

APPENDIX

APPENDIX - I

Public Opinion

The researcher interviewed about one thousand individuals and recorded their opinions on the problems of the Depressed Classes. The first group of 500 persons interviewed, are educated and well informed, both Harijans and non-Harijans. The second group of 500 persons, are mostly slum-dwellers and Harijans. The specimen copies of the questionnaire administered are enclosed herewith. (Vide Appendix II and II(a) respectively.)

Summary of the Opinions

Untouchability can be abolished effectively only by ure rigorous legislative measures and their effective enforcement with deterrent punishment. Inter-caste marriage has no effect on the social structure. At present, only the well-settled, advanced Harijans are involved in this affair. If they were married within their own community the benefits would be shared by their

kinsmen. So the inter-caste marriage is considered by 75% of the Harijans as a misdirected policy. Most of the youngsters, particularly students, are in favour of inter-caste marriage. Very few persons feel that the children by inter-caste marriage will form a third caste but will not be casteless. Separate segregated settlement for the Harijans are welcomed by the majority of the slum dwellers. It is due to their poverty and ignorance. But the well-informed Harijans welcome the joint, mixed settlements. According to the latter, segregation is the cause of untouchability and the free mingling will lead to the inter-dinings, inter-marriages, etc., The former want to maintain the purity of caste, but the latter want to swing along the current. Cent percent of Harijans are not in favour of conversion. They say, that the stigma of untouchability in one form or other is still existing even after conversion to Buddhism, Islam and Christianity. It may be due to the concessions that they are enjoying as Hindu-Harijans. If the concessions are extended even to the converts many may go in for conversion. The Depressed Classes are on the way of progress but when we compare the progressive persons with those of their population it is very meagre. The

progress is not considerable because of the attitude of the politicians, caste-Hindu leaders and their own defects.

#### On the Part of the Government

The Constitutional Provisions should be enforced effectively as a war time policy. Reservations are not made in all fields. Reservations should be strictly enforced both in public and private sectors in all cadres. Most of the Heads of the Departments should be Depressed Classes. Reservations and other redressals should be executed by high-power body on the spot. There is no use of moving files and Commissions of enquires. 'Separate electorate' is essential for their social and political consciousness and this will enable their progress. Effective economic measures like land reforms should be implemented in favour of the weaker sections.

#### On the Part of the Depressed Classes

Those who enjoyed reservations should lead others

at least to inform them of the beneficial measures. They should be vigilant and watchful. They must develop unity and harmony among themselves. It is due to the 'divide and rule policy' of the caste-Hindu leaders and the self-seeking Harijan leaders, they are lacking unity. The communal leaders are not for community. Social revolution should be the motive of the downtrodden. It should be backed up by a fund like 'Workers' fund'. All the Communal Associations are for immediate and short term benefits but not for eradicating their age-old stigma of untouchability. The countless Depressed Classes Associations of Tamil Nadu and other parts of India should come together and fight for their rights. Personal prejudices, mutual hatred, sub-castes feelings etc., etc., should be eradicated.

#### On the Part of the Public

The Public (non-Harijans) should feel that the Indian society is a one homogeneous entity and it should not be mutilated by the stigma of untouchability and

Untouchables. Every one should feel that it is his bounden duty to remove the stigma from the Hindu society. They should also feel that the reservation made for the Depressed Classes is not for their economic condition but for their social condition (untouchability). As it is the duty of an elder brother to give an equal share to his younger brother from their inherited property the caste-Hindus must give a share to their Harijan brethren in all fields. The public should feel that it is their bounden duty to fulfil the objectives of the Poona Pact and the constitutional provisions. They must also thank the Harijans for having remained within the Hindu fold, even after numerous humiliations since thousands of years and not demanded for their separation as 'Pakistans'.

Centper-cent of the slum dwellers are not aware of their social or political leaders. But most of them remember with grateful tears the services of their beloved leader Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. They say that 'No leader after Ambedkar'. Hence, it is high time to unite them in the name of Ambedkar.

They feel that their progress was discernible mostly during the D.M.K. rule. Some of them still recall M.Karunanidhi as their leader. The glamour of M.G. Ramachandran, the present Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is vanishing amidst slum dwellers.

No uniform opinion could be derived about their favourite political party or leader either at the regional level or at the All India level. Very few Harijans recognise Mr.Jagajivan Ram as their All India leader.

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