CHAPTER X

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The scheduled castes and scheduled tribes form significant social group and accounting roughly one-fourth of the total population of country. Most of the members of these communities are the below the poverty line. They are economical dependent, educationally backward and socially the worst sufferers. They are the disadvantage sections of the community. The economic backwardness of these communities is due to the injustice, exploitation and oppression received from other sections of human community for the centuries in the past. It is obvious that no nation can progress leaving aside a large chunk of the SC and ST population who struggle hard for existence and the stress of economic, educational and social disparities.

In general observation the establish British rule in India did a great deal of harm to the socio-economic progress of scheduled castes and scheduled tribe communities and isolating from the nature of social and material development. After Indipendence the Government of India felt the need for the improvement in the socio-economic conditions of these untouchables. In all the Five Year Plans the Government of India have
initiated several welfare programmes for the social and economic well-being of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in all over the country. But the success of the welfare programmes to improve the living standards of these backward cannot be totally underlined. It is imperative at this stage to examine and to assess the impact of the various socio-economic development programmes on the improvement of the living standards of the scheduled castes and tribes. Finally, the strengthening of the socio-economic base of the scheduled castes and tribes through substantial transfer of resources to these is of paramount importance for achieving sustainable development and for reducing social tensions. It is in this perspective an attempt is made to study on "Demographic and Agro-Geographic Aspects of scheduled castes and scheduled tribe population in the Drought Prone Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh.

**Objectives of the Study**

The present study broadly seeks to spell out the demographic aspects of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in Anantapur district. Since agriculture is the predominant occupation of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, the study also aims to assess the nature of agriculture and the level of agricultural development among the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. It is very essential to understand the various socio-
economic problems which constrains and hinder the social and economic upliftment of these weaker sections. A critical examination and evaluation of both demographic and agrarian structure of the down trodden scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the district helps to gain insights into the problem and provides the necessary information for planing and development of the scheduled castes and tribes.

Data Base and Methodology

The present study based upon both primary and secondary data about various data socio economic aspects of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes population in Anantapur district. Mandal administration unit is taken as the areal unit for the purpose of analysis based upon secondary data. The primary data is generated at house hold level from the sample villages. There are six sample villages chosen from which 315 households were taken for the analysis.

In the present study, both cartographic and quantitative techniques are employed to make the analysis of both primary and secondary data. Most of the secondary data is represented by thematic mapping methods.
Common Factor Analysis (CFA) probably the most widely used multi variated technique in human geography is employed in the present study in order to examine and/or assess the structural as well as developmental characteristics of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes especially in the field of agricultural development.

The Study Region

The present study region, Anantapur district, is one of the chronically drought-prone districts in the country. It is located in the southwestern part of Andhra Pradesh. In terms of geographical area, it is the largest district in Andhra Pradesh State, but in terms of population size, it accounts seventh rank among the districts of Andhra Pradesh. About 74 percent of the total working population in the district depends upon agriculture for their livelihood. Hence the economy of Anantapur district is agricultural and essentially the economic development of the district lies in the development of agricultural economy. But the frequent occurrences of drought, prolonged dry spells and crop failures have had a devastating effect and devastating affect on agricultural economy of the district.

In terms of the size of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe population Anantapur district occupies 13th rank among the districts of
Andhra Pradesh. The scheduled caste and scheduled tribe population as per the 1991 Census, accounted for 17.68 per cent of the total population of the district. It is very significant to state that about 88 per cent of the total scheduled caste and scheduled tribe working population depends upon agriculture for their livelihood. Hence it is necessary to state that the development of agriculture is crucial and forms the basis for the economic development of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. In the field of agricultural development, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are the worst sufferers in enjoying the fruits of agricultural revolution. Hence it is very appropriate to make an examination, identification, classification, description and delineation of the problems and prospects of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in agricultural development. Since Anantapur district is a backward region and known for droughts and crop failures, it provides an appropriate setting for the study of "Demographic and Agro-Geographic Aspects of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Population".

Growth Trends and Distribution of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes:

In Anantapur district the proportion of scheduled castes population to the total population of the district has increased from 13.62 per
cent in 1961 to 14.1 per cent in 1991. Showing a net relative increase of 0.81 per cent. In the case of scheduled tribe population, the proportion of the strength has increased from 2.74 per cent 1961 to 3.49 per cent in 1991 and thus showing a net relative increase of 0.75 per cent which is slightly lesser than the relative increase of scheduled castes population in the district.

There was a gradual increase in the proportion of scheduled tribe population in Anantapur district from 2.74 per cent in 1961 to 3.06 per cent in 1971, 3.22 per cent in 1981 and 3.49 per cent in 1991. Whereas in the case of scheduled caste population, there was a decrease in its proportion from 13.36 per cent in 1961 to 13.15 per cent in 1971 and again there was an increase to 13.68 per cent in 1981 and further increase to 14.17 per cent in 1991.

If you examine the changes in the decadal growth rate of scheduled caste population from 1961 to 1991 there was a gradual increase in the growth rate of scheduled caste population in Anantapur district from 17.8 per cent in 1971 to 25.3 per cent in 1981 and 29.5 per cent in 1991. This gradual increase in the decadal growth rate of scheduled caste population was not noticed in the case of Andhra pradesh and also in the country as whole.
Between 1981 and 1991 the highest decadal growth rate of scheduled tribe population (35.6%) was found in Anantapur district in comparison to Andhra pradesh (32.2%) and India (31.2%). It indicates that there has been a trend of increase in the growth rate of scheduled tribe population in Anantapur district.

In absolute terms, the scheduled caste population has increased from 236 thousands in 1961 to 452 thousands in 1991 which shows less than two-fold increase in Anantapur district. But in the case of scheduled tribe population the increase was from 48 thousands in 1961 to 111 thousands in 1991 and thus showing more than two-fold increase. So it confirms that the growth rate of scheduled tribe population is higher than the scheduled caste population in Anantapur district.

From above the analysis it is found that the decadal growth rate of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe population is higher than the general population. Between scheduled caste and scheduled tribe population, higher decadal growth rate is found in scheduled tribes than the scheduled castes. In the last two decades there is a trend of increase in the decadal growth rate of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe population but higher in scheduled tribe.
From the study of growth trends and spatial distribution of scheduled castes and scheduled tribe population in Anantapur district, the following observations / conclusions are made.

(j) The proportion of S.C. and S.T. population is lesser in Anantapur district as in comparison with Andhra Pradesh State and the country as a whole.

(x) The size and density of S.C. population is far higher than the S.T. population in the district.

(xi) High proportion and high density of S.C. population are found in the south-western part of the district. In contrast, high proportion and high density of S.T. Population are found in south-estern part of the district. It indicates that where the concentration of S.C. population is more, in such areas, the concentration of S.T. population is less and vice-versa.

(xii) The sex ratio of S.C. population is higher (947 females) than the sex ratio of S.T. population (935) in the district.

(xiii) The proportion of S.C. and S.T. population living in urban settlements (13.84%) is far lesser than the general proportion of
urban population (23.49%) in the district. It shows that the rural occupations are the most convenient and concomitant to the most of S.C. and S.T. population.

(xiv) Among the S.C. and S.T. population, the proportion of S.C. Population (14.56%) living in urban settlements is higher than the proportion of S.T. population (10.86%)

(xv) Among the urban settlements in the district, Guntakal, Hindupur, Anantapur and Tadipatri are very significant for higher concentrations of S.C. population. In contrast, Anantpaur, Guntakal and Kadiri are known for higher concentrations of S.T. population.

(xvi) The sex ratio of S.C. urban (966 females) is higher than the sex ratio of S.T. urban population (899 females). It shows that the opportunities for livelihood are more favourable in the case of S.C. women population rather than S.T. women population.

(xvii) The sex ratio of S.C. urban population (966 females) is higher than the S.C. rural population. In the case of scheduled tribes, the sex ratio of S.T. urban population (899 females) is far lesser than the
sex ratio of S.T. rural population (939 females). It reveals that the
opportunities for women employment for the scheduled tribes is
comparatively lesser than the S.C. women population.

**Educational Status of S.C. and S.T. population:**

In 1991, the average literacy rate of S.C. Population in Anantapur
district is 20.7 per cent as against to 25.89 per cent in Andhra Pradesh State
as a whole. In the case of schedules tribe population the average literacy
rate in the district was 21.9 per cent as against to 13.63 per cent in the State.

From the study of educational stateus of S.C. and S.T. Population the
following observations/conclusions are made.

(i) It is found that there is a very large disparity between scheduled
caste literacy rate (25.89 %) and the aggregate general population
literacy (44.49 %) in Andhra Pradesh, and thus revealing the very
backwardness of the spread of education among the scheduled
caste population in the State.

(ii) Among the three regions, higher literacy rate of scheduled caste
population is found in Coastal Andhra while the lower literacy
rate in Telangana. It may be inferred that the high, socio-economic
development of the coastal region has been paying rich dividends for wide spread of education not only among general population, but also among scheduled castes.

(iii) The urban districts like Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam are found with high literacy rate in scheduled caste population and vise versa in the case of rural dominated districts like Mahaboobnagar, Adilabad, Medak, Nizamabad and Nolgonda.

(iv) The average literacy rate of S.C. population in Anantapur district is significantly lesser than the State's average, and it can be well correlated with the economic backwardness of the district.

(v) There is a wide disparity between the average literacy rate of scheduled caste population (20.7%) and general population (35.7%) in Anantapur district. It shows that the spread of education in scheduled caste population is deplorably poor. High literacy of scheduled caste population in the urban mandals and vise versa of in rural dominated mandals is patently visible in the district. It is also found that the where the density of scheduled caste population is high and in such areas the literacy rate is comparatively less.
(vi) It is interesting to state that the literacy rate of scheduled tribe population in Anantapur district (21.9%) is higher than the average literacy rate of S.T. population (13.63%) of Andhra Pradesh. Both in scheduled caste and scheduled tribe population, the male literacy is higher than the female literacy.

(vii) Between 1971 and 1991 the relative increase of scheduled caste literacy in Anantapur district is slightly higher than the relative increase of scheduled caste literacy in the State. In the case of scheduled tribe literacy, this relative increase in the district is very significant than the State's average. It indicating the spread of education among S.T. population in Anantapur district is on positive trend.

(viii) Both in scheduled caste and scheduled tribe female literacy, the decadal increase is not in tune with the relative increase in male literacy. Hence, the spread of education among females has yet to get a much momentum.

(xviii) Since there is a big gap between the literacy levels of general population and scheduled caste and scheduled tribe population, much concentrated efforts need to be taken for enhancing the
literacy rate in scheduled caste and scheduled tribe population in the district. This will bring a bright future and new life as well as prosperity in the depressed classes. Unless this is achieved, the overall prosperity of the well social-being of S.C. and S.T. population cannot be expected.

**Occupational Structure of S.C. and S.T. Population**

According to 1991 Census 2.29 lakh persons were reported as workers accounting for 50.77 per cent of the total S.C. population in Anantapur district. In the case of scheduled tribes 0.55 lakh persons were classified as workers and accounting for 49.5 per cent of the total scheduled tribe population in the district.

The occupational structure of S.C. population in Anantapur district reveals that the highest percentage of workers were found as agricultural labourers (73.2%) followed by cultivators (16.1%). It indicates that agriculture is the main source of livelihood for S.C. population in the district.

The occupational structure of S.T. population reveals that the highest proportion of S.T. workers is to be found as agricultural labourers (49.3%)
followed by cultivators (30.6%). Here also agriculture is the main source of livelihood for S.T. population in the district.

The changing pattern of occupational structure of S.C. and S.T. population in Anantapur district reveals the following facts.

The proportion of cultivators to the total scheduled caste workforce has increased from 13.3 per cent in 1971 to 16.1 per cent in 1991. But the other work component of agriculture sector i.e., agriculture labour has declined from 77.2 per cent to 73.2 per cent. A similar trend is also noticed in the scheduled tribe workforce. Taking both the components of agricultural sector i.e., the proportion of cultivators and agricultural labour, there was a slight decline from 90.5 per cent in 1971 to 89.3 per cent in 1991, showing a net relative decline of 1.2 per cent in scheduled castes. It is pertinent to state that there has been a negligible shift in the occupation of scheduled caste population from agriculture to non-agricultural sector. It manifests that still agriculture occupies a predominant occupation for the livelihood of scheduled caste population in the district.

In the case of scheduled tribe population, the proportion of both cultivators and agricultural labour has increased from 79.9 per cent in 1971 to 80.0 per cent in 1991 and thus showing a net relative increase of 0.1 per
cent which is very negligible. It explains that there has not been any appreciable change in the agricultural occupation of scheduled tribe workforce. In this section of population also, agriculture is still dominant and the main source of livelihood.

Another interesting feature noticed is that the percentage share of workforce engaged in livestock, fishing and forestry etc. is found with marked decline both in scheduled caste and scheduled tribe working population in general and very particular in scheduled caste population. In scheduled tribe workforce, the proportion of workers in livestock, fishing and forestry has been declined from 6.2 per cent in 1971 to 2.6 per cent in 1991 showing a net decline of 3.6 per cent. In the case of scheduled caste workforce, the net decline of 1.5 per cent is found in the last two decades. The schemes for the development of animal husbandry in rural areas are well in vogue especially for weaker sections under I.R.D.P, but it is surprising to note that these schemes had no positive impact on livestock occupation both in scheduled caste and scheduled tribe workforce.

In the activity of mining, the proportion of both scheduled caste and scheduled tribe workforce has marginally increased. This increase in
the scheduled caste working population was 0.1 per cent while in scheduled tribes it was 0.4 per cent.

Another interesting feature to be noted here that the percentage share of both scheduled caste and scheduled tribe work-force engaged in household industry is found with considerable decline and it is particularly in scheduled tribe work-force. The percentage share of scheduled tribe work-force in household industry has declined from 10.2 per cent in 1971 to 6.1 per cent in 1991 and showing a net decline of 4.1 per cent in the last two decades. In scheduled caste work-force, the net decline in this category was of 1.1 per cent. It clearly shows that the rural household industry has not received any due attention from various rural developmental programmes in order to diversify the rural economy and to reduce pressure on agricultural land. Especially in the case of scheduled tribe population, the traditional household industry connecting with mat weaving, basket weaving, palm leaf products, bamboo products etc., has not been encouraged well from I.R.D.P programmes in order to strengthen the household industry.

In other occupations like other than household industry, construction, trade and commerce, transport, storage and communications,
it is found that there has been a positive change in the percentage of both scheduled caste and scheduled tribe work-force. In the case of other than household industry, the net proportional increase was 1.1 per cent in scheduled caste work-force and 3.2 per cent in scheduled tribe work-force. This positive change in this occupation is a good sign indeed to bring diversification in the economy of weaker sections. In the case of trade and commerce, the net increase was 0.8 per cent in scheduled caste work-force and 1.4 per cent in scheduled tribe work-force.

The whole changing scenario of occupational pattern of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe work-force reveals that no substantial change has brought about in the diversification of their economy. Still agriculture plays a crucial role as a principal source of their livelihood. It is inferred that the various rural development programmes which are implemented since so many years have not been brought about any radical change in the diversification of the economy of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe work-force particularly in the occupations like livestock, household industry and other than household industry. Even in the agricultural sector the percentage share of cultivators both in scheduled caste and scheduled tribe work-force has marginally increased but not a radical increase. Here also it may be pointed that the land reforms by
distribution of surplus vacant agricultural lands to the landless poor have not made any substantial change in the increase of the percentage of owned cultivators in scheduled caste and scheduled tribe population. Still much concerted efforts are to be made for (i) the strengthening of agricultural occupation particularly by making the land less poor into owned cultivators, (ii) the strengthening of the allied activities of agriculture particularly animal husbandry, fishing and forestry, and (iii) bringing diversification of rural economy from agriculture oriented to non-agricultural oriented activities. It is very essential for making appropriate plans to strengthen the household industry on small scale village based in order to provide due employment opportunities for scheduled caste and scheduled tribe population through various I.R.D.P schemes.

**Distribution of Land Holdings of S.C. and S.T. population in Anantapur District**

As per the 1991 Census, the total number of land holdings of scheduled castes were 53,277 which accounted for 12.2 per cent of the total land holdings of the district. These scheduled caste land holdings are operating an area of 82,061 hectares which accounted for 6.9 per cent of the total operated area in the district. It shows that there is an imbalance between number of holdings and the area operated by scheduled castes. In
the case of scheduled tribes the total number of land holdings were 14,620 which accounted 3.4 per cent of the total holdings of the district. These scheduled tribe holdings operating an area of 29,377 hectares which accounted 2.4 per cent of the total area operated in the district. Besides scheduled castes and scheduled tribes the share of others is very predominant with 84.4 per cent of the total land holdings and 90.7 per cent of the total area operated. It is paradoxical to state that the relative share of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe land holdings, in the total land holdings of the district was not well accounted by their relative proportion of population. The proportion of S.C. population was (14.19%) higher than the proportion of their land holdings (12.2%). This gap between proportion of population (3.49 %) and proportion of land holdings (3.4 %) was less pronounced in the case of scheduled tribes. It reveals that many of the scheduled caste holdings in the district are found with landless.

Form the present study it is found that there is an uneven distribution of land holdings and operating area in the down trodden people like S.C. and S.T. in the district. There is no correlation between the proportion of S.C. and S.T. population and the proportion of S.C. and S.T. land holdings as well as the area operated by them. It is more pronounced in
the case scheduled castes and indicating that many of the S.C. holdings are found with landless.

The average size of land holding is very low in S.Cs than the S.Ts and other category. About 96 per cent of the S.C. land holdings are found as marginal, small and semi medium with less than 4 hectares. In the case of scheduled tribes these types of land holdings are also high (90.6%) but lesser than the scheduled castes.

It may be mentioned here that there has been an increase in the proportion of small and marginal land holdings in S.C.s It may be attributed it to the sub-division of land under the pressure of population growth, which resulted into high rate of fragmentation of land holdings. The large size of land holdings with more than 10 hectares of land is found very meagre and insignificant in scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

As one read from above study, one gets the doubt as to why the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes especially after the implementation of the land reforms failed to strengthen their farm size through land redistribution in the process of land reforms in the last several years. Since the scheduled castes are very much attached to land for cultivation and did not have any other gainful secondary occupations like dairying, sheep
rearing etc., the redistribution of land through land reforms has not been added any advantage. Land reform programmes were started with a great enthusiasm, but soon the vitality of the enthusiasm was lost and the impletation of land reforms became a very tame affair. There is no doubt that land reforms were conceived broadly in a proper perspective but due to loopholes, they have brought little justice to the landless rural people particularly the scheduled castes. The land reforms have not brought about any structural changes in the landless classes of scheduled castes. If the land reforms are implemented effectively can go a long way towards the eradication of poverty in scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Whatever the surplus land available and cultivable waste land must be distributed among the landless people belonging to S.C.'s and S.T.s. If this redistribution of surplus land is effectively and judiciously done, it reduces not only the poverty but also the unrest and commotion among the poor S.C. and S.T. population in the district. An improvement in the lot of the desperate S.C. and S.T. groups require a strong political will and commitment, realistic policies oriented to their development needs administrative reforms streamlined and oriented in favour of S.C.'s and S.T.s. At last the land reform measures are only the beginning and need to be supported by relevant technologies and appropriate services.
Developmental Programmes for S.C. and S.T. population

Special efforts have been made for the amelioration of S.C. and S.T. population in all the First Five Year Plans. The objective of all welfare programmes is to improve the quality life of S.C. and S.T. population through organised and sustained developmental activities. The welfare of the S.C. and S.T. population is largely linked with the development of agricultural and the allied activities which is the primary source of their living. Greater emphasise should be laid on enhancing the capabilities of S.C. and S.T. population for sustainable development through welfare programmes relating to agriculatural development. The programmes which are intiated and implemented for the development of agriculture among the down trodden people are (i) Land allotment programme (ii) purchase of bullocks and carts (iii) improvement of irrigation facility (iv) land reclamation (v) supply of modern agricultural (vi) liberal sanction of crop loans. Apart from these programmes the members of the S.C. and S.T. population have been in receipt of financial aid for allied agricultural activities. The important schemes for which loans have been given to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in Anantapur district are as (1) pourchase of milch animals, (2) sheep rearing and development, (3) piggery scheme and (4) Poultry scheme.
The Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) is one of the important developmental programmes launched by the Government in 1973 to tackle the special problems faced by those fragile areas and backward Communities which/who are constantly effected by severe drought conditions. The programme aims at restoration ecological balance by harnessing, conserving and developing natural resources. Under this programme out of 1502 beneficiaries, 483 were schedules castes and 209 were scheduled tribes.

Notwithstanding the impressive progress that has been made by the country on different fronts, poverty continues to be a matter of serious concern. The effect of large percentage of the poor on the country's development is obvious. The situation needs to be redressed quickly. It is in this context that the self-employment programmes acquire significance. Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is the single self-employment programme for the rural poor, launched on April 1, 1999. The programme replaces the earlier self-employment and allied programmes - IRDP, TRYSEM, DWCRA, SITRA, GKY and MWS, which are no longer in operation. SGSY is an innovative and carefully thought-out Yojana. It takes into account all the strengths and weaknesses of the earlier self-employment programmes. It offers the perfect balance of credit and subsidy.
Apart from the above programmes the Government of Andhra Pradesh is committed to the total development of S.C. and S.T. population in the State. To empower the members of the scheduled caste to come forward and walk together hand in hand with other sections of the society, the Government has launched “MUNDADUGU” in 1999 under this scheme the development of SC’s has been intiated in three components namely: (1) Education, (2) Economic and (3) Social Justice. There are approximately 25 lakh S.C. population families in Andhra Pradesh out of which the State Government propose, to assist 11.5 lakh families under various economic benefit programmes in 1999-2000.

**Socio-economic and Agro-Geographic profile of Sample Villages and Sample Holdings**

From the study of structural aspects of sample villages, it is observed that agricultural is the main source of livelihood of S.C. and S.T. populated villages. But it is paradoxical to state that the agriculture is mostly rainfed in many of the sample villages. The irrigation development is very poor. The education facility is found available at primary level. All most all the villages don’t found with libraries and adult education centres which indicate these villages with low profile on awareness of education among the adults and school dropouts. The main positive development made in sample villages is the availability of drinking water, electricity, road and
transport facilities. And on other side, the villages which are still backward in health care, marketing and communication facility.

On the basis of structural characteristics of sample villages as well as a socio-economic amenities available, the sample village are categorised into two groups. The first one is developed category found with Dorigallu, Garladinne, and Marthadu villages and the second one is backward category found with Narasanayani Kunta, Jammaladinne and Mudigallu villages.

Family Size

With regard to family size it is observed that large size of families are found more in number in S.T. population than the S.C. population. Irrespective of S.C. and S.T. holdings, the medium to large family size is found in three-fourths of the total sample size which confirms the general hypothesis that large family sizes are not uncommon in S.C. and S.T. holdings. Hither to it is also pointed out that the medium to large family size has confined to illiterates and economically poor especially from backward villages. It also manifests that the illiteracy and economic backwardness still prevails a significant effect upon family size. From the personal investigation on with the sample holdings, it is noticed that the traditional
sentiment i.e., more persons in a family earn more wages and also stand for security for themselves is still in vogue in some of the S.C. and S.T. families.

**Family Planning, Immunization and Infant Mortality**

From the sample study, it is found that the non-implementation of the Family Planning is very high in the case of illiterate S.C. and S.T. population than their poor economic status. Hence illiteracy may be considered as an important stumbling block for the lack of awareness in the implementation of family planning in S.C. and S.T. holdings. The implementation of immunization and health care systems is also very poor in S.C. and S.T. families. Among S.C. and S.T. families infant mortality is higher in scheduled tribes (52.2%) than scheduled castes (40%). Here it is noticed that the health care system at the time of delivery and or post delivery seems to be neglected more especially in S.T. holdings.

**Occupational Structure:**

It is pertinent to state that agriculture is the predominant occupation of S.C. and S.T. population, which is evident from the fact that out of 315 total sample holdings, 306 sample holdings are found to be engaged in agriculture which accounts for 97.1 per cent of the total sample size. So it shows that agriculture is the main source of livelihood for S.C. and S.T. population in the district.
With regard to land distribution, there are 85 land holdings (48%) found with less than 2 acres, 87 land holdings (49.2%) found with 2 to 5 acres of agricultural land. The large size of agricultural land holdings with 5 to 10 acres confined to 4 land holdings. Here also it clearly shows that majority of S.C. and S.T. land holdings (92.2%) are small and marginal nature with less than 5 acres.

If we can examine the cropping pattern of S.C. and S.T. land holdings it is very clear that cultivation of dry crops like oil seeds and pluses is predominant in the form of inter cropping system. In contrast, the cultivation of wet crops like paddy and others are limited to small number of land holdings where irrigation facilities are available.

The Government has introduced several agricultural programmes in order to benefit the S.C. and S.T. land holdings in the field of agricultural development. The schemes like JRY, JSSM, PMRY, SGSY, CME, Mundadugu, Girijana Chaintanyam etc., have been taken up for the down trodden people for improvement of their living standards. From the sample survey it is found that 185 land holdings (58.7%) have been benifitted from the Government. schemes. In the case of S.C. land holdings the number of holdings which have benefitted are 141 (57.6%) holdings while in the case of S.T. holdings the benefitted holidings are 45 (62.9%) So it shows that the higher proportion of S.T. holdings have been benifitted from the
Government schemes. From the point of literacy, higher proportion (74.2%) of literate S.C. and S.T. holdings have been benefitted than illiterate land holdings (56.8%). But majority of land holdings i.e. three-fourths of the S.C. and S.T. land holdings opined that they did not receive timely benefit from any scheme of S.C. and S.T. developmental programmes. This view has been expressed by majority of the farmers about untimely reaching of the benefit and this has been jeopardising the objective of any welfare scheme for the development of S.C. and S.T. population.

**Structural Characteristics of Agricultural S.C. and S.T. Population:**

Commensurate to the geographical analysis, the structural characteristics of S.C. and S.T. population has been analysed with the help of Common Factor Analysis (C.F.A.) for which 16 variables from the primary data are chosen. Based on the results obtained from the Factor analysis, finally it is confirmed that family size is playing a major role in determining the characteristics of S.C. and S.T. Population in Anantapur district. Hence it is necessary to control the size of the family in order to lead comfortable and peaceful life in the modern society.

After examining all the variables and their eigen values, the single unified factor namely, agriculture and farming activities’ is the most important factor as it has the highest loading on this factor. Among the important variables of this factor, percentage area under oil seeds has the
highest value followed by percentage area under canal irrigation, cultivation, percentage of irrigation and then percentage area under well irrigation. Agriculture and allied farming activities are useful and important factors to the study of demographic and agro-geographic aspects of S.C. and S.T. population.

Since from the above analysis it has been highlighted that agriculture and farming activities are important for enhancement of socio-economic of S.C. and S.T. population. It can be said that, these variables as mentioned above be highlighted and implemented for ameliorating the living conditions of SC and ST population. All the developmental programmes/schemes of either Central or State Government must be brought about a radical change and positive development in aforesaid variables of the agricultural development in SC and ST population. The factor analysis based on 16 variables on 63 mandals of Anantapur district has actually extracted five factors among which only one factor has a significant contribution on items of percentage of variation explained. The remaining factors could only explain less than 10 per cent of the variation. So they have been ignored and only one factor has been considered.
As the factor matrix suggests that there is a single factor dimensional development with five variables mentioned above can able to influence the socio-economic levels of S.C. and S.T. population of 63 mandals of Anantapur district. Hence, in the field of agriculture, which is the main source of livelihood of SC and ST population, the development is to made in irrigation, cropping pattern and the practices of cultivation. It may be inferred that the development of agriculture can only bring radical changes in the living standards of SC and ST population in the district.

Conclusion

The social system in India has for centuries deprived the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes of a chance to share equally the opportunities and fruits of the larger society because of deep-rooted oppressions and discriminatory practices in social relations. Such deprivations and oppressions have rendered down trodden these weaker sections relatively the worst sufferers from the points of food, shelter and clothing. As well these people are the centres of all developmental processes and if the society in which they live is unstable due to disharmony, there could be no overall development of either a society or a region. The simple words ‘liberty’ and ‘equality’ with clear meanings have been misinterpreted
and distorted by vested and sectarian interests down the ages in our country as a result of which an unequal social and economic progress took place.

The scheduled castes and tribes are relatively more disadvantaged groups than the rest of the Indian population. The backwardness of these people is attributed largely to their long isolation from the nature's resource-use, exploitation and enjoyment as well as from the material development. After Independence, the Government which was primarily concerned with the general development of agriculture, industry and infrastructure as well as maintenance of law and order, did not show any of serious concern for the welfare of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. In general observation, the establishment of British rule in India did a great deal of harm to the economic position of these weaker sections "through ignorance and neglect of their rights and customs".

There has been no effective participation of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in decision making and developmental process affecting them and administration of their own affairs. The policies and programmes have been formulated without consulting them. It has resulted in fixation of wrong priorities and failures in achieving the desired results. This is one of the important causes of discontentment among scheduled
castes and scheduled tribes. Participation of these sections in both formulation and implementation of policies and programmes affecting them imperative to ensure that interest of these people are properly safeguarded.

In rural India where agriculture is the predominant occupation of the people, the modernization of agriculture has brought about a revolutionary change in the progress of economy. But the fruits of modernization of agriculture through Green Revolution has not been shared not only by the crops and regions but also the farming communities. Particularly the scheduled caste community and who primarily rests upon agriculture, is virtually deprived from the enjoyment of the fruits of the Green Revolution. As a result, the gulf is widened in the process of agricultural development between the rich farmers with large size of land holdings and the poverty ridden scheduled castes with very small size of land holdings. Several programmes have been initiated especially for the development of agriculture in the case of scheduled caste farmers. But the success of these programmes to improve the living standards of the scheduled castes and tribes can not be totally underlined.

Finally, the strengthening of the socio-economic base of the scheduled castes and tribes through substantial transfer of resources to them
is of paramount importance for achieving sustainable development and for reducing social tensions.

It is generally believed that only economic uplift will ultimately ensure perceptible improvement in the life of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Even the Constitution of India lays down that every one should have the right to adequate means of livelihood. So legislative measures were enacted in regard to the regulation of land rights, debt redemption, practice of untouchability, reservations of seats in the educational institutions and reservation of posts in public services. Special efforts have been made to narrow down the wide disparities that exist between the social – economic conditions of S.C. and S.T. communities and the rest of the society.