

RC 21 Social Problems and Marginalized Groups

1. Marginalized Groups: Status and Challenges

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No society is free from marginalised groups and weaker sections. However, the core bases of marginalisation differ from society to society. While in most of the European and Western societies, skin colour is one of the important bases of marginalisation of blacks, in Indian society, division of population on the bases of birth as per the preambles of *Varna system* became core base of marginalisation of significant segment of population who were placed outside for fold *Varna system*, who are today constitutionally known as Scheduled Castes. Irrespective of their achieved background, SCs are perceived as marginalised groups. STs are outside the *Varna system*. They are animist with distinct cultural heritage. It is claimed that they are the victim of geographical segregation and maternal exploitation by outsiders. It is claimed that with the passage of time, due to multiple reasons, their subjugation have become intense. They are another category of marginalised groups. Women as a category are perceived as marginalised because in the patriarchal framework, historically they have suffered denial and subjugation.

After becoming independent and adopting democratic form of governance, India made effort to enlarge space meant for marginalised groups. Today its boundary is more spacious and in broad comparison to situation few decades back. There are many groups and social categories which have been termed as marginalised or who are making effort to be declared as marginalised groups. Important among these groups are widows, war victims, persons with disability, destitute, lesbians, trans-genders, AIDS victims and so on. It is the moral responsibility of the state to identify, protect and promote concerns of all these segments of population. Many policies and schemes have been formulated in favour of such population. But so far as functioning and outcome of these schemes are concerned there are views and counter views. If we have success stories, we have also many more challenges. It is argued that under the given development framework which is based on top-down approach how social justice and human rights related issues may be addressed successfully? How we can achieve socialistic goal with so-called capitalistic path? How one can ensure improvement in the quality of life of these populations? Some challenges are local and some are macro, some are historical and some contemporary. How to understand plight of all these groups? To what extent our research methodology is capable enough to comprehend plight of these groups? What is the scope of inter-disciplinary perspective in the understanding of these groups? What efforts need to be taken for overall understanding as well welfare and development of these groups? These are some of the pertinent issues which have been addressed in the article.

2. CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF SCHOOL DROPOUTS AMONG THE MARAM NAGA PRIMITIVE TRIBE, SENAPATI DISTRICT, MANIPUR: A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY

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In Maram Naga Tribe, most drop out students has led a bad shape in the society or community that greatly effect in educational deficiencies, economic and social well being. Most students leaves school not as a result of difficulties but in response to situation that emerge late in their schooling careers such as severe peer victimization, family financial problems, frustration out of weakness in their studies and lack of state government support either in educational facilities or Teachers. Every year almost half of the class failed in 10th standard during their matriculation exam, follow by class 9th standard due to lack of Teachers in Science stream especially in the government schools, as a result school dropout rate among Maram tribe students has become a serious problem.

However, there are also some common weaknesses on students such as poor performance in the exam, psychological fear and lack of understanding language leads to failure among the ST students. Thus, this paper will examine the issues faced by the students and trying to understand and solve these complex social and educational problems.

3. Issues relating to Toy making families at Kondapalli village in Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh

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The toys are being made by toy making families said to have migrated from Rajasthan several generations ago. The toy making families who make these toys are known as “Aryakshatriyas”. It is said that these craftsmen migrated from Rajasthan to Kondapalli around the 16th century bringing with them the art of crafting toys. This 400-year old tradition has passed on from generation to generation with every member taking part in the toy-making activity in “Toy Colony” of Kondapalli. Over the years, Kondapalli toy has become a collectible from a plaything. The industry is not only profit making units but also taking care of functional aspects of the society as Sociology clearly conveys through one of its perspectives – *structural functionalism*. Each individual has to contribute his mite to the protection of environment during his life time and the future generations have to carry out the same without any compromise. Small-scale industries have been given an important place in the economy of both developing and developed countries. In India the small scale industrial

sector has registered rapid growth. In view of the importance of small-scale industrial sector, the growth and development has attracted a good deal of academic attention. This paper throws a light to bring out all these problems and issues from sociological perspective.

4. Educating Students with Visual Impairment for Social Inclusion

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Contrary to the popular perception, children and adults with visual impairment and other disabilities are invaluable human assets. What they need is due recognition and opportunity in a right-based and inclusive environment. A meticulous rehabilitation programme, superior quality integrated education can make a visually impaired person a productive member of the society. The present study conducted on visually impaired students enrolled in various Integrated schools located in New Delhi through National Association for the Blind (NAB) and Institution for the blind (IFB), New Delhi reveal that students of these Integrated educational settings are confident and independent and do not consider themselves as burden for their families and society. They feel that their stay, exposure and training in an integrated educational setting help them to learn and compete with their sighted counterparts in their academic as well as extra-curricular activities which will help them to be a part of mainstream as productive members of society. However, there are some problems which these students face even in Integrated schools which need to be taken care of through timely policy interventions for their inclusive growth and development.

5. Impact of Generation Gap on Social Institutions

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The clash between the two generations is not new in society; it has been bound in the culture of every nation of the world. There is a difference of attitudes and conducts between different generations that leads to lack of understanding. Every generation resides under different conditions thus they tend to develop their own system of values and views and wants to uphold the principles they believe in. The youth develop new values and ideologies while the older generation wants to keep traditional culture. In this changing scenario this perceived gap between two generations effects various social institutions.

The area chosen for this study is Bhopal city and is based on analysis of primary and secondary data according to the need of this paper.

The objectives of the paper are:

- To study the impact of generation gap on social institutions.
- It also aims to study the differences in values between the two generations.

To study the causes that leads to generational differences.

6. Challenges of women workers in unorganized sector in Salem district of Tamil Nadu:

A Sociological study from Salem district of Tamil Nadu

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Unorganized sector in India consists of all unincorporated private enterprises owned by individuals or households engaged in the sale or production of goods and services operated on a proprietary or partnership basis and with less than ten total workers. Amongst the characteristics of this sector are effortlessness of way in, smaller scale of process, local possession, vague legal status, labour-intensive and operating using lower technology based methods, flexible pricing, less sophisticated packing, absence of a brand name, unavailability of good storage facilities and an effective distribution network, inadequate access to government schemes, finance and government aid, lower entry barriers for employees, a higher proportion of migrants with a lower rate of compensation. Employees of enterprises belong to the unorganized sector have lower job security and poorer chances of growth, and no leaves and paid holidays, they have lower protection against employers indulging in unfair or illegal practices. This paper focuses on this area to deliberate several problems.

7. Sociological Analysis of PRIs in Central India with special reference to scheduled tribes

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In 1959, the Balwantrai Mehta Committee suggested that an agency should be set up at the village level which would not only represent the interests of the village community but would also take up the development programmes of the government at its level. The gram panchayat which was to constitute this agency was, therefore, perceived as an implementing agency of the government in a specific, namely, developmental sphere. In 1977, the Asoka Mehta Committee recommended a fundamental change in this concept of panchayati raj. It asked for transformation of the panchayat from an implementing agency to a political institution. In order to implement this re-recommendation the need for constitutional amendment was felt. In April 1993, the 73rd (Constitution Amendment) Act came into force and accordingly, all the states have amended their laws relating to local self-government. Present study will examine the role and responsibilities of PRIs in central India with special reference to scheduled tribes. The study was conducted in tribal dominated villages of Timarani Block of Harda district. Panchayati raj will become relevant to the lives of our people only if it can contribute significantly to the economic life of the masses in our country. Such meaningfulness can be assured only if economic policy-making in the country is clear on the spatial aspects of economic life. The question is not simply to not having the powers, but also of their ignorance as to what powers they should exercise.

8. Marginalized Nomadic Community- A Study of Narikkuravas in Tamil Nadu (Health Conditions)

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To study the opinion of selected nomadic tribal communities (Narikkuravas) of Pudukkottai district of Tamil Nadu State in India on health, health needs, and health care services. Methods: A cross-sectional study involving 63 nomadic populations in selected area of Keerannur was undertaken. A perception on regarding various health issues among the study populations were obtained through semi-structured questionnaires. Results: The major insight of nomad tribal populations on health, health need and health care services are lack of infrastructures, inaccessibility to health institutions, ill-treated by government hospitals staff, acceptability and affordability are some of the main problems contributing to their poor health status. Conclusion: The Nomad tribal environment and sense of community with its associated strong social networks are identified as key determinants for common perception in all communities. However, the inaccessibility to health care and reluctance to seek help for health issues remain a significant problem in nomad tribal areas. In considering priorities for health, greater effort and resources are required to increase their awareness and change attitudes towards health issues.

9. Denotified Tribes: Institutional Notion and Grass-root Reality

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India is the home of largest tribal population of the world constituting 8.6 per cent of nation's total population. Historically, tribal communities were in core of the ethnographic studies by various anthropologists and called by various terms by various scholars like adivasi, backward hindus, adimjati, aboriginal, vanjati and the fourth world etc. In context of India, communities scheduled in fifth schedule of Indian Constitution are called Scheduled Tribes and affirmative action and provisions are framed for their development since they are believed to be under developed and marginalized. Over the time, they are being categorized on the basis of their pattern of earning livelihood like hunter, food gatherer, artisan, nomadic and agriculturist etc. particularly vulnerable tribal groups on the basis of socio-economically under developed. In the same manner, a section of tribal communities are said to be denotified tribes whose history can be traced back from colonial period. Basically, these are the nomadic tribal communities who wandered here and there to earn their livelihood since they were believed to be involved in criminal activities like theft and robbery they were notified as criminal tribe through Criminal Tribe Act, 1871 in British India. After

independence, Government of India passed Habitual Offender Act in 1952 and the communities notified through CTA, 1871 were denotified through the act and efforts were made to settle them to improve their socio-economic status. Institutionally these communities are not called as criminal tribes and they are becoming like so called mainstream society but at grass root level the reality is different. On the basis of prejudices of people for them they are becoming victims; they are punished and molested on the ground of the stigma adhered by CTA which is going to be unveiled in this paper in the light of incidences occurred in various part of the country with communities notified through CTA.

10. Issues of Women Agricultural Laborers in Sathyamangalam Taluk of Erode District, Tamil Nadu: A Sociological Study

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India is one of the counties in the world to have many labourers who are depending upon the agriculture and allied activities. This particular sector is in a position to provide employment opportunities for more than 70% of the work force of our country to cultivate the important items like rice, wheat, fruits, vegetable etc., to the people of our country and some other products are being exported to foreign nations. Apart from the said products, India is occupying the second position in connection with dry fruits, agriculture based textile materials, roots, tuber crops, pulses, coconuts and innumerable vegetables. Our country is one among the five largest producing entities of the world to yield more than 80% of cash crops which include coffee and cotton. India is achieving this type of agricultural production because of the committed labor force which is directly or indirectly involved in agriculture and allied activities. Mostly the women are taking the responsibilities in agricultural activities and simultaneously looking after their routine domestic works. The care-giving activities to the children, aged and the needy are the main agenda which shapes the personalities and stabilize the individual. The women agricultural laborers faces lot of issues in their working time Social, Political and Economic. In this context, the proposed research is going to be carried out in Erode district of Tamil Nadu.

11. Socio-Economic and Educational Conditions of Muslims in Telangana: Some Observations

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The significance of the social surveys has been increasing in the society in contemporary times. The uneven social structure and the concomitant socio economic problems emerged from time to time in the wake of modernization, thus bringing the role of

state to the core addressing these issues with a policy formulation, contributed to an enormous growth of the role of the social surveys. Because it is the supportive data collected through a systematic study, which requires for policy formulation in favour of a community/group that is seeking policy in its favour, based on the conditions of socio-economic and educational backwardness it experiences. Thus the social survey with the evidence of data it has collected, negotiates between the development policy and the development deficit and therefore serves as a bridge to fill that gap. The Sachar Committee report is one such example which brought out, with the help of the enormous data with an intensive study, the enormous socio-economic backwardness surfacing the Muslims in India, on the basis of which there have been the demands articulating the policy like reservation for the Muslims in educational and employment opportunities. The importance of Sachar committee is located in such a way that (1) it not only came in the midst of arguments concerning the backwardness of Muslims which was being a fact but remained a rhetoric in the wake of lack of supportive data about the same, but (2) it remained benchmark to talk about the exclusion of Muslims from development paradigm, and (3) It recommended for a creation of data bank on the Muslim minorities thus making useful for policy makers. Following the report particularly its recommendation of data bank creation, there have been attempts to study on Muslims. It is interesting to note that there are Certain states which took up the task of developing data on the status of Muslims and thus planned to tackle the backwardness among the Muslims. In this regard the recent study undertaken in the State of Telangana on the socio-economic and educational conditions of Muslims in this newly formed state, thus reflecting upon the promise made by the ruling Telangana RashtraSamiti (TRS) in its election manifesto to provide 12% reservation for Muslims, assume significance. Given this background, this paper presents the socio-economic and educational conditions of Muslims in Telangana as reflected in the report undertaken in the State and submitted recently.

12. The Impact of Globalization on Women in India: A Sociological Study

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The role of women in India have been changing and they are now emerging from the past traditions into a new era of freedom and rights. The basic objective of this paper is to examine the changing role of women due to globalization in Indian society. This concern is not merely academic but is central to the process of emerging development in India.

There is a need to evaluate the impact of globalization on women in India and also to know the positive & negative impacts of it on the position of women in India at present. In this paper, I focus on some of the ways in which, directly or indirectly, globalization impacts the everyday lives of women in India. The ruthless game of globalization can only go on at

the cost of the flesh and blood of ordinary people: the vulnerable are offered on its altar. People (women and men) do not hesitate to use members of their own kind, so long as faces remain invisible, in support of their own interests. For a patriarchal, capitalist, consumerist, globalize society, the lives of women and children become expendable.

13. Trends of Health and Education in a Little Community: The Case of Bharia PVTG of Madhya Pradesh

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Bharia is a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) (earlier called Primitive Tribal Group) residing in a bowl shaped valley known as Patalkot which comes under Tamia Development Block of Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh. The depth of the valley ranges from 1300 ft. to 3500 ft. with 31 square kilometre of area. Gond and Bharia tribe reside in about 23 small hamlets which have been amalgamated in twelve villages for administrative purposes. The area is remote and surrounded by forest with poor means of transportation and communication. The geographical features of the area kept it parted from the mainstream for several years after independence but developmental interventions brought them in contact with outer world and expose them for the process of change like acculturation, assimilation, sanskritization and modernization etc. Declaration of Bharia as PVTG received special assistance of state and central government and NGOs for their development. Efforts were made for their educational development and improvement in their health status which are said to be the criterion of their vulnerability. Modern education system was introduced in place of their traditional dormitory system and modern health practices were introduced in place of their traditional healing practices through natural medicinal herbs.

Taking into account the imposed and induced changes among them an attempt has been made in this paper to seek answers of questions- What is the emerging trend of health practices among them? What is the trend of education among them? and, What are the hindering factors and possibilities of improvement among them in context of health and education? The study is based on primary data collected through semi-structured interview schedule, group discussion and field observation. Various reports, studies and survey have also been utilized for secondary data to comprehend the study and to make it more comparative.