

# Incidence of discrimination and challenges for inclusive Growth- With special reference to SCs in India

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## Abstract

*The Indian society structurally denied the opportunity to access the resources even for the minimum subsistence level to the socially disadvantage group, Historical oppression have been manifested in various dimensions of the socio-economic conditions of the oppressed communities in India, plethora of the policies and programme have been implemented under the realm of affirmative action to uplift the vulnerable conditions of the people as per the constitutional entitlement, However the socio-economic conditions of the socially deprived people were far from the normal level, especially during the last two decades have India witnessed the enormous growth in this context it is essential to asses that the benefits of the growth percolated to the socially disadvantaged groups, hence it is became imperative to assess the present conditions of the those people and explore the alternative strategy in the changing context, This paper is an attempt to map-out the discrimination in the society and the explore the prospective for Inclusive growth strategy, first section of the paper highlights the Growth and Equity in the planning process, next section deals with the conceptual illustration of Inclusive growth, third section highlights the social group wise land holding pattern, Educational Status, and the Health status, which indicates the vulnerability of the SC/STs, Hence it was found that there is apparent discrimination prevailing in the society in terms of access to Land, Education and Health. It is became significant for the Government to adopt the Inclusive Growth strategy in the planning Process by providing adequate space for the upliftment of SC/STs in order to deliver the justice to the deserved people of being Welfare state.*

## Introduction

Indian society have been structurally stratified into number of segmentation on the basis of plethora of customs which deliberately deprived of some sections of the people from the mainstream society and also denied to access the resources even for the minimum subsistent level, chronic inequity is the manifestation of the structured caste system in India, the people belongs to the lower rung of the caste hierarchy structurally estranged which eventually cause the lower socio-economic status of the SCs and STs in India especially after implementation of new economic policy country had experienced very high growth rate but in the other hand it was inevitable to introspect that whether the growth had unleash benefits to all the people of the country, the empirical findings of the number of studies highlighted that the benefits of growth has not adequately redistributed the benefits to all sections of the society especially marginal sections of the society have not sufficiently benefited, thus in order to combat the changing discrimination against the SCs manifested by the new economic policy and the rigid caste system it is became compelling need to adapt the strategy to ensure the appropriate redistribution of benefits to all the sections of the society.

## Growth, equity and planning process

Growth and equity for the economic welfare of the people matter above all else, a fact that has long been recognized by Indian policy makers. The procedure of planned economic development, originated in India in 1951 soon after the country's independence, was targeted at optimizing the prospective for economic growth through accelerated savings and investment rates. At the same time, spreading the benefits of growth to the population at large has remained a major objective. The Plan stated that "the elimination of poverty cannot, apparently, be accomplished merely by redistributing prevailing wealth. Nor can a programme targeting only at nurturing production remove prevailing inequalities. The two have to be considered together; only a instantaneous advance along both these lines can generate the conditions in which the community can put forth its best efforts for stimulating development"

In the initial days of the "growth with equity" debate, the term "equity" primarily mentioned to a decrease in comparative inequality through redistributive policies. In later years, predominantly since the 1970s, the equity feature has been observed mainly in terms of a decrease in absolute poverty rather than revenue inequality. Although Indian policy makers and intellectuals considered accomplishment of both growth and equity objectives to be appropriate, they acknowledged that certain policies and programmes might generate conflict between the two objects. Attention then turned to the design of an economic strategy that would make both the objectives possible within certain factors. While international contributor agencies such as the World Bank were talking of "redistribution with growth" in the mid-1970s, the popular phrase in India replicating similar concern was "growth with social justice". These themes conveyed the similar spirit as the present subject of "growth with equity", a broad-based approach of development where the poor are not left behind. While growth and equity have been well-recognized purposes of national policy, whether the poor have essentially benefited from the growth procedure has been one of the most discussed topics in India. Despite of the fact that the affirmative action of state has done some optimistic impact but not sufficient level.

The technical model of economic growth based on "trickle-down hypothesis" has demonstrated to be inefficient and inadequate in penetrating the benefits of economic growth to the weaker sections of the society in several developing countries (UNDP, 1996). This is evident from the fact that, in India, particularly in rural areas, amidst an extraordinary rate of economic growth, the incidence of revenue poverty, human deprivation, gender inequality and discrimination, violation of women's rights and social exclusion continue to be widespread and persistent, particularly among the scheduled castes (SCs) and scheduled tribes (STs). This is principally accredited to lack of education and hence competences or empowerment. Provision of education, therefore, has been considered as one of the significant key inputs in constructing the capabilities of individuals, which tend to broaden the opportunities and choices for better jobs, long and healthy life, living standard, and cleaner and sustainable environment.

Provision of education among the socially marginalized and economically disadvantaged sections of the society (SCs, STs), has huge beneficial impact on their socio-economic well-being. Better-educated dalits are more likely to access qualitative employment and hence more revenue and decline in the incidence of poverty (poverty-reduction effect). Enhancement in education of person is meticulously connected with better accessibility to health and medical care services, and infant and fertility behaviour. It also enhances self-esteem, honour and social dignity in the society. Though, inadequate access to education, which generates “information asymmetries”, provides unequal access to job opportunities, perpetuates incidence of poverty, reasons health hazardous and ineffectiveness, Since the inception of the planning era in 1950-51, provision of education to the citizens of India, particularly the socially marginalized and economically disadvantaged sections of the society, has been accorded top priority in the development paradigm but it was debatable that the dalits have categorically benefitted out of the process at the anticipated level, Growth of the economy has not prudently benefited the SCs since the constitutional entity of reservation applicable in the Government sectors only but the opportunities for better health, education, employment are available more in informal private sectors where affirmative action of the state is inappropriate thus it is became imperative to adapt the inclusive strategies to ensure the equitable redistribution of the benefits reaped from growth the economy. The incompatibility of growth and equity could be bridged through inclusive strategies of the planning process.

### **Conceptual illustration of Inclusive Growth strategy**

In the changing phenomenon where the role of the state is limited it is significant to adapt the strategies to include the requirement of the socially marginalized people like SCs could be addressed through inclusive strategy, Inclusive growth refers *both* to the pace and pattern of growth, which are considered interwoven, and so in essential to be addressed together. The idea that both the pace and pattern of growth are critical for achieving a high, sustainable growth record, as well as poverty reduction, is consistent with the findings in the Growth Report: Strategies for Sustained Growth and Inclusive Development. The commission notes that inclusiveness a concept that incorporates equity, equality of opportunity, and protection in market and employment transitions – is an indispensable ingredient of any effective growth strategy. Here we stress the idea of equality of opportunity in terms of access to markets, resources, and unbiased regulatory environment for businesses and individuals, the inclusive growth approach takes a longer term viewpoint as the concentrate is on productive employment rather than on direct revenue redistribution, as a means of enhancing revenues for omitted groups. In the short run, governments could use revenue distribution schemes to weaken undesirable impacts on the poor of policies envisioned to jump start growth, but transfer schemes cannot be an answer in the long run and can be challenging also in the short run. With this longer term perspective, it is significant to recognize the time lag between reforms and outcomes. Inclusive growth analytics is about policies that should be executed in the short run, but for sustainable inclusive growth in the future.

The inclusive growth definition is in line with the absolute definition of pro-poor growth, but not the relative definition. Under the absolute definition, growth is considered to be pro-poor as long as poor people benefit in absolute terms, as reflected in some agreed measure of poverty. In contrast, in the relative definition, growth is “pro-poor” if and only if the revenues of poor people grow faster than those of the population as a whole, i.e., inequality declines. However, while absolute pro-poor growth can be the result of direct revenue redistribution schemes, for growth to be inclusive, productivity must be improved and new employment opportunities created. In short, inclusive growth is about raising the pace of growth and enlarging the size of the economy, while leveling the playing field for investment and enhancing productive employment opportunities

### **Land Holding and landlessness of SCs**

Land is the significant source of socio-economic power, The percentage of the Agriculture sector of the GDP has been declining but still huge section so of the labour forces engaging themselves in agricultural activities nearly 70 percent of the people depends on Agriculture especially in which SCs and STs concentrate more, The policies of stabilization and structural adjustment implemented by the Government of India since 1991 have had a intense impact on agriculture, rural development and the living standards of the poor in rural India. One feature of the new policy internationally is the attempt to replace classical land reform - which comprises “the dispossession of a class of landlords, and the distribution of land to, and the enhancement of the freedom of, classes of the peasantry and agricultural workers hitherto dispossessed and exploited by landlordism” - with what has come to be known as “market-driven land reform”.

The significant form of discrimination in the countryside, the lack of access of Dalit households to ownership and operational holdings of land in rural India. Dalits have been subjected to various forms of deprivation historically and the new reforms in the land holding had not enable the dalits to access the land, In many places Dalits are still subjected to the criminal practice of untouchability and other atrocities (Thorat 2002). Dalits also confront various forms of deficiency and inequality with respect to education, health, and access to various kinds of jobs, Access to land in an agriculture-oriented rural economy is significant because land is a primary means and instrument of production. The social distribution of land in a village economy determines the economic position and power relations between various social groups in the village.

The incidence of landlessness was higher among SCs households than among households and non-SCs households. While 56.5 per cent SCs households did not own non-homestead land, 35.5 per cent STs households and 37.8 per cent non-SCs households did not own non-homestead land. The data generally substantiate the impression that while SCs households are landless,STs households have small plots of land of low productivity.The proportion of SCs households that do not own any land other than homesteads is highest in Punjab, Kerala and Haryana, where above 80 per cent Dalit households do not own any land other than homesteads. The States with lowest incidence of landlessness are Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh. In West Bengal, 46.5 per cent households do not own land other than homesteads. This is slightly higher than the national average. However, the proportion of landless Dalit households is below the national average in West

Bengal by both the definitions of land holdings. Agricultural Census shows that the SCs have got very limited land holdings of 726 millions but the other OBCs have got 5164 millions of land operational land holdings, even though dalits are largely depends on Agriculture for their livelihood, they didn't got the adequate land which implies that the SCs have very meager land holding which have apparent manifestation on their poverty.

### **Incidence of Poverty among SCs/STs**

The preamble of the Indian constitution resolves to secure to all its citizens, "Justice, social, economic and political". The Constitution directs the State to promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, and protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation. In the spirit of the Constitution of India, there have been a multitude of affirmative action policies for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, which include a separate special component plan and tribal sub-plan respectively. In economic parlance, these may be referred to as 'between-group redistributive policies', which in the context of historically marginalized sub-groups in the economy have close connections with the notion of 'equity' and 'social justice'.

Poverty has been described as a situation of "pronounced deprivation in well being" and being poor as "to be hungry, to lack shelter and clothing, to be sick and not cared for, to be illiterate and not schooled...Poor people are particularly vulnerable to adverse events outside their control, Poverty is the sum total of a multiplicity of factors that include not just revenue and calorie intake but also access to land and credit, nutrition, health and longevity, literacy and education and safe drinking water, sanitation and other infrastructural facilities.

The disproportionately high incidence of chronic poverty among historically marginalized groups such as scheduled castes, scheduled tribes in India was apparent from the empirical investigation of the number of studies on the domain, Lack of access to resources or uselessness is a unifying characteristic of poverty in all its manifestations. The poor lack ownership of or access to assets such as land, water, forest, dwelling units, credit, literacy, longevity, voice and capital-both physical and social. Vulnerability of caste considered to be a reflection not only of poor endowments of productive assets, but also of low educational standards and vulnerability to caste-based discrimination resulting in, among other things, little access to any kind of regular employment outside the village. In other words, lower levels of access to physical, human and social capital result in greater likelihood of these groups being vulnerable to persistent or chronic poverty

The percapita consumption expenditure for the Rural poverty line was 356.3 and the 538.4 for Urban, with rural area is concern 36.8 percent of the SCs belongs under the poverty line whereas 26.7 percent of the STs belongs under the line and 16.1 percent of the OBCs are belongs under the poverty line,with regard to urban poverty line 39.9 percent of the SCs are belongs under this line 31.4 percent of STs and 16 percent of the OBCs belongs to under the poverty line,it clearly indicates that the SCs poverty level are high and more vulnerable as per the official estimation of poverty line by the planning commission.

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the UK based Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) came up with a new measure of poverty, called Multidimensional poverty Index(MPI). The new measure attempts to go beyond revenue poverty and gives a broader understanding of various types of deprivation the poor may face. It is more comprehensive than the HPI and incorporates ten weighted indicators that measure education, health and standard of living. The MPI reflects both the extent of poverty and its intensity and throws up some new light on Indian poverty. A person is poor in this index if he is deprived on at least 30% weighted indicators. Comparing MPI ranks of individual Indian states with other countries, MPI suggests that there are more poor people (421 million) in the eight Indian states of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal than in the 26 poorest African countries combined (410 million) it is significant to note that these states have concentrated large portion of SCs and STs, it also reveals nearly 68 percent of the SCs are under the poverty line as per the index.

### **.Crime against Dalits**

Freedom of expression, access of resources are the significant factors for any sort of development of the human beings but the rigid caste system didn't allow the lower rung of the people of the system and forcefully deprived them, Equality of status and opportunity to all citizens of the country are guaranteed by the Constitution of India which also provides that no individual shall be discriminated against on grounds of religion, caste or sex. Fundamental Rights and specific provisions, namely, Articles 38, 39 and 46 in the Constitution of India stand testimony to the commitment of the State towards its people. The strategy of the State is to secure distributive justice and allocation of resources to support programmes for social, economic and educational advancement of the weaker section in general and those of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes, Minorities in particular to avoid injustice and exploitation. Article 46 of the Constitution of India, expressly provides that the State shall promote with special care the educational and economic upliftment of the Weaker Sections of the people, in particular of SCs & STs and shall protect them from injustice and all forms of exploitation.

### **Conclusion**

The vulnerability of the Caste system clearly poised on the socio-economic conditions of the SCs and STs in India, societal marginalization didn't facilitate adequately to avail the resources for the development for SCs through the affirmative action by the state, despite the fact that the constitutionally endowed privileges had made some kind of impact on the development of the SCs/STs but it has not effectively addressed the issue in a more appropriate way, the structural changes diminish the role of the state and encourage the market driven economy in this context the India experienced the high growth rate but it didn't percolate the into the marginalized people like SCs./STs empirical evidences established that the 20 years of the new economic policy regime didn't unleash the socio-economic development to the SCs/STs, hence limited role of the state in the changing context really urged the need to reformulate the inclusive strategy to encompass the requirement of the SCs/STs in order to enable them to obtain the benefits of the Growth of the economy, insecurity humiliation, denial of common

property access are strongly inhibits the development of SCs/STs and implement the new dimension of discrimination in the field of production process which automatically accentuate the chronic oppression to the SCs/STs. Thus it is became imperative to formulate the amicable inclusive strategies in order to ensure the social justice.

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