

## OCCUPATIONAL MOBILITY AMONG THE SCHEDULED CASTE POPULATION IN LUCKNOW

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### ABSTRACT

The present paper aims to study the occupational mobility of scheduled caste population in Lucknow district. The entire study is based upon the block level secondary data obtained from Zila Sankhikya Patrika, for the years 2000, 2004-05, 2009-10, 2012-13. From the results it is clear that in spite of reservation scheduled caste people are engaged more and more in agricultural sector and their shift to other sectors is not observable over the period of time. Apart from it scheduled caste socio-economic development is showing only slight regional variation. It is found to be highest in Sarojnagar and lowest in Bakhshi ka Talab

**KEYWORDS:** Occupational Mobility, Scheduled Caste Population, Lucknow District

### INTRODUCTION

It is an unfortunate fact of the history in India that scheduled caste people have suffered deep subjugation in our society (Narayan, 2011: xvii). The subjugation of 'weaker sections' has been prevalent in western societies albeit in different shape and form. Moreover, this subjugation of scheduled caste in Indian society, at times, had been of such intensity that it resulted in complete denial of the status of 'human being' to scheduled caste people in certain parts of India. According to Rig Veda, which is one of the earliest literatures of Hindus, there were four Varna in the society. They were Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vashyas and Shudras. Shudras lied at the lowest rung of the caste system and were described as 'servants of others' (Sachchidananda, 1977: 17).

This classification of the society was basically functional and occupational in nature and character (Mohammad, 1987: 17). However, it was the feudal character of the society more than religious aspiration which mostly resulted in subjugation of scheduled caste in India. It was after independence, that development and upliftment of scheduled caste people arose as major concern by the government of India. By giving reservations in jobs and offering various schemes for socio-economic and educational development of scheduled caste people, the Indian government is trying to improve the status of this neglected group which forms a bulk of population (Tripathi, 1999: 57).

Here occupational mobility which simply means the ability of the individual to change job after the acquisition of a new skill (Maythew, 2005: 358) may be useful in improving their socio-economic status. Occupational mobility in case of scheduled caste people will shift them from low paid menial jobs to well paid jobs and in turn will be helpful in improving their socio-economic status. A micro level study on occupational mobility of scheduled caste is done by Wilson in 2004. In his study, he has analysed the effect of the change of agricultural techniques, poverty, outmigration and many other factors on the occupational mobility of scheduled caste population of two selected villages. Caste wise occupational

mobility in India has been studied by Majumder, in 2010.

In his work he has found that only few castes among the scheduled caste people are showing upward occupational mobility. Jhilam, and Rajarshi, in their work have observed that advance classes are showing vertical occupational mobility, whereas, excluded classes are showing much of their occupational mobility in lateral direction. The occupational and industrial mobility in USA has been studied by Passado in 2005. The impact of occupational mobility in Albania is studied by Carletto and Kilic in 2009. Behrman, and Taubman in (1985) have studied intergenerational earning mobility in the United States. Corak, and Heisz in 1999 have worked upon the intergenerational earning and income mobility of Canadian men. Hnatkovska, Lahiri, and Paul in (2011) have worked upon the impact of caste on labour mobility. Haider, and Solon in 2006 have worked upon life-cycle variation in association between current and life time earnings. But perhaps there is no such study available for scheduled caste population of the Lucknow district. So Lucknow district is selected as the study area and its blocks as units of analysis.

### Objectives

This piece of work will be meant to fulfill the following objectives

- To show the occupational mobility among the scheduled caste workers in different blocks of Lucknow district.
- To analyse block-wise socio-economic development of scheduled caste population of Lucknow district.

### Database and Methodology

The entire study is based upon the secondary sources of data which have been collected from Zila Sankhikiya Patrika.

### Z- Score and Composite Z-Score Technique

In order to reach standardization, the raw data for each variable has been computed into standard score. It is commonly known as Z value or 'Z' score. The scores measure the departure of individual observation from the arithmetic mean of all observations; expressed in comparable form. This means it becomes a linear transformation of original data and this method was first used by Smith (1968) in his study on inequality in Peru. The formula is:

$$Z_{ij} = \frac{X_{ij} - \bar{X}_i}{\sigma_i}$$

Where,

$Z_{ij}$  = Standardized value of the variable  $i$  in block  $j$ .

$X_{ij}$  = Actual value of variable  $i$  in block  $j$ .

$\bar{X}_i$  = Mean value of variable  $i$  in all block.

$\sigma_i$  = Standard deviation of variable  $i$  in all block.

In the second step, the z-scores of all variables have been added state and the average has been taken out for these variables which may be called as composite score (CS) for each block and may be algebraically expressed as:

$$CS = \frac{\sum Z_{ij}}{N}$$

Where,

CS is composite score,

N refers to the number of indicators (variables),

$\sum Z_{ij}$  indicates Z-Scores of all variables  $i$  in block  $j$ .

The positive values relating to the Z-Score of blocks explain high level of development and vice versa.

### Scheduled Caste Reservation

The Constitution, promulgated in 1950, recognized the SCs and the STs as two of the most under privileged social groups who need special attention. A number of provisions, therefore, were specifically incorporated for these social groups with a view to abolish all forms of discrimination, untouchability, and social exclusion resulting from the caste system and to alleviate the peripheral position of these social groups (Thorat and Senapati, 2006: 7). Thus, the Indian Government's approach towards these social groups has been primarily shaped by the provisions in the Constitution, which guarantee equality before the law, and empowers the state to make special provisions for the promotion of the educational, social, political and economic interests of the SCs/STs, and to further, protect them from any form of discrimination and exclusion. The Government has used a two-fold strategy for the empowerment of the SC/STs, which includes firstly, the provision of legal safeguards against discrimination and secondly, pro-active measures in the form of the reservation policy for the public sector and state-supported sectors. Reservations for the SC/STs in the Government services, educational institutions, and political bodies like the Central and the state legislatures also fall under pro-active measures. These measures have been incorporated to ensure the proportional participation of the SC/STs in the public domain –democratic decision-making bodies. It is equally important to understand that the reservation policy is confined to the state-run and supported sectors. The private sector, wherein, more than 90 percent of the SC/ST workers are engaged is excluded and therefore, remains outside the purview of the reservation policy and open to possible discrimination (Thorat and Senapati, 2006: 8).

It has been observed that the tertiary sector is continuously growing in the countries of growing economy like India. Thus the fundamental shift of workers from primary sector to tertiary sector is taking place in all the sections of the society including the scheduled caste population (Chandana, 1989: 152). This is because of the increase in the population of the nation which in turn broadens the base of service sector. Thus scheduled caste people may have better prospects in this sector provided that they learn the skills of doing various jobs. Scheduled caste people being the downtrodden segment of the society are generally involved in the least remunerative lowest ranked jobs in which returns are very low (Gosal, 1991 : 8). Though this tradition is still prevalent among them but few of them have migrated to the cities and acquired new technical know how which is becoming helpful to improve their socio-economic status. Thus they are no more involved only in their traditional jobs but are doing some other works also.

### Blok wise Occupational Mobility among the Scheduled Caste Population, Lucknow, 2014

Occupational mobility which simply means the ability of the individual to change job after

**Table 1: Sector wise Distribution of Scheduled Caste Total Main Workers in Lucknow, 2014**

Year	Block Wise Percentage Of Main Workers To The Total Population								Block Wise Percentage Of Agricultural Workers To Total Main Workers								Block Wise Percentage Of Household Industry Workers To Total Main Workers							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1995-2000	26.9	23.9	23.8	24.8	24.8	24.1	25.7	24.2	73.3	60.3	73.7	58.6	74.2	83.7	72.6	72.8	2.2	3.6	5.5	3.1	3.4	4.2	2.8	7.1
2004-05	26.9	23.9	23.8	24.8	24.8	24.1	25.7	24.2	73.3	60.3	73.7	58.6	74.2	83.7	72.6	72.8	2.2	3.6	5.5	3.1	3.4	4.2	2.8	7.1
2009-10	26.9	23.9	23.8	24.8	24.8	24.1	25.7	24.2	73.3	60.3	73.7	58.6	74.2	83.7	72.6	72.8	2.2	3.6	5.5	3.1	3.4	4.2	2.8	7.1
2012-13	26.9	23.9	23.8	24.8	24.8	24.1	25.7	24.2	73.3	60.3	73.7	58.6	74.2	83.7	72.6	72.8	2.2	3.6	5.5	3.1	3.4	4.2	2.8	7.1

**Source:** Zila Sankhikya Patrika, Tab 3B, 1995-2000, 2004-05, 2009-10, 2012-13

1. Gosaigang 2. Sarojnagar 3. Kakori 4. Chinhat 5. Mohanlalgang 6. Mal 7. Bahkshi ka Talab 8. Malihabad

The acquisition of a new skill (Maythaw, 2005: 358) may be useful in improving their socio-economic status. Occupational mobility in case of scheduled caste people will shift them from low paid menial jobs to well paid jobs and in turn will be helpful in improving their socio-economic status. From the table 1 it is clear that occupational distribution of scheduled caste population in different blocks of Lucknow district is same over the period of time. The percentage of main workers, agricultural workers and household industry workers remains the same. This means that occupational mobility is not visible at block level in case of scheduled caste population of state capital i.e., Lucknow.

### Socio-Economic Status of Scheduled Caste Population in Lucknow, 2012-13

The concept of development may be taken to imply an improvement in the material and cultural well being of the people in a region. The development of a region can be identified with an increase in the employment opportunities, availability of infrastructural facilities, amenities and services, proper distribution of resources, increase in production, and investment in consumption and so on. Thus, the development refers to an improvement of all the sectors of economic, social and cultural pursuits (Verma, 1993).

The level of socio-economic development is the aggregate output of the attainment of the various selected socio-economic indicators. To measure the overall level of socio-economic development, z-score of all sixteen selected variables (as shown in table 2) have been calculated and they are added block wise to find out the composite index of the socio-economic development as expressed in table 3.

**Table 2: Socio-Economic Development of Scheduled Caste Population in Lucknow, 2012-13**

		Gosaigang	Sarojnagar	Kakori	Chinhat	Mohanlalgang	Mal	Bahkshi Ka Talab	Malihabad
X <sub>1</sub>	Population density	603	640	658	789	573	571	646	696
X <sub>2</sub>	% of Scheduled Caste Population to the Total Population	44.8	37.8	40.7	26.5	45.5	45.9	36.2	38.8
X <sub>3</sub>	Literacy Rate	53.6	58.3	50.3	47.2	55.5	47.2	55.4	51.2
X <sub>4</sub>	% of area under main crops to gross sown area	186.7	149.3	146.3	148.5	158.2	138.1	164.5	136.4
X <sub>5</sub>	% of area under food crops to gross sown area	81.7	80.6	59.6	94.1	86.5	51.9	78.6	48.9
X <sub>6</sub>	Fertilizers consumption per hectare of gross area	160.9	187.9	161.4	390.2	135	131.2	148.3	158.4
X <sub>7</sub>	% of Net irrigated area to the net sown area	210.1	121.6	122.1	142.9	173.2	136.3	145.5	133

Table 2: Contd.,

X <sub>8</sub>	No of biogas plants per 100 inhabited villages	737.9	1065.6	511	893	672.6	577	406.9	516.3
X <sub>9</sub>	% of electrified villages on total inhabited villages	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
X <sub>10</sub>	Total pakka roads length per lakh population	191.2	217.8	178.9	262.6	145.3	188.5	229.6	222.6
X <sub>11</sub>	No. of health care services per lakh population	2	1.8	1.9	1.5	2.4	1.7	1.7	1.7
X <sub>12</sub>	No. of beds available in the hospitals per lakh population	21.4	7.1	24.6	5.9	20.1	22	6.7	6.7
X <sub>13</sub>	No. of primary schools per lakh population	93.6	109.8	112.1	103.8	100.6	100.6	115.9	113.5
X <sub>14</sub>	No. of upper primary schools per lakh population	35.6	37	45.4	33.4	34.6	34.7	43.8	37.3
X <sub>15</sub>	No. of higher secondary schools per lakh population	2.5	5.4	3.2	4.5	6.4	5.8	4.2	2.4
X <sub>16</sub>	Population per commertial bank	39327	22404	51424	44940	27612	24707	34277	29946

Source: Zila Sankhikya Patrika, Tab 3B, 2012-13

Table 3: Regional Distribution of Socio-Economic Development in Lucknow District, 2012-134

Blocks	Gosaigang	Sarojinagar	Kakori	Mohanlalga ng	Mal	Chinhat	Bakshi Ka Talab	Malihabad
Composite Mean Z Score of Socio-economic development	0.4686	0.4681	0.4687	0.4852	0.4855	0.4687	0.4999	0.4687

The composite mean Z score of socio-economic development is showing only a slight regional variation. It varies from 0.4681 in Sarojnagar to 0.4999 Bakhshi ka Talab. The blocks in descending order of their socio-economic development are Bahsshi ka talab (0.4999) followed by Mal (0.4855), Mohan Lal Gang (0.4852), Malihabad(0.4687), Kakori (0.4687), Chinhat (0.4687) , Gosaigang (0.4686) and lastly Sarojnagar (0.4681).

## CONCLUSIONS

From the results it is clear that in spite of reservation scheduled caste people are engaged more and more in agricultural sector and their shift to other sectors is not observable over the period of time (table 1). Apart from it scheduled caste socio-economic development is showing only slight regional variation. It is found to be highest in Sarojnagar and lowest in Bakhshi ka Talab (table 3)

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