CHAPTER II
REGIONAL PATTERN OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RURAL POPULATION

The incidence of child labour and its various dimensions are closely linked to region-specific demographic, educational and economic characteristics. These features of a region could, to a large extent, determine the variations in the magnitude of child labour. In this chapter, various characteristics of demography, education and economy have been examined for each of the following four regions of Haryana. This is done with the intention to get a broad overview of the dynamics of the above-stated characteristics in each region and then inter-link these with the phenomenon of child labour. These four regions of Haryana are: Siwalik, Eastern Haryana Plains, Aravalli and Western Haryana Plains and the following specific characteristics have been examined across these regions.

1. Characteristics of the population
   i. Distribution of population,
   ii. Population composition according to social groups,
   iii. Child composition,
   iv. Average number of children per household.

2. Educational characteristics
   i. Literacy rate,
   ii. Educational level of the adult population,
   iii. Literacy level of the head of the sample household.

3. Economic characteristics
   i. Land-ownership pattern,
   ii. Household type in terms of employment status,
   iii. Distribution of employed in various industrial sectors.
   iv. Poverty level.
These are the variables which are expected to explain the participation of children in work and have been examined for further analysis in the subsequent chapters. Further, these characteristics are studied across different social groups i.e. schedule caste, other backward castes (OBC) and others (Non-Schedule caste/Scheduled Tribes/OBC) in order to understand the variations in the demographic, educational and economic features of the regions within these social groups.

**Demographic Characteristics**

*Distribution of Population:* Haryana accounts for 2.51% of India’s total rural population. Half of the population in Haryana resides in the Eastern Haryana Plains while the Aravalli and the Western Haryana Plains share the second position with about 20% each of the states rural population (Table 2.1). Haryana’s population consists of a higher proportion of males (53 percent) than females (47 percent) and the sex ratio also is tipped towards male. In this state for every 1000 males there are 891 females, much below the national average of 939 females per thousand males. Across the state as well the sex ratio is biased towards males with Siwalik region in the north having the maximum gap (777 females per thousand males). Similarly, the gap in the ratio of males to females is wider in the Eastern Haryana Plains than the states’ average. In the Western Haryana Plains and the Aravalli region the sex ratio is biased towards males but the gap is narrower than the states’ average (Table 2.1).

Haryana is predominantly a patriarchal society and a male member heads 92% of the total rural households while a female heads only 8% of the households. At the regional level, the percentage of the households headed by males is higher than the states’ average in the Siwalik, the Eastern Haryana Plains and the Western Haryana Plains while in the Aravalli, female headed households are higher than the states’ average but still the male member dominates the decision of the households (Table 2.11). Across all three social groups as well, the male member is in charge and is at the head of the household. Household’s where women is at the head is slightly higher for the SC (13%) as compared to the ‘other’ (9%) and the OBC (7%) social group (Table 2.11a to 2.11c).

*Population composition according to social groups:* In Haryana, the dominant social group is the ‘Other’ followed by the OBC’s and then the SC’s. As seen in Table 2.2, ST forms an extremely small percentage of total population (1%) in Haryana. Hence, our analysis would be concentrated on the dominant social groups which are the Schedule caste (23%), the Other
Backward Caste (30%) and the ‘Other’ (46%). Within the regions too, a similar pattern in social group is followed with the ‘other’ being a dominant social group followed by the other backward caste and then the schedule caste. The Siwalik region is the only exception where the OBC is higher by 4% than the ‘other’, while the SC social group is still in the minority. The distribution of social groups across regions is presented in Table 2.3 and it can be seen that of the total Schedule caste in Haryana, 50% reside in the Eastern Haryana Plains followed by the Western Haryana Plains and the Aravalli region. Similarly in case of the OBC’s, 56% reside in the Eastern Haryana Plains followed by the Aravalli and the Western Haryana Plains respectively. The Eastern Haryana Plains also has more than half (55%) of the total population of the ‘other’ social group, followed by the Western Haryana Plains and the Aravalli region respectively.

Population in the age group 0 to 14: In rural Haryana, two-fifth of the population comprises children (Table 2.5). At the regional level, the Eastern Haryana Plains and the Aravalli account for a higher proportion of child population in their respective population while the Siwalik and the Western Haryana Plains have a lower proportion of children to the states’ average. The Eastern Haryana Plains has the maximum concentration of child population and this holds true for all the social groups. Further, among the children a higher proportion (38%) is in the age group 10-14, followed by 33% in the 5-9 age groups with the least (30%) in the age group 0-4. Composition of children according to gender follows a similar pattern as the adult composition with more boys than girls at the state as well as at the regional level (Table 2.6 to 2.8).

Studying the child composition according to social groups it is found that in the age group 0-14 the OBC’s have the highest proportion of children (43%), followed by the SC (38%) and the ‘other’ social group (35%). Additionally, in all the three social groups under study, the 10-14 age groups comprise the maximum proportion of children. As far as the sex ratio is concerned, interestingly it is balanced in the case of the SC social group while in the OBC’s and the ‘other’ social group there are more boys than girls. In fact, in the SC child population a higher proportion of girls than boys are observed in the Eastern Haryana Plains, the Aravalli and the Western Haryana Plains. In case of the OBC and the ‘other’ child population, the four regions follow the state level pattern of imbalance of the sex ratio (Table 2.8a to 2.8c).
**Average Number of Children per Household:** Table 2.9 presents average number of children in 0 – 14 age group by gender and social groups. In Haryana on an average there are three children per household, with boys being more in number than girls. A similar pattern is obtained at the regional level also. Disaggregated at the social group level it is found that the schedule caste households have two children with an equal number of boys and girls. On the other hand the OBC and the ‘other’ have one child per household and that child is generally a boy. This pattern is similar at the state as well as the regional level for all the three social groups. In the 10 - 14 age groups as well, on an average there are two children per household with boys and girls being equal in number (Table 2.10). At the regional level, the Eastern Haryana plains and the Aravalli region have two children per household while in the Siwalik and the Western Haryana Plains there is only one child per household and that child is generally boys.

The overall demographic characteristics for Haryana are as follows:

1. Eastern Haryana Plains accommodate more than half of the population of Haryana resides in the.

2. The sex ratio is biased towards males in rural Haryana. This is true for all the four regions in Haryana.

3. The dominant social group is the ‘others’ i.e. non ST/SC/OBC, followed by the OBC and then the schedule caste. This composition of population is uniform for all the regions except the Aravalli where OBC is a dominant social group. Schedule caste is a minority social group in all the four regions.

4. More than half of the child population of Haryana is concentrated in the Eastern Haryana Plains.

5. The highest proportion of population is found in the age group of 10-14 years in all the social groups and at the state as well as the regional level.

6. Proportion of boys is higher than the girls in 10-14 age group across all social groups except amongst the schedule caste.

7. Average number of children (in the age group 0-14) per household in Haryana is 3, with a higher number of boys than girls.
Educational Characteristics

**Literacy Rate:** Rural Haryana has a higher literacy rate (64%) for the population 7 years and above than the national average for rural India (60%)\(^1\). Table 2.12 presents data on proportion of literates in total population by gender and social groups. In the Siwalik and the Aravalli regions, literacy rate is higher than the states’ average while the Eastern Haryana Plains, which has the maximum concentration of population, has marginally lower literacy than the states’ average.

There is a wide difference in the literacy rates between the social groups. The literacy rate for the ‘other’ caste is 15 percentage points higher than that for the schedule caste. At the regional level, the literacy rate for the SC is the lowest (35%) in the Western Haryana Plains. The literacy rate amongst the OBC social group is slightly higher than the SC, with about 59% of the OBC being literate in Haryana. The Eastern Haryana Plains, where more than half of the OBC population is found, has the lowest literacy rate as compared to the rest of the regions. The ‘other’ social group in Haryana has the highest literacy rate amongst the social groups, with about 68% of their population being literate. For the ‘other’ social group, literacy rate in all the four regions do not vary much from the state’s average. Gender differences in the literacy rate exist in all three social groups with males being more literate than the females.

**Literacy rate for children in 5-14 age group:** In Haryana, 80% of children in the age group 5-14 are literate. Except for the Eastern Haryana Plains, all the other three regions have literacy rates above the states’ average. Literacy rates by social groups as indicated in Table 2.15 show that the schedule caste children have the lowest literacy rate (72%) compared to the OBC (80%) and the ‘others’ (85%). The lowest literacy rate in Haryana amongst the SC children (41.83%) is observed in Western Haryana Plains. The lowest literacy rate in OBC children (57.7%) are found in Eastern Haryana Plains. At the regional level, Eastern Haryana Plains have the lowest literacy rates in children amongst all the four regions of Haryana.

In 5-14 age groups, a higher proportion of boys are literate than the girls. This holds true for all the three social groups at the state as well as at the regional levels. Further, within each region, SC children have the lowest and the children of the ‘other’ social group have the highest literacy rate (Table 2.17).

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\(^1\) [http://www.education.nic.in/htmlweb/edusta-pt3.htm](http://www.education.nic.in/htmlweb/edusta-pt3.htm), statement 8.7

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Educational Level among the Literates in Haryana: Level of education in Haryana is fairly low as maximum proportion of literates (60%) has attained education up to primary level. On the other hand, only 16% have attained middle level education, about 21% have attained secondary and higher secondary level while only 2% have reached graduation. This pattern is visible at the regional level too with the maximum proportion of literates having education below primary level. Gender differences exist at each educational level, with males more educated in proportion to the females.

Level of education by social groups in Table 2.18 (a) and (b) indicates that maximum proportion of SC and OBC literates are educated only below primary, followed by primary level. In fact, if we club together the educated below primary and primary levels, it accounts for about 70% in the SC and the OBC social groups. Literates with a higher educational level are very low in proportion in these two social groups. This situation is consistent at the regional level too. On the other hand, the literates in the ‘other’ social group are concentrated in a higher proportion in the middle and secondary educational level (Table 2.18 (c)). Further, at a higher level of education i.e. secondary and higher secondary and graduate, the proportion is higher for the ‘other’ vis-à-vis SC and OBC social group. This holds true at regional level too (Table 2.20).

Education of the Head of the Households: In Haryana and its regions, half of the members (who are mostly males) heading the household are illiterate (Table 2.21). The literacy rate of the heads of the households is the least (55%) for the SC social group. In fact, in Western Haryana a staggering 70% of the heads of the SC households are illiterate (Table 2.21 a). With respect to the OBC households, 53% of the heads are literate. Siwalik and Aravalli regions have literate heads of the households more than the states' average, while Eastern Haryana Plains and Western Haryana Plains have lower than the states' average (Table 2.21 b). For the ‘others’ category of social group, 66% of the heads of the households are literate in Haryana. At the regional level, 77% of the head of the other households are literate in Aravalli regions while only 57% of the head of the households are literate in Western Haryana Plains (Table 2.21 c). Thus, the comparative analysis of the social groups indicate that a higher proportion of the heads of the households from the ‘others’ are educated as compared to the OBC and the SC households.
Hence, the following broad features of educational characteristics emerge for Haryana and its regions:

1. 64% of the population (7 years and above) is literate, and the literacy rates across the regions do not vary much from the states' average.

2. Literacy rate is higher for males as compared to females.

3. Literacy rates are the highest for the non SC/ST/OBC social group while it is the lowest for the SC social group. This scenario is similar at the state as well as at the regional level.

4. 80% of the children in the age group 5-14 are literates with boys having a higher literacy rate than girls.

5. Among the social groups, SC children have the lowest literacy rate while the children of the 'other' social group have the highest literacy rate. This is true at state as well as at the regional level.

6. 60% of the literates have attained education below primary and primary level, 16% middle and 21% up to secondary and higher secondary level, with only 2% being graduates'. These proportions are maintained at the regional level too with very less variation from the states' average.

7. The male out-number in proportion the girls at every educational level.

8. Among the social groups, schedule caste literates have the lowest level of education. 70% of the SC literates have attained education only below primary and primary level. As one goes up the ladder of educational level, the proportion of SC literate starts declining with only 1% reaching the graduation level. Similar is the case with the OBC literates.

9. In case of 'other', level of education is better than the SC and the OBC literates. In the ladder of educational level, 50% of the 'other' group is educated below primary and primary level (as against 70% for SC literates) and about 45% are educated up to middle, secondary and higher secondary level (as against 28% for SC literates).

10. The literacy rate of the heads of the SC household is fairly low in Haryana, with three in every four member being illiterate.
Regional Pattern of Socio-Economic Characteristics of Rural Population

Economic Characteristics

*Land Holding Pattern:*

In order to facilitate the understanding of the land ownership pattern within each of the four regions, the households have been divided into two categories of landless and landed. The landed are further sub-divided into five more classes, depending upon the size of land owned. The land holding categories are as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landholding Categories</th>
<th>Land Possessed (ha)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landless</td>
<td>No Land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td>0.01 - 0.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small</td>
<td>0.41 - 1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>1.01 - 2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large</td>
<td>2.01 - 4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Large</td>
<td>4.01 and Above</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Incidence of landless households, in Haryana, is fairly low with only 5% of the households owning no land. Variation in the incidence of landlessness at the regional level is high, with 11% of the households in Siwalik owning no land while at the other spectrum in Western Haryana Plains only 1% of the households are landless. In case of land holding categories, three-fifth of the households fall in marginal and small landholdings categories i.e. up to 1.00 ha, 11% each are medium landowners, large and very large land owners respectively.

Incidence of landlessness across the social groups is the highest (9%) amongst the schedule castes households in Haryana. The corresponding proportion for OBC’s and ‘others’ is 7% and 2% respectively. In the Siwalik region as high as 20% of the SC households own no land while that for the OBC’s is 12% and the ‘other’ 2%. In the land owning categories, the proportion of households owning up to 0.4 ha of land is the highest among SC (83%) followed by the OBC’s (59%) and the ‘others’ (18%). It is also noted that the proportion of households owning land of size more than 4.00 ha is maximum for the ‘others’ (19%) as compared to the OBC’s (5%) while none of the sample SC households owned land which was more than 4.00 ha. In fact, only 1% of the SC households owned land between 2.01 to
Regional Pattern of Socio-Economic Characteristics of Rural Population

4.00 ha. The related proportion for the OBC's is 7% and for 'others' it is 20% respectively. Across regions as well, majority (75% to 90%) of the schedule caste are marginal farmers. In fact, if we club landless and marginal landowners, then 90% to 95% of schedule caste falls in these two categories (Table 2.23a).

Furthermore, the households belonging to the non SC/ST/OBC ('others') social group have almost an equitable distribution of landholdings as compared to the SC households. At the state level among the 'others' households, 18% are marginal landowners, 22% are small land owners, 19% are medium landholders, 20% are large landowners and 19% are very large farmers. Amongst the regions as well this even distribution in land holdings is maintained in the 'others' social group.

A comparison between the social groups in each of the land size categories reveals that a higher proportion (42%) of SC households own marginal landholdings as compared to the OBC's (36%) and the 'others' (21%). On the other hand, in the larger land size categories, the 'others' is the dominant group. For instance, among the medium land size category, 75% of the households belong to the 'others' social group, 20% are from the 'OBC's' while only 4% belong to the SC social group (Table 2.24). Similarly among the large and very large land size holdings, 82% of the households belong to the 'others' social group, 16% are the OBC's and only 2% of the SC households own land which is four hectares and above. Hence it can be observed that in the marginal landholding category, SC's are the highest in proportion followed by the OBC's and then the 'others'. In the small, medium, large and very large and holding categories the 'others' is the dominant group followed by the OBC's and then SC's. This pattern of the distribution of land holding category across the social groups holds true for all the four regions.

Household Types in terms of Employment Status:

The NSSO determines the 'household type' based on the type or the nature of work which fetched the maximum income to the household during the reference period of 365 days preceding the date of survey. About 55% of the households in Haryana depend on agriculture for their income. The proportion of households depending on self-employment is higher (35%) compared to those depending on wage labour in agriculture (19%). Outside agriculture, 16% of the households are self-employed in non-agricultural activities, 9% work as labourers in public work and 22% work in other occupations in rural areas. In the regions
as well, maximum proportion of the households are self-employed in agriculture except in the Aravalli region. Here, dependence on agriculture is the least as compared to the other regions as 70% of the households depend on the income from the non-agricultural sector. Within the non-agricultural sector, proportion of households depending on other occupations ² is higher (42%) compared to self-employed (12%) and wage labour in public works (12%). Further amongst the regions, households dependent on wages both from agriculture and non-agriculture sector, is the highest in the Siwalik region followed by Western Haryana Plains. In the Eastern Haryana Plains, an equitable distribution of households is observed across the household’s types, with self-employment in agriculture the dominant income generating type of work for 36% of the households (Table 2.26).

A comparison between the nature of work performed by the households from the SC, OBCs and the ‘others’ social group indicates that the proportion of households depending on self employment is considerably higher among the ‘others’ households (70%) compared to the OBCs (48%) and the SC (22%) households. On the other hand, proportion of ‘rural labour’ households “who earn wages which place them at the bottom rung of the rural poverty ladder, are characterized by casual forms of labour, precarious working conditions and little or no social protection” ³ is higher among the SC (57%) and the OBCs (33%) as compared to the ‘others’ households (7%). A lower proportion of SC households as self-employed in agriculture and in the non-farm sector in Haryana as compared to others, indicates the lack of access of SCs to ownership of land and capital. Hence, inadequate access to the factors of production for self-employment activities leaves no option to SC workers but to opt for manual wage labour predominantly in the agricultural sector. Preponderance of the SC households depending on wage labour is observed across the state except in the Aravalli and the Siwalik region (fig 2.i). In the Aravalli region, 50% of the SC households fall in the other occupation (in non-farm activities) category while 31% are rural labour households and the rest depend on self-employment.

² The category of "others" covers two types of earnings, namely (a) those households whose major source of income arises mostly from contractual employment with regular wages and salaries and (b) those who earn their living from non-labour assets without direct participation in gainful economic activity. The latter category of non-participatory earnings (as distinct from participatory earnings may include current returns from ownership of immovable assets (land or real estate) or from past financial investments, or receipts from public or private transfers (including pension and remittances)” http://www.cdedse.org/pdf/work118.pdf #sear;:h="povertyestimates,India", pg3.
HARYANA
Proportion of Wage Labour in Total Wage Labour Across Social Groups

WESTERN HARYANA PLAINS

Proportion to Total Wage Labour

OTHERS

SC

OBC

EASTERN HARYANA PLAINS

ARAValli

Proportion

OBC

38.37

49.19

14.80

17.28

67.92

10.66

34.12

55.21

4.70

55.48

39.82

SIWALIK

12.44

Fig 2.1

Plate 2
In contrast to the SC households who are largely dependent on the wages from the agricultural sector, the OBCs have a diversified occupational structure, with 60% of the households deriving their main income from the non-farm sector. Within this sector, the proportion of households dependent on self-employment is higher (26%) than those dependent on wage labour (13%). At the regional level, all the regions conform to the states' pattern except in the Siwalik region where a large proportion (68%) of the households is dependent on agricultural sector and 34% in self-employed and wage labour occupations, respectively. In the non-farm sector, households dependent on wage labour account for a marginally higher proportion (14%) than the self-employed (12%).

Hence, it is evident from the data that among the self-employed households, the 'others' households are the highest in proportion while the SC households are the least in proportion. Among the households who are self-employed in the non-farm sector, OBC households are the highest in proportion followed by the 'others' social group. Here again SC households are the least in proportion. In the labour category (both agricultural and non-farm) the proportion of SC households are the highest. This scenario amongst the social groups at the regional level is similar to the state level (Table 2.27).

**Industrial Distribution of Employed**

As far as the participation of employed in the industrial categories in rural Haryana is concerned, the predominant sector is the primary sector. Table 2.31 shows that about 63% of the workers are engaged in the primary, 19% in the secondary, and 18% in the tertiary. Within the secondary, manufacturing employs a slightly higher percentage of workers (9.6%) as compared to construction (8.3%). In the tertiary sector, the 'other industry' which includes those employed in real estate, computer and related activities, education, service activities like sewage disposal etc is the important industry employing 8% of the workers. Industrial distribution of the employed at the regional level follows a similar pattern as at the state. In all the four regions, agriculture is the dominant sector followed by secondary (construction and manufacturing) and tertiary (the 'other' industry)

Comparing the industrial distribution of workers between the three social groups it is noted that for the schedule caste workers, primary sector is the dominant sector which employs 57% of the workers, 28% in the secondary and 15% in the tertiary. Within the secondary sector, construction is the important industry employing 18% of the SCs workers.
Similarly in all the regions construction is an important industry providing employment to SC workers. In the Siwalik region, manufacturing is the dominant industry employing slightly more (39%) of the SC’s workers than agriculture (37%). After manufacturing and agriculture, the next important industry is construction which employs 24% of the SCs workers in this region. In the Aravalli region, maximum proportion of SCs workers are employed in construction (38%) followed by agriculture (23%) and then ‘other industry’ (18%).

In case of the OBC workers (Table 2.31 b), 51% are engaged in the primary sector, followed by the secondary (manufacturing) sector with 30% of the workers while the tertiary sector (primarily wholesale & retail trade) employs 19% of the workers. Hence, at the state level the OBC workers are primarily engaged in agriculture followed by manufacturing and then construction. Wholesale and retail trade is another important industry in the tertiary sector that employs 8% of the OBC workers. The pattern of the industrial distribution that is observed at the state level is observed for all the four regions as well.

As far as the industrial distribution of the workers from the ‘others’ social group is concerned, 74% of the workers are engaged in the primary sector, followed by 20% in the tertiary and the rest in the secondary (6%). Within the tertiary sector it is the computer related activities that is an important industry for the workers from the ‘others’ social group in contrast to the SC workers who are primarily engaged in construction. The secondary sector (manufacturing) employs only 5% of the workers from this social group. The pattern in the industrial distribution of the employed at the regional level is similar to the state level for the ‘other’ social group.

Further, among the social groups a higher proportion of ‘others’ are employed in the agriculture than the SC and the OBC workers. In the manufacturing industry the OBC forms the bulk of workers followed by the SC. On the other hand in construction, schedule caste workers are higher in proportion than the OBC as well as the ‘others’. This holds true at the regional level as well (Table 2.32).

Incidence of Poverty:

Haryana has one of the lowest proportions of poor in India\(^4\), with 9% of the population falling below the poverty line. Proportion of population below the poverty line in

\(^4\)\url{http://www.wws.princeton.edu/~rpds/downloads/deaton_dreze_poverty_india.pdf#search="poverty estimates, India", pg 1731.}
HARYANA
Proportion of Poor in Total Population
Across Social Groups

Fig 2. ii
Plate 3
Haryana and its region is presented in Table 2.32. Variation in the incidence of poverty across regions from the state’s average is fairly low. The lowest poverty incidence is found in the Eastern Haryana Plains (7%) while the highest is found in the Western Haryana Plains (12%). The regional distribution of the poor indicates that the largest proportion (40%) is found in the Eastern Haryana Plains, which incidentally is also the most populous of all the four regions. Western Haryana Plains has 26% of the state’s poor though it accounts for 20% of the state’s rural population. The lowest proportion of poor out of total poor in Haryana is found in the Siwalik region (14%).

A comparative analysis of the social groups indicates that the proportion of poor is the highest (26%) in the SC group, followed by the OBC (6%) and 2% for the ‘others’. The highest incidence of poverty among the SC is found in the Siwalik region, where 37% of the SC population is poor. The least poverty incidence is found in the Eastern Haryana Plains where 20% of the SCs are poor. Further, among the social groups, 66% of the poor in Haryana are schedule caste followed by the OBC and the ‘others’. It is evident from the figure 2.ii that within the regions too, majority of the poor belong to the SC social group followed by the OBCs. In fact, in the Western Haryana Plains, 81% of the poor are from the SC social group. Thus, the overall poverty levels of SC population are relatively high with not much variation from the state average. On the other hand, the proportion of poor among the OBC social group varies considerably from the state average. For instance, in the Aravalli region 11% of the OBC population is poor while in the Western Haryana Plains, 3% of the OBC are poor.

To recapitulate, following are the broad economic characteristics that emerge out of the analysis:

1. In Haryana, 51% of the landowning households are marginal farmers who are as good as being landless. Landless and households with marginal landholdings together account for 55% of the total households. Preponderance of households with marginal landholding is witnessed at the regional level as well.

2. Among the social groups, within the landless households, SC households form the largest proportion while the ‘others’ are the least in proportion. Similarly, among the households with marginal landholdings, SC constitutes 40% followed by the OBC and ‘others’. But as the land-size category starts increasing, the proportion of
households from the ‘others’ social group starts increasing while that of SC starts declining. This pattern is similar for all the four regions.

3. The dominant household type in Haryana is self-employed in agriculture followed by households employed in other occupations. But if we club self-employed in agriculture and agricultural labourers, about 55% of the households are dependent on agriculture for their livelihood.

4. Among the households self-employed in agriculture, the dominant social group is the ‘others’ followed by the OBC and the SC. Among self-employed in non-agriculture households, the OBC constitute the largest in proportion while the SC are the least. On the other hand, in the rural labour households, SC constitutes the bulk followed by the OBC, while ‘others’ constitute only 10% of the labour households.

5. Primary sector is the dominant sector providing employment to more than 60% of the workers in rural Haryana. The next important sector is the secondary followed by the tertiary sector. Within the secondary it is the construction industry that is dominant especially for the workers from the SC social group. The workers from the ‘other’ social group are primarily employed in the computer related activities in the tertiary sector. This holds true at the regional level as well.

6. 9% of the total population in Haryana is below poverty line. Variation in the incidence of poverty at the regional level from the state average is very low.

7. Among the social groups, the highest incidence of poverty is found in the schedule caste followed by the OBC and the least in the ‘others’ social group.

**Conclusion**

In this chapter, the characteristics of population, educational and economy of rural Haryana across social groups have been discussed. Summing up, the analysis of the key characteristics of population (sex ratio, composition of social groups, child composition by age-group, and average number of children) has resulted in the following observations. Firstly, the proportion of children in total population is high i.e. on an average, households in rural Haryana have three children. Secondly, within the child population, the proportion of children is the highest in the 10-14 age group. Thirdly, the sex ratio in rural Haryana is biased towards male in the adult as well as in the child (0-14 age group) population. This is true
across the social groups as well, except in the case of the SC social group. Amongst the SC social group, the proportion of girls is higher than the boys in the age group 10-14. With respect to education, it is observed that the literacy rate for rural Haryana is higher than the average for rural India. Regarding the literacy rate for children, 80% are literate with large variations in the literacy rate (15 percentage point) between the social groups. The gap in male-female literacy is also wide in rural Haryana and is witnessed among the children as well as in the adults. Furthermore, the level of education attained by the literates is fairly low in this state, with three-fourth educated only up to primary level.

The key characteristics regarding the population distribution, sex ratio, education, employment and economy for the regions in Haryana are as follows:

**Siwalik Region**

1. This region has the lowest proportion of population in Haryana.
2. The dominant social group is OBC followed by the ‘others’ and then the SC’s.
3. 34% of the children in Siwalik are between the age group 10-14. Within the social groups, the OBC have the highest proportion of children between the age group 10-14 followed by the ‘others’ and the SCs.
4. Siwalik has the highest literacy rate amongst all the regions in Haryana. Further, literacy rate is the highest for the ‘others’, followed by the OBCs and the SCs.
5. Likewise, maximum proportion of the head of the households is literate in the Siwalik compared to the rest of the regions.
6. Proportion of landless is the highest in this region when compared to other regions. Further, landlessness is the highest in the SC households in this region compared to the other regions.
7. Dominant landholding category in Siwalik is marginal landholding. Three fifth of the households among the ‘others’ social group primarily own landholdings up to 2 ha while one-fifth of the households own land above 4.0 ha. This region also has the least proportion of households among ‘others’ owning less than 0.40 ha of land as compared to other regions.
8. Dominant household type is self-employed in agriculture followed by agricultural labourers, with a higher proportion of SC households deriving their main income working as agricultural labourers compared to the OBC households and the ‘others’.

9. Dominant industry providing employment is agriculture followed by manufacturing and then construction. A higher percentage of workers from the OBC and the ‘others’ social groups are employed in agriculture compared to the SC. On the other hand, a higher proportion of SC workers are employed in manufacturing and construction as compared to the OBCs and ‘others’.

10. Incidence of poverty in Siwalik is higher to the state average. Further, proportion of poor among the SC social group is the highest in this region as compared to rest of Haryana.

*Eastern Haryana Plains*

1. This is the most populous region of Haryana with 50% of the state’s population found in this region. ‘Others’ is the dominant social groups followed by the OBC and then the SCs.

2. Proportion of SC children in the age group 10-14 in total SC children is the highest in this region as compared to other regions of Haryana.

3. This region has the second lowest literacy level in Haryana. Further, in this region literacy level for children is the lowest in Haryana.

4. Similarly, literacy of the head of the household in this region is the second lowest in Haryana.

5. Predominantly households own marginal landholdings in this region followed by small landholdings. The SC and the OBC households in this region primarily own marginal landholdings. An equitable distribution of land holding is observed among the ‘others’, with one-fifth of the households owning large areas of land (2.01 to 4.00 ha).

6. Dominant form of household type is self-employed in agriculture followed by agricultural labourers and other occupation. This region has the second highest proportion of SC households as agricultural labourers as compared to other regions.
7. Agricultural sector is the dominant sector providing employment to the workers in this region followed by manufacturing and construction like the state’s pattern of industrial distribution of workers.

8. It has the least incidence of poverty in Haryana. Likewise incidence of poverty in the SC social group is also the least in this region when compared to other regions.

**Aravalli Region**

1. It is the third most populated region of Haryana. Within this region the OBC and the ‘others’ are the dominant social group while the SCs are the minority social group in this region as well.

2. Literacy rate for the total population and for children of this region is above the state average. Further, this region has the maximum proportion of the head of the households who are literate as compared to the rest of Haryana.

3. In the land size categories, maximum proportion of the households own marginal landholding followed by small landholdings. This region has the highest proportion of the SC households owning marginal landholdings compared to other regions. This region has the maximum OBC proportion of households owning small landholdings compared to other regions.

4. Predominant household type in this region is that of other household type (non-manual and non-self employed). At the social group level, proportion of the SC, the OBC and the ‘others’ working in other household type is the highest when compared with the rest of the regions.

5. Agriculture is the predominant sector of the regional economy providing employment followed by construction and computer related activities.

6. Incidence of poverty is at a slightly higher level as compared to the state level, with one-fourth of the SC population below the poverty line compared to one-tenth for the OBC and one per cent for the ‘others’.
Western Haryana Plains

1. This region is the second most populous region in the state. The ‘Others’ social group is the dominant group of this region.

2. Within the child population, 40% are between the age group 10-14, the highest when compared to other regions. Children in the age group 10-14 from the ‘others’ social group is the highest in this region compared to rest of Haryana.

3. This region has the lowest literacy rates for both adults and children as compared to the rest of Haryana. Literacy rate for the head of the household is also the lowest in this region.

4. Households in this region predominantly own marginal landholding followed by large landholding.

5. Self employed in agriculture and agricultural labour is the dominant household type in this region.

6. Agricultural sector employs 74% of the regions workers, the highest compared to other regions. Hence agriculture is the dominant industry of the regional economy.

7. Western Haryana Plains has one of the highest incidences of poverty in Haryana, with proportion of poor among the SC population being the highest when compared to Eastern Haryana Plains and the Aravalli region.