CHAPTER-7

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The major contradiction or human society ever since its inception has been the opposition between the quest for equality, equity and social justice to all on the one hand and persistence of inequalities, inequities, injustice and denial even of the basic necessities of life on the other. While the former has been a desirable and ideal goal set by the human society, during all times, the human society always created structures of myths, false consciousness and rationales to justify the existing social structure and tried to perpetuate the prevalent social, economic and political inequalities. Martindale (1960) observed while man's primary endeavour has always been to realize social progress, human freedom and equality among all, the natural and social order i.e. the state on the contrary has been resisting such efforts and thereby denying these privileges to most of the human beings. This is the reason that the history of civilization has also been caught up in the binary oppositions, such as rich and poor, autonomy and dependence, progress and regression, liberty and slavery and so on.

Despite the paradoxes and the problems the human beings have always been facing, they never refrained from making efforts for the well-being and betterment of others. With their continuous efforts they have been, therefore, enlarging the scope of development and change, particularly among the poor people. The entire process of change involved advancement of man's knowledge and establishment of laws to induce
social progress and effect changes in the social system and social structure.

The history provides enough evidence of both the efforts made and changes that have come about. These have been considered as the most significant historical achievements. It is indeed a fact that the Athenian democracy and Roman laws established certain rights for some people who were earlier denied these. The sixteenth century reformation enlarged individual freedom in religious matters. The point that emerges from such historical reforms that where-ever the life was too much constrained human liberty was advocated. The ultimate objective of such endeavours was to emancipate human beings in thoughts and action for the good of humanity, particularly the emancipation of down trodden sections of the society.

This is the reason that one finds such efforts being made in the Indian society also with special reference to the down trodden sections, i.e. the ex-untouchables. It is interesting to note that while Dharam Shastra's laid down numerous restrictions on the life of Shudra's, the social and religious reformers and leaders raised their voice against the problems faced by the down trodden of the Indian society. The historical traditions of doing good for the down trodden section of the society received both the individual as well as social support. In the modern times conditioned by democratic processes the issue of equality and fraternity has acquired more favourable response. It is a fact that in India, during the pre-independence period the British Government in India took up the cause of untouchable castes and appended them into a schedule for granting them certain special
privileges which could help them grow. Although in the existing circumstances it was against India’s political agenda but it paved way for change in the status of these castes. Their cause was further taken up by Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. A.B. Ambedkar, Jyoti Rao Phule, and many others. All these efforts later culminated into special provisions in the Constitution of free India. The Directive Principles of State Policy call for direct interventions. The impact of which is obvious in the policies and plans initiated after independence in which the scheduled castes were given due attention as target groups for development. This is evident in the Five Year Plans which incorporated special financial provision under various schemes meant for the scheduled castes. It is in the light of multiplicity of continuous efforts being made that each successive Five Year Plan initiated special schemes for the socio-economic uplift of the scheduled castes. The launching of IRDP and Special Component Plan constituted the extraordinary step. To what extent these efforts brought about change in the status of scheduled castes in Himachal Pradesh is a question that required an examination to assess the adequacy of the efforts. In order to understand the change which might have been affected by the schemes launched under IRDP and special component plan. This study assumed that the implementation of the schemes and benefit taken by the scheduled caste families must have brought about certain degree of change in the socio-economic status of beneficiaries. In the light of the assumption, the following hypotheses emerged:

First, since the interventionist strategy emphasized on increasing financial outlays the successive Special Component Plan is likely to make
substantial financial input for the development of scheduled castes.

Second, the increasing financial outlays in relation to the schedule castes' development are likely to effect changes in the emerging socio-economic scenario among the scheduled castes.

Third, the beneficiaries of various schemes launched by the State are likely to reflect better socio-economic profile than the non-beneficiaries among the scheduled castes.

Fourth, the beneficiaries are likely to be more aware of various schemes launched by the State than the non-beneficiaries. However, the knowledge and awareness among non-beneficiaries is likely to be positively effected by their social status, that is higher the status higher the knowledge.

Fifth, the extent and magnitude of overall change among the scheduled caste beneficiaries is likely to be more than non-beneficiaries conditioned however by their differential social status.

To test the above the hypotheses this study examined the following aspects of the scheduled castes which also constituted the objectives of the study.

First, the Special Components Plan and the inputs made under various heads, such as economic services, rural development, education, housing, medical and other welfare measures.

Second, the emerging patterns of change among scheduled castes in Himachal Pradesh which includes, literacy, employment, etc.

Third, the social status and social, economic and occupational profile
of the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries included in study.

Fourth, social status, knowledge and awareness of various schemes.
Fifth, the relationship between social status and extent and magnitude of change in the social and economic status.

The study as explained in the methodology was conducted in Chamba District of Himachal Pradesh. A total sample of 403 households comprising 213 beneficiaries and 190 non-beneficiaries was drawn out of IRDP families registered with the DRDA for the purpose of data collection. An Interview Schedule designed keeping in view the objectives and hypotheses was used to collect data. After having collected data it was coded and analyzed in comparative terms i.e. by comparing the beneficiary and non-beneficiary scheduled castes families. In order to understand whether there were significant differences of association between the expected and observed the Chi square test of significance was used. An Index based on cumulative scores of social, economic and demographic attributes was also prepared to facilitate data analyses. The following are the major findings and conclusions of the study.

The findings with regards to inputs made under Special Component Plan for the development of scheduled castes have been quite revealing in many respects. It is worthwhile to mention here that under economic services which included primarily agriculture, the total financial input increased considerably between 1989-90 and 1999-2000. The maximum outlays increased in the area of distribution of agricultural implements, followed by development of cash crop like ginger and other vegetables and
improved seeds, training and extension programme and high yielding varieties of crops. Besides agriculture, horticulture also received considerable boost, almost double than the agriculture in terms of enhanced financial outlays. In the horticulture sector control of pests and diseases was emphasized most, followed by development of horticulture farms, nursery, development of mushrooms and training of farmers. Despite the ongoing efforts it may be noted with concern that assistance to small farmers in the form of special subsidy instead of increase in financial inputs registered decrease. While subsidies are gradually taken away by the government its likely adverse effect is going to appear in the times to come.

Some of the other, significant areas which can prove economically highly significant contributor to the rural economy in general as well as the socio-economic conditions of the scheduled castes, like development of olive and other fruits, horticulture extension programme for integrated horticultural projects development for their betterment were all together ignored. In the animal husbandry sector the maximum emphasis was laid down on the construction of veterinary dispensaries, hospitals, CVD and poly clinics. Under the scheduled castes special project the breeding facilities for cattle and buffalos were provided along with Semen Bank, liquid Nitrogen plant and slaughter houses. In this sector also development of projects which could be economically more beneficial like 'angora rabbit wool' were given the least attention. In view of which one finds that there is an urgent need for prioritization of programmes under animal husbandry. It is, therefore imperative to argue here that until-unless priorities are fixed in a more a balanced way and keeping in view the local needs and viabilities...
Another area emphasized for generating more income for the scheduled castes pertained to fisheries. This sector received considerable attention which in fact is more than agriculture and horticulture. Under this management and development of river fish and trout fish were given significant attention along with processing and preservation of fish ponds. It may therefore be argued that fishery as a whole found considerable attention and favour under the SCPs, but to what extent the scheduled castes households utilized the existing provisions is a matter which required empirical investigations.

Forestry and forest products, both the timber as we as fruits, are important economic contributors to the economy in general. In this regard, the data has been quite revealing particularly with reference to the development of fuel-wood and fodder projects, planting of economically more viable plants and increase in the quick growing variety of trees. It is, however, found that social forestry has been neglected and as a result of that the financial outlays were reduced to almost half of the initial inputs. But at the same time, the development of integrated water shed projects in Kandi area, other forest schemes like Sanji Van Yojna were some of the other programmes which added new dimensions to the on going forest development programmes.

Rural development as a whole has, in fact, been a priority ever since independence of the country, due mainly to two seasons. First, almost seventy-four percent of India's population lived in rural areas where agriculture was the main stay of people. Second, to meet the foodgrain
needs of the people development and growth of agriculture was essential. Since Himachal Pradesh continues to be predominantly rural economy the development of agriculture remains the priority. In the state plan, the emphasis has been laid down on special programmes such as ICDP, SGSY, IREP, JRY, JGSY, employment assurance schemes and Panchayats. It is significant to note here that the shifting of priority has resulted in decline of more than almost half of the financial outlays on IRDP which has been an important area of focus for considerable time. The IRDP as a strategy is now being less emphasized in comparison to 1989-90. On the other hand, IREP has been given considerable boost by increasing the financial outlays. In fact the Panchayats and employees assurance scheme have been emphasized with much more vigour in relation to other programmes. The emphasis on the development of Panchayats has increased due to 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act. Under this, not only the PRIs are being empowered but representation to scheduled castes, women etc. in PRIs has also become mandatory. This is worthwhile to mention here that there has been tremendous impact of this amendment in Himachal Pradesh and a result of which the participation of scheduled castes has increased in PRIs.

One of the strategies for bringing about change especially among the scheduled castes and other weaker sections has been education. The education in general and education of the scheduled caste has therefore received considerable emphasis especially under the universalization of primary education programme. It is noted that the funding to meet the cost of primary and secondary schooling, opening of new schools has increased,
a substantially. Under the school educational programme drinking water facilities have been attached significance. In totality, the financial outlay for primary education and allied services has increased during the last 10 years. Similarly, middle school education is being given special care by way of financial provisions. In this context the maximum resources have been provided for upgrading of primary schools, opening of middle schools and distribution of free text books/scholarship to the scheduled castes girls. Similarly, it has been found that outlays for secondary education have also increased. The maximum of the financial allocations have been spent on the up-gradation of middle schools to high schools followed by up-gradation to Higher Secondary to Senior Secondary schools. The two areas which have been added and emphasized in the Special Component Plan are free text books and distribution of scholarships under the Dr. A.B. Ambedkar Megha Chatraraviti Yojna. Besides, the emphasis is also laid down on the infrastructure development, provision of additional teachers, and other incentives. In addition to the said special outlays have been provided for college and University education. In view of the increasing financial outlays for developing infrastructure from primary to college-University level, it is imperative to argue that the efforts interms of budgetary provisions towards the educational development of scheduled castes are quite encouraging in Himachal Pradesh. What is the real impact of such efforts is difficult to say in exact terms. But increasing literacy and enrollment do suggest the changing scenario.

In the field of health of the scheduled castes and development of health service sector with special reference to allopathic health facilities, a
considerable amount is provided and assumingly being spent also. In terms of priorities marked out under this include construction of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Sub Centre buildings along with staff quarters. Also Civil Hospitals, opening of more PHCs, multi purpose workers schemes, promotion of Ayurvedic medicine and care etc., are highly emphasized. This may be mentioned that health has received considerable boost in the recent time especially due to the international pressures as well as the growing health needs of the increasing population. The Special Component Plan for scheduled castes lists health as a priority and therefore continues to increase the financial outlays.

Apart from the above the housing is another area in which the financial allocations have increased manifold. This is observed that the maximum attention is paid to the rural housing particularly under Gandhi Kutir Yojna scheme and Indira Awaas Yojna scheme. In the urban area the distribution of loan under Low Income Group Housing and More Income Group Housing schemes is carried out through loan melas. In other words, housing has been a priority for the planner and policy makers with special reference to scheduled castes and other weaker sections of the society.

This is further found that the government has taken various other welfare measures which include significant allocation for the improvement of environmental and existential condition of scheduled castes. Therefore, housing subsidies, technical scholarship awards, and pre-examination coaching are meant for improving the life chances of scheduled castes. In other words, all such efforts are expected to bring about improvements in the social environment of scheduled castes. Somehow, some of the
schemes like hostel for girls and boys, scholarship for children of the scheduled castes engaged in unclean occupation, drinking water etc., have been found ignored in the 1999-2000 Special Component Plan. However, some of the new areas which have been included in the 1999-2000 plan are creation of book bank, publicity of technical schemes housing etc. In other words, the welfare measures have been expanded to a considerable extent in comparison to the previous years.

Lastly, the social welfare activities under social services, which include old age pension, widow pension, nutrition, etc, have also received high priority. The financial allocations for these have increased over the last ten years in a very high proportion. To conclude, the findings suggest that over the last ten years the financial allocations with regard to social, economic and welfare related activities for the scheduled castes in the state have been increased. This increase is substantial in some of the above mentioned areas which have been prioritized by the planners and policy makers.

With regard to the emerging patterns among the scheduled castes discussed in the light of secondary data this may be argued that no doubt there has been considerable change but the change has not been uniform. It has been marked by certain ups and downs. This implies that the desired change has come about but it has remained limited. Also the non-availability of secondary data also restricts making certain generalizations. However, on the basis of available data it is imperative to state here that the general literacy among scheduled castes have increased over the years in general as well as among their females in particular. It is interesting to
note that while the growth rate in the case of general male population has been just 42.77 percent, among the scheduled castes males it was 57.67 percent. The similar situations is found in the case of total growth rate of the general and scheduled castes population. Although the general literacy rate is higher among the caste Hindu population it is found to be low among the scheduled castes. But as per as growth rates are concerned this is found to be higher among scheduled caste males. It may therefore be concluded that there seems to some positive effect of educational programmes on the scheduled caste males.

The status of a community is also known by the number of main workers among them. The findings suggest that between 1981-1991 the number of male workers among scheduled castes as well as general male population had increased but growth rate has been slightly higher among the scheduled castes. More interestingly, the percentage of main scheduled caste workers has been much higher than that of general males.

Similarly, the findings indicate in the case of scheduled caste female main workers. It may also be noted that the total main workers among the scheduled castes and general population have also been found almost same. The findings with reference to cultivators indicate a higher growth rate among scheduled caste males as well as higher percentage among them which is comparison to general population are almost same. The finding with reference to cultivators indicates a higher growth rate among scheduled caste males as well as higher percentage among them in comparison general population. Similarly, the female cultivators have higher growth rate in comparison to female belonging to high caste but number of
female cultivators among scheduled castes is higher than the general. This implies that the number of cultivators among the scheduled castes has been on the rise where as it has declined in the case of general population. There are two possible reasons for this. First, due to divisions in the land the number of cultivators has gone up. Second, this is a temporary phenomenon caused by the transition in the agrarian economy.

The process of marginalization of agricultural communities, especially the poor and the landless has been continuing since long and the decline in the size of farm holdings further accelerated it. This has also further resulted in the reduction in the number of small cultivators. The latter have been further reduced to the level of agriculture labourer. The data in this regard also indicate rise in the number of agriculture labourer among scheduled caste males as well as general males. The growth rate has certainly been higher in case of general population. The similar trend is observed in the case of scheduled caste females as well as general female population. The data from secondary sources therefore indicate that the marginalization of farmers, especially the ones belonging to scheduled castes has continued over the last many decades even in the case of Himachal Pradesh. The findings with regard to other categories of workers also reveal similarly. But interestingly, in the case of marginal workers, there has been a negative growth including the scheduled caste males as well as general male population. But the number of marginal workers among scheduled castes and general population of females have increased considerably. The growth rate is found to be higher in case of schedule caste females. Even the total population of marginal worker have increased.
The increase in the case of scheduled castes is more than that of general population. Such findings therefore suggest that the process of marginalization is considerably high among scheduled castes which is clearly reflected by the increasing number of marginal workers.

The growth and development of an economy and people is gauged from the departure it makes from the primary sector of economy. It implies that the entry of people into industry and allied activities begin to take place due to such a departure. This is an indication of expanding economy and opportunity structure. The findings in this regard indicate that the number of males among the scheduled castes in household industry, manufacturing processing and repairs have increased by more than 100 percent. Although the growth rate among the males belonging to general population is much higher than the scheduled caste males but the percentage of such workers is found to be higher among the scheduled caste males. In the case of females belonging to general population on the whole. But as for as population of females belonging to scheduled castes is concerned it indicates negative growth with decline in their numbers. On the whole, the scheduled castes' growth in social industry is much higher than that of general population. In other words, the scheduled castes in general are involving themselves in more numbers in non agricultural sector.

In the other workers' categories the growth of scheduled caste males as well as females is the least in comparison to the general population. The same is also found to be the case as for as total scheduled castes and general population is concerned. But it is important to note that the growth in other workers categories among the general population is about eleven
times higher than the scheduled castes.

Lastly, the non-workers categories reveal that growth rate among the scheduled caste males as well as female is higher in comparison to general male and female populations. This is also true as for as the total population of scheduled castes is concerned. In other words, the emerging patterns suggest that over the last two decades the scheduled castes population is experiencing change in their general socio-economic profile.

The analysis of socio-economic profile in term of differential social status categories worked out on the basis of an index reveals that age-wise the majority of the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries are concentrated in thirty one to fifty years of age. Rest of them are distributed in relatively smaller numbers in other lower and higher age categories. It is therefore discernible from the age distribution that majority of the head of the sample household is in the highly productive and active groups. The status-wise distribution of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries is almost equal. The only difference that one finds is in the case of non-beneficiaries. Among whom the number of low status scheduled castes is relatively less. The distribution in term of sex reveals overwhelming number of males in comparison to females among the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. The females in both the groups represents a relatively small minority. The data also indicate significant status variation in both the categories. Further, data on marital status indicate that except for a small number of unmarried respondents the majority among both these section is married with significant status variations between them. There are some widows/widower among the respondents. The status variations are significant and found to exist among
both the segments of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries.

Even the scheduled castes do not form a uniform and homogeneous group. They are divided into different castes. The caste-wise distribution in the case of present study reveals large number of caste and among them, a majority is constituted by Hali, Arya, Sippi and Chamar castes among the beneficiaries and Duman, Arya, Chamar etc, among the non-beneficiaries. The statistical variations among the respondents belonging to different castes are non significant.

The occupation-wise distribution also indicate that the majority is constituted by agricultural laborer followed by agriculturalists in both the groups, that is, beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. The status wise occupational variations are significant among beneficiaries and found insignificant in the case of non-beneficiaries.

The educational profile of both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries also provides dismal scenario with majority falling in the category of illiterates. The maximum education in the case of beneficiaries has been up to Matriculation. The educational status of the spouses in majority number is constituted by illiterates in both the groups. There are only a few who have primary education among beneficiaries. The educational status of the children reveals that it is on the rise with larger number among them going to schools at the primary level. However, the number of children decline sharply when it comes to higher levels i.e. middle and high school. This implies that even in the recent times the educational mobility among new generation remains limited to primary schools.

The land holding-wise distribution of data indicates that maximum of
the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries own 1 to 4 Bigha of land. In the case of others almost half among the beneficiaries and one fifth among the non-beneficiaries of the total sample have 5 to 8 Bigha land. The status-wise significant variations in land holdings are observable in the case of both the groups. Related with land is the economic condition which to a great extent determine its level. In terms of income of the household the results reveal that an overwhelming majority rather almost hundred percent beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries fall in the below poverty line income category. Even within the below poverty line income households significant status variations in accordance with income have been found.

The analysis of type of family structure that exists among the respondents, in overwhelming number, is nuclear. There is very limited number of joint families. The data therefore indicate that nuclearisation trend has also become the key feature of scheduled caste households in the study area. Apart from this, majority of scheduled caste families among beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries live in kuccha houses and remaining in the semi-pucca houses, except for two families each among beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries having pucca houses. This is understandable that most of the scheduled castes in the study area have very small land holding and low income due to which they live in the kuccha houses and semi-pucca houses. There are no status variations in the type of houses. The facilities within each house are also found highly limited. The only silver lining is that almost every household has electricity and water facilities. Most of them otherwise depend upon conventional method of cooking thereby suggesting maximum use of conventional sources of energy. As far
as the sources of entertainment are concerned a large number of the respondents depend upon on the radio, and some of them particularly beneficiaries has got Television. There is sizeable number among them who are without any such sources of entertainment. The foregoing discussion indicates that, by and large, scheduled caste beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries have the lower socio-economic profile.

The discussion of data and analysis of social status and awareness of development schemes among the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, the need structure and programmes (schemes), and their acceptance by them it may be observed that the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries have lack of knowledge. It has been observed that nearly one fourth of the total respondents are aware of the Swaranjyanti Gramin Swarozgar Yojna among both categories (benefited and non-benefited). In the present study, it is observed that the respondents of both the categories who know about the SGSY schemes are more in number in high and middle status group of scheduled castes. The involvement of Panchayati Raj institutions at various levels in the execution of poverty alleviation and employment generation programmes is of utmost importance. During 10\textsuperscript{th} Five Year Plan, 2002-2007 it was expected that all grassroots organizations would be closely associated with the planning and execution of development programmes being implemented for the welfare of the scheduled castes. How far this has been possible is a question of further empirical investigation.

Similarly, in order to create additional gainful wage employment opportunities for the scheduled castes, employment generation programme viz., Jawahar Rozgar Yojna has also been restructured by the Government
of India and has been renamed as JAWAHAR GRAM SAMRIDHI YOJANA. The basic minimum services such as housing to shelter-less, primary health services, connectivity of villages through rural road network and the public distribution system also need special attention. Those respondents, who know the SJGSY scheme and its functions, among them maximum respondents have taken assistance for the buying milch cattle and horses. In rural areas, scheduled castes are mainly labourers followed by agriculturalists-with small land holdings. Maximum respondents belonging to the beneficiary scheduled castes have taken assistance of Rs. 5000/- to 15000/- only. All of them have spent the money on the purpose for which it was taken. There is very low percentage of the total sample who knows the JGSY scheme and its functioning. Due to illiteracy the respondents are not much aware about this newly started scheme. But the majority of the respondents know their surrounding habitats such as, facility of school, health, road etc.

The data analysis pertaining to loan taken under the SJGSY scheme reveals that minimum number of the respondents among the beneficiaries have taken loan. Among them, nearly one fourth are in high status group. They have taken money for buying milch cattle, houses, starting new business and opening Karyana Store, Small Industry, Threshing Machine and Chakki (Flour Mill) etc. The loan availed indicates that maximum number belong to high status group of the beneficiaries. However, the status differences are not found associated with variations in the amount of loan availed. It is also noted that there are maximum number of respondents who have taken loan for buying milch cattle and a minimum
number has taken loan for other purposes. There are two channels through which financial assistance is taken by the respondents, namely Village Gram Samiti and Block Development Office. The respondents have taken loan through both the channels. In the study area there are two banks, namely Parvatiya Gramin Bank and State Bank of India extending loan facilities to the people. Similar number is found in study area who are getting assistance through State Bank of India and Pravatiya Gram Bank.

Analysis pertaining to behaviour of officials in the financial institutions indicate that they have been extending help towards the beneficiary respondents seeking loan. Maximum of these respondents told that the behaviour of the employees was generally good and very good. The statistical analysis also reveals significant association between differential status and the responses towards them by the perception of customers about the officials. The small number of respondents in the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries categories state that irrigation scheme has been commissioned in their area. However, maximum number argues in the contrary and says that no irrigation scheme has been started in their area. There are reasons for such contradictory responses. One of the reasons is that all the respondents do not belong to the same village and since irrigation facilities differ in these villages no uniform response is possible also. The other reason is that despite the best efforts the respondents conceived the questions differently. But the fact also remains that the irrigation schemes have also not been realized to their maximum number. This in fact is the reality.

Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojna is a new programme which has been
launched by the government of India since 1999-2000. Despite the claims of the State, a very small number of respondents express having any knowledge about JGSY. The respondents included both categories beneficiary and non-beneficiary. Through such schemes, government is providing financial assistance to Panchayats for their development, and the Panchayat members give part-time jobs to people. A small number of the respondents, belonging to both the categories of the sample, are taking benefit of such schemes. Resultantly, in the case of maximum number of respondents among beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries in villages, have undeveloped habitats. It is only a minimum number of respondents whose habitats are found developing. The statistical application also reveals an association between status differentials and responses among the beneficiaries. It is further stated by a larger number of the respondents both the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries that the condition of roads in their areas are not good. Mostly, the roads are kucha and unmattled. This is true as the researchers' observations also affirm this. However, only a small number holds the view that the roads condition is very good and good i.e. pucca or semi-pucca respectively. Nearly all the respondents of the study areas are connected with the educational institutions. Among them, half a number of the beneficiary respondents state that there is Primary School in their respective area followed by Middle, High and Senior Secondary School. Similarly, the non-beneficiary state that they have a primary, followed by Middle School and Senior Secondary School. It may be argued that the educational development in general in Himachal Pradesh has received considerable priority. Although there are no specific schools for
scheduled castes. However for the benefit of all vigorous efforts i.e. universalization of primary education programme, the literacy mission etc., are reaching them in a big way. However, a lot needs to be done in the educational sphere in general and scheduled castes in particular especially beyond primary level.

The data analysis on health services accessibility reveal that nearly all the respondents have access to the health facilities such as Sub-centre, PHC, Rural Dispensary and Ayurvedic Dispensaries. Nearly half of the sample respondents stated having Ayurvedic Dispensary in their vicinity and one-fourth of them have the facilities of Rural Dispensary. However, the statistical variations in terms of status and access to health have been found insignificant among the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. It may be argued that health being a responsibility of the State the health infrastructure is open to all irrespective of caste or benefits availed or not availed. There is also discrimination against anyone.

One of the most popular schemes under the Special Component Plan is Indira Awaas Yojna which is a centrally sponsored scheme. The criteria of selection of beneficiaries is similar to that of Gandhi Kutir Yojna. The knowledge among maximum respondents belonging to beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries is found. There are only a very small proportion of the respondents who are not aware. The data show that majority of the respondents have the knowledge of Indira Awaas Yojna and its functions also. The association between status differentials and knowledge among beneficiaries is found insignificant. In the case of non-beneficiaries there is significant relationship. This indicates that the scheme is otherwise quite
popular irrespective of benefit taken or not taken. It is further discernible that nearly half of the respondents among the beneficiaries have taken assistance for the construction of new houses. But no significant association is found between the status differentials and assistance taken. The assistance taken or provided under the schemes in relation to the high castes, especially in the hilly areas also remains limited. This has been found that the assistance taken by one-fourth of the beneficiary respondents has been limited to Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 15,000/-. There is only a little number of respondents who has taken assistance only for the repair of their houses. The data also indicates that taken financial assistance is spent for the purpose which it was taken. Analysis indicates that all respondents of beneficiaries express no difficulty in availing assistance under Indira Awaas Yojna. In the other words there are no difficulties involved and people have high accessibilities. But the scheme needs to go to all as there is lot of poverty in the area. To make the scheme work it needs to go to people.

The extent and magnitude of change due to special component plan as examined in the study has been quite revealing with particular reference to the changing practices in the agriculture and other areas of social and economic interests of the scheduled castes. Although the change varies from individual household to household and remains limited but certainly indicates a paradigm shift i.e. shift from conventional agriculture to each and commercial cropping which has resulted in both quantitative and qualitative growth. There is evidence to suggest that scheduled castes having land are now turning to cash crops, particularly potatoes, which fetch
them relatively more price in the market in the plains. But the farmers among scheduled castes being only small land holders, the benefit, therefore is proportionality limited but certainly more than the traditional crops. There are many who have also resorted to off-season vegetables. A positive relationship is found between the rise in status and hundred of growers among the beneficiaries who are better placed in relation to non-beneficiaries. Similarly the scheduled castes are resulting to different kinds of vegetables specially off season. While there is a positive relationship between the status and vegetable growing but beneficiaries same have leg behind the non-beneficiaries. It means that apart from the I pact of various scheme. There is general shift in cropping patterns in which the cash crops are proffered. With regard to the use of ICDP seeds once again the data indicate that more beneficiaries are using this in comparison to non-beneficiaries. Although no clear relationship between status and use of seeds is visible from the analysis but relatively higher number of high status scheduled castes followed by low status are making use of this such seeds.

The continuous developments in the field of technology due to on going research the high yielding variety for seeds are becoming popular among people having among scheduled castes having relatively higher status. The findings suggest that though status variation are visible but both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries are resulting to the use of such seeds. In the similar members the chemical fertilizer and others such inputs are picking up among both the beneficiaries and - non-beneficiaries. This indicates the general impact of on going changes in the socio-economic
scenario is also found exiting in case of both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. This is what may be described as a paradigm shift the agricultural related practices among the scheduled castes in the study area. It has special significance as this area is socio-economically quite backward. The felt good impact in such areas hold quite promising scenario for scheduled castes in the development regions of Himachal Pradesh.

With regard to Horticulture activities the data reveal very poor knowledge and that to among highly negligible number of schedule caste beneficiaries. There is no one found in the case of non-beneficiaries stating any knowledge of fruit plant etc. The findings therefore suggest the impact of financial inputs on horticulture development among the scheduled castes is negligible. It may also be added here that the impact has also to be seen in relation to the nature and type of so it, its suitability for horticulture and most importantly the affordability i.e. the sustainability during the period taken by the plants to grow and bear fruits. The last perhaps has more to do in the case of scheduled castes as they are poor and lack the sustain ability power.

The animal husbandry has been the part of rural people and agrarian economy since long. The scheduled caste communities have been associated with animal husbandry in some way or the other. The data also revealed that they have considerable knowledge about animal husbandry. There are no status variations as for knowledge is concerned this is true of both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. In fact in this regard the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries are almost equally placed. Further data of number of milk cattle owned by scheduled castes reveal that except for
few houses there is overvaluing majority among beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries keeping varying number of milch cattle. This is further found that most of them have one followed by two cattle. There is a very small owning three cattle. There are neither status variations with regard to number of cattle nor variation visible between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. This implies that the traditionally carried out practices continue to be there among the scheduled castes. The only difference is that earlier commercial consideration were absent. At present commercial interest have grown but remain limited only to a few families among beneficiary scheduled caste households. In view of the said it is pertinent to mention there is no organized effort worth the mention which has been made by any state agency either in terms of training programmes in dairying or organizing cooperation etc. Since scheduled castes also face problems of proper marketing of milk and milk products, there is need to initiate programmes in this direction. There are very few households among beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries who keep goat for domestic purposes. It is also worthwhile to mention that since goats are dangerous to ecology the state government Chico rages goat keeping. Similarly sheep are reared by some families among the beneficiary scheduled caste families whose number is more than the non-beneficiaries. Both goat and sheep are reared for meat also. During winters these animals prove good source of food and nutrition. The findings further indicate that since commercial interest do not dominate animal husbandry related activities the benefit from this also very limited indicated by one fourth of the beneficiaries. But at the same time it is obvious that beneficiaries are better placed in relation to non-beneficiaries.
But limited numbers involvement also restricts availing of existing opportunities, especially financial assistance. The findings also indicate that even among the beneficiaries only a limited number has taken financial assistance for the purpose of animal husbandry. Animal husbandry and other activities the majority among these have taken Rs. 5,000/- to 10,000/- loan which include both high and low status scheduled castes families in almost equal number. This is primarily, as the circumstances in their entirely seem to suggest, due to lack of organization of animal husbandry related activities by the state as well as the people, especially the scheduled castes themselves. The problem of fodder and marketing therefore require serious thinking and possible solutions.

There is also some evidence suggesting agenda pursued by the scheduled castes is knowledge which they are acquiring about the in educational field. This is also found that that the educational picking up due to prevalent incentives the number of non-beneficiary scheduled caste households have more knowledge than the beneficiary household. It is also pertinent to mention that no status variation are found in relation to levels knowledge among the beneficiaries. But significant variations are visible in the case of non-beneficiaries. This therefore, implies that there is little impact of the existing schemes but people have already been taking the benefits of constitutional provisions. But unfortunately, the large section among the scheduled castes, is neither aware nor take the benefit with reference to benefits of text-books. The data indicate almost similar number of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries taking advantage of this scheme. The status wise advantage taken is found significantly positive. But this positive
relationship also points out that the existing provisions are not being enjoyed by relatively poorer sections among the scheduled castes. The findings further indicate that those who have taken benefits of existing schemes they have been doing so in maximum numbers for the last five years and others for the last between 6 to 10 years. The findings also show highly significant status wise variation in relation to the period of advantage taken among the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. The similar position is also found in the case of benefits of scholarship indicating highly significant status variation. But in this case the non-beneficiaries are more than the number of beneficiaries.

The girls education is most emphasized area of extended benefits to the down-trodden section of the Indian society. It is found that the advantage of free education is unfortunately enjoyed by a limited number of scheduled castes households as far as their girls are concerned. There is difference between the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries with the former having double the number than later. However on the whole the number of households belonging to poor or low status category is highly negligible. This indicate that the girls' education, perhaps remains the least priority among scheduled caste families.

With regard to mid-day meal programme once again it is found that less than one-third of the families among scheduled caste beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries taking benefits. However, as for as their number in case of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries is concerned both are having almost similar number of families. Statistically, the findings reveal highly significant status-wise variation. The foregoing findings with regard to impact
therefore suggest a mixed scenario emerging due to the impact of various schemes. However, the impact is welcome as it pertain to the areas which can be considered as change inducing in the long run.

To conclude, this is obvious from the above discussion that the schemes run by the State under various programmes in the Special Component Plan and other strategies the impact is slow, confined to limited number of scheduled castes. However, there is need on the part of the State as well as the scheduled castes for further initiatives to make these programmes more successful.