

Educational Status of Scheduled Caste Secondary Students in District Doda of J&K

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ABSTRACT

The scheduled caste is one of the deprived sections of society: they occupy the lowest position than others. The present paper attempts to provide a detailed description of the scheduled caste students and their existing educational status with reference to District Doda of Jammu and Kashmir. Data from the Chief educational office (CEO) Doda and Unified District information for education system (U- DISE) has been collected. The findings reveal that the highest enrolment was among the other castes compared to the scheduled caste to both genders in District Doda at the Secondary level. It was further found that female students' dropout rate was higher than the male schedule caste students at the secondary level in the District Doda of Jammu and Kashmir.

Keywords: *Scheduled Caste, Deprived, Educational Status, Doda*

Background

There is still a caste system in place. It wouldn't be expected to be denied. Despite the fact that the caste system was officially abolished in India fifty years ago and that the constitution guarantees "Equality of status and of opportunity" for its citizens, the reality of the Indian people unfortunately tells a different tale. Intra-caste unions and the avoidance of the "untouchables"—now officially

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known as the "Scheduled Castes" (SC) or, more colloquially, the "Dalits"—are facts of life in India, particularly in the countryside. One would therefore wonder how capitalism and the ideology of a democracy have been able to develop in such a socially backward nation after mentioning that India is a democratic country. Indian culture has historically been centred on a structured system of caste inequality, with hierarchy and "purity pollution" serving as its guiding principles. The four Varnas of Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishya, and Shudra, with Shudras (the untouchables) at the bottom, were used to classify society. Numerous castes made up each Varna, and numerous sub-castes made up each caste. Regarding social and religious life, there were certain rules and regulations.

Caste people were only permitted to work in the jobs that were approved by the caste system. Atishudras or Avarnas were the names given to the untouchables, who were considered outcasts. Their menial jobs were seen as contaminating because of their poor social rank in society, stigmatization, and menial nature of their jobs. They did not have the same rights to land, property, education, or religious rites as the upper castes. They were thus had to endure living in abject conditions for millennia. They experienced exploitation and social, economic, and cultural repression. The causes of caste and untouchability, however, are a subject of intense debate among researchers. Many political freedom supporters who also practiced social reform took up the cause of the oppressed. The most charismatic and well-known representative of the oppressed castes, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, belonged to the Mahar community, an untouchable caste in Maharashtra. He was

the first highly educated leader to devote his entire life to the cause of the untouchables.

Ideas of B.R. Ambedkar

Mahatma Gandhi dominated the social and political scene of the 20th century. Gandhi had a social competitor in Ambedkar in addition to a political one. Because contemporary issues and accomplishments are largely anchored in Ambedkar's philosophy and fight, it is vital to investigate and analyse his role while researching the social and educational issues facing the SC community. Ambedkar firmly believed that education was the most effective way to improve and advance the SCs. He understood its significance because he had personally felt its repercussions. But ultimately, the government and political parties had to acknowledge his contribution. The Constitution was amended to include special clauses, and the state was given responsibility for SC development. The Constitution's Article 17 declared untouchability to be eliminated. "The State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker parts of the people, and in particular of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all types of exploitation," according to Article 46. As a result, the SCs now have more access points into the modern and secular sectors of development.

In today's technological world, education is expected to promote social mobility and constructive change. In comparison to education, other strategies like political and economic power have failed for them. However, it is equally important to keep in mind that education has its

own limitations. As a result, in qualitative terms, the contribution of education in improving the lot of the SCs together with special facilities has not been very substantial. In order to combat its "elitist" tendency, education was enlarged quantitatively for "populist" reasons. As a result, a new educated middle class has emerged among the SCs, albeit in numerically smaller numbers. Due to forced migration for education and jobs, it is primarily urban (Ram, 1988). It's also critical to recognise and comprehend the types and nature of issues that this so-called 'privileged' group encounters after receiving an education and entering the workforce for modern, secular white collar employment. Another significant issue is the absence of adequate guidance throughout the educational process, from the time of entry to the point of completion. The SCs are treated unfairly in the educational system, where higher caste individuals predominate, neglected, undervalued, and occasionally physically expelled from school. Teachers, who are typically from upper castes, may have negative perceptions and attitudes that prevent them from offering assistance in important decisions like subject choice and instruction. The results also demonstrate that untouchability and physical segregation are still common practises in many rural Indian schools.

Methods and Procedure

Population: Population is the intact aggregation of cases that meet a selected criteria location. The target population is the aggregate of subjects about which the investigator would like to make generalizations; this study's target

population was Scheduled Caste secondary school students.

Data collection: The process of acquiring data is necessary to address a research challenge. The secondary data on which this research study is based. Data was gathered using two methods: online sources and a personal visit by the investigator. Online sources included reports from the Unified District Information System for Education and the Directorate of School Education Jammu (DSEJ) (U-DISE). If you directly contact the Chief Educational Offices or any other similar government offices in District Doda regarding official records

Table 1: Showing the enrolment Scheduled Caste Students Doda at secondary level

Years	Overall			Scheduled Caste		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
2013-14	12721	10323	23044	1530	1369	2899
2014-15	13336	11004	24340	1723	1484	3207
2015-16	13611	11523	25134	1849	1549	3398
2016-17	11154	10203	21357	1385	1280	2665
2017-18	12331	11632	23963	1466	1361	2827

Source: (SSA, RMSA)

The total number of students in the academic year 2013–14 was 23044, with 12721 male students and 10323 female students. The total number of students in the scheduled caste category was 2899, with 1530 male students and 1369 female students. The total number of students in the academic year 2014–15 was 24340, with 13336 male students and 11004 female students. The total number of students in the scheduled caste category was 3207, with 1723 male students and 1484 female students in the academic year

2016–17, enrollment was 21357, with a male enrollment of 11154 and a female enrollment of 10203, while enrollment in scheduled castes totaled 2665, with a male enrollment of 1385 and a female enrollment of 1280. In the academic year 2017–18, enrollment was 23963, with a male enrollment of 12331 and a female enrollment of 11632, and enrollment in scheduled castes totaled 2827, with a male enrollment.

Table 2: Showing the Dropout rate of Scheduled Caste students at secondary level.

Academic years	Secondary			Secondary		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
2014-15	12.36	13.01	12.82	20.49	20.67	20.58
2015-16	10.11	11.20	10.86	26.33	25.26	25.83
2016-17	18.33	19.67	19.00	29.63	30.04	29.58
2017-18	21.04	14.52	16.87	29.52	30.66	30.09

Source: (U-DISE)

Dropout rate in District Doda of Jammu and Kashmir, moreover the above data depict in years 2014-15 total dropout rate at secondary level is 12.82 percent among them male is 12.36 percent and female is 13.01 percent while in scheduled caste the total dropout rate is 20.58 percent among them male is 20.49 percent and female is 20.67 percent, in year 2015-16 the total dropout rate is 10.86 among them male is 10.11 percent and female is 11.20 percent while in scheduled caste total dropout rate is 25.83 percent among them male is 26.33 percent and female is 25.26 percent, in year 2016-17 total dropout rate is 19.00 among them male is 18.33 percent and female is 19.67 percent While in scheduled caste total dropout rate is 29.58 percent among them male is 29.63 percent and

female is 30.04 percent, and in year 2017-18 the total dropout rate is 16.87 among them male is 21.04 percent and female is 14.52 percent while in scheduled caste the total dropout rate is 30.09 percent among them male is 29.52 percent and female is 30.66 percent. Furthermore, the data show that in District Doda, female dropout rates at the secondary education level are higher than male dropout rates every year. However, the statistics showed that the secondary level dropout rate among scheduled castes in Jammu and Kashmir's District Doda was highest among scheduled caste females as opposed to scheduled caste boys.

Findings:

- The highest enrolment was found among overall as compared to scheduled caste and also highest in overall both male and female as compare scheduled caste female in District Doda at Secondary level.
- The highest enrolment was found among scheduled caste male students as compared to females in District Doda at the Secondary level.
- Highest enrolment was found in the year 2015-16 overall while in scheduled caste also in the year 2015-16 and lowest in the year 2016-17 while in scheduled caste also in the year 2016-17 the enrolment among scheduled caste is some years decreasing some years increasing across the gender male and female at Secondary level in District Doda.

- The study found the highest dropout rate among females compared to males at the secondary education level in District Doda.
- It was found that the dropout rate among scheduled caste increases secondary level in District Doda of State Jammu and Kashmir every year.

Discussion

The study's finding reveals the highest enrolment of scheduled caste among males compared to females yearly. The results corroborate earlier findings from a study done by (Maya & Bhutia 2016). The survey also reveals that males enroll in scheduled caste classes at a higher rate than females do each year. Additionally, the survey discovered that scheduled caste enrollment at higher educational levels rises annually for both genders in Jammu and Kashmir state, including both male and female students. **(Pandita, 2015, Shamshad & Khan, 2014, Kumar & Chahal, 2016)**. It was found that the enrolment of scheduled caste students increases every at the secondary level while at the higher secondary level is decreasing in District Doda **(Kapur, 2015 & Dhende, 2017)**.

Conclusion

In India, there is prejudice towards scheduled castes on the basis of culture, society, and education. Less privileged members of society were not given access to education that was oriented on cultural privileges. For them, getting an education was a distant dream. The current study examined the secondary enrollment and dropout rates for scheduled caste students in District Doda, J&K. the greatest

enrollment among scheduled caste students overall and among scheduled caste male students in comparison to scheduled caste female students. Additionally, the dropout rate among students from scheduled caste has been rising over time, with female students experiencing a higher rate than male students.

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