CHAPTER-X
CONCLUSION

The present research work consist of ten chapters. The first chapter ‘Introduction Statement of Problems and Methodology’ deals with various theories of economic development, the relationship between economic and justice with reference to new economic policy and social justices in India, shows review of literature related to the present research topic. It also highlights about the research methodology by stating the statement of problems, areas of study and methods of study.

The second chapter deals with ‘Indian Economic Policies’ under this chapter, the economic policy under British rules has got special mention especially with regard to ‘drain theory’. Then the economic planning and development of post-independence era toll emergence of new economic policy 1991, has been critically reviewed. The debate relating to Indian economic development and social welfare has been specially highlighted with a view to have comprehensive understanding of Indian economic and social development.

The third chapter concerns with ‘Emergence of Global Order of World Economy’. In this chapter, various global issues such as colonialism second world war, GATF, IMF, cold war, oil crises, regional blocks north south dialogue have been thoroughly dealt in. Besides the recent global issues like Dunkel proposals, constitution of WTO etc. have been discussed.

The fourth chapter ‘New Economic Policy’ 1991 highlights various factors, conditional ties etc. responsible for ‘New Economic Policy’. It also deals with various provisions of the new policy and other related areas.

The fifth chapter enrolled ‘Social Justice, Social Policy and Development’ is dealt with various theories and critical issues of social justice; It highlights dialogue between economic development and social development; it deals with
various social planning and its implementation; it sets the debate between progress of nation and progress of people.

The next chapter 'Reservation Policy in India', discusses about various issues related to reservation policy implementation and the reserved category of India. It also highlighted the debate of reference of reservation policy especially in context of new economic policy.

The seventh chapter 'New Economic Policy and Social Justice in India: Critical Evaluation' mainly concern with the input of new economic policy on social sectors i.e., employment, education, health, poverty, weaker sections, etc. Various literatures, government and non-government documents have been used to discuss the impact of new economic policy on social justice in India.

The next chapter, 'Social Profile: A Field Study' deals with the geographical, demographic, and historical issues of Delhi where the field study has been undertaken for purpose of the present research work.

The final tenth chapter of this thesis exclusively deals with 'Analysis and Interpretation of Field Data'. The data analysis and interpretation have been discussed under various sub-headings such as (1) reservation policy (ii) reservation policy and education, (iii) education and weaker sections (iv) new economic policy and education (v) privatization of education and weaker sections (vi) new economic policy and employment: privatization of government sectors and PSUs (vii) privatization of employment institutions and weaker sections, and (viii) new economic policy, weaker sections, and other developmental issues. The summary of findings is stated in following paragraphs.

As expected all the 410 participants interview scheduled were aware of the policy of reservation. As already been stated the 410 samples consisted of 105 from
General Caste / so-called Upper Caste, 125 from Other Backward Classes (OBC), 120 from Scheduled Castes (SCs) and 60 from the Scheduled Tribes (STs).

According to finding, 165 of total samples collected (40.24%) have been benefited of reservation policy in the field of education as against 245 (59.76%) who did not benefit of the policy. Similarly, 146 (35.61%) of total 410 got benefit of the reservation policy on availing employment. On the other hand, 246 (64.39%) did not get so. It should be noted that reservation is provided only to SCs (15%) STs (7.5%) and OBCs (27%). Thus the General Castes are not considered for reservation policy, either for educational attainment or employment opportunities.

The majority of interviewed that is 237 samples (57.80%) answered that the reservation policy was not implemented effectively with letter and spirit whereas 111 samples (27.07%) were satisfied with present implementation of the protective policy. On the other hand, 62 persons (15.12%) did not give either new. The reported collected by various sources however, supports the view of majority that is the reservation policy has not been implemented effectively (Reports of the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes 1985-86; 1983-84; Singh 1979; Oommen 1978; Gandhi 1982; Sharma 1984; etc.).

Out of total 410 samples 45.37% numbering 186 persons agreed that the policy so far had been helpful to well-off sections of the reserved category whereas 138 samples (33.66%) objected to this view point. More importantly quite sizable numbers 86 (20.98%) did not subscribe to either view. The study undertaken by various agencies, however, lends support to the first category who said that upper classes of reserved category had been primarily benefited of the policy (Report of the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes 1969; Dhebar Commission 1960; Dubey 1973; etc.). Therefore, it can be said that though the poor people of reserved category have also got the benefit of the policy, the fruits of the policy, by and large, has been enjoyed by relatively well-off sections of such category.
The majority that is 61.46% numbering 211 opined that the Upper class of the reservation category should not avail the benefit of the protective cover and give the way for more needy people of such category. On the other hand 130 persons (31.071%) did not accept this view points as sound whereas 16.83% numbering 69 samples did not subscribe to either view.

Of the 211 persons who supported the statement that the well-off sections of the reserved category should not avail the protective policy, 73 (34.60%) agreed that the denial be on voluntarily basis while the majority 138 (65.40%) firmly stated that it should be done through the act of legislation.

When question was asked as how to improve upon the present reservation policy for better social mobility, 28.05% stated that the 'reservation be provided to real needy, 18.78% said that the reservation policy should be implemented effectively through the act, 12.20% urged for 'extension of reservation to higher official bodies and private bodies as well. Moreover, 86 of total 410 samples agreed with all above three points. On the other hand 20% samples had opposite view. According to this category of samples, the reservation has been failed; therefore, experimentation should be done with educational and economic helps to all the weaker sections of society.

On the question of sub-categorization of the reserved categories, as it has been observed by some studies that quite well-off sections are real beneficial of the policy and the real disadvantaged groups of such category are still lagging behind, around 40% numbering 166 samples favoured such sub-categorization while 41.95% numbering 172 members did not agree with such sub-categorization. Around 18% (72 samples) did not give either view.

Of the samples of 166 who favoured sub-categorization with the reserved categories, 63 persons (37.15%) opined for sub-caste wise sub-categorization, 54 (32.53%) favoured economic (income) wise sub-categorization, 37 (22.29%) argued for occupation wise sub-categorization. Only 2.41% (only 4 in number) called for
educational criteria and 3.01% numbering only 5 samples favoured to geographical criteria for sub-categorization of the reserved categories. Nevertheless 1.81% (3 numbers) did not give any criteria of sub-categorisation.

II

When the interviewees were asked as whether present educational system was conducive to the reserved category with regards to employment, 47.56% numbering 195 of 410 samples said ‘No’ while 128 persons (37.22%) agreed with the conduciveness of the present educational system. The samples consisting of 87 (21.22%) did not subscribe to either view. It should be noted that many studies undertaken in India points out the fallacies of the present educational system especially with regard to Indian weaker sections (Bhatty 1998 : 1731 – 1740 ; Nambissian 1996 ; Mali 1989 ; etc.)

Of the 128 samples who supported the present educational system, 75% said that the present educational system had enhanced the socio-economic status of weaker sections through gainful employment in Govt. and PSUs. 5.47% favoured the system for providing employment in private bodies too while 6.25% supported the system for helping the ‘self-employment’. More importantly, 10.16 of 128 samples supported it for all the above stated three reasons. On the other hand, however, the samples numbering four did not give specific reason for their support.

According to 26% of 195 samples who negated the present educational system, it has not provided employment satisfactorily. The 22.56% disregard the present system for its inability to provide ‘self-employment’. Similarly, according to 28 samples, it is not much helpful in private bodies. Moreover, 24.10% of 195 samples gave all the above three reasons. On the other hand, 13.33% did not mention any reason for their negation to present educational system.
When the attention of the interviewees was drawn for 'cut-off' marks, out of total 410 samples, 131 supported to its validity while 222 did not agree with such cut-off point. The 57 samples did not say anything.

Those who supported the cut-off marks, pointed out mainly three reasons for their argument, such as (i) it supports merit within reservation; (ii) otherwise, it would create inefficient and corrupt system, (iii) it is desirable for national laws; otherwise it would reinforce casteism.

Similarly, three main reasons were given by non-supporters to cut-off point such as (i) the negligible representation of the weaker section requires their true integration in national main stream (ii) merit not necessarily correlates with efficiency (iii) cut-off points whereas the more lower-caste opposed to it.

III

When the question was asked to 410 total interviewees to highlight the most important problems of Scheduled Castes with respect to education, 21.71% referred to 'economic problems', 18.29% talked of 'socio-psychological problems and 19.27% gave the problem of 'medium of instruction'. Moreover, 36.10 % supported to all above problems while 4.63% did not specify any.

With regard to problem of Scheduled Tribes, 23.41% talked of economic problems, 11.71% talked of 'socio-psychological problems' and 21.71% talked of 'medium of instruction' problem. As in case of Scheduled Castes, 37.32% supported to all the above problems whites 5.85% did specify any. As for Other Backward Classes, the majority of samples pointed out economic and language problems rather than socio-psychological problems.

The various studies undertaken from various sources supports to the above problems of weaker section (Rath, Tiwari, Tripathi, Panday Sinha, Singh etc.).
All the 410 samples collected were aware of the new economic policy. About privatization of primary and secondary education, 31.46% numbering 129 supported privatization while majority that is 62.93% numbering 258 objected to it. The samples consisting of 23 persons (5.61 persons) did not give either view. Similarly, 60% of total samples and 57.32% of total samples opposed to privatization of higher academic educational system and technical-professional educational system respectively. Thus the majority of the total 410 samples collected under the study rejected to privatization in any level of educational system. Thus, the findings of field study commensurate with various studies which argue that the present new economic policy is against the advancement of mass education in the country (Raina 1995; Tilak 1995; Shukla 1996: 110; Nambissian 1996; Observer 1995; etc.).

According to various studies, the weaker sections are likely to be deprived more in the field of education under the new economic policy. As per the present field study, 71.95% numbering 295 of total 410 samples opined that the privatization of educational system would hamper the Scheduled Caste Indian. For Scheduled Tribes, 73.17% of total 410 samples gave the same view. However, in case of OBC’s the figure reduced into 56.83%.

As due to ongoing privatization, the validity of reservation came into question. Various intellectuals and politicians started debating about the attention of reservations policy into private bodies. When opinion of the interviewees was sought on this critical issue, the 65-85% of total agreed for extending the reservation to private bodies too as against 30% who firmly object to it while 4.39% did not give either view.

If the reservation is not extended to private bodies, as per 55.61% of samples studied the weaker sections would be ‘greatly effected’. In the opinion of
23.66%, the weaker sections would be mildly effected. On the other hand, 20.73% are of the view that the weaker sections would not be effected in existing conditions.

To another supplementary question, 63.66% of the total 410 samples supported that the government should bear the expenses of the weaker sections studying in private bodies while 31.22% did not support this idea. About 5% people, however, did not subscribe to any of the news.

According to 52.20%, if government bears expenses of private bodies for the weaker sections, it should be for 'selected needy' only. However, 36.83% favoured for the whole reserved category.

VI

About privatization of government sectors, quite substantial majority of population studied that 81.46% numbering 334 of total 410 samples strongly opposed whole on the other hand 11.95% people supported to any such move of privatization. The 6.59% did not give either view.

However, in case of privatization of PSUs the supporters increased to 31.95% while still quite substantial majority – 61.46% strongly opposed the privatization of PSUs. As in above case, 6.59% did not subscribe to any view.

To another question, 57.80% opined that they were deprived of the ongoing new economic policy, while on the other side, 24.15% said that they were benefited by the policy reform. Quite large percentage – 18.05%, did not give either opinion.

When the participants who were said to have been deprived of new economic policy were asked to spell out the reasons for that, out of 237 samples of the said category, 51 (21.52%) said that it was to high costs of techno-professional courses.
For 60 samples (25-32%) the reason was reduction of employment government sectors, PSUs and other government funded institutions and for 36 persons (15.19%), it was due to growth of luxurious consumable items which they could not afford to have; 84 samples (35.44%) gave all the above reasons to justify their deprivation. On the other hand, 6 persons did not give any specific reason to support their argument.

The reasons were also sought from those who were said to have been benefited of the policy reform. Of 99 samples falling under this category, 28 opined that the new economic policy led the growth of advanced techno-professional institutions in the country. 36 persons reasoned for accessibility to private and other MNC jobs. 15 persons were benefited due to spread due to spread of verities of consumable items at cheaper price owing to stiff competition. Again 15 samples pointed out all the above mentioned reasons for their opinion while the researcher id not receive any reason from the 5 samples.

It should be noted that, though Government and some others scholars pointed out that the policy reform would boost the employment generation and help the alleviation of poverty in the country, many studies did not support to this idea. Many studies undertaken by scholars suggest that the new policy has been detrimental to employment generation and skeptical to poverty reduction (Datt 1996 ; Chandrashekhar and Sen 1995 ; Datt 1995 ; Parthasarathy and Reddy 1996 ; Ghosh 1995 ; Mehta 1996 ; 1995 ; Tendulkar & Jain 1995 ; Gupta 1994 ; Dev 1995 ; etc.)

On the question whether privatization effects the protected/recovered category 64.39% numbering 264 of total 410 samples said ‘yes’ privatization would effect the reserved category. On the other side 114 (27.80%) persons replied ‘No’. Around 8% (7.80%) of total studied did not give either view.

To another supplementary question, 58.54% of total samples agreed that the reservation be provided in private bodies too while on the other hand, 34.15% of total samples were firmly opposed to it. As usual, 7.32% did not give either view.
Moreover, 57.32% numbering 235 opined for enactment of law though legislative act to provide reservation in private bodies while 138 (33.66%) persons did not agree with such ideas. In this case too, 37 samples (9.02%) did not have any opinion on this issue.

To the another related question: If government does not regulate, would privatization lead to the major gap between reserved category and non-reserved category? 216 (52.68%) of 410 samples studied gave affirmative answer ‘Yes’, as against 137 (33.41%) who said ‘No’. The samples consisting of 57 persons (13.90%) did not subscribe to either view.

Moreover, 195 persons (47.56%) of total 410 samples agreed that in the absence of proper regulation, privatization would lead to major gap between forward and backward section of the reserved category. However, on the other side, 158 people (38.54%) of total sample did not agree with such hypothesis. The rest 57 samples (13.90%) did not say any of these views.

VIII

On the question, whether new economic policy hurts all the weaker sections of our society, 173 (42.20%) of total 410 samples said affirmatively whereas 141 (34.39%) did negate it. Quite large chunk – 23.41% did not give either view. Moreover, 213 (51.95%) of total 410 samples agreed that the new economic policy would hurt more on SC/ST/OBC than others. However, 30% of total samples studied did not agree with such hypothesis; and 18.05% people did not subscribe to either of the views.

When the participants who agreed that the SC/ST/OBC would be more hurted by the new economic policy, were asked to point out the reasons for their argument, out of 213 samples falling under this category, 19.25% that these weaker sections were still socially looked down. Other 18.78% opined that their people were
educationally and economically still inferior to others. Moreover, quite large percentage – 57.28% numbering 122 samples agreed with both the above stated reasons. However, 4.69% people did not specify any.

Similarly, out of 123 samples who had opined that new economic policy would not hurt more on SC/ST/OBC than other weaker section, 43.09% argued that the educationally and economically backward sections other than SC/ST/OBC would equally be effected if at all the new economic policy hurt the weaker sections. Moreover, according their argument, advance sections of SC/ST/OBC are not likely to be effected at all. Moreover, 18.78% of the samples falling under this category pointed out that the welfare programmes were meant for the SC/ST/OBC to neutralize the effect of N & P but the similar programmes had not been devised for the weaker sections of the so-called upper castes. Interestingly, 29.27% provided both the above reasons to justify their argument. Nevertheless, around 9% did not specify any.

In the context of new economic policy, if the government does not regulate with reference to the reserved category, in the opinion of 139 (33.90%) of total 410 samples, it would block ‘very seriously’ their chances of educational mobility. For 124 samples (30.24%), it would block ‘seriously’ and for 76 samples (18.54%), it would block to some extent their chances of educational mobility. According to other 71 persons (17.32%) it won’t block much.

With regard to chances of economic mobility of the reserved category according to 146 (35.61%) of total 410 samples the new economic policy would block ‘very seriously’. In the opinion of 127 samples (30.98%) it would block ‘seriously’. For 17.56% samples it would block ‘to some extent’ and in the opinion of 15.85% sample it ‘wouldn’t block much’.

As per answer to another question asked by the researcher, 42.20% numbering 173 of total sample studied believed that the problems of the SC/ST/OBC were isolated one as against 156 samples (38.05%) who considered the problems of
SC/ST/OBC were the problem of whole society. On the other hand, 19.76% numbering 81 of total 410 samples did not subscribe to either view.

Moreover, as answer to another question, 182 persons (44.39%) opined that the new economic policy would lead to the major polarization between the reserved and un-reserved category or backward and forward sections of the society. However, 39.27% numbering 161 of total 410 samples rejected this notion of polarization due to new economic policy while on the other side, 16.34% numbering 67 did not say either view.

To another related question, 41.95% numbering 172 of total 410 samples agreed that the polarization drawn through the new economic policy would lead to major socio-political conflict as against 40.98% (168 samples) who firmly opposed to it. The 70 samples (17.07%) simply said ‘don’t know’.

More importantly, however, in the opinion of 213 samples (51.95%) the above hypothetical socio-political polarization would generate social stagnation and backwardness. On the other hand, 126 samples (30.73%) did not agree that such socio-political conflict would generate social stagnation and backwardness, the 17.32% did not say anything.

When the question was asked as what the government should do in context of new economic policy for social change and development, varieties answers were collected. Out of total 410 samples studied for the present research work, 7.56% suggested for changing the value system. 27.07% argued for reservation in private bodies too, 9.27% called for creation of ‘self-entrepreneurship’, 13.17% said “advanced technology should not ignore human technology : provide employment, 10.98% talked about giving special care to vulnerable sections of society, 3.41% wished for balanced regional development, 3.66% argued for protection of small and cottage industries, 7.32% sought for advanced education to all the Indians. Around 5% called for immediate solution to real problems like illiteracy, unemployment, environmental degradation etc.
12.68% argued for replacement of protective discriminatory policy with that of non-discriminatory policy of equality.

Thus, above are the brief summary of the findings of field study done in Delhi as part of the present research work. This research, though is limited in scope, can be relevant for following agencies.

It can be relevant to the government for re-orient its policy in more desired direction as to same human face in the era of ongoing globalization. Mere growth would not enough if it does not serve the basic requirements of the people. The recent starvation death reported from Kashipur of Orissa or Shariya tribe of Rajasthan should cautioned enough the government for re-correction of its policy and implementation machinery. Gross unemployment and under-employment in the country and growing discontent of the weaker sections on the present policy should be taken into consideration by the government in re-formulation of its policy in the direction of more people friendly. The government should also acknowledge the fact that severe deprivation, alienation, corruption, mass poverty, illiteracy, unemployment etc. could play as cumulative effect in any kind of socio-political conflict such as castism, communalism, terrorism, etc. Thus the present research work, despite its limitation, can be helpful to the government and its agencies for re-moulding its action programme in more systematic and desired direction.

The present work can be equally helpful to other non-governmental agencies and social workers too who are engaged in various socio-economic welfare of the people of the nation. The present study should also stimulate the researchers and scholars to undertake more research at the field level. It is precisely because one of the biggest limitation of the present study has been that it has not empirically observed the ground realities as effect of the policy but largely relied on the subjective perceptions of the people interviewed. Thus, the big scale research to arrest the ground realities due to impact of the policy is needed. Hence, the present work as stimulating factor should be relevant for further research by social scientists on many socio-political issues involving new economic policy.
The research paper could also be enlightened any other agencies/persons including general and ordinary readers for their interest and knowledge of political economy of nation.

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