is being extended to private institutions. SC/ST cells are established by the University Grants Commission in many universities to ensure implementation of the Reservation Policy. Special coaching is arranged for SC/ST students. Even in some scholarships like those for talented children from rural areas, and National Talent Search Scheme Scholarships, there is provision for reservation for SC and ST students and some concession in qualifying marks.

In 1992 two educational schemes were launched for the education of minorities -one is the Scheme of Area Intensive Programme for Educationally Backward Minorities intended for areas of concentration of educationally backward minorities, and the other is the Scheme of Financial Assistance for modernisation of Madarsa education.

The National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) has been established to provide credit facilities to people living below the poverty line to start some income-generating activities. It has been providing educational loan to SC/ST students for pursuing higher education. The loan is given for post graduate studies abroad also.

Similar state level corporations (SCDCs) have been set up with the main objective of uplifting the social and economic status of SC population. They have a number of regional offices also for implementing various income-generating schemes. Their main function is to identify eligible SC families and motivate them to undertake economic development schemes.

SCDCs finance employment-oriented schemes in agriculture and allied fields, small-scale industry, transport and trade and service sector. Under Skill Development Training Programmes, NSFDC is providing training in high technology areas such as Apparel Technology and Computer Technology to the educated unemployed youth from the target group through professional and reputed government institutions. Those selected receive a stipend and are given placement assistance after training, and entrepreneurial guidance.

The National Scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers employed in sanitation work and for their dependents has been launched. No income limit is prescribed for availing assistance, but priority is given to those whose income is below double poverty line, women and the disabled from the groups. Two new schemes for empowerment of scavengers were announced in 2003 - one is micro-finance scheme, and the other Interest Free Loan Scheme through non-governmental organisation.⁷ It is reported that there are over 300000 Scavengers in the country."

The Ministry of Tribal Welfare is granting several welfare projects through voluntary organisations since 1953-54. The projects include conducting residential schools, hostels, computer units, balwadies/creches, libraries, etc. Generally, the grant covers 90 percent of the project cost, the balance being borne by the voluntary organisations. Many state governments have formulated their own schemes to cover SC/ST youth in a special way in common programmes. Schemes like Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozghar Yojana already discussed in chapter VI are specially meant for SCs and STs.

Reservation Policy

The Government of India has provided reservation in jobs to the extent of 15 percent for scheduled castes and 7.5 percent for scheduled tribes. These figures roughly correspond to their population percentage. Constitutional guarantees, executive orders, and departmental instructions issued from time to time by the Department of Personnel and Training form the basis for reservation. In the case of the other backward classes, the states in southern India - Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Pondicherry, and

Table 10.25: SCs and STs in Central Government

	% of SCs		% of STs	
	1961	1998	1961	1998
(excluding sweepers)	1.44	10.38	0.21	3.21
Group A	2.45	11.73	0.67	2.68
Group B	7.49	15.99	0.92	5.95
Group C	17.19	21.45	3.13	6.85

Source: National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes - Fourth Report 1996-97 & 1997-98, Vol. I, quoted in National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution, Consultation Paper.

Tamil Nadu - have adopted many decades back a policy of reservation in educational institutions and in government jobs. This has been approved as a national policy since the 1990s but has created certain operational issues like elimination of the forward within the backward.

The Reservation Policy in the case of SCs and STs has been working slow but has picked up as shown in Table 10.25.

The situation is fast improving and the shortfall in the appointment of SCs, STs and OBCs is lessening. Other backward class candidates are getting selected against unreserved posts also. Tables 10.26 and 10.27 may provide an

idea about the progress but the problem is to find out the percentage of households of these communities benefiting from the Reservation Policy to facilitate steps to ensure that the benefits are widely utilized.

After acceptance of the Mandal Commission recommendation regarding reservation of 27 percent of vacancies in civil posts and services under the Government of India, a new model rosters providing maximum of 50 percent reservation was prepared. The model is shown in Table 10.28.

Table 10.26: Number of Posts Reserved for SC/ST and OBC and the Number Recommended

Recruitment	2005-06		2004-05	
	Dir. Rec by Int.*	%	Dir. Rec. by Int.*	%
Reserved Posts	356		211	
SC/ST/OBC Recommended for Reserved Posts	304	85.4	171	81.0
Shortfall	52	14.6	40	19.0
SC/ST/OBC Recommended for Unreserved Posts	57		30	
Total SC/ST/OBC Recommended*	361	101.4	201	95.3

*Direct Recruitment by Interview.

+ Includes unreserved Posts.

Table 10.27: Recruitment Finalised for Posts Reserved for SC/ST/OBC 2005-06

Recruitment	SC	ST	OBC	Total
Reserved Posts	85	54	217	356
Applications for Reserved Posts	38129	12899	61542	112570
Candidates called for Interview	514	198	1170	1882
Candidates appeared in Interview	404	161	928	1493
Candidates recommended	79	41	184	304
Shortfall	6	13	33	52
No application received*	-	4	4	8
No suitable candidate	6	9	29	44

* Gives number of posts

Table 10.28: Model Roster

Method	Percentage			Roster	Roster Fixed		
	SC	ST	SEBC		SC	ST	SEBC
A. Direct Recruitment							
i. Recruitment on all-India							

basis							
a. Open competition	15	7.50	27	200 points	30	15	54
b. Other than open competition	16	7.50	25.50	120 points	20	9	31
2. Recruitment to Group C	According to population of SC/ST in respective States/UTs except Delhi*		27% or less"	100 point	Point earmarked for SC ST and OBC according to prescribed percentages		
B. Promotions	15	7.50	Nil	40 Points	6	3	

Note: This is a model only.

SEBC - Socially and Educational Backward Classes

+ for Delhi, all-India percentages are applicable

* Depending on the total percentage for SC/ST

Source: Goswami (2003 :148).

PESA Act

Special mention must be made of the Panchayati Raj (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 known as PESA, which has extended PR system in a modified form to the Fifth Schedule Areas in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Rajasthan. This Act has accorded more powers to gram sabha in matters relating to protection of tribal customs and development work. All seats of chairpersons of panchayats at all levels and at least 50 percent of the seats of members are reserved for the tribals. Provision is made for nomination of certain scheduled tribes which have no representatives at intermediate or district level panchayats. Specific provisions are made for development and regulation of mining, water bodies, prohibition, minor forest produce, land alienation, money lending, etc. The panchayat bodies at the appropriate levels and the gram sabhas are endowed Hirer alia with the power to enforce prohibition, regulate ownership of minor forest produce, manage village markets, control money-lending to tribals, and to prevent alienation of tribal land, etc.

PESA is expected to generate awareness among tribals. NGOs and tribal leaders are working to help tribals reap maximum benefit out of the Act. It is an effective step towards empowerment of tribal communities in their areas.

All- round efforts are going on and with the vast changes taking place in all spheres, there is every chance of awakening the disadvantaged population to get their proper share in national life. It is not enough to fill the reserved posts in the legislative bodies and panchayats. In all areas necessary for progress, the notion of "disadvantaged groups" should vanish.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

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