3.1 Introduction

In a pluralistic society like India social capital development has to be achieved in order to increase the bargaining power of the weaker sections and enlist their active participation in the process of national development. The SCs, STs and OBCs constitute the great majority of Indian society but they are marginalized sections because of caste system perpetuated by the dominant powers. The economic growth continues to be necessary for prosperity but has to be inclusive to ensure the well-being of the entire population. Studies have revealed that the marginalized sections of society have not achieved notable success despite several constitutional provisions, welfare measures and affirmative action’s in India. In this context, caste inclusiveness in economic development of SCs, STs and OBCs with reference to Mysuru district was primarily evaluated in the present study. This chapter enumerates hypotheses of the study, variables of the study, study areas, study sample, research design, statistical analysis, limitations of the study and the definitions of the terms used in the study.

3.2 Conceptual Framework of the Study

The researcher opted to follow a qualitative research approach for the purpose of the study. According to Creswell (2009), qualitative research is meant for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to social or human problems since it allows the researcher to gain data through informal contact with the participants. According to Mack, Woodsong, MacQueen, Guest and Namey (2005) and Creswell (2009) the qualitative research concerns itself with the study of people in their natural setting with their full participation. The researcher considers this approach to be appropriate to gain holistic insight by exploring and describing the caste inclusiveness in economic development with reference to Mysuru district.

3.3 Methodology

On the basis of the objectives and the hypotheses, the following methodology has been adopted in this study. This has been analyzed under various sub headings as follows;
3.3.1 Data Sources

The study was based on both primary and secondary data. The data was collected from various sources to study the different objectives. The secondary data was collected from the published documents, books, theses, journals, periodicals, newspapers, internet sources, other reports, Government offices, and others. The primary data was collected from the members of selected caste groups in Mysuru district. All the seven taluks of Mysuru district have been chosen for the collection of primary data. The primary data was collected for the year 2015.

3.3.2 Selection of Study Area and Sample Design

Mysuru district of Karnataka state has been selected for the study area. It has been one of the fast developing districts when compared to other districts of Karnataka state.

Figure 3.3.1: Selection of Study Area
The reservation policy was first introduced in the Mysuru district under the regime of Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar as per the recommendations of the Miller's committee in 1921. This has enabled all caste groups to develop in an equitable manner. Hence Mysuru has been selected to understand the nature of caste economy. This district consists of people from different religions and castes. The classification of the castes people as three groups like SCs, STs and OBCs.

Mysuru district is a model district from the point of view of social justice oriented development in the state of Karnataka. The district has 07 Taluks in the present times. The district also has a sizable chunk of SCs, STs and OBCs who are the marginalized sections of society in all respects. The central and state governments have implemented various programmes for the welfare and progress of these weaker sections across the country. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Development Corporation Limited, Maharshi Valmiki ST Development Corporation and D. Devaraja Urs Backward Classes Development Corporation Limited have implemented development programmes to achieve the goal of inclusive development of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Communities in Mysuru district. Primary data were collected from 300 respondents of all the 07 blocks.

**Table 3.3.1: Taluk Wise Selection of Sample Respondents**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>Name of the Block</th>
<th>Number of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>T.Narasipura</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Nanjanagud</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Heggadadevanakote</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Mysuru</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Krishnarajanagar</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Hunsur</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Periyapatna</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>300</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In Mysuru district, there are seven revenue taluks namely – T.Narasipura, Nanjanagudu, Heggadadevanakote, Mysuru, Krishnarajanagar, Hunsur and Periyapatna. About 300 respondents were selected on the basis stratified proportional random sampling methods for the purpose of primary data collection. Hence, 300 respondents representing Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Communities constituted the study sample.

**Table 3.3.2: Caste Wise Selection of Sample Respondents**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of the Caste</th>
<th>Total Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Scheduled Castes</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Scheduled Tribes</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>OBCs</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>300</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The sample for the present study consists of 300 respondents who were selected from all the 07 taluks of Mysuru district. They include the representatives of Scheduled Castes (112), Scheduled Tribes (34) and OBCs (154) respectively. The respondents were selected on the basis of proportion caste population. These methods of selection also give significantly correct results with much less time, resources and materials. Therefore 300 respondents were selected for the present study. The sample
has been as representative as possible and invariably includes urban and rural SCs, STs and OBCs in Mysuru district.

### 3.3.3 Variables Chosen for the Study

Keeping the above hypotheses of the study in view, the following variables were selected for the present study on the basis of review of literature and discussion with subject experts.

In the respondents' households survey schedule it is proposed to include in the questions the respondents' age, family size, education, occupation, caste, economic activities, socio-economic indicators such as employment, income, asset possession, level of education, health, food pattern, health, type of housing and the benefits availed from the government policy programmes etc. were collected from the respondent households.

To study the Socio-economic conditions of SCs, STs and OBCs the variables such as ownership of agricultural land, occupation, income and expenditure, housing status, sanitation facility, fuel facility, lighting facility, drinking water facility, educational status, health status, etc. were chosen.

To study the caste inclusiveness in social development the variables selected were ration card and fair shops, voter ID and adhar card facilities, facilities of pension for widows, old aged and disabled persons, maternal and child care services, unemployment, insurance, income security, etc.

To study the caste inclusiveness in economic development the variables such as land ownership, micro credit facility, irrigation and electricity facilities for agricultural development, storage and marketing facility, development of the infrastructure for industrial development, etc. were chosen.

To study the caste inclusiveness in educational development the variables selected were incentive scholarship facility, mid-day meal and milk facility, hostel facility, free coaching facility, and training for competitive examinations, study materials and book bank facilities etc.

### 3.3.4 Statistical Tools

In the present study the non-parametric statistical tests were carried out in order to draw inferences based on the sample results. The interpretation of the p-value and contingency table analysis justify the assumption of independence which was primarily carried out at the 0.05 level of significance. A brief description of the statistical tests applied is given below.
a. Frequencies and Percentages

The Frequencies procedure provides statistics which are useful for describing many types of variables. The primary data collected on caste inclusiveness in economic development of SCs, STs and OBCs in Karnataka state. The researcher found that the application of the frequencies procedure was an appropriate statistical tool.

b. Contingency Table Analysis

The Cross tabs procedure forms two-way and multi-way tables and provides a variety of tests and measures of association for two or more than two variables. The structure of the table and whether categories are ordered determine what test or measure to use. In the present study contingency table analysis was applied to find out the association between the variables like age, gender, educational qualification, professional status, income and so on with the responses obtained (5 point scale) under each statement, tool or channels of communication. All the statistical calculations were done through SPSS for Windows software (Version 11.0).

c. Chi-square Test

The Chi-square test is a statistical method assessing the goodness of fit between a set of observed values and those expected theoretically. The Chi-square is also used in any statistical hypothesis test in which the sampling distribution of the test statistic is a chi-square distribution when the hypotheses are true.

3.4 Limitations of the Study

It was not practically possible for the researcher to enjoy the benefit of accessibility of data to all the SCs, STs and OBCs in Karnataka state due to large numbers and lack of time. Primary data were collected from the select respondents of Mysuru district. The usual limitations of the survey method such as time, human inadequacies, resource constraints, recollection and communication were experienced by the researcher. Incidental, purposive and stratified sampling methods were followed in selecting the respondents. Though much care has been taken to collect the primary data, the memory bias on the part of the respondents cannot be completely ruled out. A very comprehensive study on the caste inclusiveness in economic development practically demands greater time, energy and resources. However, the researcher has made earnest effort towards studying the vital factors and forces.
associated with the process of caste inclusiveness in the economic development of marginalized sections in Mysuru district.

3.5 Definitions of the Terms Used in the Study

- **Constitutional Safeguards and Provisions for SCs, STs and OBCs**
  The Indian Constitution contains several provisions for the development of SCs, STs, OBCs and minorities who constitute the community of marginalized sections of India. Prominent articles include – Article 340 for OBCs, Article 341 for SCs, Article 342 for STs, etc. Though the Constitution does not make specific provisions for OBCs, as per the Article 16(4), it empowers the State to make provisions for reservation in education and employment in favour of any backward class/classes of citizens of the country.

- **Reservation Benefits for SCs, STs and OBCs**
  Reservation is indeed the process of setting aside a certain percentage of seats vacancies in educational institutions, government institutions and legislative institutions for the members of SCs, STs and OBCs in a caste based society like India. Reservation is governed by constitutional laws, statutory laws, and local rules and regulations. Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes are entitled to reservation benefits. These benefits are extended to the weaker sections of the society to ensure caste inclusiveness in development on the basis of constitutional safeguards and provisions.

- **Empowerment of SCs, STs and OBCs Population**
  The concept of empowerment has been widely discussed and debated all over the world. Several researchers have tried to define the empowerment of people in their own ways on the basis of theoretical and empirical evidences and experiences. Empowerment is commonly defined as the processes by which people take control and ownership of their lives through expansion of their choices. In a pluralistic society like India caste inclusiveness is a pre-condition for the empowerment of marginalized sections of society.

- **SCs, STs and OBCs Population**
  Scheduled Castes means such castes, races or tribes or parts of or groups within such castes, races or tribes as are deemed under article 341 to be Scheduled Castes for the purposes of this Constitution. The term Scheduled Tribe first appeared in the Constitution of India. Article 366(25) defined scheduled tribes as such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under Article 342 to be Scheduled Tribes for the purposes of this
constitution. Other Backward Class (OBC) is a collective term used by the Government of India to classify castes which are socially and educationally disadvantaged. It is one of several official classifications of the population of India, along with Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SCs and STs). The OBCs are entitled to 27% reservations in public sector employment and higher education under Article 340.

**Caste Inclusiveness in Social Development**

In India, exclusion revolves around the societal inter-relations and institutions that exclude, discriminate, isolate and deprive some groups on the basis of their group identity like caste, ethnicity and religion. The principles of equality and freedom are not the governing principles of the caste system. The social and economic conditions of the weaker sections have not improved considerably in the post-independence era. The excluded groups are now seeking solution to their group-specific problems. Special measures are required to ensure inclusive development in a caste ridden country like India.

**Caste Inclusiveness in Economic Development**

The caste formation is an explicit system of discrimination in the service of the domination of economic resources, social power and cultural authority. In India, the economic position of the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and others does provide convincing evidence on the continuing economic inequalities associated with castes. It is necessary to understand the societal inter-relations and institutions which cause exclusion of certain groups in multiple spheres – civic, cultural, political and economic.

**3.6 Summary**

Many research issues have emerged from the empirical studies conducted by various agencies on the caste inclusiveness in economic development with reference to India. The economic organization of the caste system is based on the division of the population into a hierarchical order of social groups that determine the economic rights of the people. People are divided on the basis of ownership of economic resources. The low socio economic status of SCs, STs and OBCs is itself a manifestation of deprivation based on social order in a pluralistic and caste oriented country like India. Despite the constitutional provisions and safeguards, a wide gap between forward communities and backward communities continues to exist in

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respect of their social and economic status. The present investigation was carried out in Mysuru district to understand the obstacles to caste inclusiveness in economic development. There is not even a single study conducted by any researcher in Karnataka state on caste inclusiveness in economic development. Hence, the present investigation was carried out to fill the vacuum and explore new possibilities of distributive socio-economic justice to weaker sections.

References

1. Census of India 2011, GOI.