Chapter II

Review of Related Studies

2.1 Meaning and Significance

Review of literature involves a perusal of various studies conducted by different researchers and their research findings. Review of those studies provides a theoretical insight to a researcher concerning the development in the particular area and enables him/her to find out the research gaps. It provides the researcher with the base to select research problems, its objectives and hypotheses. With this aim in view, here the researcher has tried to have a look at the studies conducted by various researchers in the field and their findings as well as existing theories and concepts.

The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes together constitute almost 20% of the total population of Assam. The socio-economic development of the state as a whole cannot be achieved without ensuring the upliftment of this underprivileged segment of the society. Deep insight into the problems and constraints being encountered by this lot of people and whole-hearted endeavour to overcome these all are inevitable part of the test of their development. Attempt has been made in this part of the review to highlight the views, findings, etc., of various studies and resolutions of various seminars workshops, etc., regarding the development of
Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Assam and in India. However, the researcher has divided the studies reviewed by her into the following:

(i) Studies done at national level, and

(ii) Studies done at regional level.

2.2 Studies Done at National Level


   In the book the authors have studied the level of quality of life with the help of seven indicators like, nutrition, shelter, heath, education, clothing, leisure, recreation and security.


   Aikara’s study reveals the findings as:

   i) In comparison with the non-Scheduled Caste students the Scheduled Caste students were found to be inferior in economic, educational, occupational, and academic background.

   ii) The rates of stagnation and dropout were conspicuously higher among the Scheduled Caste than among the non-Scheduled Caste students. In order to meet the problem, it is suggested that academic weakness of the Scheduled Caste students can be met with special coaching classes, or special additional lectures can form part of such assistance.

Here the author has attempted to examine the impact of Government programmes on the Scheduled Castes and endeavours to identify factors in the sub-cultures of these communities which have a different impact on them.

The author concludes that:

i) There has not been any lack of awareness of different programmes of educational welfare of the Government among the Scheduled Castes.

ii) Majority of them have, therefore, availed themselves of these programmes in varying quantities. But, the fact is that in spite of these programmes, the Scheduled Castes have not been able to gain the intended benefit out of these concessions.

iii) Job reservation for the Scheduled Castes people could not help them significantly.

iv) So also modern training on traditional crafts and occupation has not made any impact in providing occupational mobility or even employment.


The book is divided into two parts – part one includes a variety of issues related to dogmas and policy of tribal development, namely, dimensions of problems, policy prescriptions of development, fruitful regulation of tribal migration, well planned rehabilitation of displaced tribal. Economic constraints which act as an important obstacle in the process of growth have been widely discussed. Emphasis is given on special strategy for development of primitive tribal groups and nomadic tribes. Participation of social bodies and voluntary organisations in fighting injustice
and also need for more specific remedies to arrest the rising trends of atrocities on tribal have been highlighted.

In part two of the book, attention has been given on new approach to develop agricultural strategy for tribal economy. Problems of land alienation, anomalies in operating prevailing laws on land, introduction of effective measures to set the tribal society from the grip of money-lenders, etc. The author makes a critical analysis of cooperative financing with suggestions to make improvement in the present system.


Prof. C. Parvathamma made an objective study of the socio-economic conditions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka. The study covered all the 19 (nineteen) districts of the state. The study has given detailed account of socio-economic condition of the most deprived sections of the population. While examining the main problem, the author opines that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the state and the country as a whole continue to be the most poor. She has given a long list of practical suggestions for dealing with the problems of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The study reveals that:

i) Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are predominantly residing in rural areas.

ii) The size of the family is relatively small and usually includes parents and children.

iii) Majorities of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes live in separate colonies outside the village.
iv) Nearly 40 (Forty) percent are living in huts, an equal percentage in houses.

v) More than 80 (eighty) percent of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are landless agriculture labourers working in others land in the village.

vi) Modern conveniences like electricity, radio, watch, car, and motor cycle are not found with them.


The book endeavours to evaluate the implementation of reservation policy in various sectors and sub-sectors. He analyses the reasons of its faulty implementation and also recommends the measures to be used for its efficient and effective implementation. Attempt has been made to examine the change brought forth by the reservation policy in educational and economic field.

The study reveals that:

i) Constitutional development in India bears social and economic philosophy. Inequality created by the provision of special facilities to backward classes was regarded as the cause that harms the beneficial motive of others.

ii) The educational and economic conditions of the Scheduled Castes have been far from satisfactory. There are variations in the poverty of the Scheduled Castes and these inhibit the designing of uniform economic policy for them.

iii) The banks provided loans to Scheduled Castes at a lower interest rate, however these facilities were inadequate.
iv) The Government attempted to encourage mixed colonies but in this sphere also, it did not succeed to a large extent.


   It was an attempt to analyse the change in the socio-economic condition of the Scheduled Caste with particular reference to Jaunpur district in the eastern U.P. Major dimensions of social change in the field of social structure, occupation, economic condition, political publication and affiliation, education, health, housing and reservation quota are analysed in this book..


   The book is a collection of essays to present a comprehensive account of village India. The author attempts to assess the problems of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the process of social transformation, the role of voluntary and Governmental efforts and the consequences of their implications on social development.

   The author opines that now a days the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are exposed to outer world of industrialization and urbanization and their migration to industrial urban areas has developed a new consciousness for closer inter caste relationships in a changing situation

In this book, an attempt has been made to explore the problem of untouchability, land reform, religious conversion and the crisis of political leadership among the Scheduled Castes in contemporary India. The author tries to evaluate the growing implements for the development of Scheduled Castes since Independence. He says that the social stigma and ritual pollution are so great that the untouchables cannot engage themselves in many gainful employments and they are caught in the traditional occupation. The reform movements within the Hindu social order have not made any impact on overcoming the disabilities faced by the untouchables. Economic backwardness is common to them while the policy of protective discrimination militates against them.


The author in his book *Development of Tribal Economy* has succeeded in highlighting various problems confronted by the Scheduled Tribes of Kerala. The study concludes that the economic evolution of the hill tribes of Kerala shows regional variations.


In this book an attempt has been made to analyse the ameliorative measures that have brought change in the quality of the life of poor rural harijan in the context of a better egalitarian social order. The study made in Chandragiri Samit of Chittor district of Andhra Pradesh and it provides an insight into the details of poverty alleviation programme and the quality of life of rural harijans.

In this book, the author has attempted to examine the impact of development programmes designed for the improvement of socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Caste families in India in general and Andhra Pradesh in particular. The author has selected two regions in Andhra Pradesh, a chronically backward region (Rayalasuma) and a developed region (Coastal Andhra) to gain comparative insights into the impact of IRDP programme on the scheduled caste families.

The author has found that:

i) Majority of the Scheduled Castes in rural areas are still engaged in traditional low status occupations and the amount of loan sanctioned to this group was inadequate

ii) Some of the beneficiaries found it very difficult to produce surplus income under IRDP scheme.

He has recommended that it is necessary to evaluate the usefulness and suitability of different schemes for almost every selected family as otherwise uniformity of the schemes will result in wastage of resources. He has found that identification of beneficiaries is important and orientation training is equally necessary to enable them to use the scheme to their best advantage.


This is an attempt to discuss a very important issue in the development, planning and strategy against poverty. He examines in a greater detail the impact of “National Rural Employment Programme” in general and Scheduled Castes in
particular in Marathawada Region on village level. The author shows the failure of the programme due to several reasons.

The study points out that:

i) Long term solution of unemployment problem in both rural and urban areas lies only on heavy investment.

ii) High rate of investment may increase the rate of industrial growth, but at the same time it could not help to increase employment opportunities.

iii) There is lack of co-ordination and proper linkage with other ongoing programmes like: Integrated Rural Development Programme” (IRDP), “Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programmed” (RLEGP) etc.

So, the benefits of the development programme are very thinly spread over.

The study shows that the socio-economic life of the Scheduled Castes is very much governed by their caste factor even today. They mainly live in rural areas and dependent on wage employment as agriculture labourers, scavengers and bone collectors. Land reforms and service reservation could not help much despite Governmental efforts. Social and economic deprivation, denial of opportunities compels them to live under the social and economic insecurity.

Finally, the study concludes that NREP has very ideal objective, but practically it remains as a short term employment providing scheme and hence can not help rehabilitate the people in general and the Scheduled Castes in particular.

In this book, both the authors critically examine the socio-economic impact of various schemes such as MMS (Margin-Money-Cum Subsidy) and bore well irrigation taken up by the SC/ST Development Corporation of Karnataka and examine how far these schemes have been able to achieve the proclaimed objectives and have been successful as per financial and economic performance criteria. The study points out the weaker spots of the programme and comes out with policy suggestions to strengthen and to make the programmes effective.

The study reveals that:

i) There was marked difference in the scheme implementation.

ii) There was violation of the criteria of selection of beneficiaries.

iii) Scheme wise analysis showed highest asset liquidation and misuse in the case of animal husbandry schemes like dairy animals, sheep and goat.

iv) Bullock cart scheme was found to be relatively better.

v) Out of various I.S.B. schemes, only leather work and basket making were found satisfactory.

vi) Bore well irrigation scheme was found to be very useful having positive impact on the cropping pattern, crop intensity and gross as well as net income of the beneficiaries.


This book edited by K.L. Bhowmik presents well researched papers which reflect representatives of current researchers on developments of Scheduled Caste communities in India.
These studies display a wide range of issues covering different dimensions of development of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, de-notified tribes, backward classes. Various dimensions like action priorities, policy and strategy, socio-economic changes, institutional and technological changes have systematically been analysed.


Ahuja in his book maintains that dalits are a marginal group in rural India not only in the economic sense, but also in the sense that they are low status members of Hindu society. The two features observed about the dalits in rural society are (i) most dalits do not own nor are they tenants, and (ii) most dalits earn an important part of their income by working on the land of others and by attaching themselves to landholding cultivators.


In this book the author manifests the procedure and intricacies of existing institutional finance in a demonetised tribal economy. The study makes an evaluative analysis of development programmes financed by institutionalised agencies in the hill districts.

In this context, focus has been thrown on certain pertinent issues such as pattern of land and asset ownership, institutional credit in rural sector, prevailing institutional infrastructure including banking agencies’ organisational set-up at block levels, horizontal and vertical co-ordination among cross-section of agencies

In the notable work on regional variations and temporal changes in literacy, urbanisation and occupational diversification among the Scheduled Caste population of India, Kant shows that the gap between the scheduled castes and non scheduled castes has decreased considerably. There is, however, difference between North and South Indian states in the level of socio-economic development. In the same direction, Naik (2000) and Gosal (2003) also carried out two significant works on the Scheduled Caste population.


Here the author explained the female participation in a city where she found that educational levels of female, levels of family income, nature of work, caste and family size are the main factors which influence the female work participation decision.


Debapriya and Mohanty analysed the inter district disparity in the levels of development in education and health care facilities in Orissa where they tried to evolve a sound statistical methodology to measure the regional imbalance prevailing in the level of development of education and health care facilities in the state.

D. Singh in “Development of Scheduled Caste in India: A Review”, viewed that the gap between the mainstream and Scheduled Caste population still persists significantly in our traditional society. Therefore, there is an urgent need to reorient and focus on the strategy in order to support the lesser privileged by providing qualitative education and infusing among them the individualistic and moralistic values of self-denial, temperance, fore thought, thrift, sobriety and self reliance essential to bring these downtrodden into the national mainstream. Besides their circumstances, the major factor responsible for the deprivation and/or poverty among the Scheduled Castes people is their improvident habits, thriftlessness, and mismanagement. Their conditions can be improved through inculcating in them the individualistic and moral values. These values will help them in proper utilisation of various developmental schemes which, in turn, lead to the stability and improvement of their life.

Importance of the Study: The Government has implemented several development programmes for the welfare and empowerment of the weaker sections of the society. Economic development programmes are the most important schemes for income generation and creating employment opportunities to disadvantageous classes. A large amount of budgetary allocation was ensured under special component plan for extending benefits to Scheduled Castes. Effective implementation and fund utilisation under these schemes will definitely be instrumental in alleviating poverty and creating job opportunities for Scheduled Caste people at a large scale. In this context, the present study is an attempt to assess the impact of economic development schemes on socio-economic status of Scheduled Castes people and to examine the process of implementation for larger
economic gains to them. The administration and functioning of special component plan in Assam have also been examined through the present study.


The study clearly indicates that there is wide gap between Scheduled Caste and total population in respect of literacy rate. Besides this, literacy differentials also exist between rural-urban populations, during study period (1981-2001). The rural literacy rates were lower than that the urban literacy rates, among the Scheduled Caste and also total population. Rural and urban Scheduled Caste population displayed wide disparity in respect of literacy rates as compare to the total population.

23. Research Study on Livelihood Options Assets Creation out of Special Component Plan (SCP)& Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) Schemes and its Impact among SCs and STs in India Sponsored by: Planning Commission, Government of India Yojana Bhawan, Sansad Marg New Delhi 110 001

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Objectives of the Study:

The present evaluation study is an attempt to analyse the formulation and implementation of SCP and TSP and its impact on SCs and STs in the seven sampled states of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Orissa, Punjab and Tamil Nadu with the main objectives to:

(i) Assess the level of development of the SCs and STs in the context of various development schemes/programmes in the selected states,
(ii) To identify the key socio-economic indicators of the SC and ST development both at present and over a period of time,

(iii) To examine the process of planning, implementation and monitoring of SCP and TSP in the selected states over a period of time. Project formulation, identification of beneficiaries and Social projects/programmes being implemented towards SCs and STs and their sustainability in terms of: (a) Whether State has set out population proportionate plan outlay out of total plan outlay of the State and then distributes the plan outlay to other departments as per needs for SC/ST schemes or whether quantification method for each department has been followed. (b) What has been the method of formulation of SCP in district plan & village plan if any and what has been the outcome at state level & District level.

(iv) To examine problems of the beneficiaries and the initiatives taken for the economic development and the inputs required for proper implementation of the programmes.

(v) To suggest policy measures to improve the overall performance and quality of implementation of SC and ST programmes in India with a special reference to the states of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Orissa, Punjab, Haryana and Tamil Nadu.

Analysis and Results:

The analysis of the implementation of the SCP and TSP in the selected States dealt in detail in individual chapters indicate that, none of these States are following the stipulated guidelines of SCP, TSP in toto. The allocation of funds towards SCP and TSP indicate that, except Tamil Nadu and Orissa (for both SCP and TSP) and
Bihar (for SCP) other States have not allocated SC and ST population proportionate funds during 10th Plan. In the other previous Five Year Plan periods also the same trend is seen. As dealt in detail in the earlier chapters, even these States allocations are only notional in nature like the other States. These States are allocating funds towards SCP and TSP from the divisible and non-divisible sectors/departments and whatever shortage accrued to these sub-plan outlays are being accounted mainly from the nondivisible sectors. Tamil Nadu State in their SCP and TSP documents shows clearly the sectoral outlays from divisible departments and non-divisible departments schemes/programmes which is in the ratio of 40:60. Even these less allocated SCP and TSP outlays have also not been utilized fully in the States except in T.N. State. The tribal dominant states like Chhatisgarh and Orissa have utilized their TSP funds to the extent of 65 to 70% only for tribal development. The sectoral allocation and utilization of funds, fixing of targets and achievements are comparatively better in the states of Tamil Nadu followed by Gujarat state. Some states like Tamil Nadu and Gujarat are setting realistic targets and showing achievements against various schemes of the departments in their SCP and TSP documents by compiling them regularly. During the terminal years of the 10th Plan, other states like Orissa, Haryana, Punjab and Chattisgarh have started setting targets against various schemes and depicting the achievements.

2.3 Studies Done at Regional Level

Here the author makes a detailed analysis of three important programmes – road communication, sinking of drinking water wells and agriculture. The study shows that the impact of induced changes on the tribal of Narayan Patna is different from that on those of Ruruban and the reaction arising out of such different impacts takes different directions. The author attempts to point out that development programmes may easily trigger off different and sometimes unexpected types of political and economic reactions. For example, despite politicalisation of village life, the tribal of Ruruban failed to assume leadership because of the socio-economic dominance of caste Hindus. The frustration caused by this has resulted in the fostering of a separatist attitude among the tribal. It is suggested that a detailed knowledge of the cultural factors of the tribal is very essential before any development programmes for them are taken up and successfully implemented.


The study was an attempt to determine the extensity and intensity of influences on contributions of different socio-economic factors to education in Nagaland for a period of about 50 years, starting from the days of western education introduced in the state by the missionaries in the thirties. The sample included 750 educated Nagas belonging to Ao, Angami, Sema, Lotha and backward groups representing age groups between 30 and 60 years. The sample was factually stratified but eventually purposive.

The major findings of the study were:

(i) Parental illiteracy is one of the major factors which stood in the way of education in the state during the period
1930-50. Parental education operated against wastage in the education.

(ii) Parental occupational status determined the education of the children at all periods.

(iii) Parental economic status determined the level of education of their children.

(iv) Parental illiteracy and ignorance, indifference to the need of education, economic hardship, etc., are detrimental to the educational growth of the state.


The book reveals that the percentage of literacy among the Scheduled Castes in Assam is lower than the all India figure. This is due to the fact that many among the depressed castes seem to be rather indifferent to the task of educating their children. The study shows that there is a marked disparity in the percentage of literacy between the non Scheduled Castes/Tribes, urban population and the Scheduled Castes. The disparity is, however, less prominent in the rural sector. District wise the Scheduled Castes of all the plain districts except Darang district are lagging behind the general population in the field of literacy.

4. The Seminar on Socio-economic Development of the Scheduled Castes of Assam held in Guwahati in Sept.1990 under the auspices of AIRTSC, Guwahati resolved, besides other things, that traditional skills of various Scheduled Caste communities are facing serious competitions. The state government is urged to revitalise the traditional cottage industries of the
Scheduled Castes providing modern equipments and training (Sharma and Thakur 1992)


Halde’s study reveals that,

(i) the lower caste and the tribes in West Bengal are in a deplorable condition. However, the agricultural work force comes from these groups,

(ii) the maximum number of illiterate people belong to the lower castes and tribes, and

(iii) the relationship between the poor and illiterate lower caste people and the upper and middle caste people who come from the better off stratum of the society is that of dependence and domination.


Drawing from his experience of field studies in the three adjacent districts of Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal, Ghosh highlights that (i) Caste and class needs reformulation keeping in view the dynamics related to these in contemporary India, (ii) Mobilisation based on the categories like ‘backward’ classes, Dalits, Bahujan samaj, Dravidas, etc., suggest that caste is no longer used just as a local endogamous group or a group enjoying a given ritual rank in caste hierarchy. Ghosh argued that caste has not disappeared but rather it has reconstituted itself. Caste operates as a system identity, it persists throughout India.
7. Borbora, Dr. Rupa Das (1998) in her study entitled *The Impact of Socio-Economic Status on the Academic Achievements of the First Generation Learners* (Unpublished Ph.D Thesis submitted to Gauhati University), maintained that first generation learners show very low academic achievement because of the reason that they are first generation learners, their parents are illiterates and so they cannot guide them in their studies and do not know about the right type of environment suitable for education. Besides this, these parents are less aware of education of their children and prefer work to going to school. So social condition is such that it is not congenial for study. The illiterate parents show more unfavourable attitude towards the education of children. Economic condition also affects the academic achievements of the first generation learners.

8. The Report of the state level seminar on “Health and Education among Tribes of Assam: Problems and Prospects” held in Diphu on 12-10-2001 under the aegis of AIRTSC states, besides other things, that development of scientific temperament among tribes people requires a concerted effort. Inculcating of such temperament may help them to look at problems rationally and analytically. Emphasis is also laid on making provision of proper training befitting to individual talent as a means for development of human resources. (AIRTSC 2002)

Das observes that in spite of having large number of fishery resources and also the demand for fishes in the state, the fisher folks are not self sufficient in fish production, shortage of the quantity of fishes, market problems, problems of transportation and preservation are the major hindrances encountered by the community. Due to lack of proper employment and insufficient income generation, nearly 73% of fisherman household of the study sample are victims of indebtedness. They had to pay the interest from their disposable income to the tune of 120 percent per annum.

The author is optimistic that the directive principles of the states policy are, if implemented with all sincerity, may minimize the plight of the disadvantageous groups.


Khatun, throwing light on occupational mobility among the Hiras of Barpeta town, concludes that failure to compete with the industry product utensils, the market forces are going against the interest of the potter class in Barpeta. Many a time they can not sell their products at a profitable price. Under economic compulsion they are to sell them at a very low price. The cultural value of their traditional occupation is eroded in the wave of modernisation. If proper training for skill development and for generation of entrepreneurship spirit is given along with financial support, this segment of the Scheduled Castes will be able to write the success story of pottery industry in Assam like that of China and of Jaipur in India.

Athparia has shown that toning up of educational administration in Karbi Anglong has led to the progress in literacy among the Karbies. His survey in three villages has shown that the village (Korkak) which comprised higher literacy rate in comparison to the other two (Dan Kumar and Phonlongpet) was also economically more advanced than the rest. Non availability of institution of formal education is the main cause of illiteracy in the villages. Enrolment at high school and higher secondary level is, on the whole, not encouraging. Education has brought changes in various ways in their attitudes like towards world view, socio-economic and political changes and in their life style as well. In search of higher education and employment a tendency of migration to the urban areas among them has become tangible, vis-à-vis, urbanization has accelerated the pace of spreading of education and has instilled a sense in them about the utility of education for economic development.


Lahkar has studied in minute detail, the changing pattern of education, occupation and demographic characteristics and their interrelationship in the areas under study.