

CHAPTER 2

ATTAINMENTS AND DEPRIVATIONS AMONG SCHEDULED CASTES IN KERALA - AN OVERVIEW

Indian society is highly stratified, with many glaring inequalities among different socio-economic groups. The worst positioned among them are the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. They were often deprived of education, access to information, land, gainful employment and basic amenities of life like housing, sanitation, and drinking water. The central problem of Scheduled Castes has been poverty superimposed by social and economic discriminations. The concept of welfare incorporates the individual achievements in the dimensions of education, employment, nutritional status, political participation, land holdings etc.

The present chapter discusses:

- The demographic profile and achievements/deprivations of the Scheduled Castes population in Kerala in comparison with national figures.

2.1 Total population and Scheduled Caste population of India (1951-2011)

The first general census after the independence of India and partition of the country was held in the year 1951 and it is also known as 'year of small divide'. The general population of India based on 1951 census was accounted for 361.1million. The total population of India according to 1961 census was recorded to 439.2 million and the growth rate was found to be 1.96. The year of 1961 is called as the year of population explosion as the growth rate started to increase at the rate of 2% since 1961. The total population growth of India shows an increasing trend throughout the successive census years. Table 2.1 shows the trends in the growth of the total population of India since 1951.

Table 2.1

Trends in Total Population of India 1951-2011

Census year	Total population (in million)	Average annual growth rate
1951	361.1	1.25
1961	439.2	1.96
1971	547.9	2.20
1981	665.3	2.22
1991	838.6	2.16
2001	1028.6	1.97
2011	1210.5	1.66

Source: Census of India

The population of India has been quadrupled during the last 100 years stretching from 1911 to 2011. Now India bags second position in the size of population among the whole

world. And it is noted that the population crossed one billion in the census year 2001. During the last decade 2001-2011, the growth rate was 1.6 % per annum. And it shows a slight downtrend in the growth rate of the population compared to preceding decades.

The scheduled caste population of India also shows an increasing trend throughout the succeeding census years but less than that of the total population. Table 2.2 showcases the trends in the proportion of Scheduled Caste Population of India since 1961 census. According to 1961 census, SC population was recorded to 64.4 million which accounts for 14.7 percent of total population of the nation. The proportion of scheduled caste population to total population demonstrates an upward trend from 1961 onwards. And it is also pointed out that the SC population has the highest growth margin during the last decade (2001-2011).

Table 2.2

Trends in Proportion of Scheduled Caste Population of India since 1961 census

Census year	Scheduled Castes population (in million)	Proportion of SCs population
1961	64.4	14.7
1971	80.0	14.6
1981	104.8	15.7
1991	138.2	16.5
2001	166.6	16.2
2011	201.4	16.6

Source: Census of India

The population of Scheduled Castes in India, according to 2001, the census is 1665.76 lakh which accounts for 16.2 percent of total population of the country. The share of Scheduled Caste population in Kerala recorded to 9.81 percent as per 2001 census and the States of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Tamil Nadu occupy large concentration of scheduled castes which accounts for 28.9%, 24.7%, 23%, 21.1%, 19.3% and 19% respectively. The states like Manipur, Meghalaya, and Sikkim recorded the lowest concentration of scheduled caste population. The union territories of Chandigarh, Delhi, and Pondicherry account 17.5, 16.9 and 16.2 percent of SC population respectively. According to 2001 census, there is no scheduled caste list for the state Nagaland and the union territories of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep (census 2001).

The scheduled caste population of India according to 2011 census is 20.14 crore which accounts for 16.6% of total population of India. Uttar Pradesh stands first with 20.5% of the total scheduled caste (SC) population, followed by West Bengal with 10.7%, Bihar with 8.2%

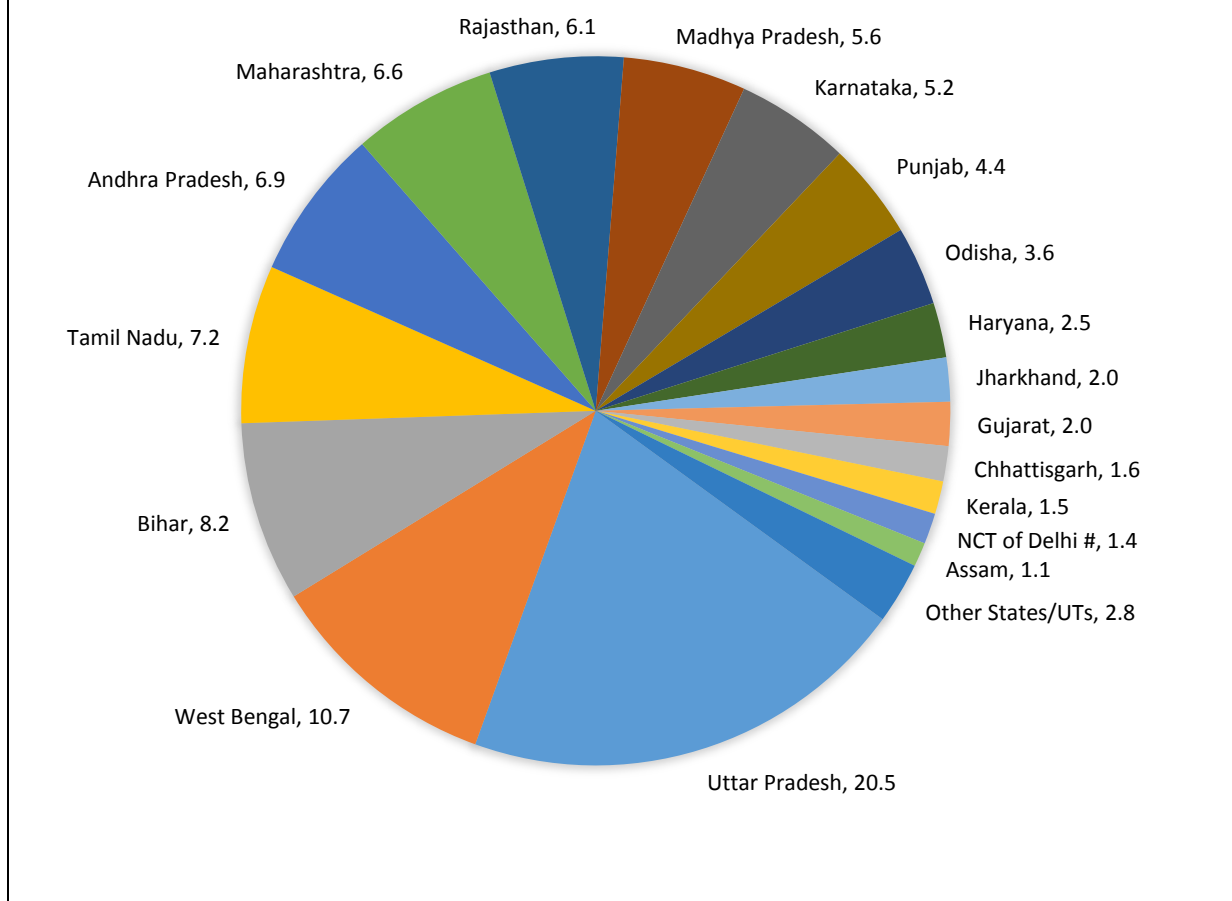
and Tamil Nadu with 7.2 % come third and fourth position. It indicates that half of India's SC population lives in these four states. The SC population showed a decadal growth of 20.8%, whereas India's population grew 17.7% during the same period. The ratio of women in SC population accounts for 9.79crore and sex-ratio to be 946 females to 1000 males. No SC population is noted in Nagaland, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Punjab has the largest share of SCs in its population at 31.9% followed by Himachal Pradesh and West Bengal with 25.2% and 23.5 % (Census 2011). Kerala records the highest rate of sex ratio (1057) followed by Puducherry 1056 and Goa 1015(Census 2011). Appendix

The total SC population according to 2001 census was 166635700 and it has been increased to 201378086 as per 2011 census. The rate of growth of the SC population during the 2001-11 is 20.8% whereas the growth rate of total population during last decade is (2001-11) is 17.7%. The decadal growth rate of total population in rural and urban areas is 12.3% and 31.7% while it is 15.7% and 41.3% respectively for SC population. It is noted that for both total and SC population the decadal growth rate (2001-11) is more favourable to the urban area than in rural area (Census 2001 &2011).

The total number of SC households according to 2001 census was 32526101 and it has been increased to 41694816 households as per 2011 census. The percentage of SC households is more in rural (18.9%) area than in urban area (12.2). The total number of households based on 2001 census was 193579954 and it has been hiked to 249454252 as per 2011 census. The absolute number of total rural households exceeds than urban households in both 2001 and 2011 census years (Census 2001 &2011).

Diagram 2.1

STATE/UT'S SHARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES(SC) TO
TOTAL SC POPULATION OF INDIA



Source: Census of India

Diagram 2.1 shows the % share of SC population of various states and UTs to the total population of India. Uttar Pradesh has highest % share of SC population (20.5%) followed by West Bengal (10.7%), Bihar (8.2%), and Tamilnadu (7.2%). The states and UTs having the percentage share of scheduled castes below 1 percentage are Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Tripura, Chandigarh, Pondicherry, Sikkim, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Daman & Diu, D & N Haveli, Goa.

2.1.1 Scheduled Caste Population in Kerala since 1971

The growth rate of the population of Scheduled Castes in the state is much lower than the all India growth rate during 1991-2001. The percentage of scheduled caste population to the total population of India is 16.20%, while in Kerala it is only 9.81% (2001 census). The growth rate in Kerala is 8.14% as against 20.55% for the country as a whole. The Scheduled Caste (SC) population of Kerala State is 3,123,941 as per 2001 census constituting 9.8

percent of the total population (31,841,374) of the State. The growth of SC population has been 8.2 percent which is 1.2 percent lower than the growth of total population (9.4 percent) in 1991-2001. The State has a total of sixty-eight (68) SCs and all have been enumerated at 2001 census.

Table 2.3

Scheduled Caste Population/Decadal growth rate- Kerala (1971-2011) (in lakhs)

Census Years	Population in Kerala		Decadal Growth Rate	
	Total Population	SC Population	Total Population	SC Population
1971	213.47	17.22	26.33	20.00
1981	254.50	25.49	19.2	48.02
1991	290.32	28.87	14.3	13.26
2001	318.40	31.22	9.45	8.14
2011	333.8	30.39	4.9	20.85

Source: Economic Reviews – 2010,2012,2016 State Planning Board, Government of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram

Table 2.3 shows the Scheduled Caste Population and Decadal growth rate in Kerala (1971-2011). In Kerala, the decadal growth rate increased from 20 percent in 1971 to 48.02 % in 1981. From, 1991 onwards it started declining. The decadal growth rate of SC population of Kerala has declined from 13.26 in 1991 to 8.14% in 2001. During 1981-91 the decadal growth rate of Kerala is 13.26. During the same period, the decadal growth rate of Scheduled Caste population in India is 31%. During the last decade 1991-2001 the decadal growth rate of scheduled caste in Kerala is slightly lower compared to the earlier decade of 1971-1981. The decadal growth rate of total population in Kerala during the last decade 2001-2011 has been recorded to 4.9 but the decadal growth rate of SC population is much higher than this (20.85%).

According to 2001 census, the Scheduled Caste population in the state is 31.24 lakh accounting for 2.10 percent of the Scheduled Caste population of the country. The share of Scheduled Caste population to the total population of the state is 9.8%. In India, the Scheduled Caste population account for 16.23% of the total population. The Scheduled castes are overwhelmingly rural with 81.8% residing in rural areas. The SC and ST population is not evenly distributed across the state. Among the districts, Palakkad has the highest proportion of SC population in Kerala (16.5%) followed by Idukki (14.1%), Pathanamthitta

(13.1%) and Kollam (12.5%). The districts with the lowest percentage of SC population are Kannur district (4.1%), Wayanad (4.3%) and Kozhikode (7%)(census 2001). Table 2.4 shows District wise Percentage of SCs to the total population of the state

Table 2.4

District-wise %Distribution of SC Population of Kerala (2001-2011)

Sl. No.	Name of District	Percentage of SCs to the total population of the state	
		2001	2011
1	Kasargod	7.49	4.1
2	Kannur	4.11	3.3
3	Wayanad	4.27	4.0
4	Kozhikode	6.98	6.5
5	Malappuram	7.87	7.5
6	Palakkad	16.83	14.4
7	Thrissur	11.91	10.4
8	Eranakulam	8.48	8.2
9	Idukki	14.11	13.1
10	Kottayam	7.69	7.8
11	Alapuzha	9.45	9.5
12	Pathanamthitta	13.13	13.7
13	Kollam	12.49	12.5
14	Thiruvananthapuram	71.47	11.3
	Total	9.81	9.1

Source: Economic Reviews – 2010-16, State Planning Board, Government of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram

According to 2011 census, the share of Scheduled Caste population in Kerala recorded to 3039573 and among this 1818281 are in rural areas 1221292 in urban areas. The SC population constitutes 9.1% of the total population of Kerala state. The total number of Male scheduled caste counts to 1477808 (rural-883819 and urban-593989) and female scheduled caste population sums to 1561765 (rural-934462 and urban-627303) and sex –ratio of Kerala is 1057. The decadal growth rate of Scheduled Caste population is 20.85 % (Economic Review, 2016).

Palakkad District constitutes highest SC Population (403833) and Thiruvananthapuram District shows highest Female representation with 52.12%. Wayanad District is in the lowest position in terms of population (32578) and Female representation (49.64%) regarding SC Population. The highest distributions of Scheduled Caste are seen in districts of Palakkad District (14.4 percent), Thiruvananthapuram (11.3 percent), Kollam (12.5 percent), Thrissur (10.4 percent) and Malappuram (10.14 percent). These five districts accommodate 57.17 percent of the total Scheduled Caste in the state and have Scheduled Caste population more than 10 percent of total population and it is higher than the state average. Appendix

Table 2.5
District-wise % of Female SC Population of Kerala (2011 census)

Sl. No.	Name of District	% of Female to total
1	Kasargod	50.48
2	Kannur	51.70
3	Wayanad	49.64
4	Kozhikode	51.16
5	Malappuram	50.84
6	Palakkad	51.11
7	Thrissur	51.76
8	Ernakulam	50.98
9	Idukki	50.24
10	Kottayam	50.94
11	Alapuzha	51.70
12	Pathanamthitta	52.00
13	Kollam	51.93
14	Thiruvananthapuram	52.12
	Kerala	51.38

Source: Economic Review – 2016, State Planning Board, Government of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram

The percentage of SC/ST population to the total population of Kerala is 9.1 & 1.45 percent respectively. Out of which female population is above 50 % in both SC and ST population (Gender statistics 2015-16). There is an insignificant decrease in the proportion of SC population for about .7% (84368 in absolute terms) as the proportion during the last census is about 9.8%. One of the reasons for the decline is that some communities in SC have been included in ST classification.

According to the amendment to the Constitution in 2006, there are 53 communities among the Scheduled Caste. The settlement pattern of Scheduled Caste in the state is entirely different from other parts of the country. The major share of the Scheduled Caste in the state lives as scattered along with other people. The Vedar, Vettuvan, Nayadi, Kalladi, Arundhathiyar/ Chakkiliar are the vulnerable communities among Scheduled Caste. They constitute 3.65 percent of the SC population in the State. (Economic Review -2016, p-246)

Appendix

The state had sixty-eight Scheduled caste communities as per 2001 census. Out of 68 SC communities, Pulayan with a population of 1041540 (33.3% of the total SC population of the state) stood first in population size. Cheruman is the second largest SC numbering 316,518. Five other SCs namely Karuvan, Paraiyan, Kannakan, Thandan and Vettuvan along with Pulayan and Cheruman constitute 77.7% of the total SC population. Seven remaining castes namely Vannan, Chakkiliyan, Paravan etc. with a population ranging from 40,070 to 90962 accounting for 12.8% and the remaining 54 SC groups along with the generic castes constitute the residual 9.5% of the total SC population.

Table 2.6

Community wise Scheduled caste population in Kerala 2011 census

Community	Population
Adi Dravida	818
Adi Karnataka	907
Ajila	222
Arunthathiyar	1354
Ayyanavar	7051
Baira	627
Bakuda	5499
Bathada	10
Bharatar/Paravan	40068
Chakkiliyan	27834
Cheruman	287520
Domban	302
Holeya	1511
kakkalan	3559

Kalladi	33935
kanakkan	214110
Kavara	12618
Kootan	550
kuravan	210488
Maila	90
malayan	9750
Mannan	173207
Moger	21040
mundala	274
Nalakeyava	34
Nalkadaya	1951
Nayadi	1905
Pallan	23504
Pulluvan	4543
Panan	38511
paraiyan	166328
Pulayan	844845
Puthirai Vannan	101
Samagara	47
Chemman	681
Thandan	90951
Valluvan	16219
Vetan	21630
Vettavan	106932
Nerian	5

Source: Gender statistics 2015-16, Department of Economics and Statistics, Govt of Kerala

Table 2.6 shows Community wise Scheduled caste population in Kerala based on 2011 census. The list of Scheduled caste had undergone changes in last decade 2001-2011 resulting in alterations in scheduled caste communities. There are 40 Communities of Scheduled Castes in our State according to 2011 census. Out of 40 Scheduled Castes, Pulayan (including its 10 sub-castes) is the most populous caste with a population of 844845 in the total SC population of the State, of which 433490 are women. Cheruman is the second largest

SC numbering 287520 out of this 146087 are women. Five other SCs namely, Kannakan, Paraiyan, and Vettuvan community constitute a major portion of the total SC population. Among the districts, Eranakulam district has the highest number of Pulayan community with 19.02 percent followed by Thrissur with 14.07 percent, Alappuzha 12.8 per cent. Wayanad district has the lowest number of Pulayan community with 0.67 percent. Palakkad district has the highest number of Cheruman community with 49.46 percent followed by Malappuram with 32.11 percent. Bathada community is the least number of SC communities in State with only 10 members, wherein 5 are females. (Gender Statistics 2015-16)

2.1.2 Sex-Ratio of Scheduled Caste population since 1971

Since 1971 the sex ratio of Scheduled Castes population indicates an increasing trend Kerala state level but in national level increasing trend is recorded from 1991 onwards. In national level Sex ratio of scheduled caste population has been increased from 936 (2001 census) to 933 (2011 census) and it is greater than total population sex ratio. The sex ratio of scheduled caste in Kerala has been increased from 1012 in 1971 to 1057 in 2011. According to 2001 census, 51.19% of the Scheduled Caste population is women as against 48% for the country as a whole. The sex ratio for Scheduled Castes in Kerala is 1048 as against 936 at the all India level (2001 census).

Table 2.7

Sex Ratio of Scheduled Castes and Tribes (India and Kerala) 1971-2011

Census Years	INDIA			KERALA		
	Total Population	SC	ST	Total Population	SC	ST
1971	930	935	982	1016	1012	995
1981	934	932	984	1032	1023	992
1991	927	922	972	1036	1029	996
2001	933	936	978	1058	1048	1027
2011	943	945	990	1084	1057	1035

Source: Economic Review – 2016, State Planning Board, Government of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram

Based on 2011 census report, in Kerala, the sex ratio of SC (1057) is lower than total sex ratio (1084) of the state. The district wise analysis based on 2001 census shows that the highest sex ratio of 1075 is found in Thiruvananthapuram district and the lowest in Wayanad with 993 females per 1000 males. Table 2.8 shows the district wise sex ratio of scheduled castes in Kerala.

Table 2.8

District-wise Sex Ratio of Scheduled Castes

Sl. No.	District	2001 Sex Ratio	Sex ratio 2011
1	Kasargod	1009	1019
2	Kannur	1050	1070
3	Wayanad	993	985
4	Kozhikode	1042	1047
5	Malapuram	1031	1033
6	Palakkad	1053	1045
7	Thrissur	1066	1072
8	Ernakulam	1031	1040
9	Idukki	1007	1009
10	Kottayam	1033	1038
11	Alapuzha	1056	1070
12	Pathanamthitta	1057	1083
13	Kollam	1058	1080
14	Thiruvananthapuram	1075	1088
Kerala		1048	1057

Source: Economic Reviews – 2010-16, State Planning Board, Government of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram

According to the 2011 census, the SC sex ratio of Kerala has been recorded to 1057. Thiruvananthapuram has the highest SC sex ratio with 1088 and Wayanad has the lowest SC sex ratio with 985.

Though there is an increase in the population of Dalits in the country, many states with a considerable number of Dalits don't have any legislation to protect the interests of the community. Dalit empowerment is very poor in many states," said former Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) MLA D Ravikumar (Times of India, May 2, 2013). Even though the SC population has increased in relation to 2001 census, the majority still remain landless.

2.2 Literacy

The Scheduled Caste population has shown an increasing trend in the level of literacy in both national and Kerala state level since 1971. The overall literacy rate of SCs in Kerala 1991 was 79.7 percent. This has increased to 82.7 percent at 2001. This is significantly higher than the national average of 54.7 percent. In 2011 it has been further increased to 88.7 as against national measure of 66.07. (Economic review 2016)

Table 2.9

Literacy rates of Scheduled Caste in India and Kerala 1971-2011

Census Years	India		Kerala	
	Total	SC	Total	SC
1971	29.45	14.67	60.42	40.21
1981	36.03	21.38	70.42	55.46

1991	52.21	31.41	89.45	79.66
2001	65.38	54.70	90.92	82.7
2011	74.04	66.07	93.91	88.7

Source: Economic Review – 2010-16, State Planning Board, Government of Kerala,

Thiruvananthapuram

The literacy rates for the Scheduled Castes indicate wide inter-state variations. The highest literacy rates for both males and females were found in Kerala, Tripura, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh. The lowest literacy rates were observed in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, and Andrapradesh. According to 2011 census, Mizoram and Daman and Diu hold the highest rates of literacy among SCs in India 92.4% and 92.56%, but they possess the lowest share of SC population (below 1%). So the high percentage cannot be concluded as an absolute achievement. Table 2.10 shows the Literacy Rate of SC population and a total population of India based on 2001 and 2011 census. (Economic review,2016)

Appendix

Table 2.10
Gender Gap in Literacy Rate among Total and SC population (2001&2011 census)

Indicator	Literacy Rate (Males)		Literacy Rate (Females)		Gender Gap	
	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011
Total Population						
Total	75.3	80.9	53.7	64.6	21.6	16.3
Rural	70.7	77.2	46.1	57.9	24.6	19.3
Urban	86.3	88.8	72.9	79.1	13.4	9.7
Scheduled Castes						
Total	66.6	75.2	41.9	56.5	24.7	18.7
Rural	63.7	72.6	37.8	52.6	25.9	20.0
Urban	77.9	83.3	57.5	68.6	20.4	14.7

Source: Census of India (2011)

The effective literacy rate of total SC population has increased from 54.7% (2001 census) to 66.1% (2011 census). The literacy rate of total SC population in the rural area is 62.8% which is less than urban area 76.2%. Total SC Male literacy has gone up from 66.6 (2001 census) percent to 75.2 percent (2011 census); in case of total SC female literacy, it has increased from 41.9 % (2001 census) to 56.5 % (2011 census). According to 2011 census, the literacy rate among rural SC males (72.6%) is less than that of Urban SC males (83.3%) and

the literacy rate among rural SC Females (52.6%) is less than that of Urban SC Females (68.6%). Even though the gender gap in literacy rate of scheduled caste population in India has been reduced from 24.7 % (2001 census) to 18.7% (2011 census), the literacy rate of SC females is less than of their male counterparts in both rural and urban areas. So deprivation is clearly evident among SC females and rural SC population” (census 2011).

“Among the districts, Kottayam district shows the highest literacy rate (90.26%), and the lowest literacy rate recorded is in Kasargod district (63.61%) preceded by Palakkad (67.61%), Idukki (72.67%) as per 1991 census. There is a wide disparity between the male and female literacy rate, they constitute 85.22% and 74.31% respectively. But the female literacy rate among Scheduled Caste people has increased from 17.4% in 1961 to 74.31% in 1991.

Among Scheduled Castes population in the State, the total Literary Rate is 88.73 and female literacy rate is 85.07 and the male literacy rate is 92.64 as per 2011 census. So it is clearly understood that women are more deprived of this aspect. Females lag behind their male counterparts in the number of literates among all districts of Kerala. The highest female Literacy Rate in Scheduled Castes is recorded in Kottayam district with 92.78 followed by Alappuzha district with 90.68 and lowest is recorded in Kasaragod district with 80.19.”(Gender Statistics 2014-15, page 78).

“The highest number of illiterates from the SC community in Kerala is Pulayan with 66879 of which 44935 are female(67 percent) followed by Cheruman with 37908 of which 25076 (66percent)and Kanakkan with 2450 of which 16239 are female (66 percent).The least number of illiterates from the Bathada and Nerian with one member each. On the other hand, the highest number of literates is from the cheruman with 5438 of which 3043 are female,(56 percent) followed by Pulayan with 4735 of which 3127 are female (66percent) and kanakkan with 2827 of which 1677 are female (59 percent).”(2011 census)

Appendix

2.2.1 Education and Enrolment

The quality of Scheduled Caste population in terms of educational levels was relatively poor in national level. The SCs significantly lay behind their non-SC/ST counterparts. Higher attainment rates for SCs up to the primary education level and a gradual drop thereafter indicate that a majority of SC children terminate their school education on or before the primary classes, while non-SC/ST children go into subsequent stages of education.

As per the figures of 2010-11, SC students constitute 11.02% of total students in the state. The percentage of SC students in government schools, private aided schools, and private unaided schools is 13.73%, 10.71%, and 3.62% respectively. About 37.26% of SC students are studying in government schools, 60% of SC students are enrolled in aided schools and only 2.74% of SC students in the state are studying in unaided schools, whereas 61.76% and 8.34% of total students in the state are enrolled in aided and unaided schools respectively.

In 2016-17 SC students constituted the 10.71 %of the total student population of the state. The percentage of SC students is higher in government schools (13.46%) than in that of private aided (10.56%) and unaided schools (4.11%) respectively.

Table 2.11
Percentage of Enrolment of SC/ST School Students in Kerala (2016-17)

Management	Others	SC	ST
Government	82.69	13.46	3.85
Private aided	87.89	10.56	1.55
Private unaided	95.43	4.11	.46

Source: Economic Review – 2016, State Planning Board, Government of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram

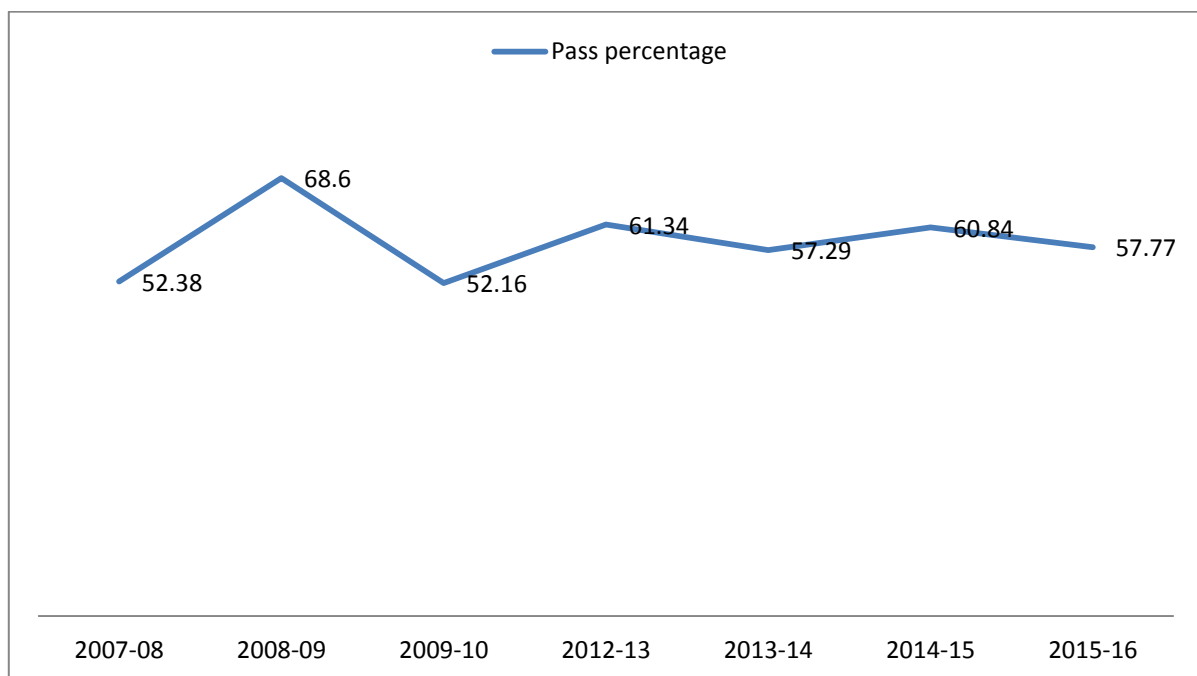
In Scheduled Caste (SC) community, girls' students constitute 10.93% of total students enrolled in the State. The percentage of SC girl students to total girl students enrolled in government schools, private aided schools and private unaided schools are 4.2%, 6.39%, and 0.4 % respectively. The percentage of SC girl students in aided schools is higher than that in government schools and private unaided schools. As per the enrolment details of students in Vocational higher secondary schools, only 8.7% are SC students. The enrolment of Scheduled Caste (SC) students in degree and Postgraduate Courses in the State is 32,002 (13.79) and 4,414 (13.35) respectively. SC students constitute only 13.74 percent of total students in 2015-16. So their educational enrollment/attainment is low compared to other sections of the society.

The percentage of pass in the SSLC examination is a good pointer of social and educational development among different social groups. According to gender statistics 2014-15, the highest number of SSLC qualifiers from the SC community is Pulayan with 117776 (including the 10 sub-castes), of which 59164 are females followed by Cheruman with 26885

of which 13286 are females. The least number of SSLC qualifiers from the SC community is Nalakeyava with only one member (female).

Higher secondary courses were introduced in Kerala during 1990-91 to restructure the secondary level of education in connection with National Education Policy. Figure 2.2 shows the pass percentage of SC students in Higher Secondary examination. It is evident that the results are not satisfactory. The fluctuating result pattern throws light to their deprived position.

Fig 2.2
Performance of SC students in Higher Secondary examination



Source: Economic Survey 2010-16, State Planning Board Government of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.

The highest number of PDC / plus two qualifiers also from Pulayan with 60851, in which female are 33993 followed by kanakkan (Padanna, Padannan) with 13294, of which 7264 are females. The least number of PDC qualifiers from the SC community are Bathada (One female) and Nalakeyava (one female). The total enrolment of SC students in degree and postgraduate courses counts to 36416 (2015-16). Girls constitute 71.16% of total SC students in Arts and science colleges (Gender statistics 2015-2016). Appendix

2.2.2 Dropout rate

Kerala has achieved the distinction of having the lowest drop-out rate of school students among the Indian states. In the year 2008-09, dropout ratio among school students in Kerala was .66%. Dropout-ratio among SC students in Kerala as per figures of 2008-09 was 0.72% and was that of ST students were 3.45%. Drop-out ratio among SC students in Kerala during 2011-12 was 0.61 percent and that of ST students was 3.71 percent. The total number of students drop out from the SC community up to 10th standard during the year 2014 is 37916, of which 16498 are females. Students drop up to 12th standard from the SC community in the same year is 12049, wherein 6274 are females. Total dropouts of SC students from government schools during 2014-15 are .40 and from private aided it is .37 and from private un-aided schools it is .28. The main reasons identified for dropouts among SC school students and students in higher education are poverty, financial problems, distance to the institution, failure, sense of alimentation, marriage, other reasons etc. Appendix

2.3 Work Participation /Employment

Work participation rate shows the proportion of the population engaged in economic activities. Based on 2011 census, Worker participation rate among urban SC (32.1) is much less than that of rural SC population (42.5). Worker participation rate among urban SC females (18.5) is much less than that of urban SC male (52.4) population and rural SC females (31.3). SC female work participation rate is very low in both urban and rural areas compared to their male counterparts. It indicates that there is deprivation among SC females in work participation. Table 2.12 shows the Work Participation Rate among Total& SC population of India (2001&2011 census).

Table 2.12
Work Participation Rate among Total& SC population of India (2001&2011 census)

Indicator	Work Participation Rate					
	Total persons (SC)		Males (SC)		Female (SC)	
	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011
Total Population						
Total	39.1	39.8	51.7	53.3	25.6	25.5
Rural	41.7	41.8	52.1	53.0	30.8	30.0
Urban	32.3	35.3	50.6	53.8	11.9	15.4

Scheduled Caste						
Total	40.4	40.9	50.7	52.8	29.4	28.3
Rural	42.5	42.4	51.6	52.9	32.9	31.3
Urban	32.1	35.9	47.4	52.4	15.6	18.5

Source: Census of India (2011)

Table 2.13 shows the Main /marginal/ Agricultural labourers /cultivators /household industry Workers among Total& SC population in India (2001&2011 census). Main Workers are those workers who had worked for the major part of the reference period i.e. 6 months or more. According to 2011 census, the % of SC main workers is more in urban (84%) than in rural area (67.2%). Even though the WPR of SC population is more in rural than in urban area but rural SC lag behind in obtaining steady and regular jobs. So deprivation is more severe among rural SC population. Marginal Workers are those workers who had not worked for the major part of the reference period i.e. less than 6 months. The % of marginal workers exceed in the rural area (29.4%, 32.8%) than in urban area (14.6%, 16%) in both 2001 and 2011 census. So it can be understood that the issue of unemployment is more affected to rural SC than urban SC population. Here deprivation visibly exists among SC population in rural areas. In the rural area, 55.2% of SC population depends on agricultural activities and in the urban area, it is only 10.5%. SC cultivators are more in rural areas according to both 2001 and 2011 census. Appendix

Table 2.13
Main /marginal workers and categories of economic activities among Total& SC population of India (2001&2011 census)

Indicator	Percentage to total workers				Type of Economic activity					
	Marginal workers		Main Workers		Cultivators		Agricultural labourers		Household Industry Workers	
	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011
Total Population of India										
Total	22.2	24.8	77.8	75.2	31.7	24.6	26.5	30.0	4.2	3.8
Rural	26.1	29.5	73.9	70.5	40.2	33.0	33.1	39.3	3.9	3.4

Urban	9.2	12.4	90.8	87.6	3.0	2.8	4.7	5.5	5.2	4.8
Scheduled Castes of India										
Total	27.0	29.3	73.0	70.7	20.0	14.8	45.6	45.9	3.9	3.2
Rural	29.4	32.8	70.6	67.2	23.5	18.2	52.2	55.2	3.7	3.0
Urban	14.6	16.0	85.4	84.0	1.8	1.7	11.0	10.5	4.8	4.0

Source: Census of India (2011)

In Kerala according to 2001 census, 25.87% of the total population was main workers, but for SC population it is 29.75% indicating that a moderately higher proportion of the disadvantaged groups are workers. The ratio of female workers belonging to Scheduled caste is very low. The percentage of cultivators to main workers is 1.61 in the case of SCs while it is 7.12 in the case of the general population. The percentage of agricultural labourers to main workers is only 12% in the case of total population, while it is 29.48 in the case of SCs. This indicates that the numbers of SCs involved in agrarian activities are high.

Table 2.14

Percentage distribution of SC workers in Kerala (1991-2011 census)

Sl No	Category	Total Population			Scheduled Caste		
		1991	2001	2011	1991	2001	2011
1	Main workers	28.53	25.87	27.3	36.82	29.75	32.93
2	Male workers	44.82	41.77	44.8	47.22	41.54	47.03
3	Female workers	12.81	10.85	12.37	26.72	18.51	19.59
4	% of cultivators to Main workers	12.24	7.12	7.18	3.10	1.61	2.28
5	% of Agricultural labourers to main workers	25.54	12.40	14.18	53.79	29.48	29.9
6	% of main workers engaged in household industry	2.58	3.35	2.93	2.44	2.60	2.07
7	% of main workers engaged in other services	15.17	77.13	75.71	10.70	66.31	65.75
8	Marginal workers	2.90	6.43	6.85	4.38	10.63	10.9
9	Work Participation rate	31.43	32.30	34.78	41.21	40.88	43.83

Source: Economic Review 2010-16, State Planning Board, Government of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.

In Kerala based on 2011 census, the WPR of SC population is found to be 43.8. And 27.3% of the total population is main workers, and for SC population it is 32.93%. The rate of female workers (19.59) belonging to Scheduled caste is comparatively low. The percentage of cultivators to main workers is 2.28 in the case of SCs while it is 7.18 in the case of the total population. The percentage of agricultural labourers to main workers is 29.9% in the case of SCs. Appendix

Table 2.15

Details of SC employees in government services in Kerala (2007-2016)

Category	2007	2008	2009	2010	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016(review of 4/83 depts)
Gazatted	3743	3473	2805	1232	3223	2747	2653	1045	72
Non-Gazatted (Excluding Last Grade)	23457	23078	16317	5575	10353	8510	8474	4604	547
Last Grade	4267	5346	3754	1559	3345	2278	2066	1013	130
Total	31467	31897	22876	8366	16921	13535	13193	6662	749

Source: Economic Review 2010-16, State Planning Board Government of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.

Table 2.15 shows the details about SC employees in government service. The employment among Scheduled Caste people in the organized sector is relatively low. They lag behind the general population in getting into regular government jobs other than through the reservation track.

2.4 Operational holding

Operational holding defined as "all land which is used wholly or partly for agricultural production and is operated as one technical unit by one person alone or with others without regard to title, legal form, size or location" is taken as a statistical unit for data collection in Agriculture Census (Agriculture Census 2015-16). "The total number of individual operational holdings of Scheduled caste group in Kerala was found to be 531674. Female individual operational holdings sums to 26 % of the total. Scheduled caste Female individual operational holders are more in Palakkad district and lowest in Wayanad district. One notable feature is that there is no Female scheduled caste/Scheduled Tribe individual operational holders within the category of large holdings (10 hectares and above)" (Gender Statistics 2015-16). Appendix

2.5 Nutritional status

A healthy population is an integral part of every nation. Nutrition plays an important role in the physical and mental growth of population, chronic illness is often associated with poor nutrition, especially among children. Nutritional deficiencies are more prevalent among disadvantaged groups. About a third of the women of childbearing age in India have very low Body Mass Index (BMI) less than 18.5 – indicating chronic energy deficiency. Based on NFHS2 the women from the SC/ST groups have an even poorer level of nutrition: 42% of SC and 46% of ST women have low BMI. ‘NFHS3 (2005-06) showcases that the Young children from scheduled tribes and scheduled castes are more likely to be stunted, wasted, and underweight than children from other castes/tribes. Children from other backward classes fall in the middle of the scale on all three measures of nutritional status. Children who do not belong to any of the above-disadvantaged groups are least likely to be stunted, wasted, and underweight. Total malnutrition is higher among women from scheduled castes (50%) and scheduled tribes (50%) than for women in the OBC group (48%) and women from other castes (48%), but the differences are insignificant. In all caste/tribe groups, most malnutrition is due to undernutrition’ (NFHS3 2005-06). So women and children among scheduled caste population in India are somewhat deprived of nutritional status compared to other advantaged social groups.

Table 2.16

Nutritional Status of Women and Children by Social Groups in India (%)

Category	Source	Social Groups			
		SC	ST	OBC	others
Percentage of women aged 15-49					
BMI < 18.5	NFHS2 (1998-99)	42	46	33	36
Moderate or severe anaemia	NFHS2	19	24	15	17
Malnutrition	NFHS3 (2005-06)	50	50	48	48
Percentage of children under 5 years					
Undernourished	NFHS1 (1991-92)	58	57	52	53
Undernourished	NFHS2	54	56	44	47

Underweight (low weight for age)	NFHS3	48	55	43	34
Stunted(low height for age)	NFHS1	58	53	51	52
Stunted	NFHS2	52	53	43	46
Stunted	NFHS3	54	54	49	41
Wasted(low weight for height)	NFHS1	19	22	17	18
Wasted	NFHS2	16	22	15	16
Wasted	NFHS3	21	28	20	16
Percent of children aged 6-35 months					
moderate or Severe Anaemia	NFHS2	56	57	49	51

Source: <http://rchiips.org/nfhs/index.shtml>

Health conditions in Kerala have always been better than those in other parts of India. The continued improvement in health conditions of the population is attributed to the improved educational status and health policies of the state and also the availability and quality of medical facilities.

2.6 Political participation

Reservations to different political bodies have been made to ensure the participation of SC/ST in the political sphere. Articles 330,332 and 334 of the constitution provide for reservation of seats in the parliament and State Legislatures for the SC and ST. The Panchayat Raj bill also made provision for reservation to the SC & ST communities in the elections to the local bodies. Table 2.17 shows the details of seats reserved for SC and the total population in state Legislative Assembly and Loksabha.

Table 2.17

Details of seats of Legislative Assembly and Loksabha for General and SC in Kerala

Category	Total	Reserved for SC
Legislative Assembly Constituencies	140	14
Loksabha Constituencies	20	2

Source- Kerala state sc development corporation Govt of Kerala

To assess the SC Women empowerment their participation in economic, political and professional undertakings should be noted. Political participation of women is measured on

the basis of their representation in parliament or in local bodies. SC Women representation is limited and inadequate in political parties, trade unions and in other positions of political power as well as in decision-making processes in professional bodies.

Table 2.18

District-wise allocation of President Post for SC in Gramapanchayat/block panchayat-2015

Sl. No.	Name of District	Gramapanchayat		Block Panchayat	
		SC	SC female	SC	SC female
1	Kasargod	1	1	-	-
2	Kannur	1	1	-	-
3	Wayanad	1	0	-	-
4	Kozhikode	3	3	-	1
5	Malappuram	5	5	1	1
6	Palakkad	6	7	1	1
7	Thrissur	5	5	1	1
8	Ernakulam	4	3	-	1
9	Idukki	3	2	1	-
10	Kottayam	3	2	1	-
11	Alapuzha	3	4	-	1
12	Pathanamthitta	2	3	1	-
13	Kollam	5	5	1	1
14	Thiruvananthapuram	4	5	-	1
	kerala	46	46	7	8

Source: Gender Statistics 2015-16, Department of Economics and statistics, the government of Kerala, 2017.

2.7 Crime/violence/suicide

The Scheduled Castes and Tribes Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 is enacted in the Parliament mainly to prevent atrocities against scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The main objective is to free Indian society from blind and irrational adherence to traditional beliefs and to establish a bias-free society. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, during 2015-16, 245 cases were registered and an amount of 54.79 lakh has been disbursed as compensation to the victims.

Table 2.19

Number of registered cases of harassment/violence against SCs in Kerala

Year	No of cases
2011-12	330
2012-13	491
2013-14	350
2014-15	351
2015-16	245
2016-17 (as on 30/10/16)	68

Source: Economic Review 2010-16, State Planning Board Government of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.

According to the State crime records bureau (government of Kerala), the total number of suicide victims among scheduled caste population in 2014 accounts 629 (75.5% males and 24.4% female) victims. The majority of the total victims (28.6%) have only primary level education and 9% of victims have no basic education. 81.4% of the total victims have education below matriculation level. The report reinforces the fact that the number of suicide victims among SC is highly correlated with the educationally deprived individuals.

2.8 Concluding remarks

The present chapter dealt with the attainments and deprivations of SC population of Kerala in comparison with national figures on various aspects like population profile, sex ratio, literacy, Education, Enrollment, Employment, Work participation rate, land holdings, political participation, nutritional status, Crime etc. It is found that there is a decline in SC population of the state in last decade. It is due to the inclusion of some SC communities to ST list. The sex ratio of Scheduled Caste population is found to be less than the total population of the state. The rate of increase in the literacy rate of SC population is very low in the case of Kerala state. And literacy rate of scheduled caste is less than that of the total population of Kerala. The educational attainment and enrollment rate of SC students are also found to be less compared to the general category students. The suicide victims among SC population are also highly correlated with educationally deprived individuals. Deprivation of scheduled caste population is also clearly evident in work participation rate, operational holdings, nutritional status and political participation.