ABSTRACT

PROBLEM OF SCHEDULED CASTE WOMEN IN KOLKATA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THEIR EDUCATION

The scheduled caste population represents one of the most economically impoverished and marginalized (scheduled caste) group in India. This belongs to the lowest hierarchy of social order and each often considered impure or unclean. Although scheduled caste are a minority, they constitute about 16.2% of the total population in India (Census of India, 2001) or 166 million people in absolute number. Today the problems with caste woman education are mainly concerned with education and job facility. Educationist is thought to have no meaning if it does not lead to a job. Although Indian Society is generally believed to the attached to tradition but the image of Indian Scheduled caste women has undergone a rapid change in recent years. They are now more articulate; more exposed to different streams of learning and a sizable portion of them are active in professional and public life. In the present work an attempt has been made – to reveal that total situation of education of Scheduled caste women. i.e. how many of them have availed of job opportunity by way of gainful employment or self employment and what portion of educated women who are just performing household works as housewives, utilization of education of whom is in so called stagnant position. Present work is done among the slum dwelling Scheduled caste women living in shyambazar, ward no.-10 area where total population strength is 33685 (2001, census). A total of 620 scheduled caste women are interviewed from the slums of this ward. Information is collected about their education, occupation, income, expenditure and decision making position in the family. Background information of family members are also taken. For proper understanding of change among the sc women informants are divided into age groups, 30-45 years and an older group 46-60 years. The first group has completed education and training and has settled down. Result of the work shows that in acquiring education and role changes have occurred, though the women studied are still largely tradition bound in their patriarchal scenario. Methodology followed is anthropological in nature with emphasis on those specific for women studies. Census survey, genealogy, case studies, observation and interview methods are followed. For interview both structured and unstructured schedules methods are used. In way by quantitative and qualitative methods are applied according to the need of the research and expected result therefore a large part of the work involved literacy survey for pointing out the objective of the work.

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