

# Participation of Scheduled Castes Children at the Primary Stage in India

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## Abstract

*This paper discusses the participation of Scheduled Castes children at primary stage of school education in India according to Seventh All India School Education Survey (7<sup>th</sup> AISES). Among Scheduled Castes children, girls participation is specially focused. Present status has been compared with past data to know the improvement in their participation and it is statistically analysed. This paper will provide the base for the assessment of the development of educational status of Scheduled Castes children at primary stage of education after Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) as the commencement year of SSA programme and year of information collection under Seventh All India School Education Survey is same.*

## Introduction

Education is the key factor for the social development. It plays very important role in making social status and social mobility. But a large section our population could not get opportunity to be a part of educated society due to various reasons. The section of scheduled castes is one of them. The expression Scheduled Castes was first coined by the Simon Commission and embodied in the Government of India Act of 1935. While these castes were listed systematically in the 1931 Census of

India (Kambley (1982), pp. 31). Many great Indians like Mahatma Gandhi, Mahatma Fuley and Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar worked for the welfare of SC and they have given enormous contribution to bring them in mainstream of the society. After Independence, lots of efforts have been made by the Government of India and State governments to improve their social and economic status. Article 46 of the Constitution states that, "The State shall promote, with special care, the education and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular

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of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of social exploitation". Articles 330, 332, 335, 338 to 342 and the entire Fifth and Sixth Schedules of the Constitution deal with special provisions for implementation of the objectives set forth in Article 46 (GOI, 2005,v). These provisions need to be fully utilised for the benefit of these weaker sections in our society. Despite all these efforts it needs some more attention and efforts to bring them completely in the main-stream.

This paper is an effort to present status of participation of Scheduled Castes children at primary stage with consideration of schemes for the development of their education. For this purpose the data of the *Seventh All India School Education Survey (7<sup>th</sup> AISES)* (Reference Date: September 30, 2002) have been taken. To know the development in last decade, the data of the *Sixth All India Education Survey* (Reference Date: September 30, 1993) are considered.

#### **Programme of Action (PoA), 1992**

National Policy on Education, 1986 was modified in 1992 and a new Programme of Action (PoA, 1992) was prepared. As per PoA, 1992, following are the major initiatives to be taken for the educational development of Scheduled Castes. (GOI, 1992: 11-12)

- Incentives to indigent families to send their children to school regularly till they reach the age of 14;
- Pre-metric Scholarship scheme for children of families engaged in

occupations such as scavenging, flaying and tanning to be made applicable from Class I onwards. All children of such families, regardless of incomes, will be covered by this scheme and time-bound programmes targetted on them will be undertaken.

- Constant micro-planning and verification to ensure that the enrolment, retention and successful completion of courses by SC students do not fall at any stage, and provision of remedial courses to improve their prospects for further education and employment.
- Recruitment of teachers from Scheduled Castes;
- Provision of facilities for SC students in students' hostels at district headquarters, according to a phased programme;
- Location of school building, *Balwadies* and Adult Educations centres in such a way as to facilitate full participation of the Scheduled Castes;
- The utilisation of *Jawahar Rozgar Yojana* resources so as to make substantial educational facilities available to Scheduled Castes; and
- Constant innovation in finding new methods to increase the participation of the Scheduled Castes in the educational process.

#### **Special Provisions made by the Government**

After independence, the Government of India has taken a number of steps to develop education level of SCs/ STs. National Policy on Education (1986) and

its modification in 1992 have also stated measures to be taken as priority. In pursuance of NPE 1986 and the Programme of Action (1992), Government of India has incorporated some special provisions in the existing scheme (GOI, 2006-07). These are:

- Relaxed norms for opening of primary /middle schools; a primary school within 1 km walking distance from habitations of population up to 200 instead of habitations of up to 300 population.
- Abolition of tuition fee in all States in Government schools at least up to the upper primary level. In fact, most of the States have abolished tuition fees for SC/ST students up to the senior secondary level.
- Free textbooks, uniforms, stationery, school bags, etc.
- The Constitutional (86<sup>th</sup> Amendment) Bill, notified on 13 December 2002, provides for free and compulsory elementary education as a Fundamental Right, for all children in the age group of 6-14 years.
- In addition to aforementioned steps, many other Programmes like *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* (SSA), District Primary Education Programme (DPEP), Janshala, Mahila Samakhya (MS), National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary level (NPEGEL), *Shiksha Karmi* Project (SKP), etc. were launched by the government. All these programmes gave special attention to education of Scheduled Caste children.

### **Availability of Educational Facility at the Primary Stage in Habitations**

According to the *Seventh All India School Education Survey*, there are 12,09,521 rural habitations with a population of 77,72,17,623. Out of total, 6,23,498 (51.55%) habitations are served by primary stage within the habitation, which cater 78.17% of the rural population of the country. As regards habitations served within a distance of one kilometer, it is observed that 10,35,764 (85.63%) habitations covering 94.17% population of the rural area, are served.

There are 1,74,700 habitations predominantly populated by the Scheduled Castes. Of these, 42.50% habitations, covering 68.05% of the population living in these habitations, have education facility at primary stage within the habitation and 86.07% habitations, covering 92.84% of the population living in the habitations predominantly populated by Scheduled Castes, have the facility within one kilometer.

If the availability of primary education facility in the habitations predominantly populated by Scheduled Castes is analysed in different population slabs, it observed that out of 22,739 habitations with population below 500, only 26.18% are served within the habitation and 81.71% habitations are having access to primary education within a distance of one kilometer. This indicates that 18% habitations do not have the facility of primary education within a distance of kilometer. It has been found that more than 95% habitations with population slabs 1000-1999,

2000-4999 and 5000 and above are served within one kilometer. Table 1 presents primary stage education facility in habitations predominantly populated by Scheduled Castes in different population slabs.

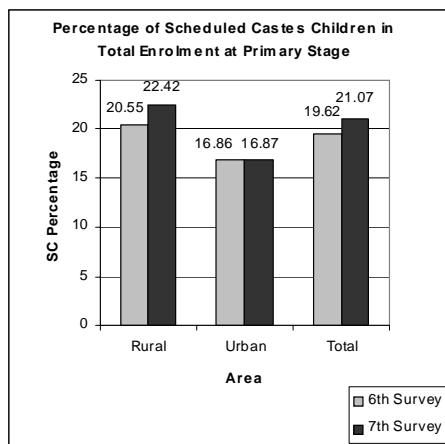
#### **Enrolment of Scheduled Castes Children at Primary Stage**

At primary stage 12,29,15,301 children are enrolled, out of which 46.82% are girls and 53.18% are boys. There is a difference of 6.36% in the enrolment of girls and boys at national level. Rural and urban areas have 46.73% and 47.10% girls enrolment respectively. Enrolment of scheduled castes children at primary stage is 2,59,03,832, which constitutes 21.07 percentage of the total enrolment. Percentage of scheduled castes children against total enrolment of rural area is 22.42 where as this percentage in urban area is 16.87, which show that in rural area SC has bigger share as compared to the urban area. In rural area, total enrolment of scheduled castes children is 2,08,74,716. In this enrolment, 46.53 per cent are girls and 53.47 per cent boys. It shows that SC girls enrolment percentage is almost same as overall girls percentage. This is an achievement of the efforts made by central government, state governments and various non-government organisations working for the education of the scheduled castes children. In urban area, 50,29,116 scheduled castes children are enrolled in which 47.35% are girls and 52.65% boys. It is observed that in urban area girls percentage of SC children is little bit higher than overall girls percentage in urban area. Over all girls enrolment percentage of SC is 46.69.

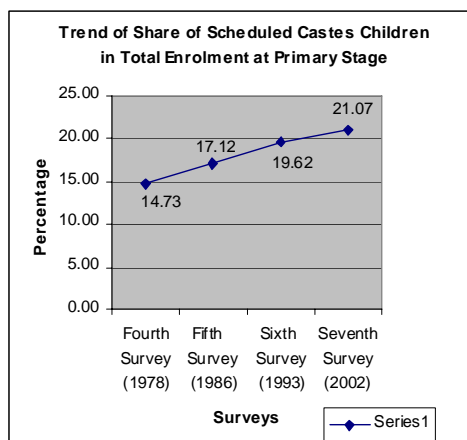
According to the 6<sup>th</sup> All India Educational Survey (1999), 1,90,35,297 scheduled castes children were enrolled which was 19.62% of the total enrolment. This has gone up to 21.07% in the 7<sup>th</sup> AISES i.e. share of SC children has increased by 1.45% in comparison to the 6<sup>th</sup> Survey. Girls enrolment percentage in scheduled castes children was 41.66% in the 6<sup>th</sup> survey which has gone up to 46.69%. Hence, in comparison to the 6<sup>th</sup> Survey, SC girls enrolment percentage has increased by 5.03%. SC girls enrolment percentage has increased by 6.06% and 1.38% in rural and urban areas respectively. Table 2 compares the enrolment of scheduled castes children in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> surveys.

From Table 2 it is observed that SC girls percentage has increased significantly in rural, urban and overall areas. In comparison to the 6<sup>th</sup> survey the enrolment of scheduled castes children has gone up by 36.08 in the 7<sup>th</sup> survey. In rural and urban areas this growth has been 40.14% and 21.49% respectively.

Picture 1 depicts the increase of SC children enrolment percentage in total enrolment rural, urban and overall areas in the 7<sup>th</sup> Survey as compared to the 6<sup>th</sup> Survey. It is to be noted that there is gain of only 0.01% in urban area. This picture shows a gain of 1.87% in rural area and 1.45% is overall. Picture 2 depicts the trend of share of scheduled castes children. From this picture it is clear that in the Fourth Survey (1978), SC percentage was only 14.73, which has reached up to 21.07% in the Seventh Survey (2002).



Picture 1



Picture 2

**Managementwise Position**

In Primary schools, total enrolment is 8,09,00,653 out of which 47.38% are girls and 52.62% boys. In total enrolment, 53.55% are enrolled in government schools, 30.69% in local body schools, 5.75% in private aided schools and 10.01% in private unaided schools. It is observed that out of total enrolment of scheduled castes children in primary schools, 56.51% are in government schools, 31.99 % in local body schools, 4.73% in private aided schools and 6.77% in private unaided schools. It is also clear from Table 3 that in rural, urban and overall area the maximum percentage of enrolment of SC children is in government schools. In Table 3 managementwise distribution of scheduled castes children enrolled in primary schools is given.

**Participation of Scheduled castes children in Different States**

Table 4 shows statewise position of SC population percentage, SC enrolment percentage and percentage of girls in SC enrolment at primary stage in rural, urban and overall areas in India.

It is observed that Punjab has maximum SC population percentage 28.85 where as Lakshdweep, Nagaland and A & N Islands have minimum zero per cent. National SC population percentage is 16.20. Twenty-two States/ Union Territories are below this national figure whereas 12 states/union territories are above it. Karnataka is equal to national figure. Punjab has maximum percentage of SC enrolment, which is 48.09% and A & N Islands minimum zero per cent. Out of total enrolment at primary stage, national

SC enrolment percentage is 21.07. There are 28 States/Union Territories below this figure and only 7 States/Union Territories above it. In rural and urban areas national SC girls percentage are 46.53 and 47.35 respectively. In rural area, Lakshdweep has maximum SC girls percentage which is 100 and minimum zero in A & N Islands. There are 23 States/Union Territories have SC girls percentage above the national percentage in rural area and remaining 12 States/Union Territories below it. In urban area, maximum SC girls percentage is 54.57 of Sikkim and minimum zero per cent of Lakshdweep and A & N Islands. Nineteen States/Union Territories are above the national percentage of SC girls whereas sixteen States/Union Territories are below the national percentage. Considering the overall area, the national percentage of SC girls is 46.69, which is approximately equal to that of rural area. In rural area, twenty-three States/Union Territories are above the national percentage of SC girls and twelve States/Union Territories are below it.

### Conclusions

- More than 95% of all habitations predominantly populated by Scheduled Castes with population slabs 1000–1999, 2000–4999 and 5000 and above are served by

primary stage within a distance of one kilometer.

- Around 19% of all habitations which are predominantly populated by Scheduled Castes with population slab below 500 are still unserved within a distance of one kilometer.
- In the period of 24 years (1978-2002), that is the period between fourth survey and seventh survey, there has been a remarkable improvement in participation of SC children at primary stage as their share in total enrolment has gone up to 21.07 from 14.73.
- The percentage of SC girls in rural and urban area is almost same as overall percentage of girls in respective areas.
- During the intervening period between 6<sup>th</sup> survey and 7<sup>th</sup> survey, the increase of 36.08% in the enrolment of SC children has been recorded which tells success story of the different schemes/programmes launched for the development of education of scheduled castes children.
- Some States namely, Bihar (38.80%), Jharkhand (41.63%) and Rajasthan (44.42%) have SC girls percentage below 45% in rural area. So, these states need special efforts to bring SC girls to school.

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**Table 1: Primary Stage Education Facility in Habitation Predominantly Populated by Scheduled Castes**

| Distance Category          | Item | Item Population Slabs |           |           |          |          |          |           |           |          |  | Total |
|----------------------------|------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|--|-------|
|                            |      | 5000 above            | 2000-4999 | 1000-1999 | 500-999  | 300-499  | 100-299  | Below 100 | Below 300 |          |  |       |
| 1                          | 2    | 3                     | 4         | 5         | 6        | 7        | 8        | 9         | 10        | 11       |  |       |
| Within Habitation          | A    | 606                   | 5056      | 14830     | 24013    | 15061    | 12781    | 1897      | 14678     | 74244    |  |       |
|                            | B    | 4625373               | 13891157  | 19931918  | 17028192 | 5892452  | 2578566  | 121129    | 2699695   | 64068787 |  |       |
|                            | C    | 94.25                 | 92.23     | 83.58     | 64.45    | 43.96    | 22.66    | 8.28      | 18.51     | 42.50    |  |       |
|                            | D    | 95.22                 | 92.77     | 84.45     | 66.00    | 45.06    | 24.48    | 9.24      | 22.79     | 68.05    |  |       |
| Within a Distance of 1 km. | A    | 634                   | 5389      | 17123     | 34424    | 30044    | 46003    | 16750     | 62753     | 150367   |  |       |
|                            | B    | 4799068               | 14731967  | 22814530  | 23930416 | 11499982 | 8653193  | 979524    | 9632717   | 87408680 |  |       |
|                            | C    | 98.60                 | 98.30     | 96.50     | 92.40    | 87.70    | 81.55    | 73.12     | 79.12     | 86.07    |  |       |
|                            | D    | 98.80                 | 98.39     | 96.66     | 92.76    | 87.95    | 82.15    | 74.70     | 81.33     | 92.84    |  |       |
| More Than 1 Km.            | A    | 9                     | 93        | 621       | 2832     | 4215     | 10405    | 6158      | 16563     | 24333    |  |       |
|                            | B    | 58490                 | 241323    | 787988    | 1869005  | 1575747  | 1879821  | 331682    | 2211503   | 6744036  |  |       |
|                            | C    | 1.40                  | 1.70      | 3.50      | 7.60     | 12.30    | 18.45    | 26.88     | 20.88     | 13.93    |  |       |
|                            | D    | 1.20                  | 1.61      | 3.34      | 7.24     | 12.05    | 17.85    | 25.30     | 18.67     | 7.16     |  |       |
| Total No. of Habitations   |      | 643                   | 5482      | 17744     | 37256    | 34259    | 56408    | 22908     | 79316     | 174700   |  |       |
| Total Population           |      | 4857558               | 14973290  | 23602498  | 25799421 | 13075729 | 10533014 | 1311206   | 11844220  | 94152716 |  |       |

Note: A- Number of Habitations; B Total population; C- Percentage of Habitations served.

D- Percentage of Population served



**Table 2: Comparison of Scheduled Castes Enrolment in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Surveys**

| Area  | 6 <sup>th</sup> Survey<br>Girls | 7 <sup>th</sup> Survey<br>Total | Girls<br>% | Girls       | Total       | Girls<br>% | Growth in<br>Girls<br>Percentage |
|-------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| Rural | 60,27,912                       | 1,48,95,737                     | 40.47      | 97,12,770   | 2,08,74,716 | 46.53      | 6.06                             |
| Urban | 19,02,761                       | 41,39,560                       | 45.97      | 23,81,061   | 50,29,116   | 47.35      | 1.38                             |
| Total | 79,30,673                       | 1,90,35,297                     | 41.66      | 1,20,93,831 | 2,59,03,832 | 46.69      | 5.03                             |

**Table 3: Management wise Percentage of Children Enrolled in Primary Schools**

| Management      | Rural |       | Urban |       | Total |       |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                 | All   | SC    | All   | SC    | All   | SC    |
| Government      | 59.13 | 60.03 | 28.33 | 36.92 | 53.55 | 56.51 |
| Local Body      | 31.70 | 32.69 | 26.13 | 28.10 | 30.69 | 31.99 |
| Private Aided   | 3.33  | 2.98  | 16.66 | 14.48 | 5.75  | 4.73  |
| Private Unaided | 5.83  | 4.30  | 28.89 | 20.49 | 10.01 | 6.77  |

**Table 4: Statewise SC Population Percentage, Enrolment Percentage and Girls Enrolment Percentage at Primary Stage**

| Sl. No. | State/Uts         | SC Population Population in Total Population | SC Enrolment Percentage in Total Enrolment | SC Girls Percentage |       |       |
|---------|-------------------|--|--|---------------------|-------|-------|
|         |                   |  |  | Rural               | Urban | Total |
| 1       | Andhra Pradesh    | 16.19  | 19.93                                      | 49.18               | 49.34 | 49.21 |
| 2       | Arunachal Pradesh | 0.56   | 1.05                                       | 46.07               | 39.95 | 44.56 |
| 3       | Assam             | 6.85   | 10.6                                       | 47.48               | 47.96 | 47.56 |
| 4       | Bihar             | 15.72  | 17.09                                      | 38.35               | 45.9  | 38.8  |
| 5       | Chhattisgarh      | 11.61  | 14.69                                      | 47.83               | 48.79 | 48.01 |
| 6       | Goa               | 1.77   | 2.52                                       | 50.06               | 46.74 | 47.77 |
| 7       | Gujarat           | 7.09   | 8.14                                       | 47.01               | 49.46 | 46.79 |
| 8       | Haryana           | 19.35  | 26.51                                      | 46.52               | 49.37 | 47.01 |
| 9       | Himachal Pradesh  | 24.72  | 29.21                                      | 48.70               | 46.72 | 48.59 |
| 10      | Jammu & Kashmir   | 7.59   | 9.16                                       | 46.09               | 45.87 | 46.05 |
| 11      | Jharkhand         | 11.84  | 13.41                                      | 40.68               | 47.11 | 41.63 |
| 12      | Karnataka         | 16.2   | 19.99                                      | 48.36               | 48.20 | 48.32 |
| 13      | Kerala            | 9.81   | 10.35                                      | 48.27               | 49.43 | 48.49 |
| 14      | Madhya Pradesh    | 15.17  | 18.37                                      | 46.02               | 46.84 | 46.24 |
| 15      | Maharashtra       | 10.2   | 14.44                                      | 48.33               | 48.20 | 48.19 |
| 16      | Manipur           | 2.77   | 3.28                                       | 45.46               | 49.83 | 47.99 |
| 17      | Meghalaya         | 0.48   | 1.85                                       | 48.03               | 54.52 | 51.27 |
| 18      | Mizoram           | 0.03   | 0.65                                       | 34.78               | 46.06 | 45.76 |
| 19      | Nagaland          | 0.00   | 2.78                                       | 45.87               | 46.14 | 46.05 |
| 20      | Orissa            | 16.53  | 20.4                                       | 47.17               | 48.29 | 47.28 |
| 21      | Punjab            | 28.85  | 48.09                                      | 47.61               | 49.21 | 47.9  |
| 22      | Rajasthan         | 17.16  | 20.34                                      | 44.10               | 45.72 | 44.42 |
| 23      | Sikkim            | 5.02   | 7.13                                       | 49.90               | 54.57 | 50.18 |
| 24      | Tamil Nadu        | 19.00  | 25.54                                      | 48.65               | 48.41 | 48.56 |
| 25      | Tripura           | 17.37  | 19.47                                      | 48.72               | 48.3  | 48.65 |
| 26      | Uttar Pradesh     | 21.15  | 30.69                                      | 46.57               | 45.05 | 46.38 |
| 27      | Uttarakhand       | 17.87  | 25.04                                      | 49.23               | 47.97 | 49.02 |
| 28      | West Bengal       | 23.02  | 28.42                                      | 48.51               | 48.94 | 48.56 |
| 29      | A & N Islands     | 0.00   | 0.00                                       | 0.00                | 0.00  | 0.00  |
| 30      | Chandigarh        | 17.5   | 17.2                                       | 44.4                | 47.13 | 46.56 |
| 31      | D & N Haveli      | 1.86   | 1.96                                       | 47.7                | 47.75 | 47.72 |
| 32      | Daman & Diu       | 3.06   | 3.95                                       | 50.68               | 46.84 | 48.6  |
| 33      | Delhi             | 16.92  | 13.28                                      | 48.07               | 45.11 | 45.32 |
| 34      | Lakshdweep        | 0.00   | 0.03                                       | 100.00              | 0.00  | 50.00 |
| 35      | Pondicherry       | 16.19  | 18.2                                       | 48.43               | 49.4  | 48.84 |
|         | INDIA             | 16.20  | 21.07                                      | 46.53               | 47.35 | 46.69 |