CHAPTER-1

INTRODUCTION

The human society, since time immemorial, has been characterized by inequalities and inequities on the one hand, and quest for equality and equity on the other. While the former has been justified by structuring a particular type of social consciousness ideology and myths, the latter has been demanded and emphasized by way of socio-religious reforms, protests and some form of revolt against the ruling class. Despite the quest for equality and equity the human society has been witness to inequalities and inequities of diverse nature and type based on caste, race, colour, class and creed. The case of blacks in the United States of America and scheduled castes in India have been often quoted and discussed as the living examples. Although, there are numerous similarities between 'Blacks' and 'Scheduled Castes' but the case of latter is unique in the history of human society in general and Indian Society in particular. The reason being the Blacks were discriminated on the basis of their class status whereas discrimination against the scheduled castes religiously ordained (Hindu Texts).

At present the Scheduled Castes constituting approximately 16.2 (Census 2001) percent of the total population of India and 24.7 percent of total population of Himachal Pradesh (Census 2001) are an important social formation in the Indian social structure. They are a significantly sizeable and competitive minority in relation to majority constituted by high castes, called caste Hindus or twice born. The special reference to them is made here on
account of two dimensions of their past and present conditions. Historically, they have been living under highly exploitative conditions coupled with stigma of untouchability and numerous other disabilities (Census 1931, Hutton 1961, Singh, 1997). In the contemporary Indian society they either as allies to the national or regional political parties and or as an independent entity under the banner of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) are emerging as a political force. Their rise is posing a stiff challenge to the erstwhile hubs of political power namely the congress and to some extent other parties who have been using the scheduled castes as their vote bank for the electoral gains. Therefore the emergence of scheduled castes or 'dalit' consciousness has made them a significant and competitive minority in relation to the majority, comprising mainly of the twice-born castes.

The continuity and change in the life of scheduled castes is historical in nature attributed mainly to the concerted efforts made by individuals and various caste Hindus as well as scheduled caste organizations themselves for their social economic, and political up-liftment during the pre and post independence period. The strategies adopted by the caste Hindu social and religious reform organizations, by and large, remained adoptive and adaptive kind with emphasis on soft as well as somewhat radical reformist strategies. The role of organizations like Brahmo Samaj, Arya Samaj, Satyashodhak Samaj (while Arya Samaj had a radical posture the others-emphasized on reforms, etc) is worth mentioning. The scheduled caste organizations and on the other hand adopted much more offensive approach. The prominent among them were Kabir Panthis, Satnamies of Chattisgarh, and Ambedkarites like Mahars. Besides the reforms carried out
along religious and social lines some or these groups made intensive use of economic and political means. The most notable among them have been the Nadars of Tamil Nadu (Hargrave 1969), Mahar of Maharashtra (Zelliot 1972), Jatvas of Agra (Lynch, 1989) and others. At times, these organizations, depending upon their needs also used violence to assert themselves against the policies of the caste Hindus which historically deprived them of various freedom and privileges in the society. The consequences of which were selective changes taking place in the life of certain Scheduled Caste groups in some pockets of different states. Some of these efforts coincided with the British rule, a period during which the process of conversion to Christianity of some of the low caste communities had also set in along with Western liberal ideology.

Consequently, a large number of conversions took place to Christianity resulting into some degree of social mobility of the converts. The British in India used most comprehensive strategies for the social economic and political development of Scheduled Castes. First of all, the Scheduled Castes were accorded special status and they were treated as a separate category in the Hindu society. The purpose of this action by the British, in the then given political circumstances was no doubt, to consolidate the already existing divides based on caste, tribe and racial distinctions among the Indians. The purpose, a politically motivated one, was to create allies for the British and then use them against the Indians in India. At the same time, the British also promulgated certain legislation and initiated legal actions (Government of India Act 1919; 1935) with the explicit objective to create social consciousness among the Scheduled Castes
about their basic rights and social status on the one hand and by bestowing
these right to create a gulf between mainstream society and the castes on
the other. Through such legislation separate schedule categories like
scheduled tribes were created to accord them special privileges.

The social and religious reform movement launched by caste the
Hindus and radical movements by the Scheduled Castes reflected on some
of the progressive elements of the British liberalism. The continuity to these
efforts was provided by the approach of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar who demanded
separate electorate for the Scheduled Castes. This created considerable
debate and controversy. Mahatma Gandhi opposed it tooth and nail and
went on to fast unto death. Resultantly Poona Pact came into being
whereby the demand for separate electorate was withdrawn by Dr. B.R.
Ambedkar. However, Dr. Ambedkar's efforts in their intent and purpose
became a part of Constitution of India whereby the Scheduled Castes were
accorded special privileges in social, economic and political sphere of life.
The preamble to the constitution of India, the basic and fundamental rights
and the Directive Principles to the State Policy bear testimony to the efforts
made and the spirit with which these provisions were incorporated in the
constitution to make it the basis of modern Indian society's sovereign
socialistic republic. The purpose of all these efforts was to bring the
Scheduled Castes at par with non-Scheduled Castes or the caste Hindus.
The Constitution of India provided various special privileges through
protective discrimination for their social and economic development.

Between August 1947 to 1951 the Government of India with a view
to initiate development process, formulated Five Year Plans and listed the
development priorities including the target groups—scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and others. A close examination of the Five Year Plans, as discussed below, may provide some evidence to the fact that the constitutional provisions were translated into a reality by incorporating them in to development policies and plans. Whatever change and development which must have had come in the life of scheduled castes was the result of planned development.

In the Draft First Five Year Plan (1952) special note on the problems of Scheduled Castes arising out of the practice of untouchability has been taken. A four-fold programme considered effective, was formulated. It included removal of untouchability by law, persuasive and educative process, social education, and state interventions in affording employment opportunities. In the Second Five Year Plan (1956) special attention was given to the social welfare of Harijans (Scheduled Castes) with the objective of improving their social status through comprehensive educational and economic opportunities. In the Third Five Year Plan (1961) education for the target groups received special attention with emphasis on special scholarships to students with merit can belonging to poverty stricken families. In promoting economic upliftment, stress was laid on allotment of land and assistance for setting up centres for cultivators’ training in village and small industries and introduction of improved techniques in the traditional crafts.

1. Improvement of the working conditions of persons engaged in unclean occupations including eradication of the practice of carrying night soil as head loads;
2. Subsidy for housing for sweepers and scavengers;
3. Provision of house-sites for members of Scheduled Castes (a) who were engaged in unclean occupation, and (b) who were landless labourers;
4. Award of post-matric scholarships; and
5. Aid to voluntary organizations.

In the Fourth Five Year Plan (1966) the acute economic problems of this section of Indian society, in particular, were identified for the urgent attention. An allocation of Rs. 15 crores was earmarked for effective development interventions by way of introducing related activities like fisheries, poultry, dairying etc.

In the Fifth Five Year Plan (1974) a paradigm shift occurred and the emphasis was laid on improving the quality of life', and narrowing down the gap between the standard of living of the Scheduled Castes and other high castes in the society. For speeding up the socio-economic development, it emphasized the growth of communication networks, opening of schools, rural health centres and rural electrification. The strengthening of the legal and institutional framework and structure was also stressed as a measure of inducing change in the society. The Sixth Five Year Plan (1980) introduced Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), basically an anti-poverty programme started for the welfare and socio-economic development of the poorest of the poor among the Scheduled Castes to bring them above the poverty line. The various strategies, besides financial assistance, included improving the productivity of land by providing access to inputs like water, improved seeds and fertilizers, and animal husbandry
etc. The diversification of agrarian economic structure through animal husbandry, dairying, forestry, fishery, sericulture, etc., was expected to benefit the Scheduled Castes immensely.

The Seventh Five Year Plan (1987) introduced Special Component Plan with emphasis on overall development of scheduled castes in general and those living in the rural areas in particular. To realize the objectives pre-matric stipends and scholarships were given by the state government. All the requisite facilities, such as free supply of text books, uniforms, stationery, hostel facilities were accorded to the families under IRDP. In the wage employment programme "Jawahar Rozgar Yojana", the Schedule Castes were given Preference. Margin money loans were disbursed and financial assistance under various schemes was also given to targeted families. In the Eighth Five Year Plan (1992) elimination of exploitation and removal of all forms of oppression of Scheduled Castes received high priority. Alleviation of poverty through sustained employment and generation of income was considered vital in meeting, at least, the basic needs. The objective of National Poverty Alleviation Programmes was to ensure that the Scheduled Castes were able to derive adequate benefits.

The major thrust in the development strategies included benefit to women such as facilities like schools, hostels, institutional structures for health care, nutrition, drinking water supply, road linkages and housing.

In the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997) the objectives ensured adequate thrust on economic and educational development of Scheduled Castes. The State provided for fully meeting the minimum needs as well as provision basic amenities to all the Scheduled Caste habitations with a view to
improve their quality of life. The emphasis was laid on viable and innovative schemes and in a way to diversify Scheduled Castes into newer areas of economic activities.

A review of the development initiative taken under Five Year Plan included education, health, economic development and overall development of the scheduled castes with major paradigm shift. It may be recalled that during the Sixth Five Year Plan the emphasis was laid down on the Integrated Rural Development Programme, (IRDP), basically anti-poverty programme expected to benefit the poorest of the poor, and diversification of rural economic structure. The latter implied departure from primary sector of economy.

Himachal Pradesh came into being as an independent entity in April 1948 and acquired the status of a full-fledged state in January 1971. At that time the Scheduled Castes numbered approximately 24 percent of its total population with only 18.82 percent literate among them. They were not in position to go to schools and colleges. The educational status of Scheduled Caste women presented a dismal picture. However, the State initiated a number of programmes. The programmes available to the Scheduled Castes under the special component plans though discussed in chapter in details are enumerated below: But before that the objectives of these plans are mentioned below:

**Agriculture**

An elaborated plan has been brought up for raising agriculture production through adoption of improved farm technology and use of productive inputs as improved seeds, fertilizers and plant protection
measures.

**Horticulture**

In order to introduce advance technology for improved fruit production vital equipment and inputs like plant protection, spraying equipment, micro-nutrients and anti-habiliments are being provided to fruit growers on subsidized rates.

**Soil Conservation**

In order to encourage the Scheduled Castes farmers to undertake soil conservation measure by way of bench tracing, leveling of fields for irrigation, plantation of orchards on contours/sleeps, etc., financial assistance to them is made available comprising of present subsidy and 50 percent loan.

**Animal Husbandry**

Fifty percent subsidy to a maximum of Rs. 5000 per family besides 100 percent transportation charge on milk cattle and other livestock are made available to the Scheduled Castes.

**Fisheries**

Scheduled Castes fisherman provided 50 percent subsidy upto Rs. 2500/- for purpose of fishing equipment, boats and nets etc. Subsidy is also made available to the Scheduled Caste fish farmers for the development of cage culture.

**IRDP**

The Scheduled Caste beneficiaries under IRDP get 50 percent of
assistance as subsidy under training for Rural Youth Self Employment (TRYSEM) Programme. After completion of training, the trainees are given help in the form of subsidy and loan to start their own business.

**Energy**

Under the rural Electrification Programme, 100 percent assistance is granted to the Scheduled Caste households. This scheme also includes providing one lighting point in the said households and the expenses on account of internal wiring.

**Village Small Industry**

Under sericulture industry, Scheduled Castes are provided incentives in the form of subsidy and construction of rearing huts, tools and equipments at subsidized rates. Under this scheme, each Scheduled Caste rearer is provided Rs. 2500/- as grant-in-aid for the construction of rearing accommodation besides Rs. 500/- for the purchase of rearing appliances and equipments, etc.

**Education**

The State Government has decided to provide free education to all girl students studying up to matric standard. Besides all Scheduled Caste girls are given scholarship and uniform. IRDP scholarship are available to all the Scheduled Caste students who were covered under IRDP scheme.

Article 46 of the Constitution of India directs the States to promote the education and economic conditions of the weaker sections including the Scheduled Castes. Under the Directive Principles of State Policy the Government of Himachal Pradesh with special Central assistance launched
Special Component Plan (SCP) during 1979-80. The purpose of SCP was to provide ‘special input for the development of Scheduled Caste families. The objectives of Special Component Plan are as given below:

1. Conservation of whatever assets the Scheduled Castes have;
2. Provision/transfer of adequate assets like land to them;
3. Updating and/or provision of new skills to improve their employability or productivity;
4. Ensuring minimum wages of agricultural labour, preventing their exploitation by others in any way;
5. Providing minimum literacy and functional skills through education to every Scheduled Caste up to 35 years, the programme of universalization of elementary education and eradication of illiteracy;
6. Enabling them to acquire special education/technical qualifications and avail of existing as well as newly emerging employment opportunities, etc;
7. Provision of entrepreneurial training to educated unemployed Scheduled Caste Youth;
8. Helping in their taking diversified activities including the area of manufacturing, and business through self-employment programme;
9. Modernizing existing traditional activities like tanning and leather, work;
10. Liberating them from demeaning work like scavenging of dry latrines;
11. Doing all what is necessary to tackle and eradicate the social problem of untouchability; and
12. Provision of minimum needs and basic amenities in their habitations.

Special attention was given to the families, below the poverty line. It is imperative to mention that more than two decades have passed ever since the launching and implementation of Special Component Plan.

In order to carry out the development programmes in an organized manner the Himachal Pradesh Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe Development Corporation (HPSC & STDC) was wet up on 14.11.1979 during last quarter of the Fifth Five Year Plan. The establishment of this corporation around the time special component Plan was launched.
theoretically meant a more expeditious approach. This is obvious from the specified objectives of the HPSC & STDC and SCP. The objective was to ensure adequate development of Scheduled Castes. It provides for fully meeting the minimum needs and basic amenities of all the Scheduled Castes with a view to improve their quality of life. The major National Schemes launched for the promotion of the interests of Scheduled Castes, as on today are: Agriculture and Allied Activities; Dry Land Farming Horticulture Soil Conservation; Animal Husbandry; Dairy Development, Fisheries Forest, Marketing and Quality Control, Rural Development Programmes, Swaran Jyanti Gram Swarozgar Yojna, Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojna, Employment Assurance, Drought Prone Areas Programmes, Himurja, Rural Employment Programme, Land Reform Programme, Irrigation and Flood Control, Indira Awaas Yojna, Scholarship Scheme for Education, Matching Grant for Scheduled Castes, Medical and Health and the Economic Betterment of Scheduled Castes.

The purpose of the ongoing development efforts for Scheduled Castes aims at assigning them a central position in the national endeavour for the growth with social justice, equitable and just distribution of benefits to all their groups and communities for the reduction of socio-economic cleavages. It is in view of the need for special development to directly benefit the Scheduled Caste families that provisions have been made by earmarking financial resources from the sectoral plans in proportion to the Scheduled Caste population in the target groups. The facilities for institutional credit and marketing have been made in the form of extending adequate social amenities to Scheduled Caste families particularly to those
living below the poverty line. These strategies are considered operational modes of providing the benefit of development to the target groups.

The Special Component Plan, therefore, is designed to channel the flow of financial outlays from the general sectors in the State as well as Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment plan to the development of Scheduled Castes in physical and financial terms i.e. through composite income generating programmes. The development of physical component under the sub-plan seeks to improve the living conditions of Scheduled Castes by making provision of drinking water, link road, house sites, establishment of education, health, veterinary institutions, etc. This process also included identification, formulation and implementation of schemes and programmes under different sectors for the economic amelioration of the Scheduled Caste communities. Since they have few productive assets they are generally dependent upon agricultural pursuits and other low income generating occupations like shoe making, sweeping, bamboo basket making, blacksmithy, weaving, poultry farming, etc. Besides the above provisions under special central assistance and centrally sponsored schemes the State government is also making endeavour to the pace of economic activity.

Review of Literature

The brief reference to some of the strategies involving social, economic and political means by the Scheduled Castes, the interventions made by the British government in India, and later by the Indian State, the efforts of the non-scheduled castes men and organizations and the concerted endeavour of the Scheduled Castes indicate that the
interventionist approach have been extremely effective. The strategies adopted by the government included affirmative action (i.e. reservation policy) and various other policy programmes, such as Special Component Plan. What has been the impact of these on the Scheduled Castes in the Indian society at large and Himachal Pradesh in particular is analysed with reference to the some of the studies conducted by sociologists and social scientists. Although it is desirable to present the review of literature in a thematic order, however number of studies available being small with thin line of analytical demarcation the review is carried out in a chronological sequence. The rationale of chronological presentation also reflects on the significant issues concerning the Scheduled Castes at different points of time in India and Himachal Pradesh.

Anant (1972) in his book "Changing Caste Attitude Towards Harijan" based on the study of 371 Scheduled Caste, drawn through stratified random sampling from three cities of Agra, Delhi, Varansi and surrounding villages carried out comparative analysis. On the basis of responses collected at two points of time i.e. 1968 and 1972, author finds higher castes having liberal attitude towards the ex-untouchabilities. Implicitly the practice of untouchability seems to have decreased in the study regions. The study finds big difference between urban and rural scheduled castes. In urban areas the lower castes have experience changes in their living standards. Although their economic condition is not good, but through their increased levels of awareness and utilization of educational facilities they have been able to change their social and economic status. However in the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan they are still living in backward
conditions.

Trivedi (1977) in his book "Scheduled Caste Women: Studies in Exploitation" examines continuity and change in the status of Scheduled Caste women. It is argued that the family expects that when they work outside their homes they too earn and add to the family income. The participation in work has its implications in terms of change of status as well as in improvement in the educational level of family members. The change occurs through migration of a person to urban areas. Trivedi argues that it is interesting to note that both at Bhiwani and Mathura, some male Bhangis have taken to occupation other than scavenging. However, due to lack of educational qualifications the Bhangi females continue to work as scavengers under the customary system of relationship with higher castes. It is therefore, argues that educational interventions may be of help in the attainment option which further acts as a facilitator in status change.

Kamble (1979) in "Rise and Awakening of Depressed Classes in India" describes that the constitutional provisions granted to the Scheduled Castes were to ensure social justice. It was, therefore imperative that social disabilities which stood in the ways of betterment of and progress of Scheduled Castes were done away with. Kamble found that the position of Scheduled Castes as on 1st January 1966 in all the classes was slightly better than what was on 1st January 1959. Facilities for purchase of livestock, fertilizer, agriculture implements, better seeds, etc., also being extended to them. Some States have set up demonstration farms for training them in the method of scientific cultivation. Cattle breeding and poultry farming are being encouraged among these people. Multi-purpose
cooperative societies which provide credit in cash and in kind to the scheduled Castes, have also been established in some states. A scheme of legal aid to Scheduled Castes is now in operation in many states.

Khan (1980) in "Scheduled Castes and their Status in India" refers to several steps that were taken in the past in Karnataka. Due to these their position seems to have undergone radical changes since 1950. It has been known that education is dynamic agent of social change and social mobility. Introduction of universal suffrage, adult franchise, compulsory elementary education and provision of social justice, equality and freedom, prevention of exploitation and so on are expected to benefit the Scheduled Castes. Several schemes are included in various Five Year Plans and educational policy for the development of the Scheduled Castes. Khan has found that Scheduled Castes had no access to education in the past. Till recently they have been deprived of such a privilege due to social and religious sanctions imposed on them. Though a few steps were taken by government to provide education to the Scheduled Castes during the pre-independence period, much progress has not been seen. Now their position, however, has changed considerably mostly because of the various steps taken by the government during the last two decades. Notably, occupational change among the Scheduled Castes is noticed in this study.

Kabra (1984) in "Development of Weaker Sections" after independence examines the policies of the government and reflects a rising level of general aspiration for social and economic welfare of the weaker sections. The efforts are continuously being made to entrust more and more developmental role to bureaucracy. The bureaucracy has become a large
formal and complex organization dealing increasingly with new and specialized functions. Some developmental activities are helpful for the weaker sections. The Small Farmers Development Agency (SFDA) and Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers (MFAL) have been established to look after interests of these weaker sections and help them financially.

Sharma (1986) has pointed out in his study "The Chamar Artisans" that the positive interventionist strategies such as industrialization based on specific skills can bring about social change. Industrialization as a process has always been emphasized for bringing about socio-economic development, creation of employment opportunities and raising of the standard of living of the people. The provisions of employment opportunities with steady uplift of certain Scheduled Caste groups like Chamars. Their traditional skills in the demand oriented market situation has helped their human and economic resources to grow and successful utilization. He also observes that the industrial development especially with reference to Chamar artisans has certainly made some difference in economic terms. They have better living conditions including housing. However, with more vigorous efforts on the economic and political fronts in an organized manner can help them bring about greater change in their life chances and make them more mobile.

Sisaudia (1987) finds that the forces of urbanization and westernization have become general interventions in a Tarai village in Nainital district. There is fast emerging trend of urbanization and westernization. This is reflected in their housing, furniture, dress pattern.
The present generation of Scheduled Castes in comparison to previous lifestyle and in political participation at the local level. Their interaction in the social sphere with higher castes is increasing. There appears an emphasis on educating their children for increasing contacts with higher castes and achieving prestigious positions in local community. The process of higher education and better economic conditions have added to their greater prestige, more social interaction with higher castes and more political consciousness and participation in the affairs of the society.

Singh and Roy (1987) in their work "A Study of Harijan Elites" pointed out that occupational mobility among harijan is undoubtedly very remarkable. They have changed from lowly ranked occupation to respectable ones and acquired higher positions. The rationale of reservation is to provide protection to those belonging to the weaker section who cannot compete in the job market with others on the basis of equality because of their weak educational grounding and low performance. Supporting reservation as a strategy of change the author argues that as a measure to rectify the historically conditioned situation reservation is necessary for Scheduled Castes. The advent of industrial life and the effect of industrialization has helped to reduce the rigorous of the caste system in urban areas.

Sharma (1987) in the "Dumnas in Punjab. Some Aspects of Continuity and Change" based on 49 case studies in Gurdaspur district of Punjab state, argues that mobility in political, economic and educational sphere provide some of them sufficient ground to depart from their traditional occupation. However, in the case of large number among
Dumnas agriculture is the main income source. Due to lack of modern agricultural implements and facilities, the production of crops is low in comparison to the agricultural production of high castes. Most of the Dumnas are dependent on the high castes for work in agriculture and income. They are socially and politically backward and their level of education is very low. They basically constitute the labour class working in the agriculture field. In order to boost development among them the Government of Punjab has launched various loan schemes and made other provisions to develop Dumna community in Punjab.

Prakash (1989) pointed out that in a remote Duari village of Uttar Pradesh about eighty percent population of Scheduled Castes is living under poverty line for whose upliftment a larger number of development strategies have been adopted. Dynamics of development at village Duari reveal close interaction between various policies and programmes launched by government. They focus on the improving economic conditions of Scheduled Castes. The author with a holistic approach to the social and economic developmental situations of Scheduled Castes indicates greater availability of resources for development by itself may reveal productively desired results. Elimination of social and economic exploitation, usurious extortion, poverty and helplessness, disguised unemployment, illiteracy, women's low status, lack of bargaining capacity, high handedness of high class people, etc., are the dire needs of the hour. He has observed that without destroying the doctrine of karma and caste system, the mother of many social evils, no tangible development is possible. With a thorough going empirical temper no amount of economic upliftment of the Scheduled
Castes is possible.

Chauhan (1992) in a study of leadership among Scheduled Castes in Meerut finds, that they are organizing themselves in voluntary organization for their occupational mobility and thereby developing economically and achieving positions in statutory Panchayats. Their numerical strength also adds to their political participation at local level and in establishing linkages. Their skills in leather work get translated into new entrepreneurship in the village in producing specialties of leather items. The provisions of State Policies are better used when they have their organization for self-employment using their skills. The organization has got further strengthened in the recent years in the name of Ambedkar called "Ambedkar Smiti". Such voluntary organizations are giving opportunities of upliftment, independence of education for the young. They have their own head of statutory village Panchayats to take decisions and carry them out in the village. Their position in society is improving due to education and opportunities of participation in village Panchayats.

Nagla (1994) in his article "Socio-demographic Status of Scheduled Castes in Rajasthan", describes the socio-economic and demographic situation and characteristics of the Scheduled Caste population in Rajasthan. It is argued that the caste system in the Indian society is based on the ancient theory of varna classification. Accordingly, the author pointed out that the Scheduled Caste community was suppressed and economically exploited through the ages. Due to lack of education and employment opportunities' Scheduled Castes have poor economic conditions and lower social status.
Rao and Babu (1994) in "Scheduled Castes and Tribes" have found that in six districts of Karnataka in which Scheduled Castes/Tribes Development Corporation implements programmes for the upliftment of the socially and economically deprived classes, the corporation has been assisting the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes through three packages of assistance. These include self-employment programme, margin money-cum-subsidy package for individual bore well irrigation scheme. The report indicates that about 65 percent of the Scheduled Castes have benefited by these programmes. This is true of all districts. However, major concentration of beneficiaries was in the productive age group and it was observed that with the rise in the age group the number of beneficiaries declined. This implies that interventions are more effective in the younger age groups.

Prasad (1997) in "Dalit Youth: A Sociological Study" deals with the continuation of statutory provisions for the uplift of dalit's status. It is pointed out that the various provisions, facilities, concessions to the Dalit have been extended he also suggested the ways and means or integrating alienated and neglected Dalit youth into the main stream of Indian society. This book highlights the fundamental laws and provides an entirely fresh perspective utilizing the insight of the descriptions of sociology and drawing upon a wide variety of epical investigations and situation. In this book, author explores the major problems and issues involved in understanding the life of the Dalit youth in Indian society. This study also deals with the socio-economic background of the Dalit youth and their activities and awareness about facilities.
Khan and Desai (1998) examine the development schemes designed specially for the upliftment of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes. They argue that these schemes have helped to some extent in improving the conditions of Valmikis. These sections of the population have been offered integrated scheme viz. housing, education and employment for self development by the government. Consequently more training centers were set-up to offer income generating means for Valmikis. Support structure are the fundamental and necessary features of any progressive movement. Sulabh Vocational Training Centre (SVTC) figures in the support structures of Sulabh movement. It is an educational as well as skill development institution. This centre runs training schemes for Valmikis and imparts them income generating skills and provides opportunities for their future prospects. The skill up-gradation or incremental learning of the trainees is an important parameter. The centre insists upon to improve the effectiveness of the programme. Socio-economic environment at SVTC forms one of the parameters for programme evaluation. The efforts of the Sulab Centre ramified new avenues for the disadvantaged people.

Biswa (1998) pointed out that reservation is a subject that invites varied reactions from different strata of Indian society. The primary reason for such a variation is the advantages and disadvantages being enjoyed by different groups in the caste hierarchy. The lower caste have been oppressed and suppressed in the name of religious traditions on the one hand, the upper caste continue to enjoy benefits in the name or caste hierarchy on the other. The practice of democracy with the constitutional goal to achieve social, political and economic justice the policy of
reservation often made use of. Unfortunately, the experience in India is not encouraging. The disparity and denial of social, political and economic justice to a large section of people continues.

Ram (1998) elucidates impact of Scheduled Caste movement on both planned and unplanned social change among the Scheduled Castes in particular and society in general. For Scheduled Castes various type of changes that have taken place so far are such which have by and large maintained the status quo. With the support of constitutional safeguards and special provisions.

Srivastava (1998) with reference to scavengers in India examines their social and economic status, caste organization, culture heritage and major work done for liberation of scavengers. The author in an in-depth study has tried to cover all possible measures taken by Central and State Government, prominent non-governmental organizations and the progress made in the liberation and rehabilitation of the scavengers. The crucial issue of right to live with dignity has now been taken up by National Human Right Commission, which has urged all the State Governments to take up urgent steps to eliminate this disgraceful practice and to rehabilitate scavengers within definite time frame.

Wankhade (1999) pointed out that although education carries inherent handicaps with special reference to Scheduled Castes but it has proved to be best means for their over-all development. Their emotional achievements are to be analyzed within the parameter of their socio culture and economic conditions with the principle of equality and social justice support by constitutional provisions, the Scheduled Caste are expected to
make significant progress. Since the last fifty years then have been change in their socio-economic status.

Shrivastava and Marya (2000) in their article in Kurukshetra, Rural SC, ST Entrepreneurs, a study deals with the impact of self employment generation programmes on entrepreneurs development amongst Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people of rural areas. This study reveals that the entrepreneurs from TRYSEM categories continued their self employment. However, a majority of entrepreneurs form DWCRA category have reverted to their unemployment position again as few of them took upon new occupation. The author suggests that this scenario of entrepreneurship development has direct correlation with occupational mobility among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Kumar (2001) in his book "Scheduled Castes and Panchayat Election in Haryana: A Study of 73rd Amendment Act", described it as an attempt to focus on the political participation of Scheduled Castes in the village Panchayat election in Haryana. He looked into the perceptions of Scheduled Castes towards the Gram Panchayats in particular and Panchayati Raj in general. The 73rd Amendment Act has sought to provide opportunities to the under privileged sections for active participation in panchayat politics and governance. The underlying assumptions is that the special representation of Scheduled Castes in grassroots politics would help in examining the hierarchical society of India. This study has analyzed the extent of Scheduled Castes participation and its impact on their life and general welfare.

Pai (2001), in the article Sodal Capital, Panchayati and Grassroots
Democracy, Politics of Dalits Assertion in Uttar Pradesh" reveals that the new Panchayats provide an important experiment worthy of study in an attempt to understand the role played by social capital in the functioning of democratic institution in segmented societies. Because certain development in the 1990's have changed the context in which they function. This study has located the new Panchayat role and the sharpening of social identities and political consciousness among the lower castes, particularly Scheduled Castes, who are demanding improved social status.

Jodhka (2002) in "Caste and Un-touchability in Rural Punjab" deals with historical background of the Scheduled Castes which has highest proportion of scheduled Castes constituting 28.03 percent of total population. Due to their large population, the Scheduled Caste in Punjab face in any problems. Though un-touchability is still alive today, the author also discussed the change experienced in the housing pattern over the last two decades. The growing population and a continual expansion of residential areas have to some extent diluted the old settlement structure of the village. In this study, author discussed about providing housing to the Scheduled Castes which has been an important component of development scheme, meant for the upliftment of Scheduled Castes.

Sharma (1977) in his book "Party Politics in Himalayan State", deals with the position of scheduled caste in Himachal Pradesh in the political process. He says that the scheduled caste have failed to overcome the traditional subordination of upper castes. They are still facing the problem of dominance by the upper caste people. In Himachal Pradesh, the large population consists of the Hindu community. Scheduled caste also belong...
from the Hindu community and dominated by the historical and traditional custom. The have not permitted to enter upper caste people's house, but discriminating in the social, economic and political sphere and are still working under the upper caste people. Author pointed out that living standard and social status of scheduled castes people in Himachal Pradesh is very low.

Department of Economics, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla (1985) evaluated the "Integrated Tribal Development Project in Bharmaur Tehsil of Chamba District of Himachal Pradesh." The three aspects were taken for evaluation, i.e. administrative, financial and development. It was found that the office of the Project Officer was well staffed but the personnel, especially, at the village level were not well trained and efficient. Financial assistance was reported to be considerable but it could not bring about all around development of selected families.

Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public Administration (1985) conducted the study on "Evaluation of Integrated Rural Development Programme Beneficiaries in Himachal Pradesh." This study revealed that animal husbandry scheme have dominated the IRDP in the State. It concluded that various new schemes have been started to develop the beneficiaries, like providing loans from bank and agriculture facilities etc. It has further revealed that the beneficiaries spent much time in visiting banks and block office. The extent of leakage of assets was reported to 20 percent and 80 percent of the assets were found intact.

Agro Economic Research Centre (1986) conducted a study on the impact of IRDP in Mandi District. The study concluded that little efforts were
made to integrate the economic activities at block as well as household level. In this study he showed that Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people did get considerably better attention. This study further concluded that none of the blocks have five year perspective plan as envisaged in the guidelines of the programme.

Dogra (1986) conducted a study on evaluation of Integrated Rural Development Programme in Mashobra Block of District Shimla. He pointed out that the criterion for the selection of the beneficiary with annual income of Rs. 3500 is not reasonable. He says that our government is paying Rs. 12 as daily wage and if a person from a family is employed on daily wages throughout the year, he is not eligible for assistance on the basis of this study it was suggested that the criterion adopted for the selection of the beneficiaries should be revised and the selection of the beneficiaries should be made after verifying the proper records.

Lai, (1988) conducted a study on IRDP in Sadar Block of Bilaspur District of Himachal Pradesh. He concluded that the benefits provided under this programme have been commendable but influential people of the society derive the benefits of these programme. He revealed that the tertiary sector activity have high potential for poverty eradication as compared to primary and secondary sectors. He suggested that DRDA should be under the independent charge of project officer as the present practice of the implementation of this programme is under the control of Additional District Magistrate. Monitoring should be done regularly to assess the programme of the IRDP.

Mohinder (1989) carried out a study on "An Evaluation of IRDP in
Jhandutta Block of Bilaspur District of Himachal Pradesh." The study reveals that implementation of IRDP has increased employment opportunities for all sample beneficiaries. He concluded that the large purchasing at a particular place can artificially inflate the prices of the assets and the major benefit goes to the traders or intermediaries. Some times, in such purchase the assets do not come up to the expectations of beneficiaries. As such IRDP assistance instead of helping poor become liability on them. He found that 91.66 percent of beneficiaries have their assets intact.

Gautam and Singh (1991), in their study on "Working of IRDP in Himachal Pradesh - A Case Study", revealed that out of the total beneficiaries female headed households accounted for 16.67 percent only and of the total beneficiaries (male as well as female) 94 percent belong to farming community. Their main occupation is agriculture. The study further revealed that out of the total beneficiaries only 33 percent crossed the poverty line of which 94.47 percent were male headed households.

Rakesh (2000) has carried out a study on "Socio-economic Impact of Rural Credit on the Beneficiaries of IRDP: A Study of Himachal Pradesh". The study shows that the maximum subsidy is disbursed among Scheduled Castes and minimum to Scheduled Tribes. He concluded that the maximum benefit of IRDP has been bestowed upon Scheduled Castes to bring them above the poverty line.

The foregoing review of studies carried out under three different heads namely, scheduled caste change in India in general and development strategies in scheduled castes in Himachal Pradesh indicate a
mixed response as far as the change was concerned. It may also be stated that although complete change has not been possible but some change has certainly taken place in the condition of scheduled castes. The change in whatever form and quantity it has came about in lives of the scheduled caste indicate that the use of available social economic and political opportunities have been the most effective means of change. The affirmative action has also helped some of the families to be mobile and make an indirectly in the society. The linkages between traditional skills industry and marketing economy not provided a boosted to economic activities but has also paved way for educational economic and political change among the scheduled castes. Although not much can be started about the situation in Himachal Pradesh, but it is expected that in view of the various schemes launched from time to time under the Special Component Plan might have had positive results in form of social and economic change.

It is imperative to argue the primary objective of various schemes was to promote social and economic interest of scheduled caste, but the lack of empirical studies in the context of Himachal Pradesh make it difficult to spell out the exact extent and magnitude of change in their social status. It therefore becomes essential to carry on empirical analysis. At the same time, it may be assumed that the impact of these schemes is likely to be more on the scheduled caste households who have become the beneficiaries than those who did not take benefit of such schemes. In the light of the above assumptions the following hypothesis are advanced for there empirical testing.
Hypothesis

First, since the interventionists strategy emphasizes 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 the context of schedule caste 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 likely to reflect better socio-economic profile thus the non beneficiaries among the scheduled castes.

Fourth, the beneficiaries are likely to be more aware than the non beneficiaries about various schemes launched by the state. 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.

Objectives

In pursuance of the aforementioned theoretical assumption and the hypothesis framed study aims at understanding and analyzing the following:

First, the Special Component 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

Methodology

The methodology is a systematic and orderly way of organizing research starting from formulation of research problem to drawing inferences for possible conclusions and spelling out policy implications. In social sciences methodology has two components. First is conceptual and the second procedural. While the first refers to theoretical formulations, testing of hypotheses and formulation of concepts, the second pertains to the procedures and techniques used in the collection and analysis of data. The need to focus on these aspects arises due to the fact that an empirical study in sociology begins with a variety of theoretical assumptions, setting and contexts. From the point of view of both the conceptual as well as procedural aspects, it is important to base analyses and discussion on certain Common premises. It implies that the nature of question to be asked in the field setting must be in consonance with research objectives and the conceptual requirement. This technique facilitates data collection and its organization. The considered view in this regard is that data collection requires certain degree of self-control on the part of the investigator in the process of addressing questions and recording of the responses. This is essential, as there exists a very thin line of demarcation between the empirical settings, the phenomenon under study and the related concepts and investigator's own worldview. Since the distinctions are not always well
drawn and clear due to undefined concepts and the techniques the deviation from the main thrust of the study, generally occur and are more likely to occur.

Conceptual Framework

Social Development

The title of the study suggests two major concepts which need to be spelled out in the context of this study. The first is development and development strategies, and the second refers to social status and changing status. The concept of social development implies ideal aspirations of all human societies. In general, development as a concept for desired social change or change in the desired direction. It has a functional value and refers to raising the standard of living of the people, changing their life style and in fulfilling of their basic needs (Shukla, 1987). The need structure model of development not only highlights the needs but also prioritizes the needs in terms of basic or essential and non-basic or the wants and desires. The basic need fulfillment is significant from the point of human survival. The non-basic are the one without which human beings can survive but they aspire for more comforts. The level of need satisfaction influences many aspects of human life with its supreme aim to improve the quality of life. It is a multifaceted phenomenon with social, economic and political connotations. The meaning of the term 'Development' is to 'unfold itself', or to 'grow into a fuller' or 'mature condition', and 'ment' stands for 'instrument of action', 'an act' or 'process'. Since the unfolding process is through an instrument of action it is, therefore, to realize some objectives, called as the accepted or the desirable goals. It implies achieving progressive improvement in the living conditions and quality of life of the
people in a society.

Various social thinkers considered social development synonymous with economic development. But the fact is that both differ from each other in more than one way. The former is concerned with the man and society, whereas the latter deals with material resources. Besides it entails qualitative change in both economic as well as non-economic aspects of man and society.

Myrdal (1964) defined economic development as nothing less than the upward movement of the entire social system, or it may be interpreted as an attainment of ideals of modernization. The indicators of economic development are per capita income, gross national products, extent and magnitude population of industrialization, agricultural development, rate of growth, abundance or natural resources, urbanization, communication, technological advancement and improvement in financial institutions.

Tadaro (1981) looks at development not merely in economic terms but stresses that in its essence it must be present in the entire gamut of change by which an entire social system turns to the diverse basic needs and desires of individuals and social groups within that system moves away from a condition of life widely perceived as unsatisfactory and towards a situation or condition of life regarding materially and spiritually better. It is therefore quite obvious that social development not only involves economic but also non-economic Para-meters which make possible progressive social integration, by bridging the gaps, especially where society is fragmented into different working groups or sectoral cleavages, where the is social discrimination against minority groups, where one section of society dominates over another, or where one social group has privileges, another
has social disabilities, development cannot take place in a smooth and harmonious manner. Social homogenization is integrated to development, without it there cannot be unity and social solidarity and without them no society can develop. That is why Todaro affirmed that development is not only economic development but also social and political development, without one of the three the other two cannot survive.

In the social context, the term also realization of the potential of human personality which is a universally acceptable aim. The development therefore entails ensuring the conditions for achieving such a goal Seer (1979) argues that there are three conditions indicating development. First, increase in the capacity to obtain physical necessities (particularly food); Second, a job (not necessarily paid employment but including studying, working or a family farm or keeping house. And third, equality, which should be considered an objective in its own right). It implies development must bring down inequalities in the social and bridge the gaps between the rich and the poor. It must add to human knowledge, awareness and broadening of cognitive horizons besides leading to it implies increased living standards, improved health and well being of all and the achievement of whatever is regarded as a general good for society at large (Thomas and Potter, 1992).

In sociological sense it is defined as development of people in their mutual relations. It is essentially one of the important dimensions of the overall development and denotes the quality of social system in terms of social justice it delivers and quality of life it provides.

The concept of development so far as the Scheduled Castes are concerned, keeping in view their historically conditioned existence and the
principles enshrined in the constitution of India would mean their advancement in the social economic and political sphere and overall growth in material and non-material aspects of life. It was in view of such a conception in mind that the study has proposed to analyses development caused by a bottom of the Caste-hierarchy and hence they have very little prestige and economic security. Our main objective is to see the overall development of this under-privileged section of the society. A large number of welfare measures. Basically, the purpose is to understand how all the efforts have induced status change. The status of an individual is determined by his social estimation of honour. A plurality of individuals may have a particular type of status in society. The status of an individual is not merely determined by the amount of wealth or property he possesses but also by this style of life, social recognition, and so on (Weber 1964).

The change of status in general implies social and economic mobility reflected by achievements made by individuals and the group. In the educational, occupational, and political spheres of their life by neglecting their earlier conditions of existence. Plato's ideas it can be complete social justices which are in able to get from the society. In the world of Marys the change would mean a transition in the state of one's being that is from the state of known owner to ownership evolution of inequalities and establishment of a classless social orders. Since although such kind of order has not been possible all over the world. The change therefore has to be seen and assessed in term of transition, which takes place in a given society. The change may be therefore analyzed in term of changing life styles, value system, knowledge awareness and consciousness, abilities to achieve and many such characteristics, which a particular segment of the
society may acquire over a period of time and space. It also implies a departure from ascribed status and to a status of achievement even if it is marginal in quantum. But, what is important to indicate is that the ascribed value is transformed into achievement value, which in still new life style and ideal in the mind of a particular group. It is in this sense that present study attempts at analyzing in the case of scheduled caste who have been extended various socio-economic privileges.

Research Design

This study, as has been observed above, aims at understanding the nature of relationship between development strategies and changing status of target groups i.e. the Scheduled Castes. All view of which the study follows a quasi-experimental research design. All such experimental situations in which experimenter does not have full control over the assignment of experimental units randomly to the treatment conditions or the treatment cannot be manipulated are collectively called quasi-experimental design.

Study Population and Geographic Area

The study was carried out in district Chamba, having nine tehsil and sub-tehsil and eight development blocks. Chamba tehsil has the maximum population of total district and similarly Chamba Development block also has the maximum concentration of Scheduled Caste population. In view of vast population, Chamba tehsils Chamba development block has been selected as the study area. The total number of Scheduled Caste households in this block is 2689 and all of these located in the rural areas. Therefore the study population is constituted by 2689 households.
Table 1: Development Block-wise distribution of Scheduled Caste Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Development block</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pangi</td>
<td>1445</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tissa</td>
<td>13104</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Salooni</td>
<td>15044</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chamba</td>
<td>15029</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bhattiyat</td>
<td>13059</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mehla</td>
<td>10296</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bharmour</td>
<td>4278</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dalhousie</td>
<td>5372</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>77667</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census of India, 1991

The study population has been further found dispersed over a large number of villages spread over a large territory of Chamba Tehsil. These households were further divided into beneficiary and non-beneficiary.

The former numbered 213 and the remaining 2476 were non-beneficiaries as per the information given by the District Rural Developments Agency (DRDA). These households therefore also constituted the universe of the study. Keeping in view the objectives of the study all the beneficiaries numbering 213 were included in the study which constituted 7.92 percent of the total scheduled castes. In the similar proportion non-beneficiary scheduled castes households numbering 190 were selected as the control group or group for comparative analysis. The number of total households thus came up to 403, which constituted 15 percent of the total universal. The sample size however, was predetermined.
after obtaining the development scheme-wise actual number of beneficiaries. It may however, be stated here that of all the schemes IRDP has been widely operational in the study area. Therefore, the researcher concentrated on the households covered under IRDP scheme for their socio-economic development. While all the beneficiaries were taken as per the list of the DRDA, from the non-beneficiaries the households were taken on random basis i.e. every 8th household was selected for the data collection. In this way, each non-beneficiary had the equal chance of representation in the sample.

**Sources of Data**

The data was collected from two sources, namely primary and secondary. Primary data was collected through fieldwork by taking sampled households as analyses. The data for the present study have been collected with the help of an interview schedule by conducting personal interview with the beneficiary and non-beneficiary households. The basic tool of data collection therefore was interviews schedule-containing question relevant to objectives and hypothesis of the study. The interview schedule was pre-tested before its finalization. Initially the schedule was divided in nine sections, first section contain personal profile and Swaran Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojna, second section contain Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojna, third section contain land reform, fourth section contain Indira Awaas Yojna, fifth contain Scheduled Castes and Development, sixth section contain agriculture, seventh contain horticulture, eight section contain animal husbandry and last section is on education. The secondary data was collected from the Block Development Offices, Census Report, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe Development Corporation, Special
Component Plan and Directorate of Rural Development and other essential books and articles.

To develop a comprehensive understanding of input made for various aspects of development policy and the consequences that followed brought out by scholars various reports were also consulted.

**Data Analysis**

The data collected with the interview scheduled was first of all edited, then coded with the help of a code design. The qualitative information was therefore converted into quantitative data. The same was then entered into computer for the processing and analysis. To work out frequency tables and association between various variables, the SPSS programme was used. To understand the impact of class or status differentials a status index was also developed. The Chi-square test of significance was also applied. The development of status index and the use of Chi-square is discussed below:

To assess social status of the respondents a composite social status index was developed for this purpose. A number of sociological variables, which are believed to contribute in social status of the individual in a society, were identified and included in development of this instrument. These variables are namely Education, Occupation, income, ownership of land, type of house, possession of electronic gadgets and domestic appliances, etc. Each indicator of social status was allotted scores ranging between 1 to 4. This index was administered to each respondent during the process of interview. After interview was over the scores obtained by each respondents on all items composite status index were added to give total score. All the respondents were accommodated in three different social status categories that is low, middle and high.
These categories were made based on mean and standard deviation of scores of all 403 respondents as follows:

\[
\text{Mean (m)} = \frac{\text{Some of scores}}{\text{Number of respondent}} = \frac{6477}{403} = 16.08
\]

\[
\text{Standard Deviation} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum X^2}{N}} = \frac{4062}{403} = 10.08
\]

\[
= 3.17
\]

Categories:

\[C_1 = \text{Mean-SD} = 16.08-3.17 = 12.91 = 13\]

\[C_2 = (\text{Mean-SD}) \text{ To } (\text{Mean +SD})\]

\[= (16.08-3.17) \text{ To } (16.08+3.17)\]

\[= 12.91 \text{ To } 19.25 = 13 \text{ to } 19\]

\[C_3 = \text{Mean+ SD} = 16.08+3.17=19.25=19\]

\[C_1, C_2 \text{ and } C_3 \text{ were designated as low status, middle status and high status depending upon values as follows:}\]

\[
\text{Low status} = 7-12 \\
\text{Middle status} = 13-18 \\
\text{High status} = 19-24
\]

The Chi-square test of goodness of fit was used to understand association between the dependent and independent variables. This test tells us whether the two variables are related to each other’s or not. This test does not convey the degree of association between two variables. In the present study this test was applied to see association between social status (independent variables) and development of scheduled castes. This test highlights association based on variance between observed
frequencies and expected frequencies of the phenomenon under study. The Chi-square values computed by using the formula

\[ O_{ij} = \text{Observed frequency of the cell in } i\text{th row and } j\text{th column.} \]

\[ E_{ij} = \text{Expected frequency of the cell in } i\text{th row and } j\text{th column.} \]

To see the level of significance the values of Chi-square were compared with the standard values at 0.005 and 0.001 level of probability. If the computed values was found to be greater than table value the association was considered significant and it was found to be lower than it was considered insignificant.

**Chapter Scheme:**

1. Introduction
2. Special Component Plan Inputs and priority area of scheduled castes Development
3. Emerging Patterns of Change among Scheduled Castes in Himachal Pradesh.
4. Socio-Economic and Demographic Profile.
5. Social Status and Awareness of Development Schemes.
6. Extent and magnitude of social change
7. Summary of findings and conclusions.