CHAPTER X

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This study was conducted to analyse the changes in the SCs brought about by educational and occupational mobility helped by state action viz., special facilities. Social change is not a result of any single factor but working of multiple factors. PDP is considered the single most important factor enabling the SCs to move out of their given position in the Hindu society. The attempts made by the state for the welfare of the most disadvantaged section i.e. SCs is through official discrimination.

The introductory chapter dealt with the nature of the study undertaken and includes the statement of the problem, significance or rationale of the study and the review of literature. The necessity of and the idea embodied in the PDP and its adoption is not merely because of the poverty of SCs but also because of social and religious discrimination which they have to face as they are at the bottom of social hierarchy. Besides, the role vis-a-vis played by the PDP/ the present status of SCs as recognized by many studies and its limitations are also considered. The SC people who have succeeded in getting education and better employment are struggling hard to be
recognised by their achieved status in the society. They are very much sensitive and eager to be considered equal with others but they find the CH attitude has not changed to desirable extent. They still feel that the traditional caste attitude of CHs is a barrier and it has not changed considerably despite improved educational and economic position of the SCs.

The second chapter on "Protective Discrimination Policy and Social Change: Some Explanations" dealt with the concept of social change, the potentiality of state action (through official discrimination policy) to bring about the changes and its extent and limitations in bringing about the desired changes.

The state action in the form of making the special provision to protect the interest and welfare considered broadly under the rubric head 'Social Legislation' to facilitate the planned changes through governmental intervention. This is possible to bring about the intended change by state action to a great extent but the measures taken by the state do not solve the problem of changing the CH attitude towards the SCs and it requires the proper support from all sections of society. The people usually respond favourably to the legislation, if it does not involve significant alteration of the basic structure, institutions, major traditions and belief systems of the society.
The Chapter III dealt with the overall socio-economic and educational position of the numerically major SC groups in Maharashtra State and in Aurangabad district (including the city). As elsewhere in the country, in Maharashtra also the SCs have been provided with number of facilities. These are available and are classified in four major areas such as education, employment, politics and economic development. The facilities available mainly in the area of education and employment have been considered since these two areas constitute the major thrust of present study. How far the SCs in the state have benefitted from the facilities is discussed. The social structure of Maharashtra has been considered along with the educational development and socio-economic condition of the SCs.

In Chapter IV the methodology of the present study is discussed. The location of the present study is Aurangabad city. The study is based on 200 educated SCs sample - 100 each from the college going students and employees in Aurangabad city. This sample was drawn from those who were well aware about the policy and were conversant with it and have utilized either educational facilities or employment opportunities or both. Efforts were made to cover all educational courses and all important public offices. Above all the efforts were made to cover
in this sample the four major castes which accounts for 87 per cent of the total SC population of Maharashtra.

In Chapter V the characteristics of sample have been given due consideration and discussed in brief under the title 'the Profile of the Respondents'. The socio-economic background of the respondents is analysed in terms of their age, caste, native place, education and family background (education and occupation of the father).

The chapter III and V dealing with the SCs of Maharashtra and profile of the respondents show that there is no uniform progress among SCs inspite of their, more or less, similar socio-economic background. The Mang in Maharashtra (numerically next to the Mahars) lag behind in the utilization of facilities. Considering their population among SCs Chambhars and Dhors are ahead of Mangs in the utilization of facilities but they lag behind the Mahars. Very few castes are able to draw maximum benefits while others among them have remained backward. However, for SCs as a whole the trend of upward mobility is observed.

DISCUSSION:-

The findings discussed in chapters from VI to IX are mainly based on the analysis of the data. The attempt has been made throughout the study to analyse the changes
perceived by the respondents. The PDP and its contribution in bringing about the change have been studied from the perspective of SC respondents.

The study covered the perceptions, reactions and opinions of the educated SCs regarding the various aspect of changes that are taking place in the system. The main focus on socio-economic changes among the SCs and their perception towards them (ranging from their perception of the various schemes to the problem of improving the lot of SCs). It is pertinent to mention here that these are reported attitudes and views. These were discussed under the following respective chapters.

**Views of the Respondents about PDP:**

The facilities provided under PDP have been described as an important one in facilitating the change among them. A vast majority felt that the changes would not have been possible and professional and higher education and employment could not have been obtained had there been no special provisions. They are aware of the fact that state action is an important contributory factor in making rapid strides in bringing about the changes among the SCs. They were also aware of the uneven progress among the SCs and realized that some castes have remained backward. In the opinion of respondents Mahar caste was ahead in the utilization
of the benefits of the various provisions meant for SCs. The castes other than Mahar lagged behind in taking advantage of these special provisions.

There was a general dissatisfaction among the respondents over the implementation of these policies. Almost all of them (97 per cent) have shown the favoured attitude towards the continuation of the policy. But there was no consensus on the period for which it should be continued. A large majority (70.5 per cent) of respondents were of the opinion that the policy should be continued till the SCs reach at par with others. They also favoured caste as a criterion for giving facilities at least in respect of SCs and gave arguments in support.

Nearly 44 per cent respondents from the sample felt that the anti-reservation movement was started purely because of jealousy and casteist attitude. Some of the respondents expressed that those who were opposed caste based reservation were silent on reservation based on grounds other than caste consideration. It is reported that the beneficiaries of this policy often met with the experience of discrimination in one form or other.

**Changing Status Image among the SCs:**

This chapter concentrated upon two aspects (i) the status enquiry and (ii) interaction.
Sixty seven per cent of the respondents have expressed the opinion that the main purpose of acquiring education and office employment was enhancement of status. They were highly conscious of their acquired status and also equally conscious of non-recognition of achieved status particularly by the CHs in the society. This is evident from their responses towards status raised only in view of the family (Table 7.2). The students from the professional courses and employees from officers, technical and professional category felt that their status in society at large was improved. The professional education and holding key posts, to some extent, built up faith towards importance of achieved criteria in achieving status in the society at large. But there was no guarantee of improved status being recognized and being given due consideration. It results the feeling of discrepancy in what they presumed and what they experienced from others. This discrepancy was felt more by the professional and officer groups. Their experiences and perceptions led to confirm their belief that caste was still viewed as an important criterion for status. This is more pronounced among the employee respondents. Twenty seven per cent showed disagreement with this belief.

The respondents wanted to be identified beyond the caste pale but their experiences showed that the
others, especially CHs were interested in finding out their caste identity. Though the respondents were not shy of disclosing their caste they reacted very strongly to the use of term 'Harijan' which believed to imply inferior status. They preferred being described/ called as SCs and Dalit. Thus, all of them were eager to do away from the 'caste stigmatized identity'.

Interaction:

Irrespective of their caste origin, having a relatively better economic and educational status they were in a position to interact and mix with the non-SC acquaintances. But at the same time their interaction with the CH did not get reciprocal responses and were unable to accelerate their free social intercourse with the Non-SC acquaintances. On many occasions, both in formal and informal relations with CH they experienced and were remained of their caste origin.

Some of the respondents had close contacts with and had been invited by CHs. They reported that they got equal treatments from the CH. They give the credit of such treatment mostly to the changed situation as well as the improvement among the SC's educational and employment status. Some have mentioned that they received good
treatment even after going to CH house without invitation.

In this regard the changes were noticed in external relations of SCs to other castes in terms of participation in common dining and marriages but the functions in which rites and rituals are involved were mostly restricted to respective castes. There was a tendency among the employed SC respondents of showing closer associations with the CHs. There was a successive increase in the percentage of respondents showing such closeness ranging from clerical to professional groups. Majority of the respondents reported that at the time of interaction they were unable to expand their intercourse to greater extent and their relations were limited only to the office and college.

**Discrimination and SCs perception of CHs attitudes:**

This chapter dealt with the most important question and problem: whether the educated and employed SCs been succeeded in overcoming the group prejudices and discrimination. Bulk (87.5 per cent) of the respondents from the sample believed that structural physical distance - the old idea of touch and distance - disappeared from the public places but felt that caste mattered and was considered more in the CH private lives. Belonging to the SC did not bar commensality and social inter-course in
public places but about its prevalence in private lives
was something which the members of SCs were conscious.
The manifestation of distance is experienced and perceived
in the subtle manner was experienced and perceived
by the respondents in depriving them (SC) from their
rightful place and recognition on equal terms.

A large majority (80.5 per cent) expected a very
common relationship based on equalitarian values. The
perceived or experienced discriminative attitude of caste
had Hindus indicated that the changes/not come up to the
expectations i.e., treating the SCs on par with others.
It was assumed that disability and discrimination would
disappear along with the growing consciousness of SCs and
improvement in their educational and economic status. But
the findings exhibited that CHs were not prepared to do
so. They (SC) felt that their ascriptive status scored
over the achieved status.

Majority of the respondents (66 per cent) have had
the experiences of caste based discrimination and partiality. One feature of the reaction about the discriminatory
behaviour involved the tolerance towards it, indicating either their feeling of helplessness, or unwillingness
to complain or report.
Every effort or greater initiative by the SCs to establish closer relations were thwarted by caste consideration as far as the behavioural practices were considered. They felt that caste based discrimination or the partiality by the CH had become a part of the life of SCs and they could not escape from the unfavourable atmosphere or indifference of the CH prevailing in general and also in the places where they were in immediate interaction with CH. Despite such felt discrimination they did not shown any revengeful attitude towards CH even when they were in a position to act as superiors.

It can be said that the educated SCs still live in a psychological cage. They feel that their improved status has not effectively modified or transformed the CH attitude in the directions of treating them as equals. They feel that they have been prevented from integrating with the mainstream of the society.

**Fulfilment of Expected Roles:**

The educated SCs have become socially conscious and realized the value of their role for their own community in promotion of education and raising social and political consciousness etc. A few of the respondents were active in this regard. They were also keenly aware of what was
going on around them and their caste. This can be inferred from their worries and fears about their less fortunate caste fellows. Their interaction with their caste fellows shows that though they were not alienated from their caste base, their efforts were limited in meeting the needs of family members and close relatives. Very few were engaged in making the SCs aware of their rights and privileges. The efforts of mobilizing and preparing them to protest against their harassment and exploitations were limited only to the extent of employees.

Majority of the respondents felt that the well placed and highly paid public servants i.e., Class I and II aspired to have better linkage with non-SCs and imitate them. Snapping the ties with their own caste and alienating from their own base was viewed seriously from the point of view of the SC community as a whole. This was because they realized that educated and well placed SCs have a definite role to play for their community. Thus the change in the habits, style of life and urban living and values placed them in a position where they were not easily distinguishable from others. However, it was these people who were the reference model for emulation by the rest of the masses.

There was a general dissatisfaction among the respondents over the SCs political organizations in Maharashtra
which claim to represent all SCs. They were critical of the very functioning and leadership of these organizations. Majority of the students said nothing about them. The probable explanation is that the said organizations were not engaged in the work of mobilizing the SCs and realizing the new aspirations, i.e., social intervention.

The castes other than Mahar (especially few respondents from Mang, Chambhar and Dhor) mentioned that these political organizations were working for the benefit of certain proportion of one caste. This indicates that the organizations have failed to create confidence about these ability to solve problems and protect interests equally and zealously.

Though the respondents were a little active in bettering the lot of their less fortunate castemen they suggested various ways of improving it. Some of them felt that the emancipation of the SCs would be possible only with the co-operation of the likeminded CH leaders/people. This "cooperation" ought to be combined with state action. The state action alone would not bring desired changes for a long time.

In short, a small section of the SCs have benefitted from the various educational and employment opportunities
which are made available to them by the state. They have witnessed the several type of social change among them due to the PDP which has strengthened their position to a limited extent. This has been responsible and able to accelerate their free social interaction with non-SCs. However, such improved status raised by educational and employment position is not completely free from the various type of discrimination and disabilities. They are still subjected to various types of discrimination and prejudicial attitude of CH even in cities from their immediate interaction with the CH. The numerous experiences of felt discrimination prove that the CHs attitude has not changed towards the SCs. The SC elite face these psychological problems more psychologically than the poor and illiterate SCs. Thus the state action through its policy has brought only limited changes among the SCs.

The characteristics problem of the SCs is their stigma of untouchability and inherent poverty. The former is related to the social while the latter is related to the economic aspect.

The changes have taken place in the secular aspect while other aspects of life has remained, more or less, unchanged. As far as the educated especially college
educated unemployed are concerned, they are relatively dissatisfied with as well as indifferent towards education. Despite this, almost all of them have expressed their faith and confidence in education as the most potent force of social change for them. These urban educated are more vocal in exposing the half hearted and improper implementation of various provisions meant for them. They are also vocal in exposing the numerous atrocities committed against the SCs and the ill-treatment meted out to the SCs.

The SCs in general and the educated and employed in particular want to leave behind their past and be recognized by their achieved status rather than by ascriptive one. They have not succeeded so far in their venture because of the persistence of age old casteist attitude towards them.

This has led to the growth of fear among them. They do not expect to get their due share without the state action. It is seen that students (young generation) compared to the employed (relatively old) are heavily dependent on the government action and assistance. Therefore, they are more inclined in favour of continuation of the PDP.
What is required for the solution of this problem is a comprehensive programme of change (including both economic upliftment and protective measures) with the sincere societal and political will to implement it. In this direction the voluntary organizations can also play important role for attitudinal change and also to internalize the modern social values. The task that needs to be performed is re-socialization of the beneficiaries of the PDP (SCs) and the non-beneficiaries.