CHAPTER VII
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In the present study a sincere attempt is made to understand the educational problems among scheduled caste post-graduate students. In modern days the scheduled caste students have somewhat high educational aspirations, though they have been suffering from educational discrimination. The socio-economic situations of scheduled castes today is the result of historical unfair treatment by the upper caste Hindus. The untouchables were subjected to various type of humiliations before they came to enjoy the same social and economic privileges along with the other castes of India after Independence.

Untouchables were kept out of the frame work of Varna system. The ever increasing conservatism of four fold caste system gave a stability to the phenomenon of untouchability, which prohibited them from getting even a meagre education. Hence they became the victims of illiteracy and ignorance and suffered social disabilities. As a result they remained socially, economically and educationally backward as compared to the other castes in Indian society. Moreover, a large number of untouchables are residing in rural area, where even today rural society being conservative, untouchability is to some extent still practiced, even though the practice of untouchability is acknowledged as a criminal act. Untouchability and other such inhuman practices have compounded the problems of scheduled castes particularly in rural areas. Such practices have conspired to keep them from rising up in society to claim a better social and economic status.
Education is a *sine qua non* for the allround development of any community, economically, socially and culturally. But this is not so easy for scheduled caste people who have to overcome many obstacles. Because they were denied educational opportunities and hence today they are facing innumerable educational problems. Traditionally they were engaged in menial occupations with no right to education. During British rule they had some open avenues for modern secular education. At the time of independence the constitution provided special facilities for their education. Although their progress is marginal, the scheduled caste have since the past 50 years are making a slow but steady progress in the field of acquiring education. In most families they happen to be the first generation to be educated. Therefore, an attempt is made in this present research study to draw attention towards the educational problems of scheduled castes.

Today the educational gap between the scheduled castes and the rest of the society is still very wide, for which various factors are responsible. Due to poverty the drop out rate among them in primary level is very high. A majority of the parents are illiterates and just rudimentary educated, who do not give much importance to educate their children. Due to lack of proper guidance from parents, who are not aware of the importance of education, they are attending schools at a later age than upper caste children. A majority of scheduled caste students are of rural background, where the educational facilities are not easily available. The parents are also not economically sound and as such they have the problem to send their children to other places for education. Though scholarships are provided to them by the Government, it is not
sufficient and not available at a proper time. These are some notable and basic problems of their education.

Even today among scheduled castes education has not spread evenly. To avoid the socio-economic problems of scheduled castes and to better their living conditions one must first improve the conditions of work with payment of better wages in their traditional occupations. Therefore educational advancement of the scheduled castes continues rapidly because through such efforts they alone attain upward social mobility. During this transitional period the scheduled caste students certainly face a variety of social problems. On the one hand there is the still unsolved question of their social acceptability by caste Hindus, while on the other hand, they lack the self-confidence to raise above their social origins. The first generation learners among the scheduled castes are confronted with both the generation gap and the cultural gap.

The schemes of scholarships, freeships and provision of books should continue and be further strengthened to cover the maximum number of deserving castes.

The educational level of the parents is equally important to improve the educational performance of the children. So far as the present study is concerned the educational level of both father and mother is one of illiteracy. Therefore the academic performance of the respondents is very low. Because it is an accepted fact that the family is an important agency which encourages the educational performance of the children. The present study reveals that the educational level of the parents being low, they are unable to guide their children's education. The respondents who have illiterate parents are unaware of the course of further education.
they should choose. It indicates a lack of proper guidance and encouragement from their parents. Respondents from educated families on the contrary are more conscious about higher education and what courses they should choose after their post-graduation degree.

The enrollment of scheduled caste students is high in the Art faculty, as compared to science and commerce. This is due to the ignorance and illiteracy of the parents. The respondents feel that these courses are difficult and require much effort, tuition and guidance from educated elders in the family. They are different about taking such courses, while Arts course they feel requires less effort and is more easy to get through. Therefore there are more number of respondents in the arts faculty.

An understanding at the socio-economic background of the respondents is very necessary to understand the nature and nature of the respondents. It helps to understand the psychological conditions of the respondents and also to assess the capacity towards academic achievements and the degree of self-confidence of the respondents.

The present study reveals that even today the girls education among scheduled castes has not received any importance. Because the number of girl respondents is very least. The scope and encouragement for girl’s education among scheduled caste people is almost low. Hence the number of female students in higher education comes down. It may be due to poverty early marriages and the like. Meanwhile Government has made withstanding efforts to improve the educational status of the women. As a result scheduled caste women seem to receive little encouragement for formal education.
The study reveals that during the period of education the respondents have not shown an inclination for early marriage as they seem to have higher aims and aspirations and also want to become economically self-sufficient. Therefore the respondents are more interested in late marriage. Thus in the present study it is clear that a large proportion of respondents are unmarried.

The scheduled caste people have converted to Buddhism as a result of vast influence of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Today innumerable scheduled caste member are converting to Buddhism as a means to free themselves from the tyranny of the caste system prevailing in Hinduism. As a result our respondents belonged to both Hinduism and Buddhism. But no respondent belonged to other converted religions.

Among all the respondents the large proportion of respondents hail from Holeya sub-castes followed by Madar sub-caste, which are large populous SC sub-castes in north Karnataka. Out of total respondents a majority of our scheduled caste students belonged to rural background. Even female respondents also belonged to rural background where the awareness of female education is on increase.

The level of education of the parents is also an important factor while considering the education of their children. Until recently the scheduled castes were not aware of the importance of education. It is this reason that in our sample survey we find that a majority of the respondents are just either first or second generation literate. The majority of parents are either illiterates or just primary level rudimentary educated.
In the present study it is clear that a majority of the respondents father's occupation is that of coolie, while some are agriculturists. It is because since ancient times the scheduled castes are not owning their land. They were also denied proper education until recently. Hence the number of Government servants is low and most work as coolies. However, today with the help of education they are equipping themselves and are getting government jobs, but they are few in number.

Occupational conditions cannot isolated from economic conditions. It occupation is the source of income, income is the outcome of an occupation. In the study it is clear that a majority of respondents belonged to low income group, whose parents are working as coolies. Only few respondents come from middle income group where parents are working in jobs. But a majority of the scheduled caste people belonged to poor families.

Since large number of scheduled caste people belonged to poor family background caste people belonged to poor family background they are residing in either Kachcha or kachcha Pukka houses. Only some financially sound families are residing in Pukka houses. Thus their houses are constructed by using cheap and easily available materials.

As it is known that a large number of scheduled caste population is in rural area, their nature of family is joint. Even today a vast majority of scheduled caste people are residing in joint families, which shows joint family system is more powerful in rural India, irrespective of the influence of modernization, urbanization and industrialization. Since a majority of the scheduled castes main occupation is agricultural coolie, they need more persons to work, which leads to perpetuation of the joint
family system in rural India. However, those with an urban background may come from nuclear families.

Despite the passage of time and the changes it has undergone, the joint family system in some form or the other continues to exist as a basic social system carrying forward the process of socialization and cultural continuance.

The academic achievement of the respondents is better. A majority of the respondents have completed their graduation in first class. It is probably the urban influence, where all the respondents have completed their degree. The study shows that today the scheduled caste students have the awareness about importance of education and hence the number of students have passed their degree in first class.

Although they have completed their degree in first class they have the problem of English language. Due to lack of proper guidance and encouragement they fail to take up English as a medium of Instruction. For them the continuation of Education through English medium becomes very difficult. It is because a majority of the scheduled caste respondents, who have rural background, have completed their degree in Kannada medium. But urban background students have awareness about English language and hence they continue their education through English version.

As far as the faculty of the respondents is concerned a majority of Arts faculty students have offered regional language for their medium of study, while a large number of commerce and science students are studying in English medium.
As it is known that a majority of the respondents belonged to either illiterate or rudimentary educated parents families, where many times they have no perception about their future education. As a result some students have joined post-graduation course after 1-2 years gap. For this various factors are responsible. Majority of the students discontinued their education after degree due to poverty whereas some students discontinued due to lack of proper guidance to the scheduled castes students, who hail from illiterate families, whose parents are ignorant about importance of education. Thus economic problem is the main reason for discontinuing their education.

Later they have continued their education due to motivation from various factors. The study reveals that a majority of the respondents are mostly encouraged by their family members. It is thus still the family is responsible in bringing up children and to educate them. However, a majority of the respondents wish to continue their education. But as far as sex of the respondent is concerned more male respondents want to take up their further education, through which they get scholarships and fulfil their basic amenities independently without depending on their parents. But female respondents with to stop their education, for which they would be busy in choosing their life partners or a job, which could give them economic security.

Since so many male respondents have the aspiration of further continuation of their education. Majority of the respondents want to join for their Ph.D degree, which gives the financial security for nearly four or five years. Meanwhile they try to get a good job. But another major proportion of the respondents have not decided what to do after their post graduation.
Since a majority of scheduled caste students hail from poor families they choose either Ph.D. or M.Phil, degree after their post graduation. From the present study it is clear that the respondents who come from lower class families a majority are thinking to take up Ph.D. course, which can give economic assistance through scholarships. But those who are thinking for competitive examinations are mainly belonged to high income group families, which can meet the expenses. Those who have not decided what to do after post-graduation belonged to poor families, where they could not get any proper guidance, as such they have ambiguity about further educational career. Thus from the present research it is clear that respondents who come from poor families have higher educational aspiration upto Ph.D. degree, for which reasons are diverse.

The respondents who want to discontinue their education are facing many difficulties. They discontinued due to utter poverty and they urgently in need of job, which could solve their economic problem.

As it is already known that education is an important leverage of social mobility. It provides better standard of life and helps to get a good job. It aims at providing high social and economic status in the society. The present research clearly indicates that a majority of respondents are getting education to achieve economic self-sufficiency by getting a good job. Because higher levels of education provides so many better avenues for good and handsome salary jobs.

So far as faculty of the respondents is concerned a majority of arts faculty students are more in need of economic security. But commerce students want to improve the business market through education and
majority of science students are getting education to raise their position and status in the social hierarchy.

Since centuries the scheduled castes have been denied with educational, social, cultural and economic opportunities. As a result in order to promote education the Government of India is providing scholarships to SC/ST students. Higher education among SC/ST students depends upon scholarship facility provided to them. Today the dropout rate is high among scheduled caste students due to poverty.

The present study indicates that the scholarship amount is just like backbone to their education. A majority of poor family background scheduled caste students depend completely upon scholarships provided by the Government. A large number of scheduled caste students are obtaining scholarships, which is the main source of higher study. Due to poverty it becomes a burden to provide education to their children by parents. Thus scheduled caste students do not depend upon their parents but upon Government scholarships.

The research study reveals that a majority of the scheduled caste students today are taking self-decision about their education. It shows the traditional control of family over its members is vanishing gradually and students are becoming more aware of their future life, which is due to modernization and development of individualism.

The results indicate that as the literacy level of the parents goes down the independent decision is being taken by the children and as the literacy level of the parents increases the parents take decisions about children’s educational career. Because in higher educational families the parents want to maintain discipline and strictness pertaining to their
children's aspirations. As the education level of the parents decreases the children have more freedom to take self-decisions, because illiterate parents have no such a capacity to guide and direct their educated children.

The present study clearly indicates that a large number of scheduled caste students even today get admission on the basis of reservation facility, which is inevitable for their advancement from educational and occupational view point. Thus if there is no reservation policy a large number of scheduled castes students would have been denied higher education. It may be noted that the awareness of reservation facility should be effectively made known to rural community, who still have no proper idea of the reservation facility. As a result dropout rate among rural scheduled caste students is high as compared to urban areas. Highly educated parents can easily pay donations to provide admission to their children, which is not possible for poor and poor illiterate parents.

Today as the study reveals a majority of the scheduled caste students got admission on the basis of reservation policy. Therefore the reservation policy is very necessary and inevitable for scheduled castes for their educational and occupational upliftment. Although scheduled caste students face many problems during the times of admission.

As indicated the scheduled caste students are facing so many problems to get admissions in higher educational institutions. The respondents belonging to rural area have more problems to face than urban students, who have socialized in urbanized area have better awareness about various fields than rural background students.
The study indicates correlation between income level of the family and types of the problems faced. Lower the income level of the family higher is the economic problem during admission times, higher the income level the severity of the problem is very low. Majority of the low income level family respondents faced economic problems. But respondents generally have faced the caste based problems like untouchability, purity and impurity, etc.

Thus today a majority of scheduled caste students are facing economic problem, which is due to "culture of Poverty". Even today many sub-castes, which are following their traditional low occupations are not ready come out of such professions, because their life style is completely interwoven with such occupations. Hence they are living below poverty line. However, it may be noted that the number of respondents who experienced caste based problems is very low. This shows that either the scheduled caste students have improved their status in caste hierarchy by changing their style of life or the caste Hindus are changing their attitudes towards castism. It is clear that as the level of education increases, the awareness towards the status and castism increases.

As a result of practice of untouchability many scheduled caste students suffer from inferiority complex. They experience inferiority complex during different circumstances. Of these circumstances a majority respondents feel inferior during getting scholarships in university, where the administration exploits these students in providing scholarship cheques. Some students feel inferior during fees exemption and some during getting the seats on the basis of reservation facility and other feel inferior to others while making friendship with other caste
students in general and sometimes with girl students in particular. The respondents belonging to rural area have more inferiority complex than urban students. However a majority of scheduled caste respondents have experienced the feeling of inferiority complex only in financial matters like receiving scholarships, fees exemption etc. Majority of the scheduled caste students belonging to poor family conditions suffer from inferiority feeling. It is great hindrance in academic achievement, which affects the concentration of the student.

Many times the officials in the university make discrimination among the students. University officials treat scheduled caste students as inferior to others. But the study reveals that the rate of inferior treatment by university towards scheduled caste students is not severe. But only some students suffer from ill-treatment by the university. The students who have experienced discrimination during admission times and during the times of participating in extra-curricular activities which may be due to castism where the officials would have given more muck preference to higher castes.

Since centuries together the scheduled castes have been denied with educational, social, cultural and economic opportunities. As a result in order to promote education, the Government of India is providing scholarships to scheduled castes and scheduled Tribes students. Higher education among SC/ST students largely depends upon scholarship facility provided to them. Today drop out rate is high among scheduled caste students due to poverty. It is a known fact that some scheduled caste students are working outside with their studies.
The study also shows that a large number of scheduled caste students are obtaining scholarships, which is main source of the higher education, which is extreme poverty among scheduled castes. As a result of poverty it becomes a burden to provide education to their children by the poor parents. So a majority of the students do not depend upon their parents but upon Government scholarships.

Though it is known fact that scheduled caste students are provided scholarships facility it is not known whether the scholarship amount is sufficient to cover expenses, because scheduled caste students are socially backward and economically poor. Their parents are not in a position to provide higher education independently. The study reveals that the scholarship amount is not sufficient to meet both the ends. Therefore the Government should increase the amount of scholarships to be paid to the SC/ST students. Because today higher education is more expensive, where the price of books, equipments is very high, which is impossible for them to meet that end. Therefore, it is suggested that Government should increase the amount of scholarship as the prices of commodities increase.

As it is clear the higher education is more expensive and scholarship amount is not sufficient. Therefore the scheduled caste students are facing many problems, among which economic problem is more severe. Because of today higher education has become extremely expensive and only meant for economically sound class. However, since reservation facility is provided for them at a least number of scheduled caste students have become the beneficiaries of education.
The children of uneducated parents are first generation educated, while the children of educated are considered second generation educated. Since the present generation learners are facing problems, there is no doubt that their parents also faced a lot of problems. The study shows that problems of first generation learners are quite different than second generation learners. It is because the social situation in which the present generation is growing is very often different from the social situation in which their parents brought up. The first generation learners faced the social problems, like untouchability, bondage labour etc, but second generation learners suffer from economic problems. It indicates the decline of castism and practice of untouchability.

Since the scheduled caste students are facing economic problem, they are in need of financial assistance, which one can get through a good job. The main reason of higher education among SC students is to get a handsome salary job. It is also necessary to raise social status, because it accelerates the process of occupational mobility from traditional to modern occupations.

Since centuries the scheduled caste have been denied educational, social, cultural and economic opportunities. As a result in order to promote education the government of India is providing scholarship to scheduled caste and scheduled tribe students who depend upon scholarship facility provided to them. Today the dropout rate is quite high among scheduled caste students due to poverty. It is also a known fact that some scheduled caste students also work outside along with their studies. The study reveals that scholarship facility is necessary, because a majority of the respondents depend upon scholarship for their higher
studies. Scholarship is the main source of their higher studies. If there is no scholarship facility very few scheduled caste student would find it possible to obtain education. Today they are provided scholarships without much difficulty. Sometimes, however, they face problems. But it is also fact that the amount paid as scholarship is not sufficient to cover the expenses because their parents are economically very poor and are not in a position to provide higher education independently. Some respondents totally depended on scholarship for their education.

A majority of the respondents are not happy with the scholarship amount paid. It may be due to expensive higher education, where the price of books and equipments is very high and it is impossible for them to meet both ends. Therefore it is suggested that government should increase the amount of scholarships as the prices of commodities increase. Further the amount should reach the students on time and not delayed as it now happens.

It is evident that scheduled caste suffer from social, political and economic injustice. The power is in the hands of the dominant castes, which are socially, economically and politically powerful. The scheduled caste students today are taking an active part in college elections, through which they try to develop political awareness. It is a healthy sign from the point of developing a political awareness as most of them seem to be interested in day to day political matters.

The problems while getting education faced by the parents of the present generation were quite different. Moreover the educational problems faced by the first generation was more severe than the second generation. The children of uneducated parents are first generation
educated. While the children of the educated are considered second
generation educated. Today due to the current social situation in which
the present generation is growing it is very differed form the social
sicuation in which their parents have grown.

Since the spread of education is found to be related to the socio­
economic status of the parents, there seems to be need to tackle the
problem of the parents' status. However, since the socio-economic status
depends in a large measure in societies like ours on education nothing
short of a radical change in the social structure can break this vicious
circle and help to improve the status of these groups. The initiative for
this transformation has to come from themselves. But a paradox of a
situation is that such an action depends upon an adequate
understanding of the situation which, in turn, depends upon the entry of
the scheduled castes into non-traditional occupations. Until such time
that the scheduled castes are ready, theoretically and practically, to
demand and effect structural change, it becomes necessary to educate
the parental generation about the ways in which structural
transformation can be brought about.

More interest must be cultivated among Scheduled Caste students
to take up Commerce and Science subjects. To-day scheduled caste
students hesitate especially to take up science as they are afraid they will
not do well in their studies. This is the main reason why they prefer the
Arts faculty and only a negligence number go for Medical and
Engineering special coaching in Science subjects is essential and higher
amount in scholarships and better incentives should be made available
to attract more scheduled caste students to Science faculty in colleges.
This will decrease their dependence on government jobs.
Also Scheduled Caste graduates should be given more financial help and encouragement to go in for private entrepreneurship to set up small scale industries and businesses.

The children of scheduled castes, who are at present in educational institutions also seem to need extra help in their studies as they are academically backward. This fact has been borne out by the present study by their meagre representation in Science courses. A lasting remedy lines in the improvement of the culture of their families. This however, is a long drawn out process. In the short extra coaching and greater interest informally by the teachers seems to be necessary.

The extension of the policy of the reservation to the private sector will temporarily ease the situation. Ultimately the members of the scheduled castes will have to be on their own. This is possible when they attain parity with others. But the attainment of parity with others is not in the realm of possibility because of the inegalitarian social structure that we have. A radical transformation of the social structure to ameliorate the lot of the scheduled castes is thus, clearly indicated by this study.