Chapter 15

CONCLUSION

Since our past history Caste and occupation have always been together but today the scenario has changed they do not go together in fact poverty and occupation go together. Caste system is no more practised apparently. Accessibility to an occupation depends on like many factors like education, status etc. In Malad slums almost all the members of the family are working and struggling to make two ends meet, may it be big or small, men or women. Most of the jobs in the slums are not low paid nor do they get job satisfaction. Most of the families of Malad slum dwellers are in debts. Lack of education, low per capita income and indebtedness make their life miserable. Slum dwellers are human and they also have desires and aspiration like other human beings. Education, rise in their desires and aspirations, formal provisions for certain caste have led to significant changes in the pattern of occupation. Moreover urbanisation migration and changes in the political scenario, changes in technology have made a big difference in the occupation character of slum. Earlier the women would not work or go out of the house but today due to education and television things have changed. Occupation has become the most important indicator in the stratification system which is closely related to other indicators like education and per capita income. Every occupation gives its own rewards like income retirement benefits, tenure of the work. Social stratification is the set of rules governing access to the different social positions, occupations and the incumbency in the different social roles. If you want to become a doctor, engineer IAS, IPS then you should have the required education. Most of the slum dwellers are underemployed but not unemployed because they lack the skills required and the education required for getting a job. Therefore their family are at the bottom of the social ladder where they suffer from poverty, inequality etc. People in slum lack the required education and skill for high coloured and high paid jobs mainly because of lack of education and personality development. Therefore they have no option but get engaged in low ranking and low prestige occupations. They take up jobs which serve the middle and higher class people in towns and cities. Example domestic maid, cook, vendor, rickshaw pullers, rags pickers’ construction labourers etc. They are mostly engaged in cottage industries or in trade like vegetables vendor or fruit. But inspire of this they form an integral and important part of the income in urban areas or urban economy. The upper class and the middle class cannot survive without them yet we do not
value them. All the big business men depend on them in some way or the other. They cannot be replacing at even additional cost. In fact they are very important contributors to urban economy. But the saddest part is although they are a very important contributor to our economy, their occupation structure breathes in poverty. Poverty gets linked with poverty related characteristics which also includes deprivation of education and low per capita income. Low education and low per capita income leads to low status. Slum dwellers lack high status because of poor contacts, lack of influence, lack of opportunities and lack of exposure to good jobs etc. In the slums there are people who belong to the service class that is Government jobs; some are working in the private sector. Some of them are doing skilled jobs and some are doing unskilled jobs. Most of the slum dwellers are forced to pick up low paid jobs for survival. Many are underemployed. There are many skilled and unskilled labourers in the slums. Government jobs they work as clerks’ peons accountant. Services are drivers, peons, chowkidars, watch men factory workers, accountant. Private jobs are that of maid servants work mechanical shops and daddabas shop where no special skills are required but they are paid regularly. Business is Vendors shopkeepers’ vegetable sellers, fruit sellers, door to door sellers etc. Skilled labourers like maison, plumbers, carpenters bag makers, earning makers, mangalsutra makers clip makers etc. Unskilled labourers like rickshaw walas, cart pullers, load carriers etc. Zero people were underemployed but many were underemployed. Each and every person in the slums big or small work in some way or the other which is legal or illegal that is child labour. But the contribution of the children is not valued. More over most of the college going children in Malad East do work and pay their own fees .they either wipe cars or distribute milk or distribute newspaper door to door and then go to college due to which they miss their first lecture .Many of them get up early in the morning to either fill water or do the household chores. Out of the women in the Malad slums few are house wives but not in reality they were not even aware that they were also contributing to the family income. They were helping their husbands in the business for example making papads, making chains out of beeds doing fall bidding doing tailoring etc. Although they contribute to the family income yet they enjoy a very low status in the family. They have no say in any matters,
especially the UP migrates. The slum dwellers work very hard. Their day starts from 4 in
the morning and ends by 11 or 12 especially the ladies they have a very tough life their
day ends only and after they finish their household chores. Most of the rickshaw drivers
are not owners of the rickshaw. They had rented it out from the middle class people who
are the actual owners of the rickshaw and they take most of the earning and give a
small percentage to the actual rider. In many home both the men and the women are
working but since the women is taking the entire responsibility the man does not
contribute his income to provide bread and butter to the family. In fact spends it all for
his happiness that is drinking smoking etc. This adds to the poverty of the slum dwellers.
A child born in the slum is he most unfortunate as he is the victim of poverty by birth
and therefore deprived of a normal upbringing and they are somehow involved in the
earnings of the family since childhood. He learns this by watching his family struggle
to make ends meet and feels guilty if he or she does not work to contribute to the family
income. Such children learn to compromise and adjust in any circumstances. Poverty is the
cause of their entry into the job market or unskilled jobs like labourers, dishwashers,
servants etc. Both the child family and the employers benefit by child labour but it is the
child who has to bear the consequences. Thus child labour is not the outcome of caste
system in fact it is the outcome of the economic conditions of the family. Good quality
education, good authority with good health is very important to change the life of
slum dwellers. Especially value education is very important. My book is written in a
simple way, and is filled with illuminating examples of how education and an
increase in per capita income will lead to human Resource development of the slum
dwellers of Malad East. And what is true of the slums off Malad East is true of all the
slums. If we have to make India a heaven for all, then we have to work at eradicating
one by one slum, brick by brick, in Mumbai. So let start with Malady East. In this chapter I
have given the readers a short preview of the taste of my book and I hope and pray that
it leads you all to read it wholly. with the attentiveness and carefully as it deserves.

TO ACT AND THINK DIVINE IS HUMANITY IN ALL RELIGIONS MADE BY MAN BUT TRUE
EVEN IN THE EYES OF THE ALMIGHTY, IF WE CANNOT HELP THE POOR AND THE DOWN
TRODDEN THEN WE ARE NOT RICH IN THE EYES OF THE CREATER.