Summary and Conclusion
CHAPTER VII
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The present study has made a sincere attempt to understand the perception and reaction of post-graduate scheduled tribe students regarding changing aspects of their status. Today tribal societies are continuously passing through the process of transition. Since change is inevitable in every society, the tribal societies also not left in a static state. Dynamisms in the tribal societies are the result of both internal and external forces. The factors like, industrialization, urbanization, education advancement in communication, system and influx of traders, contractors, money lenders and the activities of the missionaries in the tribal areas are found highly responsible to bring some changes directly or indirectly in the tribal societies in India. Besides the facts, government need based action oriented plans and various welfare measures for the economic upliftment of the downtrodden tribal people along with the various non-government welfare agencies, working in tribal areas are also bringing some changes in the tribal socio-economic conditions to a greater extent.

Tribals have been most segregated section of Indian society, since time immemorial. They live in isolation, observing a totally different value system, culture and life style, which have virtually remained unchanged since ancient times. Their economy also been independent of wider economic system and mainly depends on the forestry livestock and
agriculture. However, their segregation from the main society does not mean that they are small in number, living in isolation in the remote areas, which constitute 8.20 per cent of country’s total population. Their habitual are scattered in the sub-Himalayan and Northeastern regions in the mountain belts of central India between Narmada and Godavari rivers and in southern most part of Western ghats extending from Wynd to Kanyakumari.

The traditional forces and the relative isolation of many tribals have retained them under old socio-cultural heritage and they have been carrying on their traditional occupations in their sequestered areas. Only marginal number of tribal people is working in towns and cities by acquiring good jobs with the help of education. It shows the role of education, especially higher education, in changing the life style, economic pattern of the tribes.

In every society and every age, a system of education evolved according to its need and the temper of its times. Education is a process, Indian education in its wider perspective was more inclined towards spiritual development receiving knowledge and disciplining the mind as well, but today it is secular.

So far as scheduled tribes are concerned Christian missionaries were the first to start modern formal education among them. Later on with the help of education the status of scheduled tribes has been enhanced. It is because education is one of the most important
ingredients of human resource development in modern society. It makes a significant contribution in raising the quality of life of the people and serves to develop the human resources of the country to face the challenges of the present and the future. It promotes economic growth helps to transform society and liberates it from traditionalism and conservatism. It generates individual traits needed for development and makes the people ready for change by changing irrational attitudes and traditional habits and by providing more skills and knowledge. Thus, education is regarded as one of the most effective and forward-looking instruments of tribal social transformation.

In a modern society, the use of the educational system as a method of ascending the hierarchical ladder, particularly in a developing and transitional society such as India gains importance where the distribution of education. Both in terms of quantity and quality in uneven, but for the scheduled tribes in India, education is the main instrument of upward mobility. It is only education that can offer better occupation, which can free them from traditional occupations. Better occupations can lead to better and steady income, leading to a better quality of life and higher standards of living. Future generations of educated scheduled tribe people can also be better culturally and socially equipped. Hence above discussion is an attempt to show education as an instrument of upward social mobility for those sections of society who have realized the importance of acquiring education to move up in the
social scale. They have realized that acquiring higher education is a passport to acquiring a high occupational and social status.

Thus under the light of the repercussions of education on the life of tribal people, the changing aspects of the life of the tribals and their status are understood. The study has shown that education has its impact on the status of the scheduled tribes. Moreover the educated tribes have more awareness regarding occupational aspirations and opportunities.

The educational level of the parents is more important to improve the educational performance of the children. So far as the present study is concerned the educational level of both father and mother is very low. Therefore the academic performance of the respondents is very low, because it is an accepted fact that the family is an important agency, which encourages the educational performance of its children. The present study shows that the educational level of the parents being low, they are unable to guide their children’s education. The respondents who are having illiterate parents are unaware of the course of further education they should choose. It indicates a lack of proper guidance and encouragement from their parents. Respondents from educated families on the contrary are more conscious about higher education and what courses they should take after graduation.

The above discussion is enough to show the relationship between higher education and improvement in the status of the weaker sections of
Indian society. The main and significant results of the present study are as shown below.

A. Findings pertaining to socio-economic background

B. Results pertaining to educational achievements and inspirations

C. Results pertaining to the perception and reaction of the respondents toward their status

D. Findings pertaining to occupational aspirations and prospects.

A. FINDINGS PERTAINING TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

An understanding of the socio-economic background of the respondents is very necessary to understand the nature and nurture of the respondents. It helps to understand the psychological conditions of the respondents and also to assess the capacity towards academic achievement and the degree of self-confidence of the respondents. Hence the results pertaining to socio-economic background are discussed here.

1. A majority of the respondents of the present study belonged to below 25 years of age.

2. A majority of the respondents are male respondents, which shows that the strength of female students is very less in higher educational institutions.

3. A majority of the respondents are from rural background. Among male respondents a majority are from rural background, whereas among female respondents a majority belonged to urban background.
4. A majority of the respondents are unmarried.

5. Most of the scheduled tribe students are studying in Arts faculty.

6. The number of previous students is a more than final year student.

7. Most of the rural respondents are studying arts faculty whereas most of the urban respondents are studying in Commerce and Science faculties.

8. A majority of respondents irrespective of their area background are staying at hostels.

9. A majority of the respondents belonged to Nayaka, Walmiki and Bedar sub-caste.

10. The study shows that the education level of the fathers of the respondents is very less as most of the respondents' fathers are illiterates.

11. Similarly most of the mothers of the respondents are also illiterates.

12. A majority of the respondent's fathers' occupation is agriculture. A most of the mothers are housewives.

13. A majority of Government servants and large-scale businessmen constitute upper social class. A majority of private servants small-scale businessmen, government servants are from middle social class. A majority of coolies and agriculturists and some small-scale businessmen are from lower social class.
14. A majority of the respondents are from middle social class and lower social class.

15. Most of the respondents have their own house. All the respondents from joint family are staying in their own house.

Thus the above findings have clearly indicated that most of the respondents are from poor families and rural background. This is the hypothesis of the study, which is proved right.

B. RESULTS PERTAINING TO EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND INSPIRATIONS

1. The study revealed that most of the respondents have chosen Kannada medium for their study.

2. So far as faculty of the respondents is concerned most of the Arts faculty respondents are having Kannada as medium. Whereas most of the Commerce faculty respondents are studying in English medium. But all the Science faculty respondents are studying in English medium. Thus the performance of Arts students in English language is very poor.

3. The study has indicated that for the respondents, English language is somewhat hard. A majority of the respondents have felt that English language is slightly tough as compared to Kannada language. A majority of rural background respondents have felt that English is difficult language whereas urbanites have opined that it is an easy language. It shows geographical disparity so far
as quality of education is concerned. Therefore it is better to introduce English language in all schools either government or private.

4. Most of the respondents, irrespective of their age have joined postgraduate course just after their bachelor degree. Some have joined after one or more years after their degree. It is due to lack of proper guidance, financial and other problems, which shows backwardness of scheduled tribes in rural areas.

5. Almost all educational institutions provide opportunities to take participation in extra curricular activities. In the present study a majority of the respondents take participation in extra curricular activities. As far as sex of the respondents is concerned more number of female respondents have not joined such activities as compared to male respondents.

6. The present study revealed that there is no relationship between father's educational level and inspiration to continue the education for their children. A majority of fathers irrespective of their level of education have encouraged their children to continue their education.

7. The study also revealed that irrespective of sex of the respondents a majority of the respondents want to continue their education after post-graduation. Similarly a majority of the respondents want to join Ph.D. degree after their post-graduation.
8. The study also revealed that some respondents want to discontinue their education due to financial problem, discouragement by the family members and other unavoidable reasons.

9. The study also revealed that no respondent of upper social class families discontinues further education. But only middle social class and lower social class family respondents discontinue their education due to various reasons.

10. The study revealed that higher education helps to get high status and position in the society. Moreover it provides an opportunity to achieve economic security. Hence a majority of the respondents are getting higher education to achieve better status and position in the society. Thus from the study it is evident that as the level of education increases, the social status of the oppressed sections of the society increases.

The above-mentioned findings have proved the hypotheses "most scheduled tribe Post Graduate students generally have higher educational and occupational aspirations and view education as a channel of higher status".

11. Generally scheduled tribe people living in villages and inaccessible areas. Hence it becomes difficult to achieve educational facilities. Moreover the dropout rate even at primary level is high. The present study explores that family environment is mainly responsible for their dropout in early level of education. Similarly
most of the parents force their children to go for work in an early age to meet their basic amenities. It is mainly because of their utter poverty.

12. Due to poverty scheduled tribe people are lagging behind in technical education. Along with poverty, problem of English language is equally responsible for their low-representation in technical education.

13. So far as literacy rate among scheduled tribes is concerned the female literacy rate is lower than males. It may be due to early marriage of girls among scheduled tribes and higher dropout in primary level of education and feeling of providing education to girls is an unproductive expenditure. Hence many scheduled tribes parents discard higher education for girls. Thus family discouragement is main factor for the educational backwardness of scheduled tribe women.

14. The study also revealed that education plays an important role in preparing and training the members of the society for an occupation. Education is more important today than ever before. It also helps people to adjust for change and provides skills for adjusting newer occupations, because there is very close link between educational qualifications and occupational level.

15. The present study shows that most of the respondents maintain their educational expenditure with the help of scholarship and
parents. It is because the scholarship amount is not sufficient to meet all their expenditures.

**C. RESULTS PERTAINING TO THE PERCEPTION AND REACTION OF THE RESPONDENTS TOWARD THEIR STATUS**

1. The study has clearly indicated that the scheduled tribe people are achieving higher social status in the society. As a result the scheduled tribe people are not inferior to others so far as their social status is concerned. This result has proved the hypothesis, "post-graduate scheduled tribe students have no inferiority feeling about their status".

2. The study has indicated that the higher education definitely brings about equality among the people. The respondents of higher educational institutions are mixing with other caste students without any hesitation. They are not having any inferiority feeling to mix-up with other caste students. It shows the close and intimate relationships between different castes in India, which is the result of higher education with democratic values. It shows that most of the scheduled tribe people have good feeling towards other castes students. Thus education helps to achieve equal status with upper caste people in the society, because educated people are always identified with mainstream of the society.

3. The study also revealed that the scheduled tribe students are not educationally inferior to other castes students. They are
educationally equal with all other students. It helps them to enhance their status in the society.

4. The study has shown that the educated scheduled tribe students want to reside with other caste students as it leads to Sankritization process. Since they stay with other upper caste friends, naturally they follow the customs and traditions of castes and increase their social status equal to upper castes. Thus the social status of the scheduled tribes is on increase.

5. As society changes one should adopt with new changing circumstances. The forces of Sanskritisation and westernization are more applicable here. The illiterate and lower level educated tribal people adopt life styles of either educated people of their own caste or of other caste. But educated people of scheduled tribe are more inclined with the processes of modernization and westernization. In this connection the study revealed that today every scheduled tribe person is changing his life style. It is the process of enhancing the social status equal with upper caste people.

6. The study also revealed that changing life styles lead to achieve equal status with upper caste Hindus. They agree to imitate life style of the upper caste Hindus. Thus there is positive relationship between changing life styles and social status of the respondents.
7. The study revealed that most of the other classmates of the respondents belonging to different castes have good feeling towards scheduled tribe students. It shows the increased social status of the scheduled tribes. Most of the respondents irrespective of their social class have agreed that the other caste students have good attitudes toward respondents. It has clearly proved the hypothesis. Other Hindu students have no inferiority feeling towards scheduled tribe students. It shows increasing status of scheduled tribes equal to the other sections of the society. Hence they are experiencing equality in all the fields parallel to mainstream of the society.

8. The study also revealed that a majority of the students of other castes have not treated respondents as educationally backward. It means other caste students do not consider scheduled tribe students as inferior from educational viewpoint. It shows that educationally scheduled tribe people are achieving good status equal to other upper caste Hindus.

9. Similarly the study also revealed that a majority of the other educated scheduled tribe people has no inferiority feeling towards the respondents.

10. As far as conversion is concerned the present study has indicated that most of the respondents do not want to convert to other religions. So far as social class is concerned upper class
respondents have been enjoying equal social status with the mainstream of the society, whereas the respondents of lower social class have been experiencing inferiority complex. Hence most of the upper class respondents do not want to convert to other religions. But most of the respondents belonged to middle and lower social classes have not giver any definite opinion regarding their conversion.

11. The study has revealed that conversion helps for attainment of higher social status in the society. It is because in most of other religions there is no caste based discrimination resemblance to caste system of Hinduism. Therefore the people of scheduled tribes wish to convert to other religions to enhance their social status to come out of clutches of Hinduism and to inculcate the principles of other religions. In this way it is clear that conversion is helpful to achieve higher social status. The above result has proved the hypothesis, "Proselytization helps to improve the social status among scheduled tribe students".

12. The study also indicated that male students are ready to have inter-caste/inter-religious marriages. But most of the female students are not ready for inter-caste/inter religious marriage. It shows female respondents have more bindings than male students.

13. The study has revealed that most of the scheduled tribe students are getting scholarships provided by the government, which is
useful for continuation of their education, scholarship is the main source of their higher study. The study also indicated that more number of rural area respondents faced the problems while receiving scholarships.

14. The present study has revealed a strange result that is the reservation policy is not more beneficial to scheduled tribe students in getting jobs. They are of the opinion that most of the jobs are reserved only for scheduled caste students but not of scheduled tribes. A majority of scheduled tribe students are unsatisfied with reservation system. Therefore the respondents have opined that it is not necessary to continue reservation policy. A majority of the respondents are ready to compete with every one irrespective of reservation policy.

15. To minimize the gulf between weaker sections and progressed masses our constitution has provided more preference to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in educational, political, economic and other fields. A majority of people are taking best use of these facilities in their life and increasing their status in the society.

The above results have proved the hypothesis "scholarship and government facilities are the backbone of the higher education for scheduled tribe students".
D. FINDINGS PERTAINING TO OCCUPATIONAL ASPIRATIONS AND PROSPECTS

Traditional parents thought that it was their duty to make plans for the future life of their children. But today a most of the younger generation think that the students themselves take decisions regarding their future career. Students expect sufficient freedom to make future plans for themselves. In the present study the respondents themselves take final decisions regarding their occupational career.

1. Occupation is second stage of education, which is very essential to meet their needs and to lead a good life. Therefore, in the present study most of the respondents are interested to get job after completing their education.

2. A majority of the respondents irrespective of their area want to join as lecturers in colleges and universities. Their aspiration is for a teaching post. Some other respondents also wish to join IAS, KAS, Banking service and the like.

3. As science and technology develops in the world, the occupational opportunities are decreasing. Therefore migration is very common for the purpose of getting jobs in other parts of the country as well as abroad. The study shows that inspite of their background of their area a majority of respondents would like to get jobs in other parts of the country. Among all the respondents more number of
rural respondents are ready to go anywhere for work, which is inevitable for them as they are very poor.

4. Most of the respondents' main purposes of getting jobs are to help their family, to achieve economic self-sufficiency and to increase their social status. So far as their social class is concerned more number of upper class respondents have opined that they get jobs to increase their social status, whereas more number of middle class and lower class respondents main purpose of getting jobs is to help their family to come out of poverty.

5. In the modern society every individual develops his own conception about his job and monthly income. The present study has revealed that the respondents' expectations vary with the social class of the respondents. Higher the social class, higher is the expected income of the respondents. Most of the respondents expect handsome salary from their job. Thus as for the present study only education is not enough to enhance status in the society, along with higher education adequate occupation is necessary to increase social status of the people.

6. As it is known that the occupational opportunities in government sector are declining. Moreover the existing government jobs are not easily available because of increased corruption in every field. Even the scheduled tribes have reservation they are facing problems in getting these jobs.
7. The study has revealed that a large number of respondents aspire to join government service after completing their education. They believed that the government is still the major sector of providing jobs to the respondents. It is because the government has provided reservations in all levels of recruitment. Hence a majority of the respondents have expressed a hope to join government service. The above findings prove the hypothesis, “The scheduled tribe P.G. students generally aspire to obtain government job”.

SUGGESTIONS

In this way the present study has clearly indicated the positive relationship between higher education and increase of social status. Since the study is confined to only educated mass of scheduled tribes, the researcher wants to put some suggestions for the around development of scheduled tribes as a whole. The process of tribal development should generate the feeling of self-help in the minds of tribal people. The process of development should ensure the self employment of the toiling tribal masses. Children in tribal societies are assets to their respective families. Hence the parents prefer to send their children to work rather than to schools for education.

The following are some of researcher’s suggestions, which would be helpful to enhance the literacy rate among the tribal people and increase their status in the society.
1. The parents of tribal student should be motivated. They should be given some incentives in cash for sparing their children to compensate their economic loss.

2. Right type of teachers should be appointed on reasonably good salaries.

3. The teachers should have workable knowledge of the tribal language in which they serve. Moreover the teachers should be given proper accommodation.

4. Constant and proper supervision of the schools is required. Strong actions should be taken against the corrupt teachers and officials. At the same time good teachers in the tribal areas should be recognized.

5. The school should function according to the local socio-religious conditions and the classroom should be made homely and attractive.

6. Vocational education should be spread in tribal sectors and the traditional occupations should be given due priority.

7. Training should be imparted to properly utilize their local resources and government should take care of marketing the finished goods.

8. Health education should be included in their syllabus.

9. Government should take proper actions to reduce the drop out rate of female students of scheduled tribes.
10. Government and non-government organizations should provide awareness regarding governmental facilities provided to them.

11. Government should take proper actions for the proper utilization of welfare plans and programmes in remote areas of tribal communities.

12. Government should increase the amount of scholarship to be paid for higher education.

13. It is the duty of the government to increase the reservation rate according to increasing scheduled tribe population.

14. Government should try to provide agricultural land to poor landless tribal people.

15. Government should frame plans and programmes to provide self-employment to tribal women in every state.

These are some suggestions made by the researcher for the allround development of scheduled tribe people.