SUMMARY

OF

THE REPORT
The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, traditionally known as the Harijan and Adivasi are treated as the deprived and backward section of the society since hundred of years. After independence in 1947, the Social reformers, Economist, Sociologist, Politicians, Educationist, Philosophers and Constitutional makers sat together to adopt a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic and Republic State for all the citizens irrespective of caste, creed, race, religion, profession etc. living in India. Special provisions were made in the constitution of India for the deprived and backward section of the society. The constitutional provision i.e. Articles 15(4), 16(4), 17, 19(5), 29, 46, 330, 332, 334, 335, 338, 339 etc. are the protective provisions to safeguard the interest of weaker sections of the society. It has been intensely felt that unless and until the weaker and deprived sections are brought up to a paritable standard, they will not be able to participate in the mainstream of the nation.

In post independence period, the Government of India organised a Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, and since then it has been making plans in every five year for the development of the whole country. Different
plans and programmes have been framed and adopted for the welfare and development of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections.

Different programmes like C.D.P., I.A.D.P., M.F.A.L., T.A.D.P., N.R.E.P., R.L.E.G.P., I.R.D.P., T.R.Y.S.E.M., J.R.Y., I.A.Y. etc. and so many others have been launched at different periods for the benefits of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and weaker sections. However, inspite of planning and implementation of such programmes and allocation of crores of rupees, the target group, have not been able to achieve the expected level of development. Even though, five decade have passed, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are still lagging behind in the national mainstream. It is believed that, planning and launching of development programmes are necessary but not the sufficient condition of development of the target group. The development of target group can be properly issued through the real benefit availed by them, not by the number of programmes launched for them. To benefit from any programme, the client must be aware of it and should have the aspiration to avail it.

Both awareness and aspiration play an important role in the life of an individual or community which can determine their development. The awareness and aspiration, if not existing can be created with the help
of education. The persons who are highly educated are those who are highly conscious and higher aspirant. So far Governmental programmes to be successful, the level of education of the target groups, their knowledge of and participation in the programmes are very important factors determining awareness of the group. Further, awareness leads to the aspiration of the target group.

In view of this, the present study was undertaken to study the awareness, aspiration and education of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

1.2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

A STUDY OF THE AWARENESS, ASPIRATIONS AND EDUCATION AMONG THE SCHEDULED CASTE AND SCHEDULED TRIBES IN ORISSA.

1.3. OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS OF THE TERMS USED

Awareness

In the present study the term awareness refers to the extent to which the respondents have the knowledge and participation in the general concerns of life and living.
Aspiration

The term aspiration means how far the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have ambitions and desires in different aspects of life i.e. for education, occupation, social, political and Government's aid.

Scheduled Caste

In the present study Scheduled Caste refers to the people of those castes that are identified as Scheduled Castes by the constitution of India.

Scheduled Tribe

In the present study Scheduled Tribe refers to the people of such tribes that are identified as the Scheduled Tribe by the constitution of India.

1.4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

(i) To study the awareness among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Orissa.

(ii) To study the aspiration among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Orissa.
(iii) To study the educational status of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Orissa.
(iv) To study the relation between the awareness, aspiration and education among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Orissa

1.5. DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The study is delimited to 300 Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households in Orissa.

CHAPTER - II

THE METHODOLOGY

2.1. THE POPULATION

All the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households of Orissa constitute the population of the study.

2.2. THE SAMPLE

The sample of the present study consist of 300 Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households randomly selected out of the 30 districts. Such districts which had 50% or more Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population were sorted out. These came to 12 in numbers. Among these 12 intensely populated district, 4 districts were chosen at
random. Having selected the districts, 300 households were selected at random taking 75 from each of the 4 districts.

2.3. DESCRIPTION OF THE TOOLS

The Questionnaire for Socio-Economic and Awareness Data (Q.S.E.A.D) and Questionnaire for Aspiration Data (Q.A.D) were prepared for the collection of data.

Preparation of Preliminary Draft of Questionnaire

The preliminary draft of questionnaire was prepared by consulting different people (Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe), leaders, experts and going through the available literature.

Editing of the Questionnaire

The content and language of questionnaire was edited after the try out of the preliminary draft.

Administration of the Questionnaire

The questionnaire was administered individually to each Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households through personal interview and responses were recorded in the response sheets designed for the purpose.
CHAPTER - IV

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

The obtained data were tabulated, analysed and interpreted under three headings i.e. Socio-economic and Educational status, Awareness and Aspiration of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households.

The data on socio-economic and educational status were presented in Table 4.1 to 4.11 which includes information on habitation, family size, household assets and facilities, agricultural landholding, possession of livestock, occupation and earning, consumption pattern and educational status. It was reportedly found that the households had low socio-economic and educational status in the sample.

The data on awareness of households were presented in Table 4.12 to 4.37, contained information on Diseases, Centre of health care, Local administration, Public offices, Public distribution, Village market and shopping, Agriculture and husbandry, Elections and voting, Institution, Medias, Police and judiciary, Population and environment and Government programmes. It was reportedly found that the knowledge and participation of households were found low and very poor.
The data on aspiration were presented in Table 4.38 to 4.41 which contained information on Educational, Occupational, Social, Political and Aspiration for Government aid. It was reportedly found that the households had low aspiration on these aspects.

CHAPTER - V
FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

5.1. FINDINGS

The findings of the study have been organised under four major headings i.e.

1. Findings on socio-economic and educational profile of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

2. Findings on awareness of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

3. Findings on aspiration of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
4. Findings relating to awareness, aspiration and education of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

1. Findings on socio-economic and educational profile of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

The finding are further organised under six heading as follows:

- Habitational status of households.
- Possession of assets.
- Agricultural land holding pattern.
- Occupational pattern.
- Expenditure pattern and food habits.
- Educational status of households.

1.1. Habitational Status of Households

It is found that the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households have very poor conditions of living. They are living in low cost houses and have low cost asset in their houses. Most of the households live in thatched houses (51.00%) with two rooms accommodations (45.25%). About 4 to 5 members live in such limited shelters. As much as 29.33% households do not have homestead land for their houses.
1.2. Possession of Assets by Households

It is found that the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households do not have sufficient facilities in their houses for the maintenance of life. About 48.20% do not have facilities of garden, electricity, approach road, compound wall, well, lavatory etc. The occupational assets and life stock are found in case of limited households only.

1.3. Holding of Agricultural Land

Most of the households (61.66%) do not have agricultural land for cultivation and most of them depend on selling of labour. About 32.67% are marginal and small peasants who also depend on labour work. From this point of view, it is found that most of the households (90.00%) depends on manual labour to earn their livelihood.

1.4. Occupational Status of Households

It is found that, the occupational status of household is very poor. Most of them (68.54%) sell labour in agricultural sector. About 16.29% belongs to skilled and unskilled labour in non-agricultural sector. About the earning of households, it is found that 71.91% of them earn on
an average Rs.30/- per day. Thus they belong to very low income group and fall below poverty line.

1.5. Expenditure Pattern of Households and Food Habits

A large portion of the earning of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households are spent on fooding. Only a meagre share is spent on non-fooding items like cloth, medicine, education etc. The households consume sub-standard food as they fail to afford for quality food, as it is costly. On the other hand they spend more on drink, than on education of children. As much as 57% of the households take meal three times a day and 65% of them are in habit of regular drinks. In view of this, majority of the earning is spent on eating and drinking only.

1.6. Educational Status of Households

It is found that the educational status of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households are very low. As much as 46.00% of the households are illiterate and 25.66% have education upto lower primary, who are usually found to have forgotten whatever they learnt. As such, practically about 72% are uneducated. A very few of them i.e. 2.67% have higher education. From this it is revealed that the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households are of significantly low education standard.
2. Findings on Awareness of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Households

The findings on awareness are organised area wise. Such as:

- Health and Hygiene,
- Local Administration,
- Public Offices,
- Public Distribution,
- Marketing System and Shopping,
- Agriculture and Farming,
- Elections and Voting,
- Institutions located in the Village,
- Available facilities in the School and Adult Education Centres,
- Police and Judiciary,
- Mass media,
- Population and Environment, and
- Government's Programme.

2.1. Awareness on Health and Hygiene

The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are found to have very low awareness on the matters of health and hygiene. Although some of them are aware of some common diseases like malaria, fever, cough and
cold etc., many of them do not know the causes of diseases and preventive measures to guard against such diseases. The households are not aware of the available facilities in the Government hospitals. Nearly 52% of the sample household never consulted doctors in their life time, 95.67% did not avail pathological investigation facilities and the like. Usually they believe in traditional treatment of diseases by local methods, despite availability of modern facilities.

2.2. Awareness on Local Administration

Majority of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households are not aware of the local administration at Panchayat level. Although 82.67% have knowledge on the location of Gram Panchayat and 89.60% know the location of Block Office, majority of them are ignorant about the officials working at Gram Panchayats (53.67%) and Block (60.00%) levels, and the facilities available through Gram Panchayat and Panchayat Samiti.

2.3. Awareness on Public Offices

The awareness on the public offices are found different at different level. The awareness on the public office at the village and Gram Panchayat levels are found better than at the Block, Sub-Division and District level. Their awareness, were found limited to the information level only. In other words, they only know that certain common offices are
existing in their locality. As regards their participation, it is found very poor.

2.4. Awareness on Public Distribution

It is found that the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households are very little aware of public distribution system. Although there is provision of distribution of essential commodities to all, only 64.67% households avail sugar, 60.00% avail Kerosine and only 40.67% avail rice. When the households face difficulties in availing ration materials, 73.00% of them do not bother to complain against it or to sort out the problems.

2.5. Awareness on Marketing System and Shopping

As regards price index of the essential commodities in the local and urban market, the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households are found little aware of it. Although there are enough scope for small business and business are apparently, a profitable sources of earning, only 21.67% of them have resorted to it. In other words, 21.67% of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe are sellers and the rest are consumers. Despite this, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were found content and about 58.00% of them did not feel cheated. Surprisingly, 92.67% of them never lodged any complain against the shop keepers,
although 29.33% of them felt cheated in different ways, i.e. through improper weight and measure, substandard goods and services etc. of the local businessman.

2.6. Awareness on Agriculture and Farming

The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are found less aware of the modern methods of agriculture and husbandry. Despite several developments around them, they adopt the traditional method and type of cultivation. Even if the Government has appointed professionals to help the villagers in the matter of agriculture (V.L.W) and husbandry (Stockman), majority (79.25% and 61.33%) of them have not availed their services at all.

2.7. Awareness on Elections and Voting

The Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe are found quite unaware of the procedure and implication of the election of their representatives. For instance, reportedly 45.67% of them are not aware of the eligible age of voting and one third of them have no knowledge of the period for which they elect their representatives. Even, the names of the Ward Members are not known to 46% of them and the names of the Sarpanch and Samiti members are unknown to around 64% and 71% respectively. Similarly 72% do not know who the M.L.A. is and more than
90% do not know the name of their M.P. As regards contact with these representatives, hardly a few persons have had any contact with their representatives. Admittedly, 17.33% were illegally persuaded at the time of election to caste their votes.

2.8. Awareness on Institutions Located in the Villages

The awareness of households on various village level institution are found low. Even though different institutions like School, Club, Yubak sangha etc. are located more or less in every village, majority of the households (50.67%) did not visit at all, to any of these institutions. A very few of them visited for different purposes, i.e. 27.00% visited the schools for the enrollment of children and 5.00% of them go to the clubs and youth centres for information and recreation.

2.9. Awareness on Available Facilities in School and Adult Education Centre

The awareness of households on educational facilities provided by Government is found low. Majority of them (81.00%) have no knowledge on the location of Sevashram school in their areas and a meagre percentage reported the study of their children in the specially provided Sevashram school. Only 7.00% of households had the knowledge of the location of Adult Education Centre and 2.67% reported their benefits from the centre.
2.10. Awareness on Police and Judiciary

Although the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes remain in a society common to other general groups, in which the role of police and judiciary are predominantly felt due to law and order situations, it is found that, 82% never visited Police Station and 87% never been to any court of justice. It is found that they do not like to involve themselves in legal matters. Those few (18%), who had been to Police Station were primarily due to in-between quarrels, land dispute, theft and decoity etc. Those who approached the police, reportedly did not find them helpful in resolving their problems.

2.11. Awareness on Mass Media

The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were found very little exposed to media like newspaper, radio, television etc. While non-availability of these sources is one of the primary cause of their non-exposure, lack of inclination and desire for information is the other important reason. Amongst those who view television; around 80% of them were not interested in news items. On the other hand, they were interested in entertainment only.
2.12. Awareness on Population and Environment

About the awareness on the consequences of over growth of population and pollution of environment, a marginal segment of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have knowledge of the matter. Reportedly they know that, population explosion leads to shortage of food (55.67%), shelter (19.00%) and clothing (12.67%) and deforestation leads to lack of rainfall (60.33%) and shortage of fuel (19.67%). However, a large majority of them are not found serious about the population control and protection of environment. Around 72.33% of them depend on forest for fuel.

2.13. Awareness on Government's Programme

Although the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are focused group in the constitution and special provisions have been made for half a century, majority of them are very little aware of provisions and programmes launched by Government for them. As high as 52.67% of them are ignorant of the most popular and liberal programmes launched by the Government for them. Although, reservation in education and in job have been categorically outlined for these groups, reportedly 46.00% of the sample households have knowledge on reservation policy. Further, it is found that only one third of the sample households have availed the
benefits of the Government programme and amongst those who have availed it, reportedly 27.15% of the beneficiaries bribed for availing the benefits. A large section of them are not duly aware of the facts that, they are the legitimate claimants of certain benefits guaranteed by the constitution to them.

3. Findings on Aspiration of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Households

The findings on aspiration of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households have been reported under four headings, i.e.

- Educational aspiration
- Occupational aspiration
- Social and political aspiration
- Aspiration for Government aids.

3.1. Findings on Educational Aspiration of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe

The educational aspirations of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households are found very low. Reportedly, 24.00% were not willing to attend educational institution at all and 28.67% were casually interested during their childhood without any motivation for it. As such, more than 50.00% had no aspiration for education. Only 11.00% aspired to higher
education in their childhood. But due to difficulties like poverty (68.66%) and different inconveniences (11.33%) the households could not avail education. As regards aspirations of households for the education of their children, 26.00% are reportedly neutral in the matter. They leave such matter to their children to go for education of whatever level they can study as they like and are able to manage.

3.2. Findings on Occupational Aspiration of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

The occupational aspiration is found low in case of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe households. Most of the households (59.67%) are satisfied with their own occupation, whatever occupation they have, despite the fact that, 80.00% of them are earning by selling of labour. On the occupational aspiration for children, even if 56.33% aspired to employment of their children in organised sector, they have no specific willingness for jobs.

3.3. Findings on Social and Political Aspiration

The social and political aspiration of the households is found low, as 80.33% of them did not aspire even to be the chief of caste or community. Only 12.67% of the households are interested in political posts like Sarpanch, Ward Member, Samiti member, M.L.A. or M.P. On the
aspiration for children, 82.33% households do not like to have such aspiration for their children.

3.4. Findings on Aspiration for Government Aid

The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are found highly aspirant to Government aids. As much as 78.67% reported that, they would like to avail Government aids but they failed to make in specific terms as to what kind of aids they intends for. Reportedly their aspiration in this regard is limited to whatever aids they could have, that could satisfy their basic needs directly or indirectly.

4. The findings on the Awareness, Aspiration and Education of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

The findings led to the following equation among the awareness, aspiration and education.

4.1. Low awareness and aspiration led to low education and poor socio-economic status and the vice-versa.

4.2. The poor socio-economic infrastructure has hindered their possibilities of achievements in occupational, social and political fronts.
4.3. For majority of them, the existing sub-standard socio-economic infrastructure have hindered them from thinking beyond hand to mouth situations.

4.4. Majority of them visualise Government aids as the only possible means to relieve them from their current existing condition of misery.

5.2. CONCLUSION

i) The awareness of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is found very low.

ii) The aspirations of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are very limited.

iii) The educational status of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are very poor.

iv) The low educational status leads to poor awareness and aspiration among the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households in Orissa.
5.3. DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

A critical examination of the findings reveal that, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have continued to remain as the weaker sections of the society. They usually live in huts and under thatched roof, one or two room houses constructed out of mud and clay and locally available cheap materials. Many of them do not have houses of their own to live in and many live on encroached land. Their habitations lack essential infrastructural facilities of approach road, electricity, boundary walls, lavatory etc. Their houses are very poorly equipped with household assets. Most of the households earn their livelihood by selling labour in the agricultural and non-agricultural sector. About 61.66 percent are found landless and 23.67 percent marginal peasants having less than one hectare of land. They are usually engaged in low paid occupation like manual and skilled labour.

The lion share of their earning is spent on food and drinks. Despite knowledge of ill effect of consumption of intoxicating drink, they preferred to have it, to get relief against the body ache and similar features they suffer due to hard labour. Very little is left for expenditure on health and hygiene. They hardly have anything to save and spend for education, cloth, balanced diet, medicine etc. Around 65.00 percent of them are
habituated to drink and forced to spend a considerable sum of their earning on it. Nearly 72.00 percent of them are practically illiterate. While due to the poor socio-economic conditions they feel constrained in their investment in education. Generation long illiteracy has made them unable to think beyond the routine life they live. Lack of awareness have hindered them from getting due benefits from the facilities available around them. Although they know the Government hospitals and dispensaries are available, on account of hesitant psycho-social make up and inability to ascertain claims, only a very few of them could avail the benefits of these provisions. In certain cases, even though they know the cause of their sufferings they remain disinterested and non-concerned in improving such situations. In matter of exercising political rights they are miserable. Some of them do not really understand the importance of their franchise. Although they participate in electing their representatives, majority of them hardly succeed in making their representatives responsible for the avoidable misdeeds caused to them.

Their age long destitute life has apparently prevented them from going up in the social strata and raising their social and political standard. On the other hand, they preferred to remain aloof from the developed world around them. Although institutions of public interest like School, Post Office, Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti, Police Station,
Revenue Office, Public Health Centre have been set up by the Government in almost every habitation and they have information of it, they hardly participate in these institutions. Public distribution system, transport and communication, media services are a few important public services available to them. But they hardly benefit from such facilities in right perspectives. They sell their labour to produce goods, the profits of which is availed by somebody else. Left to them, they do not mind for excepting it as an accepted reality. They sell labour at a considerably cheaper rate in producing the goods and purchase the products at considerably higher rates ungrumblingly. Whatever prices are fixed in the market are accepted by them. They hardly make comparision of the price index at different places and protest against visible injustice. Even if the public distribution are utilised for personal benefits by the agents, they hardly protest against it and lodge complains.

Agency of law and order in the form of Police and judiciary are available to them but the services are hardly sought for by these groups. Although modern methods of agriculture and farming and expertise of qualified professionals are available in the localities, a very few of them are able to exploit these opportunities. Special educational institutions with free lodging and boarding have been set up for them but only a negligible sections have been able to benefit from such facilities. Special innovation
have been launched to educate the adults in the form of adult education centre, literacy centre etc. Several special programmes have been launched in different forms like I.R.D.P., Jeevan Dhara, J.R.Y., DWCRA, Kutirjyoti and Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe loan etc., but their participation in these programmes are very very limited and discouraging. Their aspiration for education and occupation for themselves and their children are very very limited. They have a surprising tendency of being contented with whatever they have. The motivation for mobility is very little in them.

Such phenomena as discussed above leads to the conclusion that, they have continued to remain as the weaker section of the society. The harden realities is, despite purposeful efforts from different public and private enterprises to raise their standard and improve their quality of life and living they have remained away from the mainstream. The analysis of human characteristics can hardly support any proposition that rational beings would like to dislike comforts for themselves. While the biological needs are basic for the survival, psycho-social needs are essential for meaningful living. As it appears, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are yet to identify their psycho-social needs. Age long experiences of deprived life have possibly made their mind dormant to visualise these necessities.
A critical examination of the causes of such phenomena in the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes suggest, lack of education could be an important reason for their miserable condition. Education creates awareness and awareness develops aspiration. Aspiration creates need and needs create motivation for action. In this chain, education stands basic for human being to think and to act. Under such circumstances, the whole process has to be reviewed and suitably planned for the spread of education. Creation of educational opportunities is necessary but not sufficient condition to educate a man. The need for education has to be created. Once an individual feels the necessity of it, he will try to achieve it, whatsoever he can. At such movements, the facilities and provision can facilitate an individual's attempt to realise the needs. Undoubtedly, substantial attempts have been made to uplift the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. However, it is felt that, these provisions have been spread without properly looking into the appetite of the target groups. As such, it is believed that, it is time to rethink over the matter and plan out properly the future course of action. Such examination should be done in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programmes for the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe.

Recommendation for Further Study

- This type of study can be conducted in broad areas.
Study can be conducted on the Government's programme since independence and the benefits availed by the beneficiaries.