CHAPTER-VII
SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The main thrust of this chapter to highlight the skeleton of the research work. It includes the main findings of the research works, the derivation of conclusion based on the empirical research works and to give the valuable suggestions to enhancement of SCs and Non-SCs.

Findings of the Study

The study estimates that out of the 484 sample sizes, 56.2 per cent of respondents have been selected from the Tindivanam Taluk; of this 62.5 per cent of respondents belonging to Non-Scheduled Castes and 37.5 per cent of respondents belonging to Scheduled Castes whereas 43.8 per cent of respondents selected from Kallakurichi Taluk which consist of sixty five per cent of Non-SCs and 42.4 per cent of respondents are SCs.

The study reveals that the participation of male gender is greater than the female gender in the socio economic activities both in the castes. . It is interesting to note that 31.3 per cent of respondents fall under the age category of 25-35 of Non-Scheduled Castes and nearly 29.9 per cent of Scheduled Castes are in the same age.

It is found that out of total sample size 484; nearly eighty per cent of the respondents are literates; of this sixty four per cent of respondents belonging to Non-Scheduled Castes and thirty six per cent of the respondents belonging to Scheduled Castes and the remaining (99)
respondents are illiterates which consist of 63 per cent of Non-Scheduled Castes and 37 per cent of Scheduled Castes.

In the community wise distribution, among the (177 respondents) Scheduled Castes, seventy nine per cent of the (140) respondents are literates and twenty one per cent are non-literates whereas among (245) Non-Scheduled Castes, eighty per cent are literates and twenty per cent are non-literates.

Among the (140) respondents belonging to SC category 19.3 per cent (27 respondents) had completed primary education whereas among the (245) respondents belonging to Non-SC category 9 per cent (22 respondents) had completed primary education. It is noted that these differences are even negative (SC level higher than Non-SC) though insignificant.

It is observed that out of 484 samples, 89.3 per cent of (432) are Hindu, 8.1 per cent of (39) respondents are Christian and only 2.7 per cent (13) respondents are Muslims. The study also finds that among the total samples of Hindu respondents, 41 per cent of (177) respondents are Scheduled Castes. It is noted that even though the Scheduled Castes are in part of Hindu, there are many discrimination against them.

The study shows the type of family according to the community wise distribution. It is inferred that of the 177 Scheduled Castes respondents, fifty eight per cent adopt nuclear family systems and thirty two per cent follow the joint family systems whereas of the 307 Scheduled Castes respondents, 51.5
per cent adopt nuclear family systems and 33.3 per cent follow the joint family systems.

The study shows that out of the 484 sample respondents, only 13.6 per cent of (66) respondents are uni-member i.e. single member in the family but though it is not significantly related to the important variable, it influences the socio economic changes; of this, 71.2 per cent of respondents belonging to Non-Scheduled Caste and 28.8 per cent are Scheduled Castes. It is interesting to see that the average life of Scheduled Castes respondents is 62 years as compared to around at 66 years for Non-Scheduled Castes.

It is estimated that in urban areas, among the 127 Scheduled Castes respondents, fifty two per cent live in rented houses and 31.5 per cent of respondents have own houses whereas in rural areas, among the 50 Scheduled Castes category 88 per cent have own houses. Of the 212 Non-Scheduled Caste respondents, sixty five per cent live own houses and nineteen per cent live in rented houses and ninety two per cent respondents belonging to Non-Scheduled castes have own and only eight per cent live in rented houses in rural areas.

It is estimated that among the 484 samples, nearly 88.2 per cent of (427) respondents have access to drinking water supply. Among the 177 Scheduled Caste respondents, 76.3 per cent (135 respondents) have access to safe drinking water supply as compared to Non-Scheduled Caste respondents for 95 per cent of total 307 respondents. Of the 127 Scheduled Caste respondents in urban areas, seventy five per cent (95 respondents)
have access to safe drinking water supply as compared to Non-Scheduled Caste respondents for (200) ninety four per cent of total 307 respondents whereas eighty per cent of respondent belonging to Scheduled Castes have water supply in their houses whereas nearly ninety seven per cent have potable water supply for Non-Scheduled castes.

It is worthwhile to mention that the respondents possess livestock’s only in rural areas and the study did not find any livestock’s in the urban areas because it is very difficult to grow and maintain this type of livestock’s. Therefore the results has shown that in rural areas, among the total sample of 177 respondent belonging to the Scheduled Castes, 41 respondents own the livestock’s in their houses; of this thirty seven per cent have poultry farm, seventeen per cent of respondents grows goat and sheep and forty six per cent have been maintain cattle farm. It is evident that there are vast differences between the Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes in relation with possession of livestock’s

The study also concentrates on the 13.8 per cent of respondents, who were involved in the Government jobs. Previously it was only 10.1 per cent. Among the total respondents, 22.7 per cent of respondents are involved in business activities and it was only 5 per cent in before the collection of data. It is interesting to see that 12 per cent of respondents are engaged in work in private companies and there are no respondents unemployed during the period of sample enumeration, but previously it was 17.6 per cent
Among the total sample distribution, 13.9 per cent of Scheduled Castes (11 respondents) are cultivators as compared to 86.1 per cent of Non-Scheduled Castes (68 respondents) whereas 49 per cent of Scheduled Castes (24 respondents) are in agricultural related work as compared to 51 per cent of Non-Scheduled Castes (25 respondents). The study also concentrates on the 68.6 percent of SC respondents (83) are self-employed in non-agriculture, and in this category 31.4 percent as Non-Scheduled Castes (38). It is fact that a larger portion of Scheduled Castes respondents have participated in non-agricultural activities, which they have been shifted from agricultural works.

The larger proportions of Non-Scheduled Castes respondents are having sizable lands as compared to the Scheduled Castes. Due to these reasons, the Scheduled Castes have shifted to non-agricultural activities. The study concludes that there is vast difference in the yield of agricultural production between the two communities.

Among the 79 respondents who are cultivators, 22.8 per cent of respondents each earn a return of less than Rs.5000 per month per acre, whereas 51.9 per cent of respondents earn each more than Rs.15000 per month per acre. It is evident that there is a significant relation in the returns from the agricultural lands both for Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes.

When compared to the Scheduled Castes, in the Non-Scheduled Castes, of the 68 respondents, 23.5 per cent of respondents get incomes
less than Rs.75000 per annum each whereas nearly 16.2 per cent of this community gets more than Rs.30000 each.

There is a wide disparity in the consumption expenditure between Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes respondents. So it will have impact of economic transformation of these social groups. In the caste-wise analysis, 49 per cent of Scheduled Castes respondents are working as agricultural labourers as compared to 51 per cent of Non-Scheduled Castes.

The study finds that out of 24 Scheduled Castes, 66.7 per cent are getting wage less than Rs.250 per day as compared to 56 per cent of Non-Scheduled Castes( 14 out of 25) and 8.3 per cent of Scheduled Castes get more than Rs.350 per day each as compared to 12 per cent of Non-Scheduled Castes. It implies that there is significant difference in wages in the engagement of agricultural labourers.

In view of the fact that of the 24 Scheduled Castes respondents, 33.3 per cent of earn income from agriculture work less than Rs.3000 as compared to the 20 per cent of Non-Scheduled Castes.

It is found that each of 6 per cent of Scheduled Castes are engaged in tailoring and petty business and only 10.5 and 2.6 per cent of Non-Scheduled Castes involve in such non-farm activities. Thus, the participation of the SC workers in the non-farm activities is relatively higher in comparison to Non-Scheduled Castes.

The study is reported that twenty two per cent of Scheduled Castes respondents receive wages in the category of Rs.550-650 per day each
which is considerably lower than the wages that are received by Non-Scheduled Castes (34.2 per cent). Thus, it is conclude that there is large gap between the Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes with relation to receiving wages in the study areas.

The study is also found that among the 83 Scheduled Castes, nearly thirty five per cent respondents receive household incomes less than Rs.12500 each comparison to sixteen per cent of Non-Scheduled Castes; whereas, only in fifteen per cent of Scheduled Castes respondents get household incomes of more than Rs.20000 per month as compared to thirty two per cent of Non-Scheduled Castes.

The survey results have shown that in Adi-Dravida Welfare Department, out of 67 samples, nine per cent of respondents are working, in which 83 per cent of respondents are Scheduled Castes and only 17 per cent of respondents are Non-Scheduled Castes. Thus, it implies that this department is completely operated by the Scheduled Castes which is sponsored by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

The study is reported that during the last five decades, the proportion of SCs has gone up to some extent only in Group C and Group D services and not in the higher bureaucracy. It concludes that among the sample respondents, the Non-Scheduled Castes respondents have occupied in the higher posts of both in Central and State Governments. Therefore, it can be concluded that there is an improvement in the representation of Scheduled Castes in all categories of Central government services, except in Group-IV.
Thus, the study implies that there are significant differences in the involvement of business activities between Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes.

The study finds that 30 per cent of Scheduled Castes earn household incomes in the category of Rs.15000-25000 as compared to 70 per cent of Non-Scheduled Castes. Therefore, it is inferred that there are wide changes in the household incomes deriving from the entrepreneurial activities between Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes.

The study is inferred that there are huge gaps in occupations position and rank in the private sectors between Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes.

The study is estimated that the respondents involved in cultivation, agricultural and non-agricultural work, get lower level of income when compared to the respondents engaged in Government sectors. Self-employed and private sectors earn higher level incomes in the sample areas.

The study is found that the gender gap among the Scheduled Castes population remains significantly higher when compared to the Non-Scheduled Castes. The survey results have shown that the literacy rates of the Scheduled Castes population are less than that the Non-Scheduled Castes.

The study finds that the growth rate of SCs non-agricultural labours increase with decrease in the involvement of agricultural activities as compared to the Non-Scheduled Castes and higher participation of
Scheduled Castes in the lower grade jobs and higher participation of Non-Scheduled Castes in the higher grade jobs in the government departments is accepted.

The study finds out that the mean has significantly difference. In the proportion of land holdings of Scheduled Castes which are less as compared to the Non-Scheduled Castes and there is economic relationship between Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes. The study finds that there is intimately relationship between household income and other demographic variables both among Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes.

**Conclusion**

To sum up, social groups in India differ considerably in educational achievement and economic conditions. The Scheduled Castes fare poorly compared to non Scheduled Caste. The gap in literacy between Scheduled Castes and other Hindus has declined recently, due to implementation of educational measures.

The economic development of weaker sections of the society, particularly of scheduled castes has been on the agenda of the government ever since it has been realized that by the Constitution of India. This socially, economically and educationally Scheduled Caste people cannot compete with others without the initial push given by the State. Accordingly, some special provisions, besides fundamental rights have been incorporated in the Constitution to grant justice and equal opportunities to them. It has resulted that the improvement in the social and economic conditions has been
recorded among Scheduled Caste categories of the society. Though education, income and health are considered the pivotal anchors of development in every society, development in the field of education is one of the indicators to improve the economic conditions. It is concluded that the present state of the educational and economic conditions of scheduled castes have been improved and the literacy gap between Scheduled Castes and Non-Scheduled Castes have been reduced by a significant level; the dropout rate is also on the lower among the children of SCs.

It is regrettably inferred that Government Sectors have been neglecting the reservation policy. The rate of disparity in the implementation has been high and in the phase of globalization, the government policy is discouraging the reservation policy. It is consequently evident that upward mobility across generations is moderate for the educational level and a significant level of the occupational status has improved between SCs and Non-SCs. This also brings to the fore the fact encouraging occupational diversification of agricultural labourers to non-agricultural labourers between these groups. It is found that the satisfactory socio-economic conditions directly influence the pattern of education in the area. As a result all-round development of the village has been possible. It can only be concluded that though there are inconsistencies among social groups, these are not uniform across states in magnitude, in direction and trends and in a few cases go against common perceptions.
SUGGESTIONS:

- A massive and quick programme for appropriate small, minor and medium irrigation projects should be initiated for the benefits of SC farmers with a view to uplift their socio economic status, productive capacity and the living standards. This leads not only to improve the productivity of their un-irrigated lands but also the total national food production.

- In order to improve economic conditions of the respondents, the Government should take necessary steps to increase the marketing facilities of their products.

- It is necessary to provide for periodical revision of minimum wages keeping the changing price trends in view. The surplus land and newly reclaimed land should be allotted only to agricultural workers. The best strategy would be to promote non-agricultural works to increase the economic status.

- The government should devise special skill development courses for the target groups, keeping in view the market viability and their traditional skill base. This will encourage them to undertake entrepreneurship, self-employment and other income generation activities so as to move away from agricultural wage earnings.

- The agriculture department and the department of small scale industry should train the respondents in the field of agriculture and small scale industry for the purpose of establishing self employment schemes.
The scheduled caste population is generally engaged in traditional occupations and many of them are also involved in agricultural related activities. But, changing economic growth, landholding fragmentation pattern and mechanization of farming have made main impediments being the respondents. Therefore, the government should reorient the employment strategy to absorb the growing labour force by creating more job opportunities and a growth strategy focusing on the primary sector, which can sustain and absorb the increasing employment needs.

Efforts should be made to revitalize and expand the agriculture sector and to be open training centres to impart skill development training to respondents in diverse occupations.

In order to improve the skills of SCs, the Government should provide training, and identification of appropriate institutions and activities, imparting wide range of captive job-oriented vocational training to the educated unemployed youth, providing linkages for job placement or self-employment through Entrepreneurial Developmental Programmes (EDP).

The young generation should choose alternative occupation like self employment programmes instead of searching government jobs only and there should be implemented programmes for skill development of migrant labour to increase their employability.
**Skill improvement and youth employment need to be the focus and otherwise we cannot shift people from agriculture to non-farm sector.**

**Education is considered as a significant tool for human development; therefore, the need for qualitative education beginning with elementary school up to higher level can serve as sound base for empowerment of these people particularly in Adi-Dravida Welfare Schools.**

**Government should play an active role in making more and more people literate irrespective of Caste, Creed and Religion.**

**Programmes like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan should be implemented on priority basis in those SC areas where the literacy gap is on higher side between national and the SC literacy rate. It is necessary that the implementation of tuition fee concession for SC should be made regardless of income limit of the parents.**

**SCs are not conscious about family planning. Proper awareness regarding family planning and its impact on economic condition is needed at the earliest.**

**Housing is one of the basic needs of human being. Proper housing exerts a profound influence on people’s health and develops character among them. Infrastructure and provisions under the housing schemes meant for the economically poor sections in both rural and urban areas should be adequately strengthened.**

**The effort is made to identify extremely vulnerable sections within SCs and specifically cater to their requirements.**
The Government should be monitoring the Special Component Plan in order to ensure flow of funds at least to the extent of the Scheduled Caste population to improve the socio-economic conditions.

The SCs STs OBCs and Minorities have been forced to remain as the Weaker Sections of India, and the Women confined or oppressed to be the most and multiply exploited sections of the Country, for nearly four millenniums. This bad situation can not and should not continue anymore.

Lack of proper infrastructure is a common reason behind the underdevelopment. As such transportation, communication, electricity, credit facilities etc must be improved in the village by the respective development authorities through well planned projects.

At present, reservation policy for scheduled castes is applicable only to posts in the public sector undertakings besides those in Government. As part of economic reforms pursued by Government of India and State Governments steps are being taken for privatization of public sector enterprises through outright transfer, disinvestments of share and offloading of some jobs to contract agencies.

It has been a fact that the creamy layer with much broader base is emerging within the scheduled caste population. Consequently, the benefit of developmental and welfare strategy undertaken in the social, economic and political area need to be reoriented in order to support the lesser privileged one. The classification of scheduled
castes in two groups (A and B) based on the backwardness level is urgently required to percolate the benefits of these developmental strategies to the underprivileged among the scheduled castes. Earlier such experiment had been successfully implemented in the States of Haryana and Andhra Pradesh.

- The Government authority should be in keep vigil over the implementation of socio-economic schemes for Dalit communities, ensuring cent percent achievement of the targets and reaching the intended beneficiaries.

- There must be significant representation of SCs in the decision-making posts, which could help further for the development of SCs as a whole.