3.1 Introduction:

Man has always been interested in knowing the facts and events that have been taking place around him and he has been exploring sources of evidences concerning the facts and events so as to acquire the reliable knowledge about those events and facts.\footnote{1} It is quite possible that personal biases and prejudices may come in the way of understanding and examine those social or natural phenomenon resulting in questioning the authenticity of the inferences arrived at. In order to avoid this, an inquiry into any social or natural phenomenon has to be a scientific one, for which we need a scientific method. Any research endeavor may be defined as a systematic and critical investigation about the natural phenomenon to describe, explain and finally to understand the causality among them.\footnote{2}

In order to approach a problem we need a research design which is nothing but the detailed plan or outline of the study indicating what the problem under study is? What are the major research questions? Where the study was conducted, and what was the population of the study area? How many people were selected and how were they selected? What methods and techniques were used to collect the data from them? \footnote{3} In the present study all the basic elements of the research were taken into considerations and utmost precautions were taken to minimize the human and technical errors. The following methodology was used by the researcher in approaching the problem under study.

3.2. Statement of the Problem

“More than a decade has passed in implementing the new economic policy (1990 – 2006) by the Government. The economic crisis in the mid eighties had forced the then government to go for a lone and fall in line with the conditionality
of international financial Intuitions like WB and IMF. This was done on the name of globalizing Indian economy and integrating it to the world economy. It was thought that the policy would not only end the economic deadlock but would also bring prosperity to all including weaker and marginalized sections of society. However, the studies in India and elsewhere abroad have empirically proved that these policies have worked against the poor and well off in the society have been benefited. The neobuddhists is one of the marginalized communities in India and particularly in Maharashtra. This community has a long history of socio-economic deprivations due to their lowest position in the Hindu caste system which is based on graded inequality and hierarchy. The Neo-Buddhist inspired by the legacy of Dr. Ambedkar, struggled for equity and justice compelled the government to declare some policies and programmes for their betterment. There are indications that these protective policies and welfarism of the government in post-independence period was largely responsible for brining about improvement in the socio-economic status of Neo-Buddhist. The policy of globalization has reversed the earlier policies of the government which are bound to have long-term implications for the welfare and future of Neo-Buddhist as they are the most vulnerable group-socially and economically. The various academicians, researchers, intellectuals and grass root level activists have expressed concern and apprehensions about the potential adverse impact of globalization on the marginalized and socially deprived community like Neo-Buddhist. The researcher had therefore decided to make a field based inquiry about the problem and study the present socio-economic status of Neo-Buddhist and its associations with the impact of globalization.

3.3. Objectives of the study

1. To study and understand the present Socio-economic status of Neo-Buddhists community in the light of phenomenon of globalization.
2. To study the impact of Globalization on Socio-economic status of Neo-Buddhist community during the post-reform period.

3. To examine and study the changes in the situation of Neo-Buddhist particularly with regards to their lifestyle with reference to the globalization.

4. To recommends for the specific social work intervention to face the challenges posed by the globalization.

3.4 Hypothesis

1. The process of globalization is presumed to affect the social status of neo Buddhists.

2. The phenomenon of Globalization is likely to be associated with level of education and income of the respondents.

3. The impact of globalization is likely to vary with the occupations of the respondents.

4. Impact of globalization is likely to affect the life style of Neo-Buddhist community.

3.5. Operational Definitions

1) Neo Buddhist Community: The ex-untouchable belonging to ‘Mahar’ caste in traditionally Hindu caste hierarchical structure, residing in the state of Maharashtra who renounced Hinduism and embraced Buddhism in a mass conversion ceremony held at Nagpur on 14th oct, 1956 under the able leadership of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. The present day followers of Dr. Ambedkar who were formerly called as Mahars (Hindism), in Maharashtra all of them are called as Neo-Buddhists and the same is true for the purpose of this study.

2) House Hold: A house hold is usually a group of persons who normally live together and take their meals from a common kitchen unless the exigencies of work prevents any of them from doing so.\(^4\)
3) **Head of House Hold:** The head of House hold is a person who is recognized as such by the household. He or she is generally the person who bears the chief responsibility for managing the affairs of the household and takes decision on behalf of the household.

4) **Occupation:** A set of activities centered on an economic role and usually associated with earning of a living. An occupation is a social role that determined by the general division of labor within the society.

5) **Rural Areas and Urban Areas:**
   
a) All place with municipality, corporation, and cantonment Boards or notified town are a committee.
   
b) A place satisfying the following there criteria’s simultaneously.
   1. Minimum population of 5,000.
   2. At least 75 per cent of male working population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits.
   3. A density of population of at least 400 per sq. km.
   A place which does not include any of above is rural area.

6) **Status:** The status has been defined by many scholars in different ways but the meaning of all definition is more or less same.

Linton Ralph (1936) says that status is primarily a position in social structure involving rights, duties and reciprocal expectation of behavior.

Horton Paul and Hunt Chester (1972) define ‘the status is usually defines as the rank or position of an individual in a group or a group in relation to other group. The author further argued that there are two types of ‘status’ ‘Ascribed status’ and ‘Achieved status’ Ascribe status is that, which comes from birth in the society, irrespective of individual qualities or efforts and ‘Achieved status’ is that, which is secured through ones’ ability, performance, good fortune.

Sharma B.B. (1992) argues that “Status is a defined position in the social structure of a society that is distinguished from other.”
7) **Social Status:** According to Hurst Charles (1998), “Social status refers to an individuals ranking with respect to some socially important characteristics. For example, one’s family, the street where he lives, race, education etc.**

8) **Economic Status:** Economic status refers to an individuals ranking with respect to some economically important characteristics, which includes income, standard of living, occupation and wealth.

9) **Socio-Economic Status:** Is a person’s position on several continuous social and economic hierarchies such as education, income, occupation, wealth etc.

10) **Life style**
    An individual’s life style is indicated by a set of behaviors. As far as the Neo-Buddhists are concerned the set of behaviors includes visits to Vihar, God belief, celebration of Buddhists festivals and important days.

3.6. **Study Design**

The number of variables related to the impact of globalization were identified and processed to establish its association with one another and also with socio-economic status of the respondents (Neo Buddhists). It means that the diagnostic and co relational Research design was used by the researcher for the purpose of this study

3.7. **Universe**

The universe of the study is the Neo- Buddhists residing in Akola District. The total population of Akola district is 16, 30,239 (Census, 2001) out of which approximately 1, 68,474 are Neo-Buddhist. The Akola District has total seven blocks out of which three blocks namely Akot, Akola and Murtizapur were selected for the purpose of this study.( For locations See Appendix --)
3.8. Unit of the study

The Neo-Buddhist people living in the villages and towns /city areas of the district Akola were considered as the unit of the study.

3.9. Variables Studied:

In the present study the following variables were highlighted and studied: social status, economic status, sources of income, occupational pattern, employment status and nature, wages, political participation, availability of basic amenities, socio-economic inequalities, feeling about insecurity, availability of safety nets and its utilization patterns and the impact of globalization on various areas of life of neo-Buddhists community.

3.10 The Measurement Scales Used

1. SES: To measure the socio-economic status of the respondents a scale developed by Parikh Udai and T. Venkateswara Rao was adapted and used. The indicators like caste, farm powers were excluded and in material possessions number of articles like mobile phone, Refrigerators etc. were included. Responses were converted into scores. The summated scores were regrouped based on quartile values. (Q =10, Q3= 28). The score below first quartile was level as low SES and the scores above third quartile was level as high SES. The scores above first quartile and below third quartile was level as middle SES.

2. Life Style: To measure the changes in the life styles of the respondents a self anchored scale was developed and used. The responses regarding the life styles were converted into scores and the summated scores were regrouped based on the quartile values (Q=19 Q3=27). The scores below first quartile was level as ‘low life style’ and scores above third quartile was level as ‘high life style’. The scores above first quartile and below third quartile was level as ‘medium life style’.

3. Impact of Globalization: To measures the perceptions of respondents about the impact of globalization a self anchored scale was developed and used. The
responses regarding the perceptions of respondents towards various aspects of impact of globalization were converted into scores and the summated scores was regrouped based on the quartile values (\( Q = 16, Q_3 = 19 \)). The scores below the first quartile was leveled as ‘low impact of globalization’ and the scores above third quartile was leveled as ‘high impact of globalization’. The scores above the first quartile and below third quartile was level as ‘medium’ impact of globalization.

3.11. Sampling Procedure

In this study multistage stratified random sampling methods have been used.

In the first stage sample of blocks have been selected using random methods. In Akola district there are total seven blocks. From that three blocks have chosen by using random method.

At stage 2: It was decided to select equal number of respondents from each block, keeping in mind the time and approachability to the respondents; it was decided to take 88 respondents from each block.

In stage 3: It was also decided to take equal number of respondents from Rural and urban areas of the each selected block. As such 44 respondents each were selected from rural and urban areas. Since the study pertains to Neo-Buddhist community, the researcher had used purposive sampling technique to select the respondents.

Thus total samples of 264 respondents were interviewed which was approximately 0.15 per cent of the total Neo-Buddhist population in Akola district. The head of the household was the unit of study.
Table presented below indicates the nature of sample size.

Table 3.1
Composition of Sample Size

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>B1 (Akot)</th>
<th>B2 (Akola)</th>
<th>B3 (Murtijapur)</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.12. Tools and Methods of data collections

Tools of Data Collections: The following tools were used to collect the data required for the study.

1. Interview Schedule: The structured interview schedule was constructed by the researcher keeping in mind the set objectives of the study and the same was administered on the respondents.

2. SES Scale: In order to estimate the socio-economic status of the respondents the scale developed by Pareek and Trivedi G\textsuperscript{16} was used after adopting it. The indicators like caste, farm powers were excluded and in material possessions number of articles like mobile phone, Refrigerators etc. were included.

3. Observations Guidelines: The guidelines were prepared in order to see and investigate the impact of globalization and the respondent’s perceptions about globalization and their present conditions.
Method of Data collections

1) Primary methods
In the present study the primary data was collected with help of the following method:

1. **Focused group discussion:** In order to know the feelings and perceptions of the respondents about the problem under study researcher conducted the focused group discussions at the villages and the same was also conducted in various ‘bastis’ in urban areas. The group members were motivated to reflect upon various issues of the study.

2. **Observation:** In the present study the structured and unstructured observation methods were used to collect the data pertaining to the problem under study. The participatory and non participatory methods of observation were also used in a natural setting-controlled observation.

3. **Interview method:** Interviews of the selected respondents were conducted personally by the researcher himself by applying a structured interview scheduled. The researcher for this purpose had constructed an interview scheduled consisting of a set of predetermined questions. The responses of the respondents were recorded in the interview scheduled by using a standardized technique of recordings. Some unstructured interviews were also conducted with the eminent intellectuals and social activists and academicians so as to know their viewpoints about the problem.

2) Secondary Methods of Data Collection:
There is numerous theoretical data on globalization in general but there is no exhaustive study available on globalization with specific reference to Neo-Buddhist community. However, few research papers and books written by P.G. Jogdand, Anandand Teltumbde ,S. K. Thorat and Bhalchandra Mungekar and some other authors (who have mostly used the word ‘Dalit’ while addressing the problem) were used as they, more or less reflects the situations of neobuddhist.
Apart from this, the data obtained from various government reports, NASO, Census reports published by the state and central government. Reports published by various International organizations like United Nations, World Bank, WTO, were also referred.

3.13. Processing and Analysis of Data
The following steps were undertaken so as to process and analyzed the data.
1) Data editing and securitization: The raw data collected by the researcher was scrutinized so as to note down missing entries if any and the irrelevant questions/data was omitted from the scope of the study.
2) The code Book and master chart was prepared by entering the data on computer with SPSS.
3) Firstly, univariate tables were prepared so as to understand the general profile of the respondents.
4) Some of the variables were regrouped so as to suit the data for the SPSS system.
5) Bivariate and Trivariate analysis was conducted by using SPSS.
6) Descriptive statistics such as mean, mode, median, standard deviation, and quartile were used.
7) To test the association between variables Pearson’s chi square test was used.
8) Data Analysis: The data has been presented in a tabular form. The figures of the data thus presented have been analyzed univariately, bivariately and trivariately.

Chapter I: Introduction: This chapter introduces the problem under study. Apart from giving the background of the study it introduces the reader with ongoing debate on globalization phenomenon and the historical and other socio-economic and cultural, political and ecological aspects of globalization. The macro-micro
linkages of the problem had also been well articulated so as to give a holistic picture of the study indicating its implications for the population under study. In the end, the rational and significance of the study has been justified.

**Chapter II: Theoretical Framework** - This chapter deals with the Concept, nature and definitions of globalization, Review of Literature, Theories of Globalization and Dr Ambedkar’s Theory of Socio-Economic Emancipation of Dalits. The important theories of globalization have been discussed in brief and the attempt has been made to develop a new theory called, Dr. Ambedkar’s Theory of Socio-economic Emancipation of Dalits in the context of globalization.

**Chapter III: Research Methodology** - The detail planned and outlined of the study has been included in this chapter. The objectives, hypotheses and operational definitions have been clearly stated followed by the methods of approaching the problem, the tools and method of data collection, sampling procedures and measurement scales etc. has been discussed.

**Chapter IV: Socio-Economic Profile of the Respondents**. This chapter gives the reader a general profile of the respondents. This includes age, sex, education, income, occupation, family size, ownership of land, level of social participation, nature of employment and level of satisfaction of present employment and the practice of untouchability experienced by the respondents and some other important characteristics.

**Chapter V Impact of Globalization** In this chapter, probes the associative factors of Impact of globalization. The important variables (Independent and Dependent) pertaining to the study was crossed tabs and the association between them was analyzed by applying a statistical test- Chi-Square test to see whether the association was stastically significant or insignificant.

In order to rule out the possibility of the impact of third variable on the bivariate association, trivariate analysis was conducted to establish and confirmed the original findings and the result of the same has been included in this chapter.
Chapter VI in this last and concluding chapter includes-Major findings of the study, Conclusions based on the findings and Recommendations for further line of action and implications for Social Work Practice indicating ares for further research.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Interview Schedule
Appendix 2 SES Scale Developed by Parikh Udai
Appendix 3 Akola District profile
Appendix 4 Map of Akola District
Appendix 5 Some vital Stastics.

Bibliography

Conclusions

In any social sciences research the method of research and its approach to tackle a particular problem has an immense importance. The very purpose of any scientific enquiry is to find the truth and explore the facts of a particular social phenomenon. In this study the methodology adopted and the approach selected has been able to achieve the desire goals of findings the answers to the research questions, to a great extent. The application of some standardized measurement scales and self anchored scales to measures the constructs liker impact of globalization, life style and social status has helped in bringing the accuracy to the results of the study.

References:
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4. Censes of India 2001, p. 77
5. Ibid p. 77
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7. Census of India 2001. p. 73
8. Jadhav Praveen (2005), op. cit. p.11
13. Ibid p. 16
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