

CHAPTER 7

SUMMARY AND FINDINGS

The study entitled 'Deprivation among scheduled castes in Kerala' is conducted to understand the extent of deprivation among SC population. The study employed various deprivation domains and indicators to cognize their present conditions based on the objectives of the study. The major findings and results of the study are summarized in this chapter.

Findings of the study:

The first objective of the study is to examine the various programmes and schemes offered by the government for the scheduled caste welfare. Even though there are many programmes solely meant for SC development, it is not sure that all are getting the benefits. Ignorance, complicated procedures, lack of awareness etc will result in failure of the projected targets of various government schemes. But as a whole, there are a lot many programmes and schemes for the emancipation of scheduled caste population from the shackles of poverty and ignorance in our country. Implementing the schemes in time without any unwanted lags for the needy and monitoring the actual progress of the process is necessary for getting better outcomes (chapter 3).

“The primary survey was conducted among 200 households with a total population of 942 individuals. The 100 households from rural area comprise 490 persons, of which 241 were males (49.18%) and 249 (50.82%), were females. Among urban area, there are 452 persons, out of which 201 (44.47%) are males and 251 (55.53) are females. The SC communities Cheruman, Kavara, Chakkilian, Pulayan, Pandaran, Panan, Koottan/ koodan, Kuravan/Sidhanar/kuravar, Kanakkan/Padanna/Padannan, and Adi Dravida were identified in study areas. Cheruman (32.1%) in the rural area and Pulayan (27%) in the urban area form the largest community group in sample areas.” (Chapter 5)

One of the objectives of the study is to study the socio-economic conditions of the Sample population. For this, various variables like Employment status, Government support, Family Structure, Family size, Income, Savings, Expenditure, liability, Asset holding, Civil

status, educational status, housing condition & facilities, infrastructure facilities, Health facilities etc has been evaluated. Main results can be summarized as follows:

- The primary survey shows a higher female-male ratio in both rural and urban areas and thereby SC sex ratio favours to the female population.
- The age-wise distribution of the SC household shows the individuals in the age group 18-59 years constitute the largest in both areas. Even though the working population is higher than the dependent population in sample areas the gap between them is very low.
- Unemployment prevails in both sample areas. The female participation of job is very low compared to male counterparts. Most of the employed persons are engaged in manual labour work like construction work, coolie etc. Individuals are also engaged in caste-based jobs. The Labour force participation rate of sample area-rural counts to 61.8% and the urban area it is 65.7%. The sample area LFPR calculation resembles to that of the state ratio as urban LFPR exceeds to that of rural area. The Worker Population Ratio of Sample rural SC population (36%) is much less than that of urban SC sample population (51%). It reveals that unemployment rate is more among rural SC than Urban SC population.
- All SC households under study are availing any of the various schemes of the government. But whether it wholly caters the need of household is dubious.
- The size distribution of households shows that joint families are slightly more than other categories and the majority of households have less than 8 members in their family in both areas.
- The BPL families outnumber APL families in sample areas. The income level of households seems to be very low. The Major source of income of the individuals is through employment followed by animal husbandry, poultry, rent etc.
- The saving behaviour is low in the rural area (76%) compared to the urban area (82%). Majority of households in both areas depend on informal kuries and Neighbourhood fund groups for savings. Both informal and formal means of savings prevail among the sample households.
- The major share of consumption expenditure of rural households is for food items (45%) followed by Travel& communication (14%), fuel &power (13%) and for the urban area it is for Education (21%), Medical expenses (18%) and Food items (14%).

- It is found that majority of the households in rural (97%) and urban (92%) have financial liabilities. They depend on both formal and informal sources for borrowing funds. Major reasons for borrowing are for marriage expenses (rural 92%,urban 75%) and Construction or renovation of houses (rural 91%, Urban 82%).
- Most of the household have essential consumer gadgets at their home. The primary survey shows that majority of landholdings among the scheduled caste population are below 4 cents. None in the urban area has more than 8 cents of land for their own.
- Among rural population 130 males and 142 females are married and among the urban population, 125 males and 132 females are married.
- There are persons still uneducated among scheduled castes. Very few SC students get the opportunity for professional and technical education. Higher education is comparatively low. Most of them were educated only up to SSLC only.
- The survey highlights that every house under survey is electrified. The number of families using own well for water is low. All are having adequate sanitation facilities in their home. Households using only LPG as cooking fuel are a very small category in both areas. Majority depend on the mix of LPG, wood, kerosene as cooking fuel.
- Majority of household construction come under the category of semi-pucca and pucca. The majority have own houses in both areas.
- Accessibility to essential services is more advantageous to urban area sample households than rural area Sample households.
- The survey revealed that allopathic treatment is most preferred among sample households in rural (84%) and urban (93%) areas. The urban area households are having more healthcare facilities than rural households.

By observing these factors the socio-economic conditions of SC population in both areas are found to be satisfactory and improving. But rural SC population lacks many of the amenities available urban households. The socio-economic condition of SC sample households of rural area is lower than that of urban area counterparts.

Another objective of the study is to assess the pattern of expenditure made for human capital formation by sample households. In the case of some households expenditure on human capital investments is low. But some households spend more on education attainment, private tuitions, health policies etc. Expenditure for skill enhancement by urban population exceeds rural population. In the rural area, only 13% is spending (below 1000rs)

for skill enhancement and 87% is not spending anything for skill enhancement. All Sample SC households are spending for education and healthcare in both areas. Urban area sample population spends more for education and health care than rural area sample population. So it is understood that human capital investment in the urban area exceeds to that of rural area. The statistical analysis affirmed that there is a direct relationship between the income of the household and their expenditure for human capital formation. Hence the hypothesis of “There is a direct relationship between the income of the household and expenditure for the human capital formation” is accepted. There is a significant relationship between income and expenditure on the human capital formation. Income of the household determines the expenditure for human capital formation. The expenditure pattern for human capital formation increases with higher income group households in both areas.

The fourth objective of the present study is to understand the capability and economic deprivation among scheduled caste population in both rural and urban areas. And for this various deprivation domains and indicators has been employed. Economic deprivation is understood on the basis of income and employment deprivation. Capability deprivation is elaborated on the basis of health deprivation & disability, Education/skill/Training deprivation, Barriers to housing & services, living environment facilities, political participation, and Crime. And the key results can be summarized as follows:

Economic Deprivation:

- Income deprivation is prevailed in both areas and is more affected to rural SC households (89%) than Urban (85%) SC households.
- SC Females confronted employment deprivation more than males in the rural area but in urban area Male workers have undergone employment deprivation more than that of females. This creates a paradox.

Hereby the second hypothesis of the study “Economic deprivation among Scheduled caste females exceeds than that of Scheduled caste males” stands to be rejected.

Family circumstances, Disguised unemployment, ill-health, harassment, wage issues, underemployment etc are the reasons identified for their exclusion from the job market. It is evident from the table 6.3 that employment deprivation is seen more in rural areas than in urban area.

Capability Deprivation:

- Individuals with the normal health condition are found more in the rural area than in urban area. The majority have minor and moderate health issues in both sample areas. Rural SC females outnumber urban SC females in the case of severe health issues. Severe injury, intrauterine death, etc have been reported in the rural area. Underweight children, senile condition, malnourishment etc has been reported in both areas but rural area exceeds urban population in all these categories. The healthcare facilities are more accessible to urban area SC households than rural sample population.

The study revealed differently abled persons in the rural area (25) exceed than that of the urban area (15). In the rural area 17 in the dependent category and 8 in working age are differently abled. In the urban area, 10 dependent and 5 working-age individuals are in the differently-abled category. 95% of rural households with differently abled individuals consider their quality of life has been impaired and 97 % of urban consider the same.

- The number of school drop-outs and Non-entry to higher education (involuntary) is higher in rural sample SC population (7, 21) than urban (3, 17) sample population. In both cases females outnumber males. So it is evident that females are more deprived than males and rural population is more deprived than urban sample SC population. So children and young peoples' educational deprivation is found more in the rural area. Financial problems, failure, work for earnings, family responsibility, lack of interest, poverty etc caused for the non-entry to higher education and dropouts among sample SC population.

The rural area sample population is more deprived than urban samples in respect to all the three indicators of adult skill deprivation sub-domain. SC Females outnumber SC males in all adult skill deprivation subdomain indicators of working population. Family circumstances, Fees/financial problems, Geographical Barriers etc are the barriers experienced by sample population in educational/skill attainment. Other reasons include marriage, political reasons, illiteracy etc.

- The Barriers to Housing sub-domain measures issues relating to access to the housing such as affordability (inability to afford), overcrowding, homelessness, insufficient space to meet the household's needs etc. Except for the indicators of homelessness and housing affordability, rural households exceed urban households in the other indicators of deprivation. Both rural and urban population has experienced barriers to housing.

Geographical barriers to services subdomain are more affected to rural households as accessibility to essential services is more favorable to urban area sample households than rural area Sample households. Physical distance from services and facilities create a difficulty for frequent travel in rural areas than the urban area.

- Indoor living Environment subdomain takes into account of the housing condition, fuel poverty, Electricity, and sanitation facility. The structure of households shows that there are no kutchra houses in both sample areas. Majority households are having semi-pucca (rural 83%, urban 75%) and pucca houses (rural 17%, urban 25%). All households in both areas are electrified. All households in both areas are having bathrooms in their home/premises. So the housing conditions of sample households are considerably good. None of the households are suffering from fuel poverty.

Indicators of Outdoor living Environment subdomain are air quality, availability of fresh water, the prevalence of road traffic accidents, Transportation facility and pollution. urban sample SC population is more prone to polluted air as the number of vehicles is high and less number of trees in the urban sample area. Water shortage is a serious issue faced by the population in both areas but it is severe in the summer season in urban areas. Even households with own well have to depend on other sources for fresh water during the summer season. Rural area has less transportation facility than the urban area. Pollution of water, air is more in the urban area. Minor Accidents occurred more in the urban area than rural area. But only one was severely injured in the rural area by road accident.

- None under study had ever contested in elections in both rural and urban areas. And also none has any political position or posts in a political party in both areas. But among the sample SC households, 75 % in rural and 73 % in urban has at least one party member in their household. Working population (comprising both areas) has memberships in trade union. Among SC women in rural 26 % and urban 32 % have memberships in political parties. The rest have their own political affiliations but have not taken any official memberships. Among Rural SC women, only 12 % considers that they have a voice in their family affairs, 8 % on family budget, 7 % on family planning and it is 20%, 14%, 10% for their urban counterparts respectively. So urban SC women have more role and opportunity in the decision-making process.
- Among both areas, ill-treatment due to crime rate is very low. In both rural and urban area only one household has victimized of theft and in the urban area, two households had

victimized by burglary. None has faced any criminal damage, violence etc in last five years.

- By observing all the indicators of capability deprivation domain the third hypothesis of the study ‘Capability Deprivation exceeds among Scheduled Caste households in the rural area than Scheduled Caste households in urban areas’ is rejected. As the urban area is deprived than the rural area in certain indicators of capability deprivation domain.
- The Capability poverty measure of scheduled caste population among rural area is 33.3 and that of the urban area is 22.3. It reveals that capability poverty measure of rural SC is more than that of Urban SC. The CPM considers the lack of three basic capability dimensions such as Lack of being well nourished and healthy, Lack of capability for healthy reproduction, Lack of capability to be educated and knowledgeable.
- The human deprivation index of Urban sample SC population (32) is less than that of rural (35.3) SC population. Human deprivation index has been calculated on the basis of the deprivation of income, health, and educational aspects.
- The significant discriminating variables among rural and urban samples are found by discriminant analysis. The variables are debt position, land ownership, cooking fuel, housing condition, insufficient space to meet household needs, and housing affordability. The coefficients indicate the weight of each variable in calculating the deprivation score. A negative score indicates indirect relationship and positive indicates a direct relationship.

Limitations and Scope of Further Study

Personnel data including income and expenditure details received through primary survey may not be accurate. So it may affect the accuracy of the results. The present study is confined to the state of Kerala. But it can be elaborated to the national level in a wide canvass. For understating the capability and economic deprivation of scheduled castes in India a detailed further study can be done culminating the details of all states which needs

Conclusion

It is found that both rural and urban Scheduled caste households are deprived in various domains. The urban area is also experiencing deprivation than the rural area in some domains of deprivation. But rural area Sample population is more deprived in various indicators of deprivation subdomains when compared to urban area. It is noted that both

economic and capability deprivation is recorded more on rural sample SC population. SC female in both areas is deprived than their male counterparts in all major domains. At this juncture, it is crucial to probe into the question whether various programmes and policies of SC welfare have made any strong impact on the Economic empowerment of SC population. The increase in various government-funded programmes and individual monthly income and savings is nullified by the excessive burden of expenditure of the population as perceived from their level of expenditure and the revelations from unstructured interviews. It is the need of the hour to review and monitor the funds allotted to them are utilized efficiently and rationally to increase their capability and human capital.