Chapter I

Introduction

CONTENTS

1.1 Context of the Study
1.2 Significance of the Study
1.3 Research Issues
1.4 Objectives
1.5 Hypotheses
1.6 Conceptual Frame work
1.7 Analytical Frame work
1.8 The Scope and Coverage of the Study
1.9 Data sources and Methodology
1.10 Sampling Procedure
1.11 Limitations
1.12 Chapterisation

Notes and References
Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Context of the Study

In India, the Hindu social organisation from time immemorial has expressed the feature of caste system. It has been a hierarchy of endogamous groups, organized in a characteristically hereditary division of occupation. The Scheduled Caste people (SCs) have been considered the weakest constituents of our social structure and are socially, economically, educationally and politically down-trodden. Due to continued oppression and ill-treatment their conditions became miserable.

The framers of our Constitution paid special care and attention to these ‘Sons of the soil’ and introduced several measures in it to ameliorate their conditions in accordance with the commitment to the objectives of social justice, economic and political equality, status and opportunity as enshrined in the preamble.

In spite of these Constitutional provisions, agreed policy priorities, planned development and various welfare schemes for the last six decades, the development effort for SCs has often been too small to make any major impact on their lives. Hence most of them continue to be below the poverty line and suffer from the age old disabilities including marginalisation. Even in Kerala, a state where 100 % literacy is attained, the scene is not much different. They are still forced to live in pathetic conditions due to the caste they are born in, though it is not their fault. The habitats which are intended and
formulated to ease out the burdens have, most unfortunately, turned out to be another curse as it made no positive social atmosphere, the showered special welfare schemes notwithstanding. The main objective of SC development is their uplift to the levels of the mainstream of society in all respects, which requires more equitable distribution of income and other amenities to improve their social and economic well-being.

Since independence a lot of welfare schemes have been planned and implemented for the uplift of the SCs by the central and the state governments and executed through local self governments and other departments. Special schemes are being launched in favour of the habitats. These steps have indeed improved their status a little. The occupants of the habitats happen to be segregated from the other sections of the population. The main factors, crucial for shaping the future of SCs, are education, employment and housing.

Many efforts have already been made in investigating the problems of the SC welfare in India as a whole and the state in particular. There are several aspects and dimensions which need thorough investigation further. Habitats are special places which need special scrutiny. The life and atmosphere in the habitats are entirely different which need redrafting. Academicians have given little attention to habitats where more problems exist than solutions. Moreover no study addresses and measures the socio-development aspects of SCs in habitats in comparison with their status outside.

The Scheduled Caste communities form 16.23% of our country’s population\(^4\). Even in this twenty first century acclaimed as ‘The era of Dalit initiatives’\(^5\) they have been subdued, oppressed, exploited,
expropriated and spurned by the governing castes. After the attainment of independence the central as well as state governments through their successive budgets have set apart large amounts of money for the welfare of SCs. In the financial outlays of the successive Five Year Plans, the aim to achieve the objectives within a short period was set. Many welfare programmes were announced and various implementation processes have been constituted. Despite these efforts, the set goal has not been reached and the target never met. Proper review and follow up actions are not being taken in respect of schemes intended for SCs by those departments which are entrusted with it. Also, those who were responsible for the implementation of the schemes were not so enthusiastic in these matters. It might be the reflection of the general apathy towards this weaker section of society.

After six decades of independence and planned development even in Kerala untouchability and apathy exist. SCs are still downtrodden even after the implementation of a series of schemes for their uplift in general and special schemes for the inmates of habitats in particular. Our state has become popular by its ‘Kerala model’ of development, which influenced even the human development approach developed by UNDP. What prevented the transmission of the gains to the underprivileged masses is the first and foremost question to be addressed in the emerging political scenario of the 21st century.

1.2 Significance of the Study

Regarding the various welfare schemes already implemented we are not able to measure correctly the amount of benefit availed by the different communities. This may be because no empirical study on a systematic basis has been conducted so far. But evidences, to some
extent, are available from annual reports published by the
governments and enquiry commissions, several monographs by
scholars and researchers and from reports of social workers,
community leaders and politicians. No authoritative analysis has been
done in the process of absorption of welfare measures by the SCs or in
the nature and characteristics of groups and individuals who availed
themselves of benefits. But authentic information about them is very
important for the success of these welfare programmes, for the follow-
up and rectification and also for the formulation of future plans.

Since Independence the SCs in general, had shown an
inclination to remain in settlements. The reason for this can be traced
to the socio-cultural nature of these communities. Along with this, the
government had provided colonies for them primarily for implementing
special welfare schemes. In spite of this, many SC families have
migrated to the main stream of society. The study will take into
consideration the impact of welfare measures on SCs in such habitats
and in other places of their abode. It will also attempt to identity the
factors on both places and the differential impact on them. It is much
expected that the study will highlight certain problems, which would
be of much use to policy-makers, planners, local bodies, and above all,
to the successive state governments that in turn provide tremendous
benefits to the SCs in general. In this context it is relevant to probe
into the following research issues.

What are the controlling factors, which led to the backwardness
of SCs in Kerala when compared to the general population? How far
did the SC welfare schemes launched by the governments help their
uplift? Why does the socio-economic status of SCs living in habitats
and non-habitats differ and what are the important components that helped the SCs to attain a better socio-economic status?

1.3 Objectives

The main objectives of the study are the following.

1. To make a meaningful comparison of the status of the SC people in Kerala with that of the general population.

2. To evaluate the effectiveness of the welfare schemes launched for the benefit of SC people particularly in habitats.

3. To make a comparative study of the socio-economic aspects of SC people living in habitats and non-habitats.

4. To identify the principal components that have contributed towards the socio-economic development of the SCs.

1.4 Hypotheses

The following hypotheses form the basis of this study.

1. The deprivation index of the SC families in Kerala is greater than the deprivation index of the general population of Kerala.

2. The deprivation indices of the SC families living in habitats are much greater than those of SC families living in non-habitats.

The Socio-economic development indices of SC families in habitats are smaller than the corresponding figures of the SC families living in other places.

1.5 Conceptual Framework

The socio-economic development of a community encompasses both qualitative and quantitative aspects. Standard theses and principles are not very relevant to the evaluation of the development attained as a result of various welfare measures implemented for their
uplift. Therefore some new indices are developed and employed in the study. Considering the ground realities and the importance of some strategic factors, the following concepts are used to assess the level of socio-economic advancement of SCs, thus enabling a fruitful comparison among the inmates of habitats and non-habitats.

Based on the following parameters namely
1) Literacy and educational attainment of households.
2) Per capita income of the families.
3) Possession of pakka house.
4) Availability of drinking water, electricity, sanitation facilities and freedom from social evils like alcoholism/drug addiction/social discrimination and crimes.

A composite index of development called **socio-economic development index (SEDI)** has been developed and is used as an indicator of the level of socio-economic development. This is used to compare the development SCs achieved due to various welfare measures in habitats and non-habitats.

To assess disparity among habitats and non-habitats in terms of the incidence of poverty a more desirable approach is relied upon, the **deprivation index**. This is also a composite index in terms of housing quality, access to drinking water good, sanitation and electricity lighting.
1.5.1 Definitions of other concepts used

**Habitats**: A place of residence where more than 50% of households (at least 5) belong to SC.

**Non-Habitats**: The residing places of SCs other than habitats.

**Settlements**: Places where SCs are residing in groups traditionally.

**Colonies**: Home shelters issued to landless people by the government/SC/ST departments/local self governments with or without agricultural land.

**Census 2001**: It is the first census of the twenty-first century and the third millennium. It reveals benchmark data on the state of abundant human resources available in the country, their demography, culture and economic structure at a juncture, which marks a centennial and millennial transition. The population enumeration of 2001 census was undertaken during 9-28 February 2001 with a revision round from 1-5 March 2001.

**Sex ratio**: Sex ratio, defined as the number of females per thousand males is an important social indicator to measure the extent of prevailing equality between males and females in a society at a given point of time.

**Literacy**: For the purpose of census 2001, one person aged seven and above, who can both read and write with understanding in any language, is treated as literate. A person, who can only read but cannot write, is not considered as literate.

**Population Density**: It is one of the important indices of population concentration. It is defined as the number of persons per sq. km.
1.6 Analytical Framework

The following statistical tools were used for the analysis and interpretation.

**Education index**: Scores are assigned to people according to their educational status. Score 0 is given to illiterates, score 1 to persons having education between standards 1 and 4, score 2 to persons having education between standards 6 and 9, score 3 to those with S.S.L.C, score 4 to those with Plus-2, score 5 to those having bachelors degree, and score 6 to those having post graduate degree or above. The total score for each household is calculated. These scores are divided by the household sizes to get the average scores. The average scores, when divided by 6 (is the maximum score a household can attain) we obtain the education indices. Children and students up to the age of 15 are ignored while calculating this index.

**Income Index**: The monthly income of each household is divided by the household size to get the per capita income. The per capita income is divided by the maximum per capita income (here Rs.5260/-) to get the income index.

**Basic Infrastructure Index**: Each household is given a score of 1 in the following cases namely (1) It has a pukka house (2) It has drinking water (3) It has electricity connection (4) It has a water-closet latrine. The total score for each household is calculated and then divided by 4 to get the index.

**Social index**: Here a score of 1 each is given to households in the following cases (1) It, having no victim of alcohol or drug addiction (2) It does not face discrimination by other communities (3) No one in the household has gone to the police station in connection with criminal
cases. The total score obtained for each household when divided by 3 we get the required index.

**The socio-economic development index** (SEDI) is the weighted average of the above 4 component indices, the weights assigned being 3, 3, 3 and 1. Thus

$$\text{SEDI} = \frac{3 \times \text{edu.index} + 3 \times \text{inc.index} + 3 \times \text{basic.index} + \text{social index}}{10}$$

where edu. index stands for education index, inc. index stands for income index and basic index stands for basic infrastructure index etc.

**Deprivation index:** The deprivation index is an indicator of the human development of any class of people. The deprivation indices for the SCs are constructed by the researcher. The computation is based on four factors namely possession of pukka houses, availability of drinking water within 100 meters, availability of toilets and electricity connection. The index is computed using the formula

$$\text{Index} = \left(\frac{d_1^3 + d_2^3 + d_3^3 + d_4^3}{4}\right)^{1/3}$$

where $d_1$, $d_2$, $d_3$, and $d_4$ denote the above-mentioned factors.

$d_1 = \% \text{ of Households not having pukka houses}$

$d_2 = \% \text{ of Households not having drinking water}$

$d_3 = \% \text{ of Households not having toilets}$

$d_4 = \% \text{ of Households not having electric lighting}$

**Bar diagram:** This is used for effective representation of data. Here bars are created the length of which is proportional to the values of the variables.

**Pie-Diagram:** This is effectively used for representing sub-divided data here sectors are created proportionate to the magnitude of the data.
**Regression Analysis:** Here a linear relationship between a dependent variable, say $Y$ and a set of independent variables often called explanatory, say $X_1, X_2, X_i$ is assumed and the parameters involved in the relation are estimated. The equation of the simple linear regression is 
\[ y - \bar{y} = r \frac{\sigma_y}{\sigma_x} (x - \bar{x}) \] 
where $\bar{x}, \bar{y}$ denote sample means, $\sigma_x, \sigma_y$ denote sample standard derivations and $r$ denotes the correlation between $x$ and $y$. When the explanatory variables in the regression model are qualitative in nature they are accommodated with the help of dummy variables.

**Chi-square Test:** This is used for testing the independence of two attributes. The null hypothesis is $H_0$: The two attributes are independent. The test statistic used is 
\[ \chi^2 = \sum \frac{(O - E)^2}{E} \] 
where $O$ denotes the observed frequency and $E$ denotes the expected frequency of a class and summation is to be done over various classes. When $H_0$ is true $\chi^2$ follows a chi-square distribution with $(r-1)(c-1)$ degrees of freedom where $r$ and $c$ denote the number of rows and number of columns respectively of the contingency table. Statistical packages like SPSS provide the significance level of the observed value of $\chi^2$.

**Z-test:** This is used for testing the equality of two population proportions. Here the null hypothesis is $H_0$: Population proportions are equal. The test statistic used is 
\[ Z = \frac{\hat{p}_1 - \hat{p}_2}{\sqrt{\hat{p}(1 - \hat{p})\left(\frac{1}{n_1} + \frac{1}{n_2}\right)}} \] 
where $\hat{p}_1, \hat{p}_2$ are the sample proportions, $n_1$ and $n_2$ are the sample sizes and 
\[ \hat{p} = \frac{n_1 \hat{p}_1 + n_2 \hat{p}_2}{n_1 + n_2} \]
with $\hat{q} = 1 - \hat{p}$. When $H_0$ is true $Z$ follows standard normal distribution. Statistical packages like SPSS provide the significance level of the observed value of $Z$.

**Two-Sample t-test:** This is used for testing the equality of means of 2 normal populations. The null hypothesis is $H_0$: Population means are equal. The test statistic used is

$$t = \frac{\bar{x}_1 - \bar{x}_2}{\sqrt{\frac{n_1 s_1^2 + n_2 s_2^2}{n_1 + n_2 - 2} \left( \frac{1}{n_1} + \frac{1}{n_2} \right)}}$$

where $\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2$ are the sample means, $s_1^2, s_2^2$ are the sample variances and $n_1, n_2$ are sample sizes. When $H_0$ is true $t$ follows a student $t$ distribution with $n_1 + n_2 - 2$ degrees of freedom. Statistical packages like SPSS provide the significance level of the observed value of $t$.

**Analysis of variance (ANOVA):** This is used for testing the equality of means of several populations. The null hypothesis is $H_0$: population means are equal. The total sum of squares is divided into between and within sum of squares. Then the mean sum of squares is calculated. The ratio of the mean sum of squares follows an F-distribution when $H_0$ is true. The ANOVA table and the significance level of the observed value of $F$ are provided in packages like SPSS. When we accept that population means are significantly different the Duncan’s multiple range test indicates which population means are significantly different.

**Logistic regression:** This is a type of regression that is used when the dependent variable is dichotomous. The independent or explanatory variables can be continuous or categorical.

### 1.7 The Scope and the Coverage of the Study

The study achieves current importance in all aspects of public life. Even though the government has introduced several welfare
measures to uplift the SCs, vast majority of them still remain poor. Hence a study on the problems that still exist even after 60 years of planned economic development is of high importance. It will also help us to identify the comparative effectiveness of the extension of the welfare schemes in habitats and other places of their abode. When they are isolated in habitats, in spite of their economic gain, they may be at loss in cultural, political and social levels with respect to the main stream of the society. These aspects require deep investigation. This is in fact the crux of the research. Moreover, whether the SCs are receiving the maximum benefit from the schemes, when they live outside the habitats, comes under the purview of the study. This will help towards suggesting some creative solutions.

1.8 Data sources & Methodology

The study is basically exploratory in nature. It is based on primary and secondary data, which is empirical and analytical in nature.

The sample survey had been conducted by taking 300 households in Kottayam District of which 150 were from habitats and 150 from non-habits. Primary data collection was carried out using interview schedule method. A sample questionnaire is given in Appendix-I.

The Kottayam District in Kerala was chosen as a sample for evaluation for the reasons that follow:-

The District Development Office of the Scheduled Castes Kottayam has been making an impressive track record by a 100% utilization of the fund allocation for SC welfare measures during the past several years from 2003-2004 and is thus far ahead of other
Karikattoor colony (II Phases), which is the largest SC colony in the state with 595 SC families, is located in Kottayam District.10 The oldest SC colony in the state, Sachivothamapuram11, is also in the Kottayam District. It is the colony, which Dr. B.R. Ambedker as the minister of Law and Justice of the central government (1950) planned to visit though the plan did not materialize. The cancellation of the visit provided an occasion for a never-ending national debate.

Vaikom Satyagraha in which the father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, took part was a national struggle against untouchability and it took place in this district. Kottayam Municipality has the rare distinction of achieving 100% literacy ahead of other areas in our state in 1989. Later in 1991 the district as a whole achieved 100% literacy.

Above all, the former president of India, Sri. K.R. Narayanan and the present Chief Justice of India Justice K.G. Balakrishnan, two stalwarts of the SC community, belong to this district. Their lives have become fascinating metaphors for how our society can enable members of the SC community to become if they are ambitious enough. Thus Kottayam enjoys a pride of place in the developmental map of the State.

1.9 Sampling Procedure

A stratified simple random scheme was adopted for the study. The SC households in Kottayam district constituted the sampling frame. In order to induce homogeneity all the 11 block panchayaths
in Kottayam district were taken as the strata. From each stratum a simple random sample of SC households residing in habitats was drawn. For determining the exact number of households to be interviewed from each stratum, the rule of proportional allocation was employed. Thus the number in each stratum was taken to be proportional to the number of habitats in that block. In a similar manner simple random sample of SC households residing among the general population was drawn from each block. In this case the actual number of households from each block was taken to be proportional to the total number of such households in that block.

Secondary data materials from 1980 are employed in this study which include census reports, state economic review reports, review of planning commission, research journals, report of state level SCs advisory board, periodicals, the publications of the government of Kerala, various enquiry commissions’ reports and other government documents.

Indirect methods of collecting information as well as personal interviews of eminent personalities related to the topic were also made.

1.10 Limitations

The progress of the study encountered certain limitations. Basically the majority of the SC population covered under the survey was ignorant, fearful and dubious. Some times they were reluctant to give the true facts for the fear of losing their existing privileges. Sometimes they were hiding the facts out of socio-cultural reasons. As the study is based on the sample district Kottayam, all errors due to sampling might have happened. But extra care and all precautions have been taken to minimise these errors in each and every step.
Regarding the available literature only a few studies have been found to be appropriate.

1.11 Chapterisation

In Chapter I the importance of the subject selected for research is given. The research issues, objectives, the hypotheses and scope of the study are briefed. The analytical framework, conceptual framework and a detailed description of the methodology adopted are also given. The limitations of the study and design of the Thesis are referred.

Chapter 2 provides an overall review of the origin and development of caste system in general and SCs in particular. It gives some references of the constitutional guarantees and privileges to the SCs. It also covers most of the relevant literature on SCs.

In Chapter 3 we give a detailed history of SCs in Kerala and their social evolution to the present status. The latest approved list of SCs in Kerala, and a general description of welfare schemes of SCs and special schemes for the habitats are also explained.

Chapter 4 discusses the impact of various educational welfare schemes of SCs in habitats and in non-habitats and gives a critical evaluation based on empirical data collected.

Chapter 5 deals with the deprivation of SCs. For this the rehabilitation programmes related to land and housing schemes of SCs are scrutinised. Based on the empirical econometric study conducted in habitats and non-habitats their deprivation is determined and compared. Also the major factors affecting deprivation are identified.
Chapter 6 studies the socio-economic position of SCs in Kerala based on their employment status and crafts. Moreover a detailed study about their problems and perspectives related to loan facilities, savings and spending habits are also looked into. A comparative study of the socio-economic development of SCs in the habitats and non-habitats is effectively made using SEDI. Also the major factors affecting the socio-economic development are identified.

Chapter 7 gives the conclusions, findings and suggestions.
Notes and References

1. The people that is defined in the Constitution under section 341 and amended by the parliament from time to time. At present 53 castes in Kerala are recognized as SCs. For details see India 2008.Reference Annual, Ministry of Information and Brodcasting, Government of India.


8. Ibid


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Plan fund Allotment Rs.</th>
<th>Plan fund Expenditure Rs.</th>
<th>Parentage of expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003-2004</td>
<td>6,47,64,676</td>
<td>64,761,696</td>
<td>105.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4,16,88,580</td>
<td>47,511,796</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10,64,53,256</td>
<td>112,273,492</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Plan fund Allotment Rs.</th>
<th>Plan fund Expenditure Rs.</th>
<th>Parentage of expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004-2005</td>
<td>5,63,79,277</td>
<td>5,63,72,067</td>
<td>99.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5,57,25,378</td>
<td>5,57,34,230</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11,27,58,654</td>
<td>11,21,06,297</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Plan fund Allotment Rs.</th>
<th>Plan fund Expenditure Rs.</th>
<th>Parentage of expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005-2006</td>
<td>8,29,33,145</td>
<td>8,29,34,280</td>
<td>100.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6,96,68,771</td>
<td>6,98,66,245</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15,26,01,916</td>
<td>15,28,00,525</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Plan fund Allotment Rs.</th>
<th>Plan fund Expenditure Rs.</th>
<th>Parentage of expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006-2007</td>
<td>10,65,04,000</td>
<td>10,71,97,629</td>
<td>101.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>66,039,696</td>
<td>67,126,092</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17,25,43,696</td>
<td>17,43,23,721</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Plan fund Allotment Rs.</th>
<th>Plan fund Expenditure Rs.</th>
<th>Parentage of expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007-2008</td>
<td>12,07,85,677</td>
<td>12,07,85,677</td>
<td>100.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15,43,04,266</td>
<td>15,43,04,266</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>27,50,90,943</td>
<td>27,75,04,873</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data source: District Division of S.C. Kottayam - unreconciled expenditure statement March 2008
10. For details see ‘List of Scheduled Caste habitats identified, Kottayam District (1991), District Planning Office, Kottayam. Karikattoor colony is in Kanjirappally Block. In 1991 there was 471 households. The present status is 595.

11. The Sachivothamapuram colony started functioning in 1923. It was formally established and recognised as a SC colony in 1938 by the then Divan of Travancore Sir. C. P. Ramaswamy Iyer.