CHAPTER VII

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The threads of the significant findings and the general conclusions drawn from the study have been pulled together in this concluding chapter.

The analysis pertains to an examination of how far the expenditure of welfare schemes of the government on higher education and employment of the weaker sections have induced the sample respondents to aspire for higher education, to secure employment opportunities and to improve their life in the city of Madras during 1971-94. The study further examines to what extent the weaker sections of the scheduled castes and tribes have been enabled to better their lot through education and employment in the metropolitan city of Madras.

Socio-economic changes could not be achieved by the weaker sections if they were not educated. Thus, the impact of education and employment means the improvement of a new socio-economic status in their life and the sense of secured feeling of the weaker sections in the society.

The primary investigation and its relevant data provided the necessary information relating to the socio-economic conditions of the weaker sections employed in both the Union and the State Government departments with special reference to specific aspects of the problems such as original habitat, age group, religion, level of concession enjoyed, level of education level of
employment, level of income, saving, investment and their economic improvement in the Metropolitan city of Madras.

Since this study involves an interdisciplinary approach, an attempt has also been made to examine their attitude to the general life in the city, some social characteristics in the form of their personal opinion and views expressed constitutional provision, reservation policy, social life in Madras, scholarship facilities and their social status after their education and employment in Madras.

In the context of the continuous process of the economic development from the third five year plan (1961-66), it was indicated that the existing population was greatly influenced both by the increasing trend of educational facilities and the expansion of employment opportunities through the welfare schemes of the government in Madras region.

The growth of the industrial and urban sectors, and the overall expansion of the city of Madras help us to understand the concomitant factors of education, employment and economic development in this region. In addition to this, some social characteristics such as linkage with the places of their origin, their intention to ultimate settlement for life, the economic position of their household composition and the respondents' socio-economic status, after their higher education and securing employment position have also been analysed. All the personal opinions and views expressed by the respondents of this study with its relevant data drawn have been analysed.
Higher education and employment have been recognised as two factors for improvement of the socio-economic conditions of the people. Necessary steps have been taken by the government to improve the conditions of weaker sections on education and employment and a substantial change was also evidently made.

The impact of expenditure incurred by government on higher education is considered to be significant in the achievement and the performance of the weaker sections in India. Economic and social conditions of the majority of the respondents have been improved.

THE SALIENT FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

It is found in the study that more than four fifth the total sample have hailed from rural areas in confirming the views of the Report of the Economic Survey sponsored by Planning Commission in 1956. Even today it is applicable as well as indispensable for a growing economy like India.

As regards the mode age group of the respondents of this survey, it was found that more than one half belonged to 31-40 years of age group and only just less than one fifth were between the age group of 41 and 50. It clearly indicates that the impact of education and subsequent employment covers the potential groups of weaker sections. And it has been found that majority of them belonged to Hindu religion.

All the 400 respondents belonging to the weaker sections, irrespective of their income were the recipient of scholarship from the Government. And
four in five of them have held the opinion that the rate of scholarship awarded to them was very low and they could not meet out their cost of higher education.

The most stimulant factor to kindle the minds of the poor parents of the schedule caste and tribes students in the rural area was the scheme of loan scholarship system attached to the educational facilities under the welfare programme, that also induced them to send their wards to schools and colleges in Tamil Nadu State. Of all the 400 samples, fifty were the recipient of loan scholarship with which they were able to pursue their higher education. Therefore, it is undoubtedly an established means of financing higher education for the weaker sections. Loan scholarship should have also solved the pancea for educational financial ills. Those who have stayed in the college hostels during their student days seemed to have really enjoyed the facilities provided under the welfare schemes of the government.

Another important Bonanza for the under privileged students in the state was the free hostel facilities offered by the welfare department. And one half of the total sample have availed this and benefitted during their student days.

The primary aim of public expenditure under welfare scheme was to uplift the socially downtrodden section of Indian population. Under this scheme the large portion of expenditure was allotted for the educational facilities that has got a significant role to play in achieving economic development of the weaker sections. As such more than three fifth of the respondents have been benefitted educationally and then improved i.e., their economic life after lucratively employed in Madras. It is evidently clear that had they not obtained the
educational facilities provided by the welfare scheme perhaps, they might not have attained this level of social status in Madras and that is the real impact of public expenditure on higher education and employment of the weaker sections in Madras.

Hence, the hypothesis of this study is significantly proved by the socio-economic improvement of the sample along with overall economic development of the region in Madras.

As regards the level of employment, nearly one-half of the respondents has availed their employment opportunities in the government sector due to the awareness of the job reservation. And it has been found that more than half of the total respondents are said to have availed their present employment position through the implementation of reservation policy.

In this way the study found that nearly three-fifth of them have improved in their socio-economic status after their higher education and employment in Madras.

The region-wise distribution indicates that more than three-fourth of the total sample respondents have come from the home state of Tamil Nadu, predominantly from rural areas.

\[ P \sim \text{occupation at the places of origin} \approx \text{their parents were engaged in agricultural work at their native places. Nearly one-half of the employed were from village area and their parents and other ancestors were} \]
engaged in agricultural work but only the samples who have switched over to their present employment are at white collar jobs in Madras.

As regards the securing of employment at Madras, the sample respondents joined the present jobs at different times. Consequently, the total period of employment differs from individual to individual. The relevant data shows that more than one half of them have been continuously employed for 5 to 10 years in Madras.

Income-wise, after joining office at Madras, it is not just suddenly enjoyed an increase in their income, but according to their individual cadre and capacity, such as Class I and class III levels in their respective offices employed.

It is obvious that the rate of saving is an increasing function of the level of income. In the case of the sample, their saving potential is mostly confined to compulsory savings such as General provident Fund and insurances, and savings in commercial banks and post office are rare.

As the monthly household expenditure increased significantly in the ever growing city of Madras after their settlement here they are virtually not in a position to save more.

The indebtedness is also indispensable which was revealed at the time of direct contact and interview that in the present context of high rate of price level in the metropolitan city of Madras the increased rate of income would be nullified, which is also applicable to other general public in the city of Madras.
The cost of living is a fairly representative index of knowing the standard of living of the people at the metropolitan city of Madras. The monthly consumption expenditure of the sample respondents in Madras would reveal their standard of living. It has been found in the study that more than one fifth seemed to have expressed in the form of their opinion that their monthly household expenses appears to be continuously increasing over their income.

Similarly to assess their level of investment by way of possession of durable goods such as jewels and gold or silver ornaments or consumer goods or immovable properties, the findings of the study, revealed that it is not appreciably increase in this regard.

Another important method of finding out their changes in the economic position of the sample respondents, the data relating to the investment on property and assets at their places of origin after their employment at Madras shows a significantly positive result but not so much with respect to investment in Madras after employment in Madras.

As regards their link with native place and final settlement in life, the findings revealed that more than one half of them have expressed their desire to leave Madras for their final settlement at native places is remarkable.
POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The policy implication of the foregoing salient findings of this study and the suggestions for further research are given here.

It is a moot point whether the lot of the rural poor, who are constrained by force of circumstances to be educated and employed at a big city like Madras, and lead a sub-human life rather than be uneducated and unemployed at another rural or semi-urban nearby area, could be bettered. But the ultimate impact has been on the large city, rural unemployment is bad, but urban unhappiness after employment is worst.

Therefore, stem the tides of the life struggle in the city, at least transitionally, the employment opportunity could be provided in the desired places by appropriate policy instruments such as proper spatial planning of the rural developmental investments. In this way, the employment could be generated to the place where the educated unemployed poor masses of scheduled castes and tribes are in large number rather than induce them to be attracted by urban bright city centres. The growth of existing rural and semi-urban developing centres which are now emerging could be accelerated by assimilating them into the schemes of rural economy. Similarly, by providing the same in smaller towns and larger villages, the tendency to move towards metro areas could be checked.
FOLLOW UP RESEARCH

In fine, this study is an earnest attempt at articulating, the socio-economic consequences of education and employment with particular reference to schedule caste and tribes in the city of Madras.

It is fondly hoped that this nascent endeavour will enthuse fellow researchers evincing interest in the inter-disciplinary ventures to undertake follow up research activities especially in the realm of education and employment and its effect on weaker sections.