

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

‘Scheduled Castes’ are defined in Article 366(24) of the Constitution of India, as -
“such castes, races or tribes or parts of or groups within such castes, races or tribes as are deemed under article 341 to be Scheduled Castes for the purpose of this Constitution.”

Article 341 of the Constitution of India States that

(1)The President may with respect to any State or Union Territory and where it is a State after consultation with the Governor thereof, by public notification, specify the castes, races or tribes or parts of or groups within castes, races or tribes which shall for the purposes of this Constitution be deemed to be Scheduled Castes in relation to that State or Union Territory, as the case may be.

(2)Parliament may by law include in or exclude from the list of Scheduled Castes specified in a notification issued under clause (1) any caste, race or tribe or part of or group within any caste, race or tribe, but save as aforesaid a notification issued under the said clause shall not be varied by any subsequent notification.

The introduction of the term ‘Scheduled Caste’ can be attributed to the most coveted Government of India Act of 1935. In April 1936, the British government issued the Government of India Scheduled Caste order 1936, specifying certain castes, races and tribes as scheduled castes in the then provinces of Assam, Bengal, Bihar and Bombay, Central provinces and Berrar, Madras, Orissa, Punjab and United Province. Prior to these, they are known as depressed classes. The depressed classes were systematically categorized in 1931 census by John Henry Hutton, the then census commissioner of India. The Scheduled Caste population is also referred as ‘Untouchables’, ‘Dalits’, ‘Harijan’ etc. The deprivation of Scheduled castes can be traced back to the historical processes of economic & social exclusion and discrimination based on caste system.

The ancient social system in India considered the ‘Sudras’ as the most inferior class and varna compared to other three varnas. Along with this, they had to endure numerous kinds of social, economic and political constraints in their livelihood. This classified ‘Sudras’ comprises various low caste groups, which have suffered communal and pecuniary inequity since ages. They had to dwell on the outskirts of the villages and were restricted to enter into common social spheres of daily life and even denied basic human rights. The concept of ‘pollution’ made their life excruciating and they were treated as untouchable castes. These

untouchables or castes were officially defined as depressed castes and they were systematically listed in the 1931-Census of India.

Recognizing the downtrodden situation of Scheduled Caste population, the Government of India has, over the years, continuously introduced policies and programmes for enhancing their human capacities and capabilities. The government's approach towards the Scheduled Caste primarily draws from provisions in the constitution, which legally abolished the practice of untouchability and the discrimination arising out of untouchability (Ar.17). The constitution guarantees equality before the law (Article 14) provides for the promotion of the educational and economic interests of Scheduled Castes and for their protection from social injustice and all forms of exploitation (Article 46); provides for special measures through reservation in government services; and also reserves seats in democratic political institution (Articles 330 and 335, 73rd Amendment Act, 1992). Finally, the constitution provides for the establishment of a permanent body to investigate and monitor the special and economic progress of Scheduled Castes on an annual basis.

Scheduled Castes (SCs) constitute about 16.6 percent (20,13,78,086) of the Indian population based on 2011 census of India. More than half the Scheduled Caste population is concentrated in the four states of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar and Tamil Nadu. In spite of sustained and consistent efforts on the part of the government to improve the condition of Scheduled Castes, this social group continues to be categorized amongst the poorest and most subordinated in Indian society by any measure of human development.

1.1 Review of Literature

In this section, an attempt is made to review the existing literature on the various aspects of the scheduled caste population of India in general.

Dr. Ambedkar (1948), “ in ‘The Untouchables’ has opined that the distinction between the Hindus and the Untouchables in its original form, before the advent of untouchability was the distinction between Tribesmen and Broken men who subsequently came to be treated as untouchables. His conclusion discloses that there still exists a great deal of discrimination against Harijans.” J.H. Hutton (1963) “in ‘Caste in India’, locates the origin of caste in the labour and division of labour, in the Pre-Aryan tribes of India. Untouchability arose due to the concept of ‘ritual impurity’. The depressed classes possessed traditional caste occupation, which was considered polluting to all caste Hindus. The low caste people still continued to be downtrodden class.”

Saradamoni (1980) “in ‘Emergence of slave caste’ analyzed the socio-economic conditions of the scheduled caste of Kerala. It highlights two important problems; the emergence of a slave caste from the early dark days to the present and to what extent social and economic justice has reached to these lowest strata of people. The gap between scheduled caste and other forward section have widened to a large extent. It is an important challenge to the Indian government to reduce that existing gap. She found that though the government introduces so many provisions for their development, the majority of the scheduled castes are continued to be as agricultural labourers and they face the problem of low wages, lack of skill and permanent dwelling place.”

Vinay *et al* (1985) examined “the relationship between the background of SC/ST students and their academic performance. The study revealed that the educational background of the family and urban location reflects some favorable impact on the performance of SC/ST students. The authors highlight the problem of scheduled caste students in IIT. They concluded that the level of educational performance among these students was far from satisfactory.”

Freeman’s (1986) study “focuses on the social deprivation and the atrocities towards the untouchables. He feels that the illiterate untouchables are subjected to brutal discrimination and economic exploitation by the upper castes. He concluded that the untouchables have accepted their oppression without further thinking of the desire to be free.”

Haiah (1990) examined “the report of the commissioner for Scheduled Castes and pointed out that the inequality between Scheduled Castes and others still continues as a systemic process.”Kakar (1990) conducted “a study of causative factors associated with poverty among Harijans. The author found out that, more than seventy percent of the Harijan families were living under the grip of poverty. Inadequate health service, insufficient income, low paid occupation, insufficient literacy and poor nutrition are some important factors, which cause poverty.” Patil (1990) examined, “whether the caste should be the basis for recognizing backwardness. According to him social backwardness of the lower castes is mainly due to the peculiarity of the caste-based occupation.”

Ahuja(1992) in “his book ‘Social problems in India’ had given an overall view about Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. He cited several incidents about the crimes and atrocities against the Scheduled Castes. Based on the performance in the professional courses, he commended that the quality of education among the Scheduled Castes remain low. He opined that the reservation policy for education has not really benefited to the

Scheduled Caste people.”Gopal Guru (1993) made “remarks on the basis of Dalit movement in India. According to him, Dalit movement is an outcome of Hinduism with its deep-rooted protest against Dalits. He mentioned some other scholars those who tried to link with Dalit movement with relative deprivation and social mobility. Guru feels that the movement is linked to achieving the socio-economic and civic advancement. He concluded that there is a close relationship between their backwardness and traditional occupations.” K.S. Singh (1995) “tried to generate a brief descriptive anthropological profile of SC communities of India, the impact of the development process on them and the links that bring them together.”

P.G. Jogdand *et al* (1995) stated that “Dalit women constitute a lower segment in Indian in Indian society and suffer from dual disadvantages: (a) of being Dalit and (b) being women. These women suffer all deprivations which their Caste group as a whole suffers. Besides, they have to undergo additional hardships because of their gender. Dalit women have to struggle harder to secure basic necessities of life, viz., food, fuel, and water. The interconnection between caste and gender was not brought to the fore and category of Dalit women figures neither in women studies nor in Caste studies. Admittedly, the problems of the Dalit women have not received the adequate attention of the mainstream women movement. Contrary to the belief of the mainstream women movement, the liberation of the women is not a uniform or undifferentiated domain. There is a general consensus among the contributors to this book that the Dalit woman is a separate category and they have typical problems as compared to other women in our society.”

Misra (1996) “made an assessment of Scheduled Castes Corporation and their performance in India. He tried to find out the extent of whether their achievements meet the expected level. After discussing the objectives and activities of the corporations, he makes a review of the portfolio of the activities. He finally reveals that the functioning of the corporation is not satisfactory.” Oliver Mendel Sohn and Marika Vicziany (1998) argue “that the incidence of violence involving Untouchables has increased significantly over the post-Independence period. The violence can be divided into ‘traditional’ forms and ‘others’ that are responses to Untouchable resistance to ritual subordination, often taking the form of organized retaliatory violence by caste Hindus, sometimes abetted by the police and state apparatus. There are marked regional variations in such violence and it is often tied up with broader political violence, associated with mainstream electoral contests as well as with class conflict and Naxalite revolutionaries.”

“Narender Kumar (1999) in his article established that education, political representation, development schemes have helped the younger generation of scheduled castes in Haryana to opt for modern occupations and value-orientation. Yet, the landlessness among rural SCs and violation of human rights of rural as well as urban Dalits persists.”

K.P. Kumaran (2000) in ‘Impact of Economic Reforms on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes’ places the need for public intervention for the development of Scheduled Castes and Tribes. SC and ST constitute more than a quarter of the total population. The new economic policy introduced in 1991, through the process of stabilization and structural adjustment envisaged that it will accelerate economic growth and benefits will reach to the vulnerable sections of society. But SC population had not benefitted to the core.” A.K Lal (2000), in his article, discusses various aspects of reservation policy existing for SC population. “According to him, reservation policy is unable to bring the scheduled castes into the political participation and it caused for their low status.” P.G. Jogdand (2000), “opined that once education and health become commodities in the market, Dalits cannot afford those as they are economically vulnerable section of the society”

Balagopal (2005) through his article “portrayed the conflict between the two Dalit castes regarding the subdivision of scheduled castes reservation quota. He argued that the unity of Dalit community is essential to face the discriminations and atrocities. Lack of unity will add fuel to fire.” Dr. T.R. Naval (2001) “discussed the origin of caste disabilities and the problem of atrocity on SC. The author also depicts the features of SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989, and instruments combating atrocities. He also stated that scheduled caste population is deprived of cherished declarations that are entitled to the overall development of population due to caste-based prejudices”.

Wankhede, G.G (2001), opined that “despite a century-old struggle for social and political reform and independence, literacy levels remain discouragingly low among substantial sections of the scheduled castes in Maharashtra. However, the rise in literacy rates has been marked by variations within the scheduled castes as borne out by census reports from 1961 onwards. The variations are based on levels of development, migration, and willingness to take on newer occupations, as well as traditions of hierarchy that continue to persist in the social system”.

GhanShyam Shah (2001) “made contributions to the ongoing debates on identity formation and political action by Dalits. The political action of Dalits was the center of

discussion. It also dealt with various aspects related to Dalit identity, movements, and political participation through institutional channels and concluded that Dalits found to be outsiders in all key areas.”

Sanjay Paswan and Paramanshi Jaideva (2002) made “an attempt to trace the reason of the present lower status of the so-called untouchables in Indian society. The major problem of the Dalits is poverty overlaid by social discrimination. Dalits, particularly SC (untouchables) were denied the right to property, right to education, and right to have adequate wages.” Kunhaman (2002) “examined the socio-economic development of Dalits in India. The Dalits have not made an adequate effort to get involved in the mainstream process and to influence it.” Arunkumar (2003) examined “the impact of globalization on the Dalit rights in India. He concluded that globalization is harmful to Dalits in general and their rights in particular.”

P. Louis (2003) stated “that even after five decades of implementation of reservation policy, the socio and economic conditions of these vulnerable sections have not been changed. He also commended that the share of scheduled castes in government services was obviously low. The examination of the socio-economic profile of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes shows that there has been no marked improvement in their social condition like literacy, employment in public sector, even after five decades of implementation of reservation policies. In every sector, discrimination was practiced without any penalty. The actual representation shows that this legal provision of reservation has been grossly violated at both state and central levels.”

Mahadeva (2003) examined the scale of socio-economic deprivation of Scheduled Castes. He stood against the inadequate public intervention for reducing their poverty. Scheduled castes population suffers large-scale poverty and deprivation. Awadhendra Sharan (2003) in his article argued that the scheduled community occupies a far distance from the upper caste in the matter of education. Mamta Rajawat (2003) advocated that “the scheduled castes as an entity are no less significant than any other fellow community in India’s society and polity. But still, a large section of our society still considers them as subjugated and oppressed. In fact, they have played, are playing and would continue to play a vital role, which no one else can match. Scheduled Castes are considered to have a world of their own identity. They deserve a fair agreement from all sections of the society.”

T.R.Naval (2004) opined “that the atrocities on the scheduled caste are due to caste prejudice or hatred. Various Hindu scriptures imposed caste disabilities which gave birth to the practice of untouchability and atrocities against the scheduled caste people.” Heredia (2004) illustrated “the pathetic situation of the Dalits before and after conversion. He stated that the Dalit conversion is only an attempt to escape from their tortured conditions.” Ray and Chand (2004) focused on the study of socio-economic dimensions of unemployment in India. From the study, they find out the unemployment among the graduate and above was highest for the scheduled caste both in rural and urban areas.

Naidu (2004) “in his study established that majority of the sample Scheduled Castes are illiterates and among the literates, the majority come under the lowest position in educational attainment ladder. It is further found that illiteracy is high throughout the successive generations of the Scheduled Castes. The rate of illiteracy has come down, in case of the fourth generation of the respondents. Educational immobility is more prevalent than mobility. The researcher concluded that the status of the Scheduled Castes of his sample area is varying positively due to the factors like urbanization, economic development, and progressive legislation.”

Waghmore (2005) “made an attempt to discuss the challenges for social development and it mainly concentrates the developmental issues facing under decentralized governance. He commented that the socio-economic and political deprivation of Dalit was due to the existing caste culture in Indian villages.” Thorat (2005) states “by the implementation of reservation policy the constraints can be removed which are imposed by the caste discrimination on labour markets, and thereby induce competitiveness and economic growth. It will provide fair and non-discriminatory access to historically excluded and discriminated groups like the Dalits. In a caste-divided society, the choice of occupation is not based on individual preferences or capabilities but is decided by birth in a particular caste. Caste becomes a direct cause of much of voluntary unemployment among high caste persons and involuntary unemployment among the low castes. Economic theories of caste imply that restrictions on labour mobility create huge imperfections and inefficiencies in the competitive allocation of labour, and produce less than optimum economic outcomes, besides denying fair access to the discriminated groups.”

Gudavarthy (2005) examined “the Dalit movement in Andrapradesh in his article. He found that the Dalit movements lost their strength in course of time. In the progression of the struggle against caste anarchies, the Dalit movement in Andhra Pradesh has acknowledged

the Naxalites as allies. The issue of solidarity between these movements has become extremely crucial not only in shaping themselves but also in determining the nature of social transformation in times to come. This paper is an attempt to build a description of the evolution of the Dalit movement through its various stages and its associations with the Naxalite movement in Andhra Pradesh.”

K. Shaoo (2005) “examined the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes in India have suffered from numerous vigorous social, economic and political problems for a long time. The central and state governments are keen on adopting various welfare measures meant for promoting their quality of life since the post independent decades. But it hasn’t produced significant changes in their lifestyle. And it is also noted that the fruits of the development are often reaped by the privileged section of the society. The present study attempted an empirical research on the impact of the developmental programmes meant for SCs and STs. The study investigated the factual aspects of the economic situation, education, health and housing condition of the SCs and STs. It also highpoints the nature of their social participation and the various restrictions faced by them in the process of development. The study focused on the problems of the SCs and STs in the context of development.”

Ghanshyam Shah (2006) “argued for the vigorous state action to end untouchability and discrimination against the Dalit population. The author presents a systematic evidence of the incidence and extent of the practice of untouchability in contemporary India. It is based on the results of a very large survey comprising 560 villages in 11 states and it is found that untouchability continues to be widely prevalent and is practiced in one form or another in almost 80 percent of the surveyed villages. Even though the extreme forms of prevailed untouchability have declined, the caste discrimination continues and is most predominant in the religious and personal spheres. The authors show that the notion of untouchability continues to pervade in the public sphere, including state institutions and the interactions that occur within them.”

Noor Muhammed (2006) “opines in his book that Scheduled castes constitute about one-sixth of the total population of India with a lot of spatiotemporal variations ranging from almost negligible to as high as 29 percent of the total population of the state. Prior to independence and even sometimes later, they had been the poorest of the poor and socially and economically most backward castes of the country. But after independence, they are going under social and economic change both in rural and urban areas. Their attitude towards society and social values and norms has undergone a change. They are gradually not only

accepting but have also started practicing certain measures of family planning. They are becoming more conscious about the education and job of their children. Their attitude towards religion, child marriage, superstition is changing. Economic transformation is also not lagging behind. By and large, they are no longer bonded or permanent labourers. They are now gradually becoming marginal farmers and have started working in non-agricultural sectors too. He critically analyses the socio-economic transformation of scheduled castes with focus on major social parameters such as education, marriage, religion, social mobility, family planning programmes, family size, superstitions and political awareness and involvements; and economic parameters like income level, standard of living, housing condition, mode of transport, and exposure to mass media and states a positive outcome. But they haven't reached to the mainstream life in relation with other dominant castes.”

Krishan Chand Ramotra (2008) analyses “the impact of various developmental schemes and plans on the Scheduled Castes in the state of Maharashtra the most disadvantaged and underprivileged section of the society. The author emphasizes their growth and geographical dissemination, landholdings, occupational structure, poverty, housing conditions, literacy and educational acquisitions, and their overall levels of development and found that there is a wide gap between the privileged castes and scheduled castes/scheduled tribe population.”

Darshan Singh (2009) “enquired the progress made with regard to their social, educational and occupation status and stated that the gap between the mainstream and the Scheduled Caste population still persists significantly in our traditional society. Therefore, there is an urgent need to reorient and emphasize the strategy in order to support the lesser privileged by providing quality education and infusing among them the individualistic and moralistic values of self-denial, temperance, forethought, thrift, sobriety, and self-sufficiency essential to bring these oppressed into the national mainstream.” Sukhadeo Thorat (2009), besides “presenting the present status of Dalits in India, also studies the changes in their situation with respect to a number of socio-economic indicators of human development. It summarizes the changes in disparities among Dalits and social groups in India and finally comes up with suggestions for the improvement in their situation.”

Raju Narayana Swami (2010) opined that “education in Kerala is heavily biased against the Scheduled Caste and Tribe people. Decentralization of education and management is an aspect that needs special consideration. In case of self-financing courses run by the university, the share of SC/ST students was marginal.”

“Based on empirical studies carried out in Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka during 2007-08, Ghanshyam Shah and Surinder S Jhodka (2010) made a brief introduction to the prevailing Dalit situation in the four countries and identified specific problems of social inequality, discrimination, and deprivation of the groups in these countries. The four studies clearly brought out the fact that even when the meaning of untouchability and its sources (religion or tradition) varies across south Asia, as also its forms (from physical touch and residential segregation to taboos and restrictions on inter-dining), physical movement and pursuing occupations of one's choice, its effects on those placed at the bottom are quite similar, ie, economic deprivation, social exclusion and a life of humiliation.”

R.B. Bhagat (2013) in his article commented that “ the economic and living conditions of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe households have experienced changes during the phase of accelerated economic growth in the last decade based on 2001 and 2011 Census data. There has been considerable progress in the well-being of SCs and STs during the last decade, but the gap between SCs and STs and of both these groups and the rest of the population has widened.”

Govardhan Wankhede (2016) “in his article ‘Higher Education and the Scheduled Castes in Maharashtra’ based on a study conducted in five Maharashtra districts, examines the factors that are significant among Scheduled Caste students' access to higher education. It looks at the problems they face during the admission process and takes stock of the difficulties they confront after securing admission. The article finds that SC students strongly feel the absence of guidance and support in academics and in making career choices.”

Thiagu Ranganathan, *et al*, (2017) explained in their article that “Looking at income mobility across different social groups in India using the India Human Development Survey data from 2004–05 and 2011–12, different notions of mobility are calculated. Average mobility across quintiles is seen to be higher among backward castes. Higher inter-temporal mobility among households belonging to Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes is noticed, while positional movement is similar across different social groups. Per capita, absolute income changes are seen to be the highest for forward Castes, while per capita directional income changes were highest for SC households.”

Vegard Iverson *et al* (2017) examine “intergenerational occupational mobility in India among males. This paper stressed three important aspects. First, a finer-grained categorization that takes into account differences in skill levels across occupations, as well as

India's social hierarchy of labour, is used. Second, both large and moderate ascents and descents are examined. Third, the situation in India with mobility patterns at other times and in other countries is compared. The results show vast differences in the upward and downward mobility prospects of urban and rural residents and upper-caste Hindus versus Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.”

In the light of the above reviews, it is understood that most of the studies have focused on caste discrimination, income poverty, economic backwardness, political degradation and low educational status. There still exists a gap between scheduled caste and the affluent sections of the society. It is in this context that the particular study has been undertaken.

1.2 Research gap

The existing literature states about the issue of the caste system, insufficient income, poverty, low educational status, inadequate consumption expenditure which leads to an impoverished life of SC masses. Due to various constitutional safeguard measures, government schemes and legislation, educational policies over last few decades, their status has been undergone vast changes. Even though it has caused a positive shift to their addressed issues mentioned earlier, still they remain in a deprived position compared to the advantaged sections of the society. Their enrolment ratio has been increased but it can't claim the improvement in their educational status and attainment of gainful employment. It is an undeniable fact that money income can't always procure welfare to the individual. The welfare of the individual includes freedom of choice, the capability of living a life at their disposal with adequate means of living. The government envisages and implements an adequate level of health amenities, educational facilities, housing schemes etc to the SC population. But whether they are deprived of in availing and using these facilities? Whether the attained educational qualification is enough to make them self-reliant or capable of having a decent standard of living? Are there any barriers to the attainment of basic needs of housing, services, proper living environment etc? Whether they suffer from the lack of capabilities related to satisfying basic needs of food, shelter, nutrition, water, living environment etc? The present study focuses on these unidentified areas of Scheduled Caste population.

Even though the Government is proving a wide array of schemes and policies for the emancipation of the Scheduled Caste population, it often fails to bring them to the forefront

of the society and to reduce the existing gap between them and affluent sections of the society. Various Studies have been conducted so far, for understanding the underlying factors for this particular issue. The existing literature showcased their lack of capacity as the fundamental reason for their deprived status. This Lack of capacity is attributed to their income, caste, wealth and educational status. But various modern thinkers repudiate the notion of calculating deprivation on the basis of money and income and pointed out various approaches for evaluating human deprivation. Human capital formation approach popularized by Adam Smith, Veblen, Marshall, Gary Becker, Harbison, Schultz, Dension, Kendrick, Abramowitz, Bowman, Kuznets etc focuses on increasing knowledge, health and skills of all people of the country thereby decreasing the deprivation among the population. Nobel laureate Amartya Sen pointed out that the lack of capability to achieve different functions caused for deprivation in people's lives rather than the low income and scarce resources. So the present study emphasis on the need and prospects of improving capabilities and human capital formation among SC population for reducing their deprivation.

1.3 Statement of the Research Problem

The caste system has implanted all its perils on the shoulders of scheduled caste population and made them the most oppressed class of Indian subcontinent. The origin of caste system in India dates back to the advent of Aryans. Later Indian society has been stratified on the basis of Varna. Vedic texts and literature throws light to that segregation and subjugated condition of lower caste population. The only menial occupation has been allowed to such section of the population. They had been deprived of all types of social and economic benefactions. Hence they remained on the lowest ladder of growth and development. Their situation was always worse during all the eras of Indian history. The practice of 'Untouchability' resulted in great injustice to the members of the concerned castes because they were discriminated against in every respect, and denied ownership of productive assets like land, as well as basic rights like education and equality, which resulted in the perpetuation of their extreme socio-economic deprivation. It is stated that Economic deprivation of Scheduled Caste population depends on their social identity.

The social and economic deprivation among Scheduled Castes had not been completely addressed even during post-Independent India. The government of India has been implemented several policy reformations, special safeguard policies for their welfare and upliftment. The objective of all such policies is to eradicate their social and economic disparities which existed in the society. But still, they remain vulnerable sections of the

society. Still, majority of their recruitments to various fields is through 'Reservation path', which shows their incompetence and inability to compete with the rest.

The fruits of development have not been distributed equally among the population of India. It is evident that there exist wide disparities in living standards between regions and between classes of people in India. The wide gap is due to the low rate of economic change among the poor section of the population who generally fail to make use of the development programmes implemented in the country so far. The inequalities that persist between rich and poor, men and women, rural and urban and among different ethnic groups are interrelated and overlapping. The overall economic growth of the country hasn't brought prosperity to those deteriorated classes of the society; still, their agonies remain unanswered. Now economic growth coupled with growth in population has raised many serious issues like deprivation in housing, education, healthcare, political discontent etc. Widespread disparities are being observed in the levels of living of different sections of the society.

A pilot survey to identify the Below Poverty Line population by planning commission has found that Scheduled Castes and Tribes constitute half of the total "poor, deprived households". The survey found that SCs/STs were a mere 25% of the "non-poor households" who showed deprivation on some of the parameters ranging from housing to illiteracy to homelessness and destitution. The findings restated the long-held hypothesis that Dalits are the most-underprivileged sections of the population and the easiest marker of poverty. The pilot survey is significant given that results have come from the representative sample of 166 villages across 22 states. While Dalits and tribals form the bulk of poor households, their share drops to 25% among the non-poor households with deprivation, a fact which underlines the relationship between SC/STs and economic status. The communities are not just poor but also score high on kutchha housing, illiteracy among adults, homelessness, destitution, landlessness with agricultural wages as their main source of income.

In India poverty has been estimated conventionally on the basis of the poverty line-cutting off people into two vast groups APL and BPL. Consumption expenditure forms the basis of calculation. According to the Tendulkar committee report (2011-12), the incidence of poverty has been remarkably reduced in economic terms, but we can't claim the complete "*wiping of tear from every eye*". As money and calorie intake don't form the complete basis of human welfare. Only a just and non-exploitative society can ensure the welfare of deprived section. It worth remembering Nehru's exhortation that "*so long as there are tears and*

suffering, so long our work will not be over” is very much true nearly 70 years after independence. Anti-poverty programmes haven't benefited equally from all segments of the needy population. Certain sections of society especially the Scheduled Castes still suffer from vulnerability. They are sufferers of many social issues like illiteracy and proliferating deprivation and poverty. The policy of protective discrimination was followed to reduce vast inequalities between the Scheduled Caste and other strata of society.

Various studies showed India has done less well in extending education to the bulk of its population and it has the somewhat neglected education of rural children and children from lower caste and class. The ancient social system may be said to have been guilty of failing to take the responsibility for the education of the oppressed and rural masses. In the year 1881-82, only .87% of the population of aboriginal and Hill-Tribes and low caste Hindus had primary education. Population having secondary and collegiate education of low caste Hindu was zero (percentage). In 1931, the rate of literacy of the scheduled castes was as low as 1.9% as against 9.5% for all communities. According to the census of the year 1961, the literacy rate was 17.25% and in the years of 1971 and 1981, it has increased to 22.90% and 31.12%. But it has noticed that the literacy rate of SC women for the census years 1931, 1961, 1971 and 1981 was .2, 3.29, 6.44 and 10.93% respectively. The poor incidence of education, of these communities, showed that the pace of achievement has been slower than that of the general population. For the same reason, there was lack of skill development among scheduled castes.

Kerala is well known for its achievements in social sectors - literacy, basic education, sex - ratio in favour of females, health, and life - expectancy, public distribution etc. Even though the condition of scheduled caste population in Kerala is better, when compared to the other states of India, still they are considered to be an excluded social group. Kerala can't claim a major improvement in reducing their inequality and deprivation in all fields of their life with the rest of the population. The government of India has introduced various schemes at the central, state and even at grass root level. Yet, they are still living in a very pathetic condition. In this context, the socio-economic development of scheduled castes has been considered to be an important obligation.

Human Development Report 2005 (Kerala) reported the index of deprivation on the basis of deprivation in four basic requirements for welfare such as housing quality, access to drinking water, good sanitation and electricity for lighting. These variables form more

desirable than consumption expenditure to evaluate the discrepancy among districts in terms of the incidence of poverty. Table 1.1 shows the district- wise index of deprivation and rank of districts based on Human Development Report of Kerala.

Table 1.1
District-wise Deprivation index of Kerala among SC/ST population

| No | District | SC | Rank | ST | Rank | Total population | Rank |
|----|--------------------|------|------|------|------|------------------|------|
| 1 | Thiruvananthapuram | 54.4 | 13 | 60.1 | 10 | 39.5 | 11 |
| 2 | Kollam | 47.8 | 8 | 50.7 | 5 | 30.4 | 8 |
| 3 | Pathanamthitta | 50.3 | 10 | 54.6 | 7 | 31.1 | 9 |
| 4 | Alappuzha | 45.9 | 6 | 40.1 | 3 | 29.6 | 6 |
| 5 | Kottayam | 42.1 | 4 | 43.1 | 4 | 25.1 | 3 |
| 6 | Idukki | 40.8 | 2 | 65.3 | 13 | 42.7 | 13 |
| 7 | Ernakulam | 29.3 | 1 | 37.2 | 1 | 15.5 | 1 |
| 8 | Thrissur | 42.0 | 3 | 37.5 | 2 | 24.7 | 2 |
| 9 | Palakkad | 52.9 | 12 | 65.3 | 12 | 40.4 | 12 |
| 10 | Malappuram | 46.2 | 7 | 56.8 | 8 | 28.6 | 5 |
| 11 | Kozhikkode | 48.8 | 9 | 50.9 | 6 | 28.3 | 4 |
| 12 | Wayanad | 51.5 | 11 | 66.0 | 14 | 46.3 | 14 |
| 13 | Kannur | 43.8 | 5 | 57.7 | 9 | 29.7 | 7 |
| 14 | Kasargod | 62.7 | 14 | 61.3 | 11 | 37.6 | 10 |
| | Total | 45.5 | | 57.9 | | 29.5 | |

Source: Human Development Report 2005, Kerala

The incidence of deprivation among SCs and STs in Kerala is 45.5 and 57.9 respectively while that for the total population is only 29.5. Kasargod, Thiruvananthapuram, Palakkad, Wayanad, and Pathanamthitta districts have deprivation indices of above 50 percent regarding SC population. These districts can be clustered under highest generalized deprivation indices group. Among these districts, Palakkad district has the highest concentration of scheduled castes. Highest SC population coupled with the highest deprivation index may lead to the prevalence of a wide array of development issues in Palakkad district. Therefore Palakkad district formed one of the sample areas for the present

study. Ernakulam, Thrissur, Idukki, Kottayam and Kannur districts have lowest deprivation indices below 50 % in respect to scheduled caste population. These districts can be grouped as lowest generalized deprivation indices districts. Thrissur district has the highest SC population in this group and forms the other sample area for the study.

In 10 districts, the deprivation indices are above 50% in respect of ST population and the same is highest in the three ST population concentrated districts of Wayanad, Idukki, and Palakkad. Among the Scheduled Castes, Vedan, Nayadi, Kalladi and Chakkilian are the most economically, socially and educationally backward castes. The majority among these are landless and living in huts built in 'Purambock' and are in starving conditions. Special emphasis is needed for the development of these communities including the provision of land and homes.

The outcome of social and economic reforms is uneven and far from satisfactory as far as the achievement of the stated goals is concerned. In spite of the various Constitutional safeguards and all the different schemes for their enrichment, the Socio-economic condition of Scheduled Castes is found to be much lower than that of the rest of the society. Even though the state has achieved progress in economic terms, we can't determine it as the status of all subdivisions its population. Economic progress is not the sole measure of individual's wellbeing. But, the social well-being of the citizen, freedom of choice, women empowerment, political freedom etc matters. The present study of deprivation of Scheduled Caste households in Kerala is an effort to investigate and collect evidence on their present conditions in this perspective.

1.4 Objectives of the study

The following are the main objectives of the present study.

- To examine various programmes and schemes implemented for the welfare of the scheduled caste population by the government.
- To study the status of Scheduled Caste population in Kerala on the basis of various socio-economic domains and indicators.
- To understand the pattern of human capital investment by Scheduled Caste households in Kerala.
- To assess the capability and economic deprivation among scheduled caste population in both rural and urban areas on the basis of gender.

1.5 Hypothesis

- There is a direct relationship between the income and expenditure for the human capital formation by the SC household.
- Economic deprivation among Scheduled caste females exceeds than that of Scheduled caste males.
- Capability Deprivation exceeds among Scheduled Caste households in rural area than Scheduled Caste households in urban areas

1.6 Theoretical Framework of the study

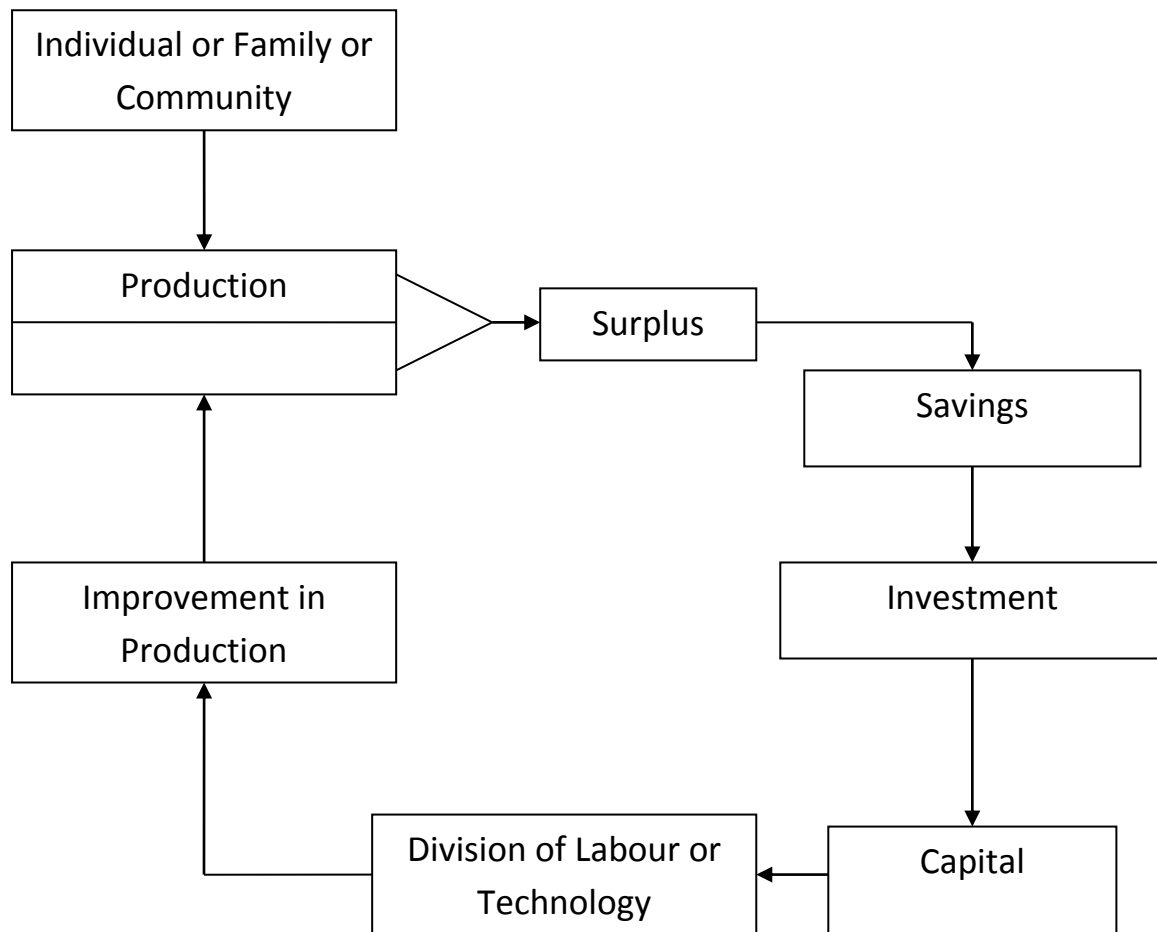
This segment deals with the theoretical foundation of the present study and different approaches to growth and development. The theoretical perspective developed in this study may be prefaced with a discussion of the existing theories of development that have been evolved by academicians to explain the process of development. The classical theory based primarily on the work of Adam Smith is taken as the first attempt to explain economic growth. According to his theory, growth is the result of the expansion of productive inputs and improvements in technology. For him, investment in physical and human capital is the key to economic growth. Adam Smith identified three main factors, which determine development viz., the productivity of labour, markets and zero political interventions.

Solow, the best exponent of neo-classical theory, included the productivity of labour and its re-investment as the two determinates of growth. The neo-classical economists assumed that individuals in the economy are independent of political control.

The second category is the geographic and location theory largely popularized by Jeffery Sachs and Jared Diamond. This theory suggests that climatic conditions and access to market are the primary determinates of development.

The third approach emphasizes substantive nature of the economy. It is known as the institutional approach and stresses the importance of creating an institutional framework and policy environment conducive to the smooth operation of markets, the realization of gains from trade and entrepreneurial activities. Douglass North and Peter Bauer are the main proponents of this theory.

Diagram 1.1
Growth Mechanism in Classical Economics



1.6.1 Human Capital Investment Approach

In the process of economic growth, it is often considered that the accumulation of physical capital is the sole vital factor. But later it is gradually accepted that the growth of

tangible capital stock depends to a substantial extent on human capital formation which is the “process of increasing knowledge, the skills and the capacities of all people of the country”.

Gary Becker has made a notable contribution in the area of human capital, i.e., human competence, and the consequences of investments in human competence. Becker distinguishes four areas: (i) investments in human capital; (ii) behaviour of the family (or household), including distribution of work and allocation of time in the family; (iii) crime and punishment; and (iv) discrimination on the markets for labour and goods. The theory of human capital has shaped an even and generally valid analytical framework for understanding several variables like the return on education, on-the-job training, and wage differentials, factors underlying economic growth, migration, as well as investments and earnings in the health sector.

According to Frederick.H.Harbison the term human capital formation refers to the “process of acquiring and increasing the number of persons who have the skills, education, and experience which are critical for the economic and the political development of a country. The human capital formation is thus associated with investment in man and his development as a creative and productive resource.” According to Schultz, there are five ways of developing human resources: “(i) health facilities and services, broadly conceived to include all expenditures that affect the life expectancy, strength, and stamina, and the vigour and vitality of the people; (ii) on-the-job training, including old type apprenticeships organized by firms; (iii) formally organized education at the elementary, secondary and higher levels; (iv) study programmes for adults that are not organized by firms, including extension programmes notably in agriculture; (v) migration of individuals and families to adjust to changing job opportunities.” In a broader sense, it can be stated that investment in human capital means expenditure on health and education.

Studies made by economists like Schultz, Frederick H. Harbison, Edward Fulton Denison, Kendrick, Moses Abramovitz, Becker, Bowman, Kuznets exposed that one of the major underlying factors for the rapid growth of the American economy has been attributed to the relatively increasing expenditures on education. They articulated that a dollar spent on education causes multiple repercussions on national income than a dollar spent on tangible capital goods. Prof. James k Galbraith opined that “we now get the larger part of our industrial growth not from more capital investment but from investment in men and improvements brought about by improved men.”

Economists like Adam Smith, Veblen and Marshall have also mentioned the importance of human capital in production. According to Adam Smith, the fourth point on a country's stock of fixed capital is 'the acquired and useful abilities of all the inhabitants or members of the society. The acquisition of such talents, by the maintenance of the acquirer during his education, study, or apprenticeship, always costs a real expense, which is a capital fixed and realized, as it were, in his person. Those talents, as they make a part of his fortune, so do they likewise of that of the society to which he belongs. The improved dexterity of a workman may be considered in the same light as a machine or instrument of trade which facilitates and abridges labour, and which, though it costs a certain expense, repays that expense with a profit.' Veblen considered the technological knowledge and skills as the community's 'immaterial equipment or intangible assets' essential for the use of physical capital. Alfred Marshall in his celebrated book 'Principle of Economics' opined that the most valuable of all capital is that invested in human beings. Low investment in human capital has caused the slow growth of the LDCs. Without sizeable investment in education, knowledge and technical know-how, skills and physical efficiency of the people, the productivity of physical capital will be reduced in such economies. Underdeveloped countries often face two distinct issues that they often lack the technical skills needed for the industrial sector and have unutilized surplus labour. Human capital formation aims at solving these difficulties by investing more in transforming human power as a productive resource. Human capital is, therefore, "needed to staff new and expanding government services, to introduce a new system of land use and new methods of agriculture, to develop new means of communication, to carry forward industrialization, and to build the educational system. In other words, innovation or the process of change from static or traditional society requires very large doses of strategic human capital."

LDCs are characterized by economic backwardness which manifests itself in low labour efficiency, factor immobility, and limited specialization in occupations and in trade, a deficient supply of entrepreneurship and customary values and traditional social institutions that minimize the incentives for economic change. The slow growth in knowledge is an especially severe restraint on progress. The economic quality of the population remains low when there is little knowledge of what natural resources are available, the alternative production techniques that are possible, the necessary skills, the existing market conditions and opportunities, and the institutions that might be created to favour economizing effort and economic rationality. To remove economic backwardness and instill the capacities and motivations to progress, it is necessary to increase the knowledge and skills of the people. In

fact, without an improvement in the quality of human factor, no progress is possible in an underdeveloped country. Investment in human capital is also required to raise the general living standards of the people in LDCs. This is possible when education and training make fuller and rational utilization of surplus manpower by providing larger and better job opportunities in both rural and urban areas. These, in turn, raise incomes and living standards of the people. As emphasized by Schultz, “It is as if we had a map of resources which did not include a mighty river and its tributaries. The particular river is fed by schooling, learning on-the-job, advances in health, and the growing stock of information of the economy”.

1.6.2 Capability approach

Poverty is understood as capability-deprivation. It is noteworthy that the emphasis is not only on how human beings actually function but also on their having the capability, which is a practical choice, to achieve outcomes that they value and have reason to value. Someone could be deprived of such capabilities in many ways, e.g. by ignorance, government oppression, lack of financial resources, or false consciousness. Here ‘poverty’ is understood as deprivation in the capability to live a good life, and ‘development’ is understood as capability expansion.

The capability approach is a theoretical framework that entails two core normative claims: first, the claim that the freedom to achieve well-being is of primary moral importance, and second, that freedom to achieve well-being is to be understood in terms of people's capabilities, that is, their real opportunities to do and be what they have reason to value. The approach has been developed in a variety of more specific normative theories, such as (partial) theories of social justice or accounts of development ethics. It has also led to a new and highly interdisciplinary literature in the social sciences resulting in new statistics and social indicators, and to a new policy paradigm which is mainly used in development studies, the so-called ‘human development approach’.

Some aspects of the capability approach can be traced back from the works of, Aristotle, Adam Smith, and Karl Marx. Nobel laureate Amartya Sen popularised the capability approach and philosopher Martha Nussbaum and some other notable scholars have significantly developed it. The capability approach rationales that freedom to achieve welfare is a matter of what people are able to do and to be, and thus the kind of life they are effectively able to lead. The capability approach is generally conceived as a flexible and

multi-purpose framework, rather than a precise theory of well-being. The capability approach asks social planners to inquire into the needs individuals have for resources and their diverse abilities to convert resources into functioning.

As in contradiction of the conventional way of observing poverty in terms of income and consumption, a broader approach advocated by Amartya Sen, which aims at evaluating people's lives in the terms of capability to achieve different functions. Under this concept, poverty is not merely seen in terms of an impoverished life of low income and scarce resources but also as capability deprivation where the poor have no freedom to choose other types of living.

1.6.3 Amartya Sen's capability approach

The Capability Approach was first articulated by the Indian economist and philosopher Amartya Sen in the 1980s. It has been employed extensively in the context of human development, for example, by the United Nations Development Programme, as a broader, deeper alternative to narrowly economic metrics such as growth in GDP per capita. The Capability Approach is defined by its choice of focus upon the moral significance of individuals' capability of achieving the kind of lives they have reason to value. This distinguishes it from more established approaches to ethical evaluation, such as utilitarianism or resources, which focuses exclusively on subjective well-being or the availability of means to the good life, respectively. Here 'poverty' is understood as deprivation in the capability to live a good life, and 'development' is understood as capability expansion.

The capability approach of Amartya Sen expresses poverty in terms of deprivation of people's capabilities – referring to what they can or cannot do, can or cannot be. It sees income, resources, and public facilities as mere means to achieve or expand human capabilities. In layman's language, Sen's development approach aims to make people more capable in terms of their skills, physical and mental abilities – it is kind of holistic approach. In the capability approach, expansion of people's capabilities is the prime goal – income, resources, and facilities have no meaning unless they enhance human capabilities. Human development index, Gender-related development index, Gender empowerment measure, Gender inequality index, Human poverty index etc are a few of the major indices that were created based on the theoretical grounds of Capabilities Approach.

1.7 Methodology

This section deals with the methodological aspects followed in the study. It comprises a source of data, sample design, concepts and tools of the study.

1.7.1 Source of data: The study about *Deprivation among scheduled castes in Kerala* comprises both primary and secondary data. The secondary data for the present study have been collected from various books, journals, reports, and e-resources. Authentic facts have been imbibed from various government departments and through their publications. Publications of Department of Economics and Statistics, Government of Kerala; Economic Reviews of various issues published by the Planning Board, Government of Kerala; Reports from Thrissur corporation; Scheduled caste development office Thrissur and Palakkad districts, Kerala state Development Corporation SC and ST Ltd, Panchayat level statistics from District Collectorate Office, Palakkad and Thrissur, Census reports published by the census department, Government of India. Development reports and annual plan reports from Kavassery panchayat, Palakkad district etc have been used for the study. The various professional journals and related books are also used for the same.

Survey method has been used for the study. Primary data has been gathered from sample areas. A well-structured interview schedule is used for collecting data from the sample population. Unstructured interviews were carried out with SC promoters, officials of panchayat, corporation and of various departments of Government intended for SC welfare. In order to satisfy the objectives, various indexes and statistical tools (SPSS) are used to compute the result.

1.7.2 Rationale for selecting sample areas/Sample design

A multi-stage sampling procedure was adopted for selecting the sample units.

- First Stage-Clustering of all districts of Kerala into two groups based on generalized deprivation index of Scheduled Caste population based on HDR 2005 as mentioned in 1.3 based on Table 1.1.

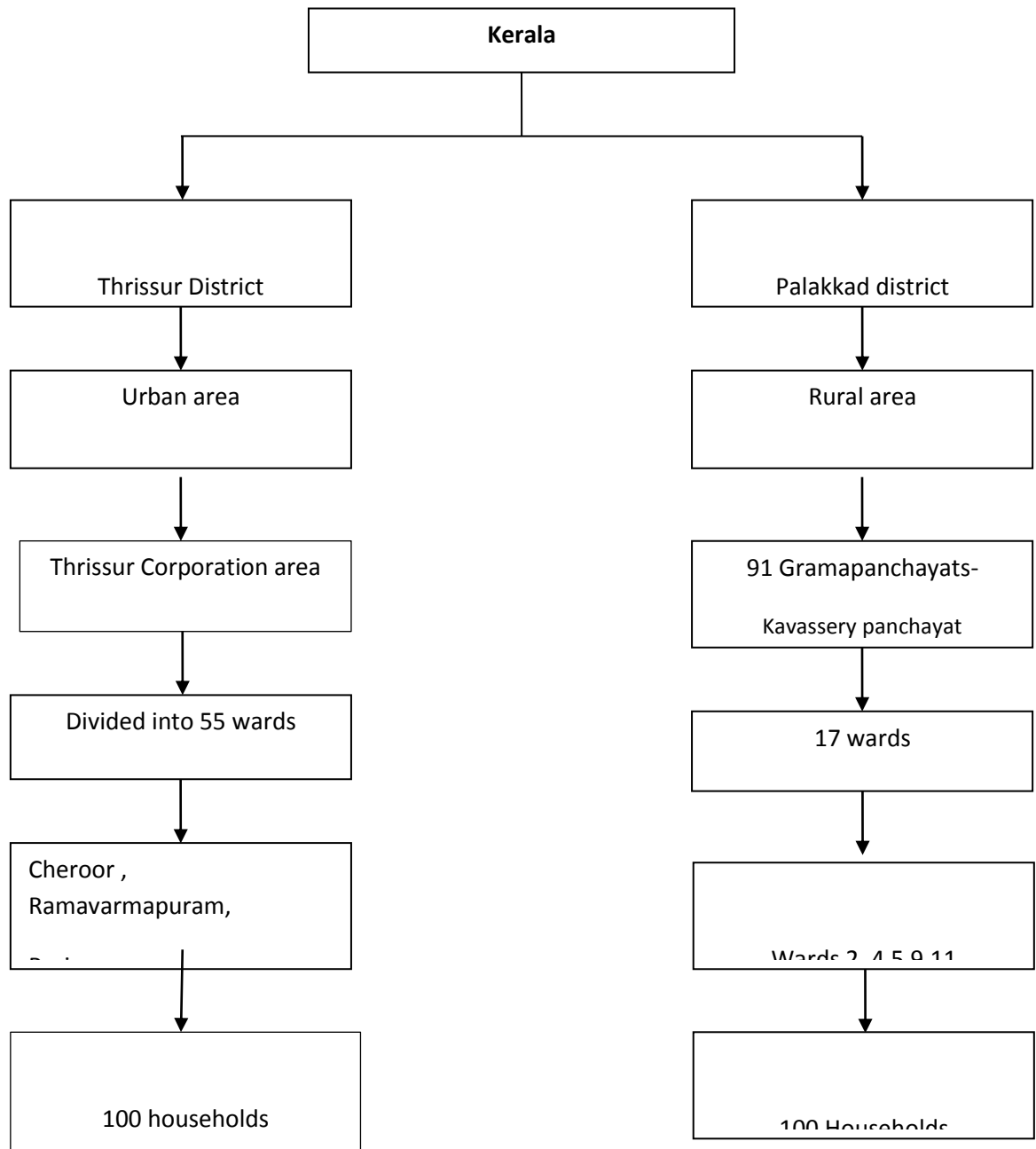
Group A: First five districts having generalized deprivation indices (HDR, 2005) less than 50%

Group B: First five districts having generalized deprivation indices (HDR, 2005) greater than 50 %

- Second Stage-Two districts were selected from those clustered Groups having SC population more than the state average.
Thrissur (Group A) and Palakkad (Group B) has been selected
- Third stage-The Sample areas have to further classify as rural and urban in consideration with corporation areas as urban zone and panchayat areas as a rural zone. From among them one Panchayat and one corporation area should be selected. For the study corporation area of Thrissur district as there is only one corporation area under the sample areas and Kavassery panchayat of Palakkad district which belongs to the Alathur block having highest SC concentration has been selected as urban and rural respectively.
- Fourth stage-In the selected panchayat and corporation, 5 wards each with the highest percentage of SC population were selected.
- Fifth /final Stage-Sample of 100 households was selected at random from the selected wards in both the Panchayat and corporation, in proportion to the scheduled caste population in each ward. Thus primary data were collected from a total of two hundred households with a total SC population of 942 individuals.

In Thrissur district, there are 16 Block panchayats, 88 Grama Panchayats, 5 Taluks, 6 municipalities and 1 corporation area. In Palakkad district, there are 13 block panchayats, 91 Grama panchayats, 5 taluks and 4 municipalities. For the study corporation area of Thrissur district and Kavassery panchayat of Palakkad district has been selected as urban and rural respectively. In Palakkad district, Alathur block possesses the highest concentration of SC population. Kavassery panchayat is included in Alathur block. By pilot survey, the samples are selected on a random basis.

Diagram 1.2
Sample Design



1.7.4 Concepts of the study

The major concepts of the study can be broadly classified into two groups' socio-economic variables and deprivation domain indices with respect to the objectives of the study.

A. Socio-economic variables

- **Livelihood promotion**

It could be defined as any programme or project, individual or group, meant to give a full time or part time engagement for the person involved in it and is capable of fetching a regular income.

- **Household**

A household is a group of persons who commonly live together and would take their meals in a common kitchen.

- **Economic status**

The variables such as income, expenditure, saving, asset holdings, debt position etc are taken for the purpose of analyzing economic status for the study.

- **Living Conditions**

The study has used the variables such as marital status, family size, educational status, housing conditions, sanitation, bathroom facility, electricity, availability of clean drinking water etc for analyzing the living conditions of the sample population.

B. Deprivation Domain Indices

- **Income**

The purpose of this Domain is to capture the proportions of the population experiencing income deprivation in an area.

- **Employment**

This Domain measures employment deprivation by considering people of working age who are involuntarily excluded from the world of work, either through unemployment, ill health or family circumstances etc.

- **Health and disability**

This Domain identifies the health status, health care access and health care quality of the population or whose quality of life is impaired by poor health or who are disabled, across the sample population.

- **Education, skills, and training**

The purpose of this Domain is to capture the extent of deprivation in education, skills, and training in a local area. The indicators fall into two sub-domains: one relating to lack of attainment among children and young people and one relating to lack of qualifications in terms of skills among adults. These two sub-domains are designed to reflect the ‘flow’ and ‘stock’ of educational disadvantage within an area respectively. That is, the children/young people sub-domain measures the deprivation in the attaining of qualifications, while the skills sub-domain measures the deprivation in the resident working for age adult population.

- **Barriers to Housing and Services**

The purpose of this Domain is to measure barriers to housing and key local services. The indicators fall into two sub-domains: ‘geographical barriers’ and ‘barriers to housing’ which includes issues relating to access to the housing such as affordability, insufficient housing space etc.

- **Living environment**

This Domain focuses on deprivation in the living environment. It comprises two sub-domains: the ‘indoors’ living environment which measures the quality of housing and the ‘outdoors’ living environment which contains two measures about air quality and road traffic accidents.

- **Political participation**

This domain focuses on the deprivation on the political field. To check whether they are politically empowered or degraded.

- **Crime**

This Domain measures the rate of recorded crime for four major crime themes – burglary, theft, criminal damage, and violence - representing the occurrence of personal and material victimization at a small area level.

1.7.5 Tools of Study

- The study uses various statistical tools and indexes to extract the precise results from the analysis. Various domains and indicators have been framed and computed for understanding deprivation in accordance with Indian context.

- Statistical tools like Discriminant analysis, Regression analysis (SPSS) etc and Percentages, averages and graphs have also been employed.
- WPR, LFPR, Human Deprivation index, Capability poverty Measure etc have also been included in the study.

1.8 Significance of the study

For the overall progress of a country, development of all sections of the population is mandatory. As Alfredo J. Artiles, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs Arizona State University opined to move forward we have to include everyone. So the inclusion of all vulnerable and downtrodden sections of the society is unavoidable in the path for development of a country. Poverty is multi-dimensional. It is not just a situation of income deprivation but also capability deprivation. The lack of freedom for choice, exclusion, political discrimination etc also can make individuals poor. Dalits being the vulnerable section of the society have been excluded from various spheres of life throughout ages. Mere economic progress wouldn't make their condition improved and unrivaled. Understanding the present condition of scheduled castes in this perspective is need of the hour. The present work undertakes the multi-dimensional aspect of deprivation of scheduled caste population for the study.

According to the census of India 2011, the literacy rate of total Schedule caste population of India is only 66% and the gender gap in literacy rate counts to 18%. It is a well-known fact that no country can experience significant economic development without sizable investment among all sections of people. Demographic dividend will benefit India if its population is educated, healthy, and adequately skilled. In this context, a study is inevitable to examine the human capital investments that affect the socio-economic conditions of the Scheduled Caste people.

The proposed study is an attempt towards re-examining the position of scheduled castes in Kerala after undergoing a decade-long experiment of participatory and decentralized governance. Poverty and deprivation can't be reduced in one swoop. It needs tremendous policy change and for that correct understanding of existing issues and problems is unavoidable. This study aimed to identify some critical gaps in the development process relating to said inclusion and economic development of Scheduled Caste population. The study focuses on deprivation of scheduled caste population, which can be bifurcated as economic deprivation (rural-urban) and capability deprivation (rural-urban) on the basis of gender.

1.9 Need for the study

It is the intention of the investigator to examine through the present study whether provisions of government bodies for the SC population could transmute the convivial equations in which this subset of the population lives. The study was conducted to appraise the human capital formation and socioeconomic status of SC population of Kerala in rural and urban areas. The purpose is to assess and monitor the on-going situation and to examine to what extent the capability and economic deprivation led to the living standard of SC population both in rural and urban areas leading to their economic backwardness and embargo so that the attention of the concerned authorities may be drawn to any drawbacks perceived in the current scenario and that it might be timely rectified.

1.10 Scope of the study

It is the humble expectation of the investigator that the findings of the present study would point out the possibilities of updating the issues and concerns for enhancing the status of SC population bringing it to the attention of government authorities and local bodies, so that necessary steps could be adapted for altering the relations between gender and class and providing better economic security for them especially SC women. It would, moreover, encourage government bodies to examine the quality of the programme from time to time so that necessary modifications and suitable changes might be made to re-vitalize the on-going process enabling SC population make a headway into most modern economic developments open to them in the global scenario.

1.11 Chapter Scheme

The present study consists of six chapters.

Chapter one the introductory chapter discusses the different approaches to growth and development and also portrays the review of existing literature, statement of the problem, objectives, methodology, sampling technique and sample areas, concepts and rationale for selecting sample areas, tools, the significance of the study, and scheme of the chapters.

Chapter two discusses the attainments and deprivations of scheduled castes in Kerala in comparison with national status.

Chapter three gives an overall view of the schemes and programmes, which intends for the development of scheduled castes.

Chapter four analyses the regional profile of study areas.

Chapter five analyses the socio-economic condition of Scheduled Caste and human capital investment of sample population in the study area.

Chapter six analyses various domains of Economic and capability deprivation among Sample Scheduled caste population in rural and urban areas

Chapter seven presents the summary, findings, and conclusion.