CHAPTER IV

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In the preceding chapter we have examined the overall socio-economic and educational position of the numerically major SC groups in Maharashtra State and Aurangabad District. The presentation has revealed that the progress of these sections though satisfactory in some respects has not been commensurate with the expected changes taking into consideration the very spirit of the provisions made for them. In this context the role of the PDP that has been pursued after Independence for bringing about change among the SCs is intended to be examined.

The attempt is made to analyse the changes in the SCs resulting from progress in educational and occupational mobility through the help of State action especially PDP.

The whole problem is studied from the view point of beneficiaries of the PDP with the following objectives.

Objectives of the Study:

The present study aims primarily to explain the nature and type of social change taking place among the
SCs in Maharashtra and to see the extent to which these changes have been contributed by the educational and employment opportunities provided under PDP. Thus, the main intention is to see to what extent SCs have succeeded in achieving relatively better status which is different from their ascribed status.

More specifically, following are the major objectives of the study.

1. To assess the role of PDP in the educational and economic advancement of the SCs as perceived by them and to explain the emerging inequalities in context of the privileges.

2. To examine the changes in their status perceived by them and the congruity perceived by them between their assessment and the assessment made by others.

3. To investigate the pattern of their social interactions and inter-relations with the non-SCs and their perception of change in the behaviour of non-SCs and their own behaviour towards them.

4. To know whether they are still experiencing the discrimination earlier practiced against them, if so the nature and areas of it.
5. To know what extent the expected role has been fulfilled by the educated and employed SCs.

**Universe**

This research work is based on an analysis of the study of the data collected from the two main beneficiary groups - College going students and employees - in the Aurangabad city, a divisional place of Marathwada region an economically developing region of Maharashtra. The universe of the present study is college going students and employees in different government offices belonging to the SCs in Aurangabad city.

Rationale behind the selection of college going student is that most privileges in the education like post-Matric Scholarship (G.O.I.Scholarship), admission in professional and higher education become operative only after the student has completed secondary education. In assessing the role of the PDP in the advancement of SCs it becomes imperative to investigate these students perception who are likely to be aware of these privileges and might have also utilized them at some time or other. Keeping this in view those SC college students who have utilized the one or other benefits and have an experience of its fruits have been selected.
There should not be second opinion that educational and employment opportunities (reservations) are of great help. Since almost all students and employees belonging to SCs are entitled to get these benefits.

The public sector or the government is the main employer for these castes and the private sector has not accepted the policy of reservation to that extent. Hence, the researcher considered it desirable to cover state, quasi-state, central, quasi-central and local bodies offices which have a sizable number of SC employees, at least, in the Class III jobs.

The students at under graduate and post-graduate level and employees in Class I, II and III have enjoyed the benefits. They are the real beneficiaries and have experienced about it. As a result they would be better equipped to express and disclose their views on the varied aspects of PDP.

Researcher has selected the respondents mainly from the four major castes in Maharashtra State who are found in all districts and together constitutes 87 per cent of the total SC population.

Sample:

The technique of selecting sample:
The respondents were selected on the basis of purposive stratification. Researcher considers it desirable to cover all major SC. They were selected representatively from each category of job ranging from Class III to Class I and the different level of education and courses. No systematic and sufficient information is available regarding the total number of employees working in the public sector. And this has necessitated the alteration and to leave the idea of quota population of respondents for each of the category.

Non availability of certain categories of respondents in SCs necessitated some alteration in the quota of respondents of each of the SC categories. Researcher has done this for reason of convenience.

The selection of the respondents was made on the basis of convenience sampling. In selecting the caste-wise and categoriwise employees and coursewise student an informal technique was also adopted for this purpose. The researcher had approached the Head of the Offices/Colleges and were requested to provide names of SC employees and students respectively. Besides this, to

some extent 'web technique' was also used for this purpose.

Rationale in Selecting Sample:
Break-up of Sample:

A sample of 200 SC persons (respondents) were drawn comprising of four major SC group i.e. Mahar, Mang, Chambhar and Dhor. There are 59 castes under SC categories in Maharashtra. Out of these Mahar, Mang, Chambhar and Dhor are found in all districts of Maharashtra, as stated in earlier chapter. These four castes with some what variations are mostly utilizing the facilities and are the main beneficiaries. It is for this reason that these four caste groups have been considered and the sample was drawn from among them.

Sample was selected from some selected offices and colleges where number of these caste groups are found predominantly.

For the residence these groups are fairly scattered in city. Thus, the efforts have been made to cover students from all courses and employees from important public sectors and above all to cover the major important SCs in Maharashtra.

2. Ibid. See also Ram Nandu, Op.Cit. The informal techniques have been used in their study of, by and large, similar problem as the current study is.
Tools of Data Collection:

Various government reports, census reports, research articles, unpublished thesis and published literature pertaining to the present study have been consulted.

Personal interviews with the help of interview schedule (including questions both close and open ended on various aspects of the problem under study) have been conducted. Though the questions in interview schedule were of two types (open and close ended) - the fixed alternative (closed ended) questions were largely asked. The interview schedule was administered to 200 SC respondents and collected the required data.

Technique of Interview (Interview Technique & Experience):

The techniques of first hand interview by means of interview schedule was mainly used for data collection. The personal interview - the researcher as an interviewer with the help of interview schedule was preferred as is advantageous one to the present study. Besides other advantageous, this method has helped to establish greater

rapport with the respondents which ultimately helped in understanding even subtle aspects of their responses towards the problem under study.

Due to above technique in contacting the respondents and establishing the rapport, the researcher did not find any difficulty. Researcher never gave the impression that he was only interested in the collection of data. The respondents found to be genuinely enjoyed the company and enthusiastically gave the interview and gave intimate details in the course of interview. They talked and given answers to the questions frankly with all sincerity and with a genuine desire to make valuable contribution. The respondents especially from employees category and student from professional courses category were very articulate and vocal on the problem under study. Some of the employees especially the medical and engineering students and employees, failing to get suitable timing during the day were interviewed at the odd hours at night as it was convenient to them.

Most of the respondents both from the employees and students category were interviewed at their respective residence. With few exceptions, the respondents were also interviewed in the colleges (in students case),
working places or offices and sometimes in the canteen also as it was convenient to them. Some Respondents were kind enough to give interview at my working place on their failure to observe the time given to them.

The relevant information, apart from the questions in interview schedule were extracted and recorded later. The intensive data was collected in 6 to 8 months period.

Beginning with the personal information questions helped long way in preparing the respondents for gradual and deeper involvement in the interview.

**Measuring Attitude:**

Fixed alternative questions pertaining to ascertain the attitude and perception of educated SCs (the main beneficiaries) occupied a major portion in the schedule.

The interview schedule covered the question to measure the social attitude and obtain the respondents opinion about the social distance, social discrimination, respondents status and the caste Hindus opinion about their status (SCs) and their attitude towards them through the eyes of respondents.

In few cases, statements have been presented to the respondents and asked to give their reactions and responses
to indicate their stand of agreement or disagreement on the scale (Likert type). The responses were sought from the five conventional responses viz., (1) strongly agree, (2) agree, (3) uncertain, (4) disagree and strongly disagree.

But this method is not adopted and applied in toto in the present study. The number of statements given were favouring and disfavouring but not pertaining to any one. Particular item under which these statements were given, They were grouped or given separately on different items. Hence this has necessitated to restrict this method only for calculating average (partial use of the method) i.e. upto assessing their average attitude value in respect of each statement. Five responses/alternatives were assigned weights score/value from 1 to 5. For example strongly agree is given the highest scores and the strongly disagree is given least score 1, agree, uncertain and disagree were given the score of 4, 3 and 2 respectively. For total score the value is multiplied by the corresponding frequencies of the responses and then the average is worked out by dividing the sum score value by total number of respondents.

Nature of Data Collected from the Respondents:

The information has been collected from the respondents under different sets.

I  Personal Information:

The information collected from the respondents was on the following items.

i) Respondents name, caste, age, marital status, qualification, native place, the length of their stay at Aurangabad.

ii) The motivating force for going into college and the problems faced.

iii) Economic activities and education of the father and grand father

iv) the present job.

II  Perception of the importance of educational and various other opportunities:

The items included in this set on which the information was collected are following:

i) the possibility of getting and continuation of education and employment without PDP.

ii) The importance of education in advancement of SCs.

iii) Utilization of various facilities and its uneven utilization among them and the reason thereof for their being so.
iv) Reactions / responses about the adequacy of Constitutional provision and its implementation.

v) Continuation of the policy and its criterion.

vi) Opinion about the caste Hindu attitude in anti-reservation and atrocities as perceived by respondents.

vii) the treatment the beneficiaries receive.

III Discrimination:

In this set an effort was made to know whether they are still experiencing the discrimination, if so what are those areas in which they experienced discrimination. Their opinions were sought by giving even few statements. In these statements the degree of the intensity of their response has been asked on the given five alternatives which they thought came close to their views.

IV Interaction and Inter-relation.

The information was collected in this set with a view to analyse the social distance which the respondents perceive. The areas of interaction analysed were: the inter personal relationships, the treatment received from caste Hindus, the extent of their relation with case Hindus and the treatment/ relations aspired from caste Hindus.
The degree of residential proximity and the willingness in staying there has been measured. The perception of attitude in their immediate contact and personal interaction with the caste Hindu officers, colleagues and subordinate are also considered.

V SCs perception of caste Hindus view: -

The information was collected on this item also by giving the different statement both favouring and disfavouring the PDP policy and also the progress made by the SCs.

VI Status Inquiry: -

Under this set an attempt has been made to enquire about the respondents responses regarding their status perceived by them and the status held by others and perceived by them.

Disclosure of caste identity, general identification to a visitor and the reference individuals etc. items were enquired about.

VII The fulfilment of expected Role by educated SCs:

For measurement of their interaction with their own people the following information was collected from the respondents.
1) The type of interaction and contact with their family and with the people of their own caste.

ii) Their views about the caste organization, their actual participation and the usefulness of such organization for the SC community as a whole.

iii) Their views about the SCs in departing from the SCs and trying to have close relations with non-SCs. Lastly, their views for improvement of SC community as a whole was collected under the suggestion items.

It may be clarified here that the present study is limited in its scope. The present study is limited to college going SC students (excluding 11th and 12th class SC students) and employees employed in public sectors in the job cadre of Class I, II and III only. It can in no way be considered as representative of the SC population in India but to the SCs living in Aurangabad city. The study is again limited by geographical location.

The next limitation of the study is that the researcher has limited his study to state action in respect of employment and educational opportunities only among the beneficiaries of four major castes (predominant in utilizing the benefits).

The present study of state action has been considered
only in a context of specific change and the reactions and responses on the various aspects pertaining to it in the chosen sample. To have a better understanding of the problem under study especially both the attitude and perception of SCs and that of other castes (caste Hindus) should have been taken into consideration which would have been given the facility of comparison. But due to nature of enquiry in the present study it is limited only to the SCs.

As it was desired to know the impact of the policy of protective discrimination and the change visualized (and difficulties facing in getting the desired position) and the perception held by SC beneficiaries on various issues, as mentioned earlier. This was to be studied through the eyes of respondents and hence the study was restricted and confined only to the educated and employed SCs.