

INTRODUCTION

Over the past few decades more and more geographers have crooked their thought to the study of population. Their curiosity as geographers has been first and foremost directed towards the analysis of areal variations in the distribution, structure and the ways in which these relate to nature of places. It may be assumed that the significance of population geography as a branch of geography has grown concurrently with an increasing conciousness of the dynamism of population as man is not only the utilizer of physical earth, but also the creator of cultural earth. Previously geographers were frequently satisfied to examine the patterns of population distribution as more or less static phenomena, relating them particularly to the patterns of physical environment.

Though, time to time the nature and scope of population geography has been changing around the globe due to change in the nature of population characteristics. But, still the subject matter and contents of population geography have been debatable. Nevertheless, human being has been considered the most important and well established core of population geography. Trewartha (1953) undisputedly occupies the most important place for initiating the development of this systematic branch of geography. While defining population geography, he stresses that its essence is laid in the understanding of regional differences over the earth covering the people. Such a contention of Trewartha is to be viewed in the context of population geography, the central theme of which is to understand the process of spatial organization wherein population forms the most dynamic element. Some other important foreign scholars in this field are Clark (1965), Zelensky (1966), Garneir (1966), Wood (1976), Peters and Laskin (1979) and Jones (1981). They contributed to this sub- field of geography by bringing out texts of the subject into their respective countries.

The development of geographical study of population started very late in India. Tracing its history, Gosal reveals that all the significant advancements in this field of geography has been started in 1960.¹

Mehta's (1967) doctoral thesis of "*Bist Doab*" in Punjab and the work of Krishna (1968) based on the map prepared on the data on individual villages are very detailed studies in this area. A similar doctoral research work was carried out by Chandna in 1969. After a decade, a valuable doctoral research entitled, "Regional Analysis of the population of Uttar Pradesh" was produced by Siddiqui F.A. (1980). In the same decade Chandna (1989) has produced a full fledged book on scheduled caste of India entitled 'Spatial Dimensions of Scheduled Castes in India'.

Population Geography, an offshoot of human geography includes the elements of population; its distribution, growth, structure, composition, problems and policies in its horizon. In the present venture, the researcher is concerned with one of the most important components of population statistics i.e. employment structure. Employment is one of the most significant features of a population of a nation as it has multilateral involvement in the economic production and planning. It provides information about the human resources and the nature and extent of their utilization.² Employment has great subjective significance with growing emphasis on regional planning and regional approach to the population policy and utilization of human resources.³ Employment is an important indicator of the economic composition of a region. The degree of employment or unemployment exerts its influence as one of the chief determinants of several socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the population.⁴ The socio-economic development of any region is mainly related to degree of employment and the proportion of workers in different sectors of economy.⁵ Employment refers to economic activities in which workers are differentiated.⁶ It is, therefore, necessary to lay down some rational standard for judging as to what activities should constitute productive work and what degree of performance should be

required to qualify a person as worker. The varied physio-cultural and socio-economic background of a region encourages the people to get involved into various types of works. No single component of employment operates in isolation but in each part of the region various socio-cultural groups get involved into several works depending on the available resources.⁷

In the present study, trends and patterns of employment rate and structure of scheduled caste people are studied. The significance of selection of this social group can be ascertained from the fact that, they account for 20.14 per cent of the total population of the state. Due to lack of education and poor socio-economic conditions, they start working at an early age of their lives. Their employment rate is comparatively high but they are mostly involved in either primary sector or in miscellaneous work in unorganized sectors which give lesser economic returns.^{8&9}

No regional planning can be successful until serious efforts are taken on part of planners and policy makers for the upliftment of this social group.

At present, as we know, the government, irrespective of its socio-economic and political ideology is undertaking regional planning to optimize economic production and to minimize regional disparities leading to economic development.¹⁰ Thus, the development of all the social groups including the scheduled caste people through regional planning can be helpful for attaining balanced regional development.

Origin of Scheduled Caste in India

According to *Rigveda* (one of the earliest literatures of Hindus) there were four *varnas* in ancient Hindu society. These were Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vashyas and shudras. The shudras lie at lowest rung of the caste system and were described as “The Servants of Others”. This classification of the society was basically functional and occupational in nature and character.¹¹ Shudras were later named as scheduled caste by the Government of India Act, 1935. In 1936, the British Government issued an order, the “Government of India

Scheduled Caste Order”, classifying certain castes, races and tribes as scheduled caste as categorized by Hutton, the census commissioner of India in 1931.¹²

By the passage of time, this caste system became so rigid that the upper caste people started exploiting the scheduled caste people by depriving them of many facilities. Having realized the intensity of tyranny some prominent Indian reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Pandit Eshwar Chand Vidhya Sagar, Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi raised their voice and started working for the upliftment of this depressed section of the society. At the time of drafting of Indian Constitution, the Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and the Chairman of the drafting committee Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, drew special attention to the scheduled caste communities. No doubt, the scheduled caste people have been oppressed and exploited for centuries in an unequal and caste hierarchical society and have remained under-privileged. It was after independence that scheduled caste people were given a constitutional status. Article 17 of the constitution stated that untouchability was a crime and should be abolished and its practice in any form was forbidden. The enforcement of any disability arising out of untouchability was to be treated as an offence punishable according to the law. The Untouchability Act, 1955 was a strong step in the direction of the upliftment of their status.¹³ Articles 341 and 342 of the constitution of India provide that the government, by a public notification, may declare castes, races or tribes in relation to a particular state as scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India by a public notification (SRO-2477A) declared sixty four castes that are socially and economically deprived as scheduled Caste in the entire state of Uttar Pradesh. After that two more castes (Gond and Kori) were also included in this group by “The Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (Amendment) Act, 1976”.

Many efforts have been taken by the government of India for the upliftment of this socially deprived group. But, in spite of reservations given in the

employment and education sector, scheduled caste people are still engaged in traditionally fixed and ranked occupation, their choice being limited by the birth. By one reason or the other, the effect of all the governmental efforts seems to be neutral on scheduled caste people. It has been rightly observed in an article entitled as 'Is Positive Discrimination a Good Way to Aid Disadvantaged Ethnic Communities' published in the popular magazine 'Economic and Political Weekly' (2006), that reservation policies which are meant to serve under represented ethnic communities, to gain better access to social capital, like useful contacts and network that improve one's career opportunities are mainly benefiting the better off members of underrepresented ethnic communities.¹⁵ The availability of voluminous census data regarding the underrepresented ethnic communities, like scheduled caste population and the government policies to ameliorate the social and economic status of this section of Indian society, seem to have stimulated many academicians to work upon various aspects (growth, sex composition, literacy, education, Employment etc) of scheduled castes population. Employment is a key input to socio-economic development of any region or any social community including the scheduled caste population. It is clear from the census data that, though larger of scheduled caste people are engaged in employment sector yet they are socio-economically back ward than the general population. Thus in the present doctoral work an attempt is made to map out the regional disparity which exists between different parts of the state of Uttar Pradesh resulting from variation in the rate and structure of employment of scheduled caste population. It is a well known fact that quantitative and qualitative measurement of workforce is an important parameter of all the economic efforts. A comprehensive regional analysis of occupational structure is necessary for rational planning and legitimate minimization of regional disparities to foster a healthy and balanced development.

The present work has been under taken with the following objectives

1. To show the trends and patterns of scheduled caste employment in Uttar Pradesh since 1971.
2. To compare the scheduled caste employment trends in Uttar Pradesh with the employment trend of total population of the state and scheduled caste population of the country.
3. To analyse the general patterns of scheduled caste employment at district level and to test differentials of employment rates (total, rural and urban) with various socio economic determinants.
4. To make a sector-wise analysis of scheduled caste employment i.e. major employment groups in the state and analyse separately the determinants which may influence the differentials of major employment groups.
5. To demarcate the employment and development regions and show as to how they are related with each other.

The whole study is divided into six chapters. The first chapter deals with the concept of employment given by various national and International organizations, demographers, sociologists, economists, geographers and other concerned people. This chapter also deals with various determinants of employment, whereas the second chapter presents the research design and review of related literature in which methodology, tools of investigations and the related work of foreign as well as Indian researchers are highlighted. Third Chapter gives a detailed description of the study area. Fourth chapter examines the trends and patterns of scheduled caste employment. In which a comparative analysis of the trends of employment of scheduled caste population of the scheduled caste population is made with scheduled caste population of India and Uttar Pradesh. The fifth one explains the employment structure and employment regions of scheduled caste population and the sixth

chapter analyses the level of socio-economic development and employment rate verses socio-economic development regions. In the end conclusions and suggestions are given.

The present work “Regional Trends and Pattern of Employment of Scheduled Caste Population in Uttar Pradesh” is based on secondary data, collected from different published and unpublished sources at district level. Apart from the demographic data available from the census of India, Delhi, the relevant non - demographic data for the year 2001 pertaining to economic and social sectors have been obtained from the publication of the State Planning Institute, Lucknow and Ministry of Human Affairs, Govt. of India, New Delhi.

There are certain sound reasons for selecting Uttar Pradesh as the unit of analysis. First of all, Uttar Pradesh is the most populas state where scheduled caste account for 21.14 per cent of the total population. Secondly, it is one of the developing parts of India where different types of religious and caste communities in its boundaries. Uttar Pradesh inhabits the largest number of scheduled caste population in the nation. The state doesn't have sufficient mineral resources and here the base of the economy is mainly agriculture. Scheduled caste people being least skilled and uneducated, get employment in this sector easily. Other than this, the researcher herself belongs to Uttar Pradesh and knows about the physical and cultural set-up of the state. The administrative division of the state in the form of district is taken as a basic unit of analysis because most of the government data is available at this level

REFERENCES

1. Chandna, R.C. and Sidhu, M.S. (1980), *Introduction to Population Geography*, Kalyani Publisher, New Delhi, pp. 1-3.
2. Agrawal, S.P. (1971), Interrelation Between Population and Manpower Problems: A Joint ECAFE-ILO Regional Seminar, UNO; *Asian Population Studies*, series No. 7, Bangkok, pp. 71-76.
3. Franklin, S.H. (1958), The Age structure of New Zealand, Northland Communities, *Economic Geography*, Vol. 34, pp. 64-71.
4. Ray, P. (1978), Quantative Mapping of Working Population, *Geographical Review of India*, Vol. 40, No. 4, pp. 312-321.
5. Choundhary, A.P. (2007), Structural Transformation in India- Growth of Service Sector, *Indian Journal of Regional Science*, Vol. XXXIX, No. 1, p. 94.
6. Jaffe, A.J. and Stewart, C.D. (1951), *Manpower Resources and Utilization. Principle of Working Force Analysis*, John Wiley and Sons Inc., New York, p. 17.
7. Swamy, M.R. (1967), The Role of Labour Participation Rate in Economic Development – A Look at India and USA, *Population Review*, Vol. 11, No. 1, California, USA, Jan, pp. 45-51.
8. Gosal, R.P.S. (1991), Work force of India's Scheduled Caste Population: A Spatial Perspective, *Population Geography*, Vol. 13, No. 1 and 2, June-Dec, pp. 8.

9. Tripathi, R.M. (1999), Socio-Economic Profile of Scheduled Caste Population in India, *Geographical Review of India*, Vol. 62, No. 1, March, pp. 47-59.
10. Agrawal, S.P., *op. cit.*, p. 72.
11. Mohammad, M. (1987), *Caste and Primary Occupations: A Geographical Analysis*, Concept Publishing Company, New Delhi, p. 17.
12. Tripathi, R.M. (1999), Socio-economic Profile of Scheduled caste Population in India, *Geographical Review of India*, Vol. 61, No. 1, March, p. 47.
13. Sachchidananda, (1977) *The Harigan Elite*, Thomson Press (India) Limited, Faridabad, Haryana, p. 17.
14. Singh, S. (1991), *Dimensions of Scheduled Caste Development in India*, Uppal Publishing House, New Delhi, p. 59.
15. Weisskope, T.E., (2006), Is Positive Discrimination a Good Way to Aid Disadvantaged Ethnic Communities? *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. XII, No.8, 25 Feb. to 3 March, pp.717-725.