CHAPTER – 6
CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

6.1 INTRODUCTION

Dalit Development is viewed from several angles. Their basic problems are many and varied. From an economic angle they suffer from low income, low productivity, low wages, conditions of work are often onerous and employment is frequently irregular. Dalits are poor, deprived and socially backward. They do not have access to education and employment.

The Hindu social order has even excluded untouchable Dalits from “Chaturvarna” system of Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishya and Shudra. They have been referred to “Avarna” and “anti-shudra”. Dalits constituting scheduled castes and scheduled tribes have not been properly defined in the Indian “Constitution”. They comprise within them more than four hundred castes and tribes with large cultural heterogeneity. Scheduled castes have suffered from social stigma, due to untouchability scheduled tribes are generally concentrated in a few geographical regions such as hilly regions and forests.

Caste has been considered as an economic asset of group of individuals. Brahmins, Kshtriyas and Vaishyas have always remained in higher echelons of economic power and the Dalits on the lower rung. The development of elite class among the Dvijas and particularly among Brahmins took place during the 60s. Caste domination is associated with subsidized higher education access to banks and credit institutions, public sector sales outlets, contracts etc.
Dalits are downtrodden sections of our society and they have a unique Indian entity. The word Dalits is derived from the Sanskrit root ‘Dal’ which means ‘To break’ or ‘broken’ and downtrodden. The clusters of epithets include outcastes, exterior-castes, depressed classes, untouchable, harijans and Dalits. During the 30s there emerged a new set of colonial euphemisms for Dalits such as depressed castes, scheduled cases etc. About the same time M.K. Gandhi popularized the term Harijans and was used as synonym for Dalit.

Dalits are socially weak, economically and politically powerless despite proactive policies followed by the government under the provisions of constitution.

Dalits economic condition is closely related to human development aspects which include leading a healthy life, education and access to resources for a decent standard of living and involvement in community life along with other social groups, occupation, and caste are interlinked in the traditional social structure. This is particularly true in the rural society where upper castes follow the so called clean occupation and inferior castes are involved in menial and unclean jobs. Land plays an important role in the social economy. It is recognized wealth and occupation is closely associated with power over men. Dalits are largely landless agricultural labourers.

Income is the most significant factor that decides the economic condition of the people. Dalits have three main sources of income viz., income from cultivation of land, wages and salary. Dalits being largely landless
income from others source is uncertain. Educational backwardness cannot ensure salaried employment. Wages in rural areas are very low. Hence Government has to enhance the earnings of Dalits through proper policies of reservation, protective discrimination and allied state policy measures.

Education is another means for overcoming the backwardness of Dalits. Education should help almost every Dalit families to overcome their illiteracy and enhance their economic status by getting salaried jobs and make other opportunities open to them.

Better health would enable the Dalits to lead a better quality of life. However their inability to spend on health has deprived them the access to health care facilities. Hence the poverty of Dalits has resulted in their poor health conditions. Nutrition is a significant determinant of good health. The status of nutrition is dependent on food consumption patterns. This would depend on income level and women’s realizations about the importance of providing nutritious food to their children and family members. This calls of improvement of women’s status and enhancement of per capita food availability.

Housing conditions reflect the economic status and living standards of people. Dalits live in separate localities and in unhealthy housing conditions.

Reviews of the contemporary studies related to the research problems have brought out the significance of the socio-economic suppression and deprivation of Dalits in the present socio-economic scenario in the country. Research studies have focused on Dalits’ issues to the Dalits’ groups in the
country. Some studies have drawn attention to the inter-state disparities in the social and economic status and the health condition of the Dalit classes like Scheduled Castes and Schedule Tribes. Writers have referred to the divisions and sub-divisions among the Dalits leading to the perpetuation of the social inequalities and economic poverty. A few writers have drawn attention to the inadequacies of social reforms initiated in the post independence period. Others have referred to the non implementation of the constitutional provisions for providing justice to the Dalit communities in the country. It is relevant to note a view expressed by an author about the non-implementation of reservation policies in the private sector units. The reviews have revealed very relevant findings relating to the issues, problems and prospects of the Dalit communities in the present context.

6.2 MAJOR FINDINGS

- Constitutional safeguards have been provided to SC/ST groups for their social and economic development. Five Year plans have provided for a policy of positive discrimination in favour of these Dalit communities with an emphasis on ‘growth with justice’. Several schemes of development have been initiated and implemented by the Central and State Governments and other organizations.

- Human Development Report-2000 on “Human Rights and Human Development has highlighted the close link between equal human rights and human development, HDR has been in consonance with the report of the UNDP report of 1990. Earlier HRD was emphasized during
1960s with focus on ‘human capital’ development. Contributions of development economists like Schultz and others in this direction are noteworthy. Governments in developing countries tried to emphasize HRD as a state policy merging education, health, welfare etc., has been followed in India and other developing countries. Thus, HRD has become closer to Human Development in content and policy implementation. However, human development is a vast concept. It is not confined to a few sectors like social issues alone it is equally concerned about how human capabilities are to be used by people. It leads to facilitation of people to participate freely in social, political and economic decision making.

- Despite several policies and programmes by the State and Central Governments there is little progress in the improvement of levels of literacy, quality of health services etc. The SC/ST Dalit groups are suffering from deprivation due to social exclusion in general and the caste untouchability and discrimination by social sectors. Amartya Sen has referred to the social exclusion in our country. Dalits suffer from lower access to capital assets like agriculture and non-land assets, high dependence on casual labour, high unemployment, lower wages low level of literacy and education and poor health etc.

- Historically the caste system has regulated the social and economic life of the people in India. It is the caste based exclusion which has formed the basis for various policies and programmes of Governments for protective discrimination in favour of SC/ST groups.
Caste has been used as strength for social and economic power. Upper castes have used it as a property for inheriting social and economic strength. The New Economic Policy has provided opportunities for upper castes to consolidate their social and economic power. The emergence of multi caste corporation (MCC) in metropolitan centers in the areas of financial companies, agriculture, business and other sectors provide unlimited opportunities to upper castes while Dalits are denied such opportunities.

Despite the numerous disadvantages there has been improvement of the human development of SC/STs in the recent years. It is reflected in the aggregate indicators of human development income level, employment, social needs like education and health.

Dalits (SC/ST) constitute a significant part of the total population in India and in Karnataka. SC/ST groups constituted 24.4% of India’s population (16.2% SC and 8.2% ST). In Karnataka SC/ST groups constituted 22.8% of the total population (16.20% SC and 6.6% ST).

Sex ratio of SC groups in India is lower (936) compared to Karnataka (973). Sex ratio of ST groups in India is higher (978) compared to Karnataka (972). The overall sex ratio of SC/ST in India is lower (933) compared to Karnataka (965).

Human Development status among SC and ST groups in Karnataka is higher than the all India level. However, H.D. status of SC/ST groups is lower than the HD status of other caste groups in Karnataka. The overall HD status in Karnataka is again higher (0.389) compared to SC (308) and ST (275). It is encouraging to find that HD status of SC, ST and others in Karnataka is higher than the respective HD status of SC, ST and others at all India level.
Scheduled Caste (SC) households account for about 20% of the rural population. They together with Scheduled Tribes (ST) households form nearly 28% of the rural population. These two social categories have lowest levels of average consumption and highest incidence of poverty, about a quarter of their respective populations being poor.

In urban Karnataka the combined population share of SC and ST categories is about 15% nearly half of these two social categories are poor, whereas it is only a sixth for other households. Thus, the socially backward communities have a long way to catch up with the rest of the population in terms of improvement in levels of living.

Literacy rate among SC which accounts at group 52.87% in Karnataka was higher than the literacy rate of STs ie 48.30%. However, literacy rate at 54.69% at all India level among SC group was higher than the literacy rate among SC group in Karnataka. Literacy rate at 48.30% among ST caste group was higher than the literacy rate of 47.10% among ST caste group at all India level. The overall literacy rate among SC/ST groups ie 67.04% in Karnataka was higher than the literacy rate of 65.38% of SC/ST group at all India level.

It is found that majority of SC/ST and others were marginal land holders(less than 0.40 acres) in Karnataka and in India. Among them SC groups constituted the majority compared to ST and other caste groups. A small number of SC/ST and others in Karnataka, and India are small land holders (0.41 to 1.00 acres). A still lesser percentage of SC/ST and others in Karnataka and India are semi-medium Land holders
(2.01 to 4.00 acres). A negligible percentage of SC/ST and others in Karnataka and India are large landholders (4.01 acres and above).

- Caste based occupation has been gradually changing Dalits have realized the lowest in of caste based occupations and they are conscious about the social-status attached to occupations.

- Among SC/ST groups’ majority of them held marginal lands both in Karnataka and at all India level. A higher percentage of SC/ST groups held marginal land at all India level compared to those in Karnataka. A small percentage of SC/ST groups held small land holdings in Karnataka and at all India level. A still smaller number of SC/ST groups held semi-medium and medium land holdings. A marginal or negligible number of SC/STs held large land holdings in Karnataka and India.

- Work participation rate in Karnataka was higher at 46.30% compared to 40.40% for SC group at all India level. Similarly, work participation rate among ST groups in Karnataka was marginally higher at 49.30% compared to 49.10% for ST groups at all India level. Overall work participation rate among SC/ST caste groups was higher at 44.60% in Karnataka compared to 30.30% for SC/ST groups at All India Level.

- SC/ST groups in Karnataka and in India are found largely involved in agricultural labour work. An almost equal number of SC/ST groups in Karnataka and India are found in the cultivation occupation in agriculture. A substantial number of SC/ST groups are found as workers in other occupations. A very small number of SC/ST caste groups are found working in household jobs.
Health care facilities seem to be poor among SC/ST groups in Karnataka and in India. Infant mortality is high among SC/ST groups in Karnataka and in India. Children above 5 years of age are affected by high incidence of mortality in Karnataka and in India. The rate of mortality among children in this age group is higher than infant mortality in Karnataka and in India. Child mortality is lower among SC/ST groups both in Karnataka and in India.

Housing conditions of majority of SC/ST people in Karnataka (54.94%) and in India (51.80%) lived in permanent residences. A substantial number of SC/ST groups in Karnataka (35.52%) and in India (30.04%) lived in semi permanent houses. A small percentage of SC/ST people in Karnataka (9.51%) and in India (18.40%) lived in temporary houses.

The study has revealed that more than 50% of people in India and in Karnataka lived in permanent houses. Further more than 30% of people lived in semi-permanent houses in India and in Karnataka. However, 9.51% of people in Karnataka and 18.40% of people in India lived in temporary houses. It is clear that large majority of people in Karnataka and in India lived in permanent and semi permanent houses. Hence housing conditions for large majority of people is largely satisfactory.

Safe water and sanitation have been the problems faced by Dalits. Dalit woman can take water from segregated areas where they live in rural areas. Thus, the Dalits are kept dependent on upper castes for water supply.
➢ Access to electricity is available to 68.50% of SC caste groups and 64.70% of ST groups in Karnataka. Hence the access to electricity by SC and ST groups is higher compared to SC/ST caste groups is higher compared to SC/ST groups in all India level where electricity is available for 44.30% of SC and 36.50% of ST caste groups. At all India level 61.40% of SC/ST caste groups have access to electricity while in Karnataka access to electricity for SC/ST is for 78.50%.

➢ Gulbarga district is located in the northern part of Karnataka State. It happens to be the biggest district covering 8.49% of the State area and 5.9% of population. Historically Gulbarga was under the rule of Nijams of Hyderabad before independence. It became part of Mysore State after 1956; Gulbarga is one of the economically backward districts in Karnataka State.

➢ Kolar has a geographical area of 8223 sq.km which accounts for 4.29% of the State’s area. The district is located in the Southern part of Karnataka. The district is credited with large quantity of gold deposits, and the Kolar Gold Field is famous for the same.

➢ Gulbarga is situated in the Deccan region and its general elevation ranges from 300 to 700 two major rivers. Black soil occupies major part of the district. Upper Krishna Project is the major irrigation project. Major crops grown in the district include the paddy, bajra, sunflower, tur, jowar, wheat, cotton, linseed, black gram etc. Industrially the district is backward but cement and textile units are being developed. Climate is hot during summer with 40º to 46º Census, it records 27º to 37º during monsoon and 11º to 26º during winter.
Kolar district is grouped under Southern part of Karnataka. Climate is generally hot and excessively during summer. Winter climate is cool. The district receives monsoon rains during October-December. Pannar and Polar rivers drain the district. The district is grouped under eastern dry zone of tenfold agro-climatic classification of Karnataka. Major part of the district is covered by red sandy soil with lateritic patch.

SC and ST groups constitute 22.92% and 4.92% of total population respectively in Gulbarga district. In Kolar SC and ST groups constitute 26.49% and 8.11% of the population of the district.

Sex ratio among SC group in Kolar district is higher at 985 compared to SC group in Gulbarga at 961. At the State level sex ratio among SC group is 973. Sex ratio among ST group in Gulbarga district is higher at 979 compared to sex ratio among ST caste group in Kolar district at 973. Sex ratio among ST group at the State level is 972.

Literary level among SC caste groups in Kolar district is higher (52.98%) compared to those in Gulbarga district (39.05%). In both the districts literacy level is higher among male SCs compared to females. Similarly literacy level among ST groups is higher in Kolar (47.80%) compared to those in Gulbarga (32.40%) literacy rate among male ST groups is higher in Kolar compared to females.

Educational facilities like high schools, PU colleges, medical colleges, dental colleges and universities are more in Gulbarga district compared to those in Kolar district. However, Kolar district has more primary schools and polytechnics compared to Gulbarga district.

A mixed trend of schools/colleges per lakh of population is found in Gulbarga and Kolar Primary schools per lakhs of people in Gulbarga.
is less compared to the number in Kolar. Similarly high schools in Gulbarga per lakh of people are less compared to Kolar. However, PU colleges per laks of people are more in Gulbarga compared to Kolar. Further the number of polytechnics per 1 lakh of people is more in Kolar compared to Gulbarga.

- Hostel facilities in Gulbarga district for SC and ST caste group students are more than in Kolar district at pre matric aided and for OBC students. Kolar has more post matric SC hostels.

  Pre and post metric SC hostels for per lakhs people is more in Kolar distract were compared to the Gulbarga distract. Pre metric ST hostels for per lakh people is more in Gulbarga compared to Kolar.

- Except in PU colleges there are more number of students studying in primary and high schools, Polytechnics, Engineering, Medical, ISM and Dental colleges in Kolar district.

- Kolar district is better served in terms of educational facilities compared to Gulbarga district. There are more numbers of schools for per lakh of people in case of primary, high schools, Polytechnic Colleges. Dental colleges and Engineering, in Kolar compared to those in Gulbarga district. Further, Gulbarga has more number of PU Colleges and University Kolar district is not having a university.

- Gulbarga District has better hostel facilities for a SC, ST and OBC caste students compared to those in Kolar district, expect SC hostel in pre and post metric hostel in Kolar district. For SC students Gubarga has more number of pre and post matric and aided pre and post matric hostels
compared to those in Kolar district. Similarly Gulbarga district has more number of these hostels for ST and OBC students compared to those in Kolar district.

- Large numbers of students are enrolled at primary schools, high schools, PU college’s polytechnics and engineering colleges in Gulbarga and Kolar districts. Total strength of students in primary schools, polytechnics and engineering and dental colleges in Gulbarga district is more than in Kolar district, while the latter has more students’ strength in high schools and PU colleges compared to Gulbarga district.

- The number of vehicles per 1000 people is higher in Kolar district. However, in comparison to the state both the districts are backward. However, Gulbarga has relatively greater proportion of auto rickshaws and mini buses.

- Agricultural production in terms of area under pulses is much higher in Gulbarga district compared to that in Kolar district. The area under Gram and Tur in Gulbarga district is much more compared to the area in Kolar district. However, the area under other pulses in Kolar district is more than in Gulbarga district. Total area under pulses in Gulbarga district is 655009 hectares compared to 25459 hectares in Kolar district.

- Gulbarga district has much larger area under groundnut, sugarcane and cotton compared to area in Kolar district. The total area under groundnut, sugarcane and cotton in the state is 817243; 243341 and 316674 hectares respectively.

- Kolar district has the distinction of having more number of factories (172) compared to Gulbarga district (103). Kolar district had more
number of textile units, chemical factories and other factories compared
to those in Gulbarga district. Gulbarga and Kolar districts had equal
number (17 each) of engineering units. Gulbarga had 1 sugar units
while Kolar district is not having any sugar units. The number of
factories in Gulbarga and Kolar districts is much less in relation to the
State’s total indicating industrial backwardness of the two districts.

- Marginal land holdings in Gulbarga and Kolar districts are more (45%)
  compared to small land holdings (26%), semi medium (17.79%),
  medium (08.04%) and large holdings (01.26%). Marginal land holdings
  are more in Kolar district (60%) compared to those in Gulbarga district
  (20%), Gulbarga district has more small holdings semi medium (28%),
  medium (13%) and large land holdings (02.36%) compared to those in
  Kolar district.

- Major crops grown in Gulbarga district include paddy, jowar, bajra,
  maize, wheat and minor millet. Kolar district has vast tracts of land
  under paddy, ragi maize and minor millets. Ragi is not grown in
  Gulbarga district while jowar and wheat are not grown in Kolar district.
  Maximum area is covered by jowar in Karnataka State followed by
  paddy, ragi, maize, bajra, wheat and minor millet. Maximum area in
  Gulbarga district is under Jowar, while Ragi is grown in maximum area
  in Kolar district.

  Paddy accounts for 5.63, 2.55 and 10.91 per cent of net area sown
  in Gulbarga, Kolar and the State respectively. While ragi accounts for
  34.08% of net area sown in Kolar, it is more compared to Gulbarga.
  Maize production is high in Kolar (7.42%) of net sown area.
In the Gulbarga district tur accounts for 29.97% which is major pulse in Gulbarga district and 1.71% of net sown area in Kolar. Gram accounts 11.65% and 5.17% of net sown area in Gulbarga and the State respectively which is produced in Gulbarga district only.

Gulbarga district has vast stretch of land under pulses like gram, tur and other pulses. Tur and other pulses are grown in Kolar district also. Maximum area is covered by tur among pulses in Karnataka followed by gram and other pulses.

Groundnut, sugarcane and cotton are grown in Gulbarga district, while only groundnut and sugarcane is grown in Kolar district. Groundnut covers more area in Karnataka compared to cotton and sugar cane.

Percentage to net area sown under groundnut in Gulbarga is less than Kolar. The cotton production is very high in Gulbarga; there is no cotton production in Kolar.

Major source of irrigation in Gulbarga district is canal followed by wells, and Bore wells. Other sources are also providing irrigation facilities in the district. Bore wells provide maximum irrigation facility followed by wells and tanks. Karnataka State is well served by all the sources of irrigation viz., canals, wells, bore wells, tanks, lift irrigation and other sources.

Percentage to net area sown under canal in Gulbarga district is highest (9.71%) followed by wells. Kolar district has (19.48%) net sown area to irrigation under highest bore wells.

Demographic characteristics indicate some significant trends in Gulbarga and Kolar districts. Total fertility rate is higher in Gulbarga district compared to Kolar district. Infant mortality rate, child birth rate and child death rate are again higher in Gulbarga district compared to
those in Kolar district. The State has lower fertility, infant mortality and child death rates compared to those in Gulbarga and Kolar districts.

Gulbarga and Kolar districts have good number of hospitals and health care centers. There are State Government hospitals in Gulbarga (12) and Kolar (10), hospitals of Indian Medicine Systems in Gulbarga (10) and Kolar (3) in addition to hospitals run by other agencies. Gulbarga has larger number of PHCs (106) compared to Kolar (83). There are 11 dispensaries each in Gulbarga and Kolar. The two districts have large number of family welfare centers and drug shops.

Government hospitals accounted for 0.74 per 1000 sq. km of geographical area in Gulbarga, 1.22 per 1000 sq.km of geographical area in Kolar, it is high compared to Gulbarga. Similarly Hospitals of Indian System of Medicines for per 1000 sq.km of area is more in Gulbarga than Kolar. However, PHCs are less in Gulbarga (6.53) compared to Kolar (10.09) for per 1000 sq.km. The family welfare centres in Gulbarga and Kolar accounted for 23.3, 46.82 per 1000 sq.km of areas respectively.

Housing facilities in the two districts include permanent houses, semi permanent houses, serviceable and non serviceable houses. Majority of the houses are permanent houses.

The two districts are largely agricultural oriented. Hence the farmers and others own livestock of different variety, viz., cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats, pigs etc.,

Cattle, buffaloes, goats, dogs and sheep are more in Kolar compared to Gulbarga for per 100 hectares of NSA. While Pigs are more
for per 100 hectares of NSA in Gulbarga. Total livestock accounted for 189.98 for per 100 hectares of NSA in Gulbarga, 467.75 in Kolar per 100 hectares of NSA.

- Transport facilities in the two districts include railways, National highways, State Highways and rural roads. Gulbarga district has more road length in National and State Highways compared to Kolar district, while Kolar has more length of railway lines and rural road length. Kolar district has more broad gauge railway line than Gulbarga district.

  Railway route, National and State Highway road and rural road length per 1000 sq. km of geographical area is more in Kolar district compared to Gulbarga.

- The two districts are served well by large number of motor cycles, cars, carts, auto rickshaws, omni buses and goods vehicles. Kolar districts has more motor cycles, cars and goods vehicles compared to Gulbarga district, while the latter has more number of cabs, auto rickshaws and omnibuses.

  Motorcycles, cars and goods vehicles per 1000 people in Gulbarga very less compared to Kolar. While auto rickshaws and omni buses are more for per 1000 people in Gulbarga than Kolar. Vehicles per 1000 people in Gulbarga, Kolar accounted for 47.23, 56.48 respectively

- Banking facilities in the two districts comprise of Commercial Banks, Grameen Banks PLD banks and Co-operative banks. Both the districts have largely identical number of these banks.
Banks per 1000 sq.km of geographical area in Gulbarga and Kolar accounted for 29.59 and 55.22 respectively. Commercial banks, Grameen Banks, PLD banks, and Co-operative banks per 1000 Sq. km of geographical area in Kolar are more compared to Gulbarga.

- The two districts have industrial units in the areas of textiles, chemical, engineering, sugar and other industries. Gulbarga had a total number of 103 factories while Kolar district had 172 factories.

- The two districts of Gulbarga and Kolar are socially and economically backward. This aspect has been affirmed by the Nanjundappa Committee. The deficiencies are apparent in terms of inadequate infrastructure like transport and communications, banking, irrigation and education, health and health care facilities etc., industrial backwardness has further accentuated the problem of backwardness of the district. In this context the Dalit communities who are largely concentrated in rural areas are more prone to suffer from the socio-economic backwardness of these regions.

- The population composition of the respondent households in Gulbarga and Kolar district indicates some significant trends. Male members among SCs in urban areas of Gulbarga and Kolar district are marginally less compared to female members while in rural areas male members among SC are marginally more compared to female members. The number of male members among ST families in Gulbarga and Kolar district is marginally higher than the female members of the respondent households.
The sex ratio is less in Gulbarga rural compared to rural in Kolar district. It is found that sex ratio is not equal both in Gulbarga and Kolar districts.

- Consumption expenditure of the families of SC/ST respondents is comparatively high in urban areas compared to those in rural areas in Gulbarga and Kolar districts. Family consumption expenditure of SC respondents in rural and urban areas is higher than the family consumption expenditure of ST respondents in rural and urban areas of Gulbarga and Kolar districts.

The average number of SC/ST respondents in Gulbarga and Kolar districts spending amount on family consumption is relatively low.

- Occupational pattern of the respondent SC/ST groups in Kolar and Gulbarga districts indicates that majority of them are involved in non-agricultural labour work. A substantial number of SC/ST respondents in both the districts are involved as agricultural wage earners. A very small or negligible number of other SC/ST respondents in Gulbarga and Kolar districts are involved in other occupations like agriculture, business, regular service and self employment.

- Poverty among the SC/ST respondent is clearly indicated by high percentage of SC/ST being landless both in Gulbarga and Kolar districts. This trend is found both in rural and urban areas covered by the study. Among those possessing lands the percentage of those having irrigated
land is much lower compared to those having dry land. Landless respondents are more among SC groups compared to ST respondents.

- Small land holders are in majority among SC/ST respondents in Gulbarga and Kolar districts. Marginal land holders owning dry land are more in Kolar district, while semi medium land holders owning irrigated land are more in Gulbarga district. Medium and large holding SC/ST respondents are comparatively much less and in negligible number in both the district. This indicates their poor economic status.

- Major source of irrigation is tanks in Kolar district according to all the SC/ST respondents.

- Female education is lower among SC/STs in rural parts of Gulbarga and Kolar districts compared to male education. However, female education is higher among SC/STs in urban parts of the Gulbarga districts.

- There is greater preference for Government schools by SC/ST respondents in Gulbarga (91.29%) and in Kolar (90.89%) districts in rural areas. In urban part of Gulbarga district SC/ST respondents preferred private as well as Government schools equally (50%). SC/ST respondents (88.55%) in urban parts of Kolar district preferred Government schools. Thus, it is largely the Government schools which are preferred by SC/ST respondents in Gulbarga and Kolar districts.

- The incidence of drop out from school education is high among SC/ST children as indicated by the respondents in Gulbarga and Kolar districts. And is indicated by 45% to 47.22% of SC/ST respondents in rural areas and by 60% of respondents in urban areas of Gulbarga district.
Responses of more than 50% of SC/ST respondents in rural and around 60% of SC/ST respondents in urban areas of Kolar district have indicated the incidence of school dropout among SC/ST children. Social backwardness and economic poverty have led to such practices among the SC/ST caste groups. Majority of SC/ST respondents have indicated that school drop outs take place in the I to X standards of school education.

High cost of education has been the major reason for school dropout according to large majority of SC/ST respondents in Gulbarga and Kolar districts. Another reason causing school dropout is the feeling that children could earn by working instead of going to school. Thus acute poverty among SC/ST caste groups has led to such situations and outlook.

Educational expenditure by majority of SC/ST respondents in rural and urban areas of both Gulbarga and Kolar district is in the range of Rs. 0 to 1,000. A good number of SC/ST respondents have incurred educational expenditure in the range of Rs. 1,001 to 2,000 in rural and urban areas of both Gulbarga and Kolar district. A very small number of the SC/ST respondents in rural and urban areas of the two districts have incurred educational expenditure in the higher ranges.

Poor health condition of SC/ST groups has been affirmed by majority of respondents in Gulbarga and Kolar districts. Socially and economically backward caste people suffer from malnutrition and lack of sanitation needed for healthy life. Large majority of SC/ST respondents have
mentioned common diseases causing ill health among SC/ST e groups in Gulbarga and Kolar districts. The responses uniformly indicate the ill health and type of diseases among SC/ST groups in rural as well as urban areas.

- Government hospitals are preferred as mentioned by majority of SC/ST respondents in the two districts of Gulbarga and Kolar in their rural areas. In urban parts private hospitals are preferred according to majority of SC/ST respondents.

- Hospital out of reach or distance is largely within ½ km from the residences as indicated by majority of SC/ST respondents in rural and urban areas in Gulbarga and Kolar districts.

- Agricultural labour has been the major source of income for financing health expenditure of SC/ST groups according to majority of SC/ST respondents in urban as well as rural areas of Gulbarga and Kolar districts. Income from non-agricultural labour has been another source of income to meet health expenditure according to a substantial number of SC/ST respondents in the two districts.

- Employment in urban areas has been a major source of income for meeting health expenditure according to SC/ST respondents in urban areas of Gulbarga and Kolar district.

- Large majority of SC/ST respondents in rural and urban areas of Gulbarga and Kolar districts (69.71% to 80%) have been incurring expenditure in the range of Rs. 0 to 5,000 on health. A very small or marginal number of SC/ST respondents in the two districts have incurred higher amount of expenditure on health.
Housing facilities are available for SC/ST groups according to more than 90% SC/ST respondents in Gubarga and Kolar districts in rural and urban areas.

More than 90% of SC/ST respondents in rural areas and 60% SC/ST respondents in urban areas have mentioned that Kuchha houses were occupied by SC/ST people. Pucca houses were occupied by SC/ST people in urban areas of Gubarga district and in Kolar district according to 40% of SC/ST respondents, and 35 to 42% SC/ST respondents in Gubarga and Kolar districts respectively.

Facilities like separate bathroom, open defecation place, electricity connections, tap water, good quality drinking water and drainage facilities in SC/ST houses in rural areas of Gubarga and Kolar districts have been available according to majority of SC/ST respondents. These very facilities for SC/ST groups in urban areas are available in the two districts.

The study has revealed that large number of SC/ST families possessed household assets like TV, mobile, chairs and fans. A substantial number of these caste groups possessed other household assets like mixer grinder, tables, sofa etc. A good number of ST groups also possessed refrigerators. A limited number of families also possessed sofa sets. These household assets are possessed by SC/ST caste groups both in rural and urban areas. The trends of modern style of living are clearly indicated by these household assets possessed by SC/ST caste groups.

Indebtedness among SC/ST groups in rural and urban areas of Kolar district is higher compared to the position in Gubarga district.
Indebtedness among urban based SC/ST respondents is more compared to those in rural areas in Kolar district. Similar position of SC/ST respondents in Gulbarga district is revealed by the study.

- Major source of loan obtained by SC/ST respondents in Kolar district in rural and urban areas was by individual money lenders. The major source of borrowing for SC/ST respondents in Gulbarga district are banks for rural based respondents, while the major source of loans being individual money lenders in urban based SC respondents, and banks for ST respondents. Dependence of private individuals for loans perpetuates the indebtedness as they charge exorbitant rate of interest.

- Majority of respondent of SC/ST groups in the rural parts of Gulbarga District had debt liability in the range of RS 0 to 10,000, while majority of SC/ST respondents in urban parts of the districts had debt liability in the range of Rs.10,000 to 20,000. SC/ST respondents with maximum debt liability of Rs. 5,001 and above were more in urban areas compared to those in rural areas. The position of SC/ST respondents about the debt liability in rural and urban areas of Kolar district is largely similar with the above trend.

- Vehicle ownership among the SC/ST respondents is limited to bicycles and cart. Costly vehicles like tractors, tempo and low-vehicles are owned by a negligible number of SC/ST respondents in rural areas. Bicycles are owned by higher percentage of SC/ST respondents in Gulbarga and Kolar districts. Lower percentage of vehicle ownership is an indication of economic backwardness of the SC/ST groups.
Livestock constitutes assets of the agricultural based rural families. However, a very small number of SC/ST families in Kolar owned livestock, relatively more SC respondents owned livestock compared to ST families in Kolar district. On the contrary more ST respondents owned livestock compared to SC respondents in Gulbarga district.

Majority of ST respondents owned sheep and goats in Kolar district, while majority of SC respondents owned buffalo in Gulbarga district. Cows were owned by an almost identical number of SC/ST respondents in both the districts. Oxen and poultry birds are owned by a very small number of SC/ST respondents in Gulbarga and Kolar district.

The HDI status of SC and ST respondents in Kolar district is relatively better when compared to the Gulbarga district in the study area. Thus, while ST people are better off in terms of HD. Kolar is well placed when compared to the Gulbarga.

Relatively more number of SC/ST respondents have been the victims of untouchability in the rural areas of Gulbarga and Kolar districts. The high incidence of untouchability in rural parts of the two districts is attributed to rigid social system, lack of education among SC/STs and poverty.

The reduction in the incidence of untouchability among the SC/ST respondents is related to economic improvement, education and employment of these Dalit groups in the study areas of Gulbarga and Kolar district.
Social interaction of SC/ST families with other caste people is indicated by a moderate number of SC/ST respondents with regard to community festival, (39 to 40%) and marriages (39%). There is limited mixing of SC/ST respondents with other caste people relating to worshipping in temple and use of public well etc, both in rural and urban areas of Gulbarga and Kolar districts. There is need for further improvement in this important social integration of Dalits like SC/ST people with the other caste people.

Tap water is the main source of drinking water (100%) for SC/ST respondents in urban areas of Gulbarga district. In the rural areas of the district tap water constitutes 70% for SC/ST respondents. Public tube well and other public wells also form part of the sources of drinking water in rural part of the district. In Kolar district tap water is the main source (100%) for SC/ST respondents in rural areas and main source in urban areas also (9.8%).

The age old practice of keeping away from the Dalits is disappearing fast. Hence, large majority of SC/ST respondents have mentioned that there is no boycott of SC/ST respondents by the upper castes. A small number of respondents did indicate presence of this; ie practice of boycotting by the upper castes in temple entry, hotel entry, land disputes etc in rural and urban areas of Gulbarga and Kolar district.

There is complete absence of the practice of bonded labour in Kolar district while, in Gulbarga district it is marginally prevalent as mentioned by negligible percentage of SC/ST respondents.
The absence of the practice of bonded labour is attributed to economic improvement of SC/ST caste groups, educational progress of these caste groups, land reforms and socio-economic change in the present context.

Large majority of SC/ST respondents in rural areas (91.65) and in urban areas (96.15) of Kolar district, and large majority of SC/ST respondents in rural and urban areas of Gulbarga district (90%) have endorsed the view that economic improvement automatically improved the social status of SC/ST groups. Thus, the socio economic problems of SC/ST Dalit castes is basically related to economic improvement issues.

The awareness about the scheme of Government in Gulbarga and Kolar Districts in schemes is more districts in rural as well as urban areas covered by the study.

The benefits of the schemes initiated by the Government for the SC/ST in rural and urban areas of Gulbarga and Kolar district indicate some similar trends of opinion from the respondents. Majority of respondents of SC/ST groups in rural areas of Gulbarga district and in Kolar district indicated the benefits of old age scheme. Similarly majority of SC/ST respondents in rural areas of Gulbarga and SC/ST in Kolar district indicated the benefits of housing.

The impact of benefits of the Government schemes has been positive in the direction of creating employment in Gulbarga district and in Kolar district for the SC/ST respondents in rural areas. Consumption improvement due to Government scheme is indicated by 75.5% of SC/ST respondents in Gulbarga district and by 37.76% in Kolar district in the rural areas.
The reasons for not obtaining the benefits of the schemes of Government is indicated by 58.12% of respondents in Gulbarga district and 34.09% of respondents in Kolar district in rural areas. In the urban areas unawareness of the Government schemes was the main reason for not obtaining the benefits of the schemes according to 60% of SC/ST respondents in Kolar district. Financial difficulties prevented 20% of the SC/ST respondents in urban areas of Kolar districts from obtaining the benefits of the Government schemes.

6.3 SUGGESTIONS

Dalits are presently living under various ecological, socio-economic and techno cultural settings. Each Dalits area present more are less unique situation in terms of resource, endowments, resource wise patterns, and technological levels of living. For upliftment of the Dalit people, the following general suggestions are offered:

GENERAL

- The privatization drive should be stopped as it leads to loot national assets, greater unemployment, a curtailment of reservation and also a spur in corruption. Therefore, when corruption is enters there automatically we find failure and loss of quality and knowledge.
- Infrastructure should be properly provided importance has to be given for road, water, health, culture and other needs, when allotting fund for infrastructure development, a separate allotment for SC/STs should be done.
The Central Government should enact a bill to provide reservation in the private sector which should be strictly and compulsorily adopted.

Strengthen the teaching programme though organization of orientation training programmers in the use of modern technology for the production of social and economic life of the Dalit people.

The Central and State Government must immediately set in motion a process of land reforms whereby the redistribution of land to the landless agricultural labour would prove to be beneficial.

The State Government/Central government should provide land holdings on them reservation basis or on population basis.

For infrastructure development Government should come forward to enhance its schemes for the benefits of Dalit people.

The minimum wage act for agricultural workers must be stringently implemented throughout the country and homestead land must be provided for SC/STs and agricultural workers.

Unfortunately, the prospects for self-initiated change within the government is very low. In the past, India has done a great job of creating legislation, but has not been able implement it effectively. Added to this is the fact that Dalits have traditionally been overlooked, thus making it even more unlikely programmes designed specifically to help them will actually see fruition. Therefore, local and international NGOs must simultaneously seek out independent solutions for improving this situation. Such solutions may include: Pressuring the state to fully comply with its ESC obligations. One way to do so is by using the human rights framework and in particular the ICESCR. They must remind the state of the obligations it assumed when signing the
various international human rights treaties. They may also turn to other
governments or international organizations such as the United Nation
High Commissioner for Human Rights to help in applying pressure.

During my visit in rural Kolar, I was amazed to know unfamiliar
discussions about caste, especially by the non-Dalits. A system that
controls their communal existence to such a degree is rarely discussed
openly or examined critically. Public informational activities could work
to render Indians, regardless of caste, better aware of the ancient feelings
of discrimination they hold. Such activities might include role-plays or
skits. While NGOs should offer ways to combat these feelings, such as
through education, they should also elicit suggestions from the
participants. This is an extremely important venture as educating
children in schools about the need for equality has severe limitations.
Once they leave school, they return to parents and a society rift with
discrimination. Thus, NGOs must undertake projects such as this in an
attempt to fight for more comprehensive social change.

The Caste system renders one group as subjugated to another, and is
seemingly authorized by religious and historic mandate. Efforts must be
taken by the NGO community to chip away this rigid balance. NGOs
should provide public service announcements regarding valid criticisms
of the caste system. For example, Gandhi considered caste system a
great shame to the Hindu religion. NGOs must also seek to advance the
general economic condition of Dalits throughout India. In many villages
that I visited, stores were rarely owned by Dalits. NGOs should provide
greater assistance to Dalits in need of loans to build their own shops or
to advance new ideas for commerce and trade. Lessening dependence on
non-Dalits renders Dalits increasingly powerful and more capable of assuming their ESC rights.

- We need to have a mechanism to bring about radical change in the social mind set of people. There is a strong sense of social exclusion for Dalit women in various forms. The customary practices are rooted in a structure which is class biased and community biased. There is lack of social access. It is not enough to ask for the facility but to have accessibility. The teacher treats the tribal girls as servants. The government should also ensure that children can access education without being discriminated.

- The monitoring report should be produced periodically. NGOs may be appointed to monitor and evaluate the implementation of government policies.

- The state should recognize the violations that are meted out to women and then proactively develop the monitoring plan in partnership with civil society. It has been found that ESCR violations are generally not recognized by the government or for that matter by the community also. The government should first recognize that Dalit women suffer discrimination of their ESC rights.

- Develop a comprehensive policy on tribal development, which derives inputs from people at the grassroots level to ensure sustainable development that is ecologically sound, people oriented, decentralized and culturally acceptable.

- Ensure 100 per cent antenatal care coverage and immunization of women and children. Provide secondary and tertiary care, transport facilities for emergency services and obstetric care.
Includes tribal culture, traditional knowledge systems, tribal history and vocational skills training in the school curriculum.

Involves SC/ST in biodiversity conservation; encourages them to grow fruit trees on degraded forest-lands; allows sustainable harvesting of the non-forest produce for their livelihood, without endangering the biodiversity of the forest.

Encourages need-based economic activities that use locally available raw materials and assist in marketing of finished goods.

Empowers SC/ST at village level to participate effectively in Gram Sabhas, by promoting community-based organizations.

Commercialization of education should be stopped. The massive donation structure of private education institutions is something that economically and socially backward students don’t afford. Therefore, the government must increase its own expenditure on education, and SC/ST students should be given special scholarships.

The commercialization of education should be stopped since the massive fee and donation structure of private educational management is something that socially and economically backward students cannot afford. Therefore, the government must increase its own expenditure on education of GDP, and Dalit students should be given scholarships to pursue their studies. The stipends in social welfare hostel should be increased and the quality of hostels should be improved.

Steps should be taken to educate the youth and guide them about the available opportunities, the new avenues of employment, the areas of knowledge to pursue their growth and development.
Others organizations could also step in and provide alternatives to public schooling that would better ensure small class size, caste-blindness in the classroom and support for human dignity. Creating a generation of well-educated Dalits, prepared in quality schools to be competitive for the job market, could alter the assumptions of many non-Dalits. These well-educated Dalits will be better prepared to articulate their concerns to the state, and increase the movement exponentially. Furthermore, the high quality of these non-state schools may “shame” the state into improving public schools for those non-Dalits left behind.

Information on health status of this vulnerable population and on factors significantly influencing it is vital for appropriate formulation of policies and targeting of services. Therefore, it is extremely important to scientifically probe into the status of health of Dalit in states and others regions.

There should be allocation of resources in the spheres of health and related sectors in favors of disadvantaged groups, so that, the gaps in their health status are narrowed.

Poverty reduction programmes must focus on social empowerment instead of being stand-alone programmes. The SHG strategy, which has begun to emerge as the main vehicle of socio-economic development for women, offers multiple inputs and not just wages: communication skills, vocational/ training, awareness about literacy and health, participation in community and political processes, all these are inputs that the SCs need as they are poor, marginalized and voiceless. In addition, poverty reduction programmes must target the SCs because so many other deprivations arise out of income poverty.
While education under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is poised to increase enrolment and reduce dropouts in a significant way, many schemes intended for SCs obviously do not have the desired outcomes. A school level tracking system of dropouts, in collaboration with gram panchayats and CBOs followed up with counselling is advisable.

The low enrolment of SCs in tertiary and professional education is a matter of concern. Residential schools such as the ‘Morarji Desai Residential Schools’ have been successful in creating high achievers among poor, rural children and their role should be extended and strengthened.

In health, poor nutrition is a function of poverty. The high IMR and MMR of SCs should be tracked separately to ensure that policy interventions focus on this vulnerable group. Pooled funds can be deployed more intensively in interventions designed to reach these populations.

Conduct a rapid survey of the health status of the Dalits and prepare region-specific and specific health plans.

Relax norms for primary health centre and sub-centre in tribal areas and make allowances for geography and population.

Select tribal girls for training as ANMs and post them to sub-centre located in predominantly tribal areas. They could also be trained in traditional medicine and health practices, thus encouraging and integrating traditional healing systems into modern medicine.

Encourage nutrition security by promoting kitchen gardens and focus on genetic diseases.
SPECIFICS

- The study has revealed that there are discrepancies in the health care expenditure by SC and STs. This is a matter of concern particularly health expenditure of higher amount has been possible by more number of SC respondents compared to ST respondents in the study area. Further higher expenditure on health care has been possible by more SC/ST respondents in urban areas compared to those in rural areas. This discrepancy is largely due to limited income levels of the concerned Dalit people. There is need for Government to step into provide subsidized health care facilities to these sections of the SC/ST groups to enable them to avail better health care facilities.

- Large majority of respondent SC/ST groups in the study area owned marginal land holdings. This leads uneconomical operations of agricultural lands. Hence government should help these marginal land holders to acquire additional land, so that, their agricultural operations become economical and get adequate income.

- Further majority of the SC/STs are found to be subsisting on meager income earned as agricultural labourers and as workers in other sectors. There is need for providing these Dalit population alternative opportunities of employment like self employment through business and services by providing credit at lower interest rates and by providing occupational training.

- High incidence of school dropout among SC/St children in the study areas is found from field survey. There is need for encouraging the SC/ST groups to continue education of their children instead of putting them for paid jobs as child labours. This needs proper monetary
incentives to the parents who are forced to compel their children to discontinue their studies due to poverty.

- Housing conditions of SC/ST groups covered by the study has been far from satisfactory. Large majority of them reside in Kuchha houses without modern facilities of potable drinking water, independent latrine etc. The Government Housing Schemes have not been implemented properly for the benefit of these Dalit caste groups. Hence, there is need for proper implementation of Housing Schemes for the SC/ST groups in the study areas.