CHAPTER-I
INTRODUCTION

The Scheduled Castes (SCs) are among the most socially and educationally disadvantaged groups in India. Scheduled Castes have different histories of social and economic deprivation and the underlying causes of their educational marginalization are also strikingly distinct. The SCs constitute 16.23 per cent of India’s population. In the past, they have been socially detested, economically exploited and denied human dignity and sense of worth. The socio-economic development and protection of SCs from discrimination and exploitation have been a high priority from the very start of the planning process. Basic education continues to remain a privilege enjoyed by some castes and there is tremendous variation among the social groups like Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes. Conversely, a comparison of economical and educational outcomes of Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes yields such a common picture that the government has sought to address through a common set of policy prescriptions.

Despite an observable improvement in the socio-economic status of the Scheduled Castes, much more needs to be done to ensure that these groups take full advantage of India’s growth story. Education being the most effective instrument for socio-economic empowerment, high priority continues to be accorded to improving the educational status of SCs, especially of women and girl children in this category. It is estimated that
36.8 per cent rural Scheduled Castes and 39.9 per cent urban Scheduled Castes lived below the poverty line (in 2004–05) in contrast to the 16.1 per cent rural Non-Scheduled Castes and 16 per cent urban Non-Scheduled Castes population. Those in Scheduled Castes (SCs) have a lower average level of expenditure than those in Non-Scheduled Castes resulting in a rural poverty rate of 35 percent among SCs compared to 21 percent among other castes, and an urban poverty rate of 39 percent among SCs compared to 15 percent among Non-Scheduled Castes. Individuals from Scheduled Castes are less likely to own land or any productive assets to enable self-employment; they are more likely to depend on casual wage labour for income, resulting in higher levels of underemployment and when they are employed, they receive lower average wages than their non–Scheduled Castes counterparts.

**Social Background**

The history of categorizing some castes as Scheduled Castes commenced with the Government of India Act, 1935. This step on the part of the then British Government was meant to treat the most oppressed and exploited castes with a degree of special political dispensation. Most of these castes were known as 'untouchable' in the context of the Hindu social structure. Thus, the 'Scheduled Caste' category initially comprised castes that were isolated and disadvantaged by their 'untouchability', i.e. their low 'polluting' status in the traditional Hindu caste hierarchy, which bare them to an oppressive life, characterized by a transparent deprivation of
opportunities. After Independence the Government of India took up the removal of *untouchability* as one of its main and important responsibilities. In order to end exploitation of these sections by the upper caste Hindus, the modern polities provided many protective measures in the Constitution and instigated many programmes for their social development.

**Population Growth**

The Scheduled Castes comprise a significant demographic segment in India. In the year 1935, the Scheduled Castes were estimated about 10.475 crores in the year 1981, crores and in the year 1991 population was estimated at 13.822 crores, which constitutes 16.48 per cent of the total population. According to the Census-2001, the population of SC was 16.66 crores constituting 16.33 per cent of the population. Due to migration of Scheduled Castes people, the population growth has been declined. It is estimated that 3.51 crores SC people are concentrated in UP, 1.18 crores in Tamil Nadu, 1.23 crores in Andhra Pradesh and 1.33 crores in Bihar. It is interesting to see that these five states alone account for 53.36 per cent of Scheduled Caste population of the country. Decennial growth rate of SC population between 1951 and 1961 is 52.44 per cent in the total population whereas the decennial growths of Scheduled Castes are 63.73 per cent in the same decade. It is estimated that the general population growth have increased at the slow rate, compared to the Scheduled Castes population. It stood at only 52.93 per cent but the growths of Scheduled Castes were 86.12 percent in between 1961 and 1971. It is interesting to note that the growth of
Scheduled Castes population is very less than the Non-Scheduled Castes population during the 1991-2001 census years. The decadal growth of Scheduled Castes beyond 1991 was 30 per cent, which is more than the decadal growth of general population whereas that for the Non-Scheduled Castes was only 47.02. The proportion of SC population living in rural areas is more than the national average. It is observed that in terms of the percentage of SC population to the total population there seems to be a slight decline in 2001, due to migration from usual place residence to other states. It is observed that there is significant change in the population growth between Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes.

**Literacy Rate**

Education is an essential element of human resource development as it improves the knowledge and develops required skill base among the individuals. The spread of education among the Scheduled Castes in India has been low in comparison to the Non-Scheduled Castes. According to the census 1961, the literacy rate of Scheduled Castes is recorded at 36.39 per cent, of this the male literacy rate is 51.59 per cent and female literacy rate is 21.06 per cent which has increased to 62.66 per cent in the year of 1991. The achievements made in the literacy rates (37.41 per cent) of Scheduled Castes are also significant compared to those in the 1991 Census. According to the Census 2001, the overall literacy rate stands at about 65 per cent with male literacy rate of 75 per cent and female literacy rate of 54 per cent and 74.04 per cent in 2011 with male literacy rate of 85.14 per cent
and female literacy rate of 65.46 per cent. The net enrollment ratio (NER) has increased over the years. NER at the primary level education has increased from 84.5 per cent in 2005-06 to 98.5 per cent in 2008-09 at the all India level. Similarly NER for upper primary level education has increased from 43.1 per cent to 56.2 per cent in the same period. According to the 2011 census has increased to 80.33 per cent. Despite significant increases in literacy and enrolment rates, the overall low average literacy level of the country and especially amongst Scheduled Castes continues to aggravate inequalities in educational capabilities between Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes.

**Economic Background**

Economic development in India even after six decades of planned development has by-passed Indian poor. For the poorest of the poor and for the members of Scheduled Castes, who are doubly disadvantaged, the gap between the rich and the poor has been widening, despite rapid technology changes and galloping globalization. The overall goal of economic development for the poor and for the members of Scheduled castes have so far been seen in generalized improvement in agricultural production, sanitation, health care, schooling and other income generating activities. But the lack of resources and capability deprivation have gone against the poorest section, majority of whom are members of SCs as discrimination, socioeconomic and political, appears to operate through strong mechanism. According to the Indian Constitution, Article 15 envisages the State to ensure
economic development of persons belonging to Schedules Castes. An empirical study conducted in India by Borooah (2009) shows that nearly one-third of the average income generation differences between the upper caste Hindu and SCs household was due to the unequal treatment of the latter. A recent study by Sundram and Suresh Tendulkar (2003) concludes that amongst the poor, members of SCs comprised the largest section of the deprived people.

**Occupation Pattern**

The occupational status of the population reflects their relative dependence on the various economic activities. The number of SCs as agricultural labourers is higher than that of Non-Scheduled Castes. This is largely because the Scheduled Castes have very poor access to land and even when they are recorded as cultivators, many of them cultivate land as tenants or share croppers and possess very small area of land to operate. Their overwhelming status as agricultural labourers directly accounts for their higher level of poverty. The more striking part of the information is the sizable decline in the percentage of cultivators among Scheduled Castes. This goes to show that access to Scheduled Castes of land for cultivation, whether as owned land or operated land, has come down substantially. The increase in the percentage of Scheduled Castes agricultural labourers shows that many Scheduled Castes, who owned land earlier, have lost them - a single most depressing indicator of their worsening economic situation which directly mirrors their vulnerability.
Nearly three-fourth of Scheduled Castes people primarily depend on agriculture 25.4 per cent as cultivators and 49.06 per cent as agricultural labourers which makes them vulnerable to various forms of exploitation, such as being bonded labourers, sending children to work, migrating to distant places in search of work. In 1991, it has significantly declined to 22.08 per cent and 39.16 per cent during the 2001. Nearly forty per cent of Non-Scheduled Castes are cultivators in 1991 and it declined to 33.11 per cent in 2001 and further it has also declined to 2011. It is noted that only twenty per cent of Non-Scheduled Castes are agricultural labourers in 1991 but it has slightly decreased to 20.29 per cent. It is found that there is wide gap between Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes people in case of the agricultural labourers. The proportion of marginal holdings is higher in the case of Scheduled Castes in terms of numbers accounting for 72.2 per cent in 1990-91, as against 70.7 per cent in 1985-86 in case of Non-Scheduled Castes. It is clear from the analysis that poverty has reduced among all Non-Scheduled Castes of the society but the prevalence of poverty is still very high among the Scheduled Castes.

**Land Holdings**

In 1990-91 the share of Scheduled Castes in respect of total number of holdings in the country was 12.6 per cent but they operated only 8 per cent of the area, whereas nearly eighty per cent of lands have been held by the Non-Scheduled Castes people in the sample period. But they operated at 81.2 per cent of areas. The average size of their land holdings is 0.98
hectares. This is in contrast to 79.3 per cent of the total number of holdings belonging to others, who operate 81.2 per cent of the area with average size of 1.59 hectares.

**Employment conditions**

In India, the proportion of households depending on self-employment was highest among others category of households (61 per cent) followed by OBC households (56 per cent), ST (46 per cent) and SC (34 per cent) households. On the other hand, the proportion of rural labour households was much higher among ST (45 per cent) and SC (about 56 per cent) households than that among the OBC households (33 per cent) and others households (23 per cent).

**According to NSS Report (2004-05)** during the period 1983 to 2004-05, the proportion of usually unemployed does not show any systematic change for any category of households. For rural males and urban females belonging to the STs and SCs, the proportions seem to have increased over the period from 1983 to 2004-05. Between 1999-2000 and 2004-05, the unemployment rate for females in both the rural and urban areas had increased by about 1 percentage point for all categories of households, except for the STs in the rural areas. On the other hand, the unemployment rate for males, between 1999-2000 and 2004-05, appears to have declined, except for the urban SCs for whom the rate increased from 5 per cent in 1999-2000 to about 6 per cent in 2004-05.
The unemployment rate among the Scheduled Castes is much higher as compared to Non-Scheduled Castes. The NCAER survey (2010) shows that in the level of education, the Scheduled Castes and Tribes are much worse compared to Hindu In respect of the disparity between Scheduled Caste and other Hindus, the levels of literacy, educational achievement and enrolment are lower for Scheduled Castes in almost all the states.

**Representation in Government Jobs**

Education and employment of Scheduled Castes has been mainly possible due to the protective discrimination policy of the Government of India. The reservation in jobs has been provided, which facilitates entry into salaried services as educational opportunities alone would be meaningless without jobs. Various reports and studies in regard to the reservation in jobs and the benefits derived by the Scheduled Castes indicate that their representation in top echelons of services is negligible. Although the educational and employment achievements among SCs have not been up to expectations, these have contributed to their socio-economic development to a significant extent. It is clear that there is an improvement in the representation of Scheduled Castes in all categories of Central Government services, except class ‘D’ in the year 2001 over 1991. There is still a significant gap of over 4 per cent between their prescribed quota of 15.5 per cent and 11.42 of actually filled positions in class ‘A’ category and a gap of 2.68 per cent in class B category.
The representation of SCs in category ‘C’ and particularly class ‘D’ is redundant only because of lower grade jobs, which generally are not accepted by other caste people due to social stigma. So as a result of the affirmative action policies of the Government, the overall representation of Scheduled Castes at all levels of services of the Government of India has increased to 16.52 per cent in the year 2003. Moreover, in Public Sector Banks, SCs and STs constituted 17.75 and 5.48 per cent of total employment in 2005, while their share in Public Sector Enterprise during the same year was 18.37 and 9.42 per cent, respectively (UNESC 2008). Therefore, there is an urgent need to fill up the required gap in the different categories of services by strictly following the constitutional provisions and initiating a special drive in this regard.

Social groups in India differ considerably in educational achievement and economic conditions. The Scheduled Castes fare poorly compared to Non-Scheduled Castes. But there are notable regional variations in the disparities. In some states, notably Kerala, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, the gap in literacy between Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes has declined recently, either due to government efforts or otherwise. But in many states the gap has been very wide and continues as such even in current enrolment.

**Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP)**

The Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan has become an important instrument in improving the economic conditions of the Scheduled Caste population and
thereby leading to the removal of social and economic disabilities. The following are the broad objectives of the SCSP:

- Substantial reduction in poverty and unemployment.
- Creation of productive assets in favour of Scheduled Castes and to sustain the growth likely to accrue through development efforts.
- Human resource development of the Scheduled Castes by providing adequate educational and health services, and
- Provision of physical and financial security against all types of exploitation and oppression.

Improving the quality of life of the disadvantaged groups of people in the society has been given emphasis in the successive Five Year Plans. The Constitution provides for special protection of such underprivileged sections of the society, viz., Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). Government has taken several steps for framing appropriate policies and implementing various welfare programmes for achieving the objective of ensuring the rapid socio-economic development of the SCs. These include reservation in educational institutions and employment, provision of scholarships, targeted economic incentives to encourage entrepreneurship as well as housing and infrastructure development schemes.

**Economic Development**

Economic Development is a key factor in improving the socio-economic status of the SC population. The main objective under this thrust area will be to improve the standard of living and reduce the incidence of
poverty among the SCs. This will be achieved through various skill
development and income-generating activities, by improving the employment
opportunities and employability of educated youth and enhancing their
entrepreneurial capacity. Major schemes for economic development such as
land purchase scheme, Special Individual Entrepreneur Scheme, Self-
Employment Programme for Youth (SEPY) and assistance to self-help
groups, will be continued during the 11th Plan period. Vocational Training
Programmes for youth as well as coaching programmes for Civil Services
and other examinations will also continue to be implemented by Tamil Nadu
Adi-Dravida Housing Development Corporation (TAHDCO). It will also
continue to be the nodal agency for implementing the National Scheme for
Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers which includes loans for income
generating self-employment ventures, skill training and entrepreneur
development, as well as educational loans for the wards of erstwhile
scavengers. The above schemes are fully funded at 100 per cent by the
Government of India under Special Central Assistance. From the year 2007-
08 onwards, 5 per cent of the total allocation under Scheduled Caste Sub-
Plan for implementing economic development programmes through
TAHDCO will be earmarked for Scheduled Castes in Tamil Nadu. Thus it
clearly shows that economic conditions of the Scheduled Castes have been
improved only through SCA when compared to Non-Scheduled Castes
people.
Problems of the study

The development of weaker sections of the society, particularly the Scheduled Castes has been on the agenda of the Government since the starting of planned development process in our country. Even it was realized by the framers of the Constitution of India that these socially, economically and educationally backward castes cannot compete with Non-Scheduled Castes. Accordingly, some special provisions, besides fundamental rights have been incorporated in the Constitution to provide justice and equal opportunities to them. Education, income and health are considered the pivotal anchors of development in every society. The present state of the conditions of Scheduled Castes on the above indicators reflects that still there is literacy gap of more than 14 per cent in case of Scheduled Castes and in relation to Non-Scheduled Castes.

As far as the work participation rate among the scheduled castes is concerned, it is found that around 80 per cent of them still remained essentially agricultural/casual labourers and one-fourth among the working population of SCs still have to struggle to get work even for a period of six months in a year. Moreover, their representation in top echelons of services of class ‘A’ and ‘B’ is very less than their stipulated share of 15.5 per cent compared to the Non-Scheduled Castes. It is unfortunate that in the era of science and technology more than 21 per cent Scheduled Castes villages have no access to the electricity facility. More than 56 per cent of Scheduled Castes do not have access to electricity in their houses. Only 27 per cent of
Scheduled Castes have drinking water source within the premises, whereas 20 per cent of scheduled caste population has to go away outside their houses to meet their drinking water requirement. The economic conditions of the Scheduled Castes in terms of certain basic indicators are, therefore, vital to know where they stand in the steps of Indian society, economically and in terms of entitlement to basic resources are to be analyzed in this study.

Significance of the study

The Scheduled Castes are thus least affected by the process of social and economic change compared to the Non-Scheduled Castes and their living conditions are far from the most advantageous level but process of social and economic conditions of Non-Scheduled Castes have efficiently reached out to the maximum point. In this circumstances, the study of the economic transformation of the Scheduled Castes in India is thus necessary and meaningful not only to understand the broad pattern of social and economical change but also to understand the emerging pattern of education, standard of living and working conditions of the Scheduled Castes.

Objectives of the study

The main aim of the study is to investigate the economic transformation of the Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes. Besides, the present study has been conducted to achieve the following objectives.
1. To examine the socio-economic factors and the demographic variables of Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes,

2. To find out the extent of the increase in literacy rate between Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes,

3. To analyse the changing occupational pattern of Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes,

4. To estimate the employment conditions of the Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes,

5. To examine the effects of government programmes on the economic improvement of Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes,

6. To analyse the inter-caste relations with Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes and

7. To suggest policy measures to improve the economic conditions of the Scheduled Castes.

**Hypotheses of the study**

The study will test the following hypotheses. They are

1. The gender gap among the Scheduled Castes population remains significantly higher as compared to the Non-Scheduled Castes,

2. The literacy rates of the Scheduled Castes population are lower than those of the Non-Scheduled Castes,

3. The growth rate of Scheduled Castes non-agricultural labours increasing with decreasing the involvement of agricultural activities as compared to the Non-Scheduled Castes,
4. Higher participation of Scheduled Castes in the lower grade jobs and higher participation of Non-Scheduled Castes in the higher grade jobs in the government departments and

5. The proportion of land holdings of Scheduled Castes are less as compared to the Non-Scheduled Castes and

6. There is a significant economic relationship between Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes.

Social group

For each household surveyed, the social group to which the head of the household belonged to was collected. The social group of the head of the household was considered as the social group of all the members of the household, irrespective of the actual social group to which the individual members belonged. In the survey, information in respect of two social group’s viz. Scheduled Castes (SC), which consists of Scheduled Tribes and Non-Scheduled Castes which consists of other backward class (OBC) are taken into account. The information recorded in this regard was based entirely on the response of the informant and not based on any State level list of social groups.

Methodology

The method of research adopted, the description of the tools and techniques used, the sample, the procedure of data collection and the outline of statistical techniques used in the analysis of data are discussed under appropriate heads.
Sources of Data

In order to achieve the objectives of the study, the researcher used both secondary and primary data.

Secondary data

The secondary data pertaining to the socio economic conditions of the Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes at both all-India and Tamil Nadu levels have been collected from various Government publications which include Statistical Abstract of India, Economic Survey, Economic Appraisal of Tamil Nadu, Statistical Handbook of Tamil Nadu, reports of Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, etc., for the reference period. These annual reports and publications have been accessed from various libraries like Madras Institute of Development Studies, Connemera Public Library, Madras School of Economics, University of Madras, etc. The necessary secondary data have been obtained from various published works such as books, reports, journal articles, magazines, periodicals, records in Viilupuram District and electronic web materials. Besides using the materials of various government departments and research institutions, experts in the field of Scheduled Castes related to study have also been consulted. The secondary data have been used for focusing more on socio economic conditions of Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes of many parts of the country particularly in Tamil Nadu.
Primary Data

The primary data has been collected through structured questionnaires which calling for details about socio-economic status of the sample respondents, such as education, occupation, employment, income and expenditure, savings, debt, perception on implementation of reservation policy and the opinion about improvement of economic conditions of Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes. At the primary level, data from the sample households have been gathered through field survey with the help of questionnaire. A standard questionnaire was developed for this purpose and a pilot survey was conducted. Based on this survey, necessary modifications were carried out in the questionnaire, which was used in the field survey.

Sampling Design

This study is based on multi-stage proportionate random sampling method. In the first stage, Villupuram district as the sample district is purposively chosen, since it is one of the districts in Tamil Nadu where the dominance of low level of education, employment and income is still quite considerable. In the second stage, two taluks, viz., Tindivanam and Kallakurich, have been selected deliberately for these taluks, Kallakurich is much better than Tindivanam as far as improvement of socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes is concerned. In the third stage, four sample villages, two from each taluk have been selected, which belonged to one urban and one rural area. Tindivanam (urban) and
Molasur (rural) from Tindivanam taluk and Kallakurichi (urban) and Vadathorasalur (rural) from Kallakurichi taluk, have been selected. In the fourth and final stage, the sample households have been selected on the basis of the census report, Government of Tamil Nadu. The details of sample population and sample households are given in Table.1.1

**Table.1.1. Details of total households and the sample respondents**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Areas</th>
<th>Total Households</th>
<th>Sample Households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tindivanam (U)</td>
<td>14500</td>
<td>218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molasur(R)</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kallakurichi (U)</td>
<td>8097</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vadathorasalur(R)</td>
<td>909</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>24047</strong></td>
<td><strong>484</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


According to 2001 Census data, the total number of households in Tindivanam (urban) is 14500; of this, 218 sample households have been selected whereas out 541 total households, 54 samples have been selected in Molasur (rural). Similarly, out of the number of total households (8097) in Kallakurichi (urban), 121 sample households were selected whereas among the 909 total households in Vadathorasalur (rural), 91 samples respondents have also been selected.

It is worthwhile to mention that the selection of respondents from total sample sizes have been followed according to the proportional sample size. Thus, the numbers of sampling households from the four same areas are 218, 54, 121 and 91 respectively from the sample areas. Hence, from a total of 24047 households, 484 have been selected as sampling households for this study. The study is also classified into the Scheduled Castes and Non-
Scheduled Castes which consist of 76 and 142 sample respondents in Tindivanam (urban) and 19 and 35 samples from Molasur (rural). Similarly, out of 121 samples in Kallakurichi (urban), 43 and 78 respondents are Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes respectively, whereas of the 91 samples in Vadathoraslur, 32 and 59 samples belong to Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes.

**Statistical Tools**

The gathered data have been analysed with the application of appropriate statistical tools. These include ratio analysis, diagrammatic representation, descriptive statistics, t-test, Chi-square test, ANOVA and regression model.

**Period of the Study**

The present study analyses economic transformation of Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes. For this purpose, secondary and primary data have been collected. Secondary data regarding education, occupation, employment and government policy measures from 1990-91 to 2010-11 at the all-India level and at the Tamil Nadu level are collected. Primary data regarding socio economic conditions, occupational pattern, poverty trends household income and assets have been collected through field survey, which was undertaken during the period 2012.

**Limitation of the Study**

The main aim of the study is to trace out the economic transformation of Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes people of the study area.
For this purpose, data regarding area under details of occupation, employment, income and annual household expenditure have been gathered from the households. These data are expected to be accurate based on which the analysis is done. Moreover, the sample households were not quite forthcoming in providing data regarding their occupation, income and employment etc., for obvious reasons. As time and monetary factors constrained the study, the researcher is not able to cover all the variables related to the sample households; it covers only economic views of the households.

**Chapter Outline**

The research work will be divided in seven chapters.

The **first chapter** deals with introduction, problems of the improvement of economic conditions of Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes, significance of research work, choice of study area, objective of the study, hypotheses of study, source of data and information as well as methodology and limitations of the study and chapter outline of the research work.

The **second chapter** reviews the existing elaborate studies which related to the socio and economic background of the Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes. It covers education, occupations, employment and income of the respondents. This chapter also covers the local, national and international studies.
The third chapter focuses on the economic development of Scheduled Castes people as compared to the Non-Scheduled Castes people at India level and the Tamil Nadu level.

The fourth chapter deals with profile of the study area. It includes the socio and economic conditions of the Villupuram district and also includes the sample areas of the study.

Fifth Chapter is concerned with the analysis of the data given by sample respondents from Villupuram District. It also discusses the socio-economic characteristics of the sample households inclusive of their housing characteristics. The aspects covered are the demographic and general characteristics of the sample households, economic conditions of households, housing conditions with respect to various facilities, education and cultural interests. It also estimates the occupation and income changes between Scheduled Castes respondents and Non-Scheduled Castes respondents.

The determinants of economic transformation of Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes respondents in the sample areas have been discussed in the Sixth Chapter. It covers difference between Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes in changes of education and occupation in the sample areas. The chapter also examines the reasons for the increasing the gap in occupational status between Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes respondents and also analyses income and employment status of the respondents.
The **final chapter** ends with the summary and the findings of the study. It also gives valuable suggestion to improve economic conditions of the Scheduled Castes.