

A Study on Educational Status of Dalit Women through B.R. Ambedkar Perspective: A Special Reference to the Dharwad District in Karnataka

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Abstract

I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have achieved – Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

Education is only key instrument for bringing about a social order based on value of equality and social justice. The State's special promotional efforts have undoubtedly resulted in educational progress for the Scheduled Caste (SC) especially in regions where policy implementation combined with the dynamism of reform, and most crucially with anticaste, dalit, and religious conversion movements. In the state is withdrawing from social sectors of education, health and delegating its social commitments and responsibilities to private agencies. There is already enough indication that basic educational needs of the SC women's getting seriously undermined under the new dispensation adversely affecting life chances of vast sections of those who have yet to make the shift to first generation learning. Total SC population 8.6 as per the 2011, beside women constitutes 48% of the total population of India. The principle of gender equity is enshrine in Indian Constitution in its preamble, fundamental, rights, fundamental duties and directive principles and also reducing the gender gap in overall education level. But till now women especially, SC women's facing more problems in our society because of, properly they won't reach government policy, scheme and education. Karnataka states achievements in education have been quite remarkable, and the state is moving towards universal literacy at a steady pace. The literacy rate increased from 66.64 % in 2001 to 2011 75.6 %, with the female literacy rate increasing more swiftly than the male literacy rate. Overall, the gender disparity in literacy is declining rather perceptibly and the decline is much more evident in the less economically developed districts of the state. However, the significant point is the increase in total as well as female literacy among the SC women's, though still at lower pace as compared to the overall population for the country. Hence, this paper is discussion in education status of rural and urban SC women in Dharwad district. A major limitation of the analysis is the inability to provide a comprehensive picture covering all states of the country. The analysis puts forward key issues that merit serious consideration as well as the major recommendations of them.

Keywords: Scheduled Caste (SC), Women, Education, Gender Equality, Social Justice.

Introduction

Historically, the Indian society is highly stratified and hierarchical in character. The stratified and hierarchical nature of Indian society involves institutional processes with more discriminatory and socially

excluded relations depriving certain groups on the basis of caste. This physical and social segregation within the Hindu society has deprived certain groups very intensively in the form of untouchability. It is this institutionalized exclusion of the low caste untouchables, from access to economic rights, civil rights and human holistic development. Which has caused severe poverty and deprivation among them. Due to this, they have poor purchasing power, having poor housing conditions, low access to resources. They were also denied in accessing fundamental needs like education, opportunity, social justice etc., compare than others. Majority of peoples don't know about "Education is recognized as a fundamental human rights (Article 21 – A) and along with other necessities, such as food, shelter and water in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (1948). SC is official designations given to various groups of historically disadvantaged people in India. The terms are recognized in the Constitution of India and the various groups are designated in one or other of the categories. During the period of British rule in the Indian subcontinent, they were known as the Depressed Classes. As per the 2011 census, Karnataka has a literacy rate of 75.6% with 76.29% of Males and 57.45% of females in Karnataka being literate. Especially study area of that Dharwad District Female literacy rate 61.92, has a rural female literacy rate 2011, 47.70. Sex ratio is 949 and number of the rural families Below Poverty Line (%) 20.91 Notice educations only key instrument for bringing about a social order based on value of equality and social justice. Expansion and democratization of the education system was sought, the two primary democratic goals of which were the universalisation of elementary education and the educational "upliftment" of disadvantaged groups.

Dalit women education status in India

The Indian society is based on a unique socio-cultural phenomenon the caste system, which is essentially a religious system, sanctioned and sustained by Hinduism. There is no caste system outside the Hindu context. Speaking about the caste system, **J.H. Hunton** concurs that it is an exclusively Indian phenomenon and that no other society in the world can be compared to the caste-ridden society of India (**J. H. Hunton, 1963: 40**). Caste inequality and hierarchical thinking permeate every aspect of life in India. The most affected by this growing inequality are those who by their birth bear the stigma of untouchability. That means its making **Silent abuse on the dalit women in the nation**. There are about 250 million dalits in India. There is meagre improvement in the socio-economic condition of dalits in the past 50 years. Which that is not enough when compared to non-dalits. Of course, much more needs to be done. The urgent need is to have a national sample survey on dalits. Every fourth Indian is a dalit. There is no proper survey to give the correct number of dalit women in India. They are generally scattered in villages and they are not a monogamous group. About 75% of dalits live Below Poverty Line. Economic backwardness of dalits is mostly due to injustice done to them by the high castes and also due to exploitation. From the time immemorial they worked like slaves, sold as commodities resulting in their social discrimination, economic deprivation and educational backwardness. To assess the position of dalit women in India.

Education to Women through DR.B.R Perspective

Education to women is the most powerful instrument of changing their position in the society. Education also brings about reduction in inequalities and also acts as a means to improve their status within the family. It is the education which is the right weapon to cut the social slavery and it is the education which will enlighten the downtrodden masses to come up and gain social status, economic betterment and political freedom (**Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**). In order to encourage education of women at all levels and to dilute gender bias in the provision and acquaintance of education, schools, colleges and even universities

were established exclusively for women in the country. To bring more girl children, especially from marginalised BPL families, into the mainstream of education, Government has been providing a package of concessions in the form of free supply of books, uniform, boarding and lodging, clothing for hostilities, mid-day meals, scholarships, free by-cycles and so on. Many universities such as Mother Teresa Women University (TN), Karnatak Women's University Vijayapura(KA) have been established for the development of Women Studies and to encourage higher education among women and their social mobility. **E.V.Ramasamy Periyar** contribution for the upliftment of Women also great one. He condemned the lower strata of Women's on the name of superstitious in Religion. He wanted women should be given equal right along with men. On these, he reformed many like Self-respect marriages, Widow-remarriage, Abolition of Child marriages. However rape, violence against women, gender discrimination, and physical abuse are all problems that face more by women in India now-a-days. National Crime Records Bureau, 2001-11 reports that the extent of atrocities committed against Scheduled Class is enormous. It highlights that there have been 15,917 Scheduled Class women raped. How many laws may come these atrocity peril will be end only when the Women themselves destroy all these shackles of slavery. He strongly believes that social education and political elevation of women are the foundations for all this change. That's why **Dr. Babasaheb** insisted on the education of girls. He strongly believed that if a boy gets education, he is the only person to get educated in a family. Perhaps, if a girl child is educated in a family, the whole family is benefitted.

Research Methodology

Statement of the problems

- Most of the literature on SC women education in India was descriptive in nature. But there is need to put the variables into theoretical frame work and analyses the variables at different levels of education.
- Very few attempts have been made to construct the composite educational development index for SC women population.

Objectives

- To study the literacy status of the respondents in rural and urban areas in Dharwad district in Karnataka.
- To determine their problems and remedies for their problems in the society.

Tools for Data Collation

In the present study data was from both 'primary' as well as 'secondary' sources.

Sample Size

The study has been drawn by using simple random sampling method. Total sample selected for the study are formulated 100 respondents from rural 50 and from urban 50 respondents. In this study, from different age groups and geographical areas has been selected as respondents. An interview schedule was used for data collect.

Tool for Data analysis

The primary data were collected for completeness, tabulated and analysed for the drawing of inferences. In the present study, the simple per cent method was adopted. Here, descriptive design was used to describe

the data.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

Table 1: Personal Details

S. No	Characteristics	Particulars	Rural		Urban	
			Respondents	Percentage	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Age group	10-15	06	12	03	06
		16-20	10	20	12	24
		21-25	11	22	16	32
		Above 25	23	46	11	22
2.	Occupation	Skill	07	14	18	36
		Unskilled	26	52	16	32
		Unemployment	17	35	16	32
3.	Monthly Income in Rs;	1000-3000	08	16	03	06
		3000- 5000	14	28	07	14
		Above 5000	11	22	24	48
		0(Unemployment)	17	35	16	32
4.	Religions	Hindu	31	62	26	52
		Christian	16	32	14	28
		Muslim	03	06	10	20
		Others	0	0	0	0

Source: Primary data from the field

From the above table, it is clearly found that, in rural 12 per cent and from urban 06 percent belonged to the age group of 10-15 years. Whereas 20 per cent belonged to rural and 24 per cent of the respondent from urban in 16 to 20 years. Whereas 22 per cent respondents rural and 32 from urban belonged to 21 to 25 years. Were 46 per cent of the respondents from rural and 22 per cent from urban belonging to above 25 years.

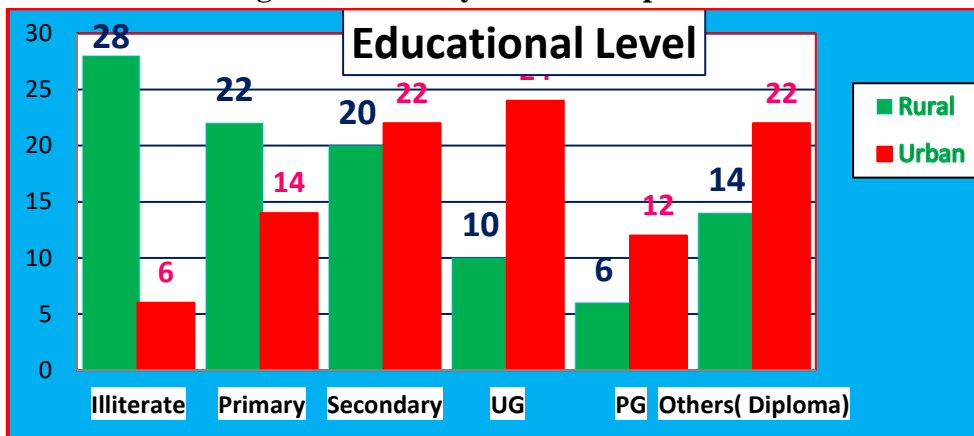
From the above table, it is clearly found that, 14 per cent from rural and 36 per cent of the respondents from urban skilled workers. Rests of the 52 per cent of the respondent were rural and 32 per cent from urban unskilled workers. And 35 percent from rural and 32 percent from urban respondents were unemployment.

The respondents were asked about their Monthly income 16 per cent of the rural and 06 per cent of the urban respondent’s income from Rs.1000 to 3000 per month. 28 per cent of the from rural and 14 per cent from urban respondents earned Rs. 3000 to 5000 per month and only 22 per cent of the rural and 48 per cent from urban respondents earned more than Rs. 5000 thousand.

Among the total respondents, 62 percent from rural and 52 percent of the urban respondents belong to Hinduism. From the table one finds that 32 percent of the rural and 28 percent of urban belong to Christianity. Likewise, only six percent of the rural and 20 percent of urban respondents are followers of Islam. However, it is inferred that, larger proportion of respondents constituting more than 60 percent of

respondent belong to Hindu religion, it is very orthodox cultural practice due to this society treat of SC women's as inauspicious compare rural to more than urban.

Figure: 1 Literacy levels of respondents



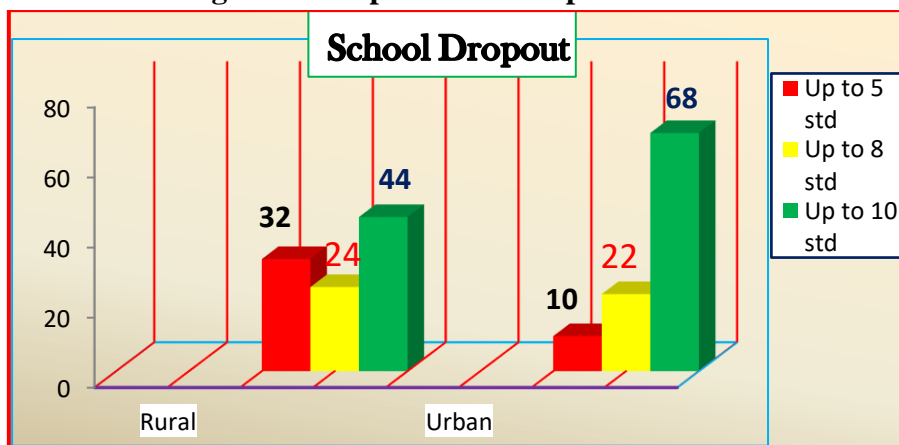
The above figure shows that level of education about SC women rural and urban in Dharwad District. The 28 per cent from rural and 06 per cent of the respondent's urban illiterate. While 22 per cent rural and 14 per cent of the from urban respondents studied up to primary level, only 20 per cent from rural and 22 per cent from urban respondents completed high school level. Were 10 per cent from rural and 24 percentage from urban respondents studied up to Under Graduate level. Whereas Only 06 per cent of the respondents completed from rural and 12 percent from urban respondents completed Post Graduate level. And 14 percent respondent from rural and 22 percent from urban studied diploma.

Table: 2 Dropout from rural and urban dalit women's

S.No	Characters	Particulars	Rural		Urban	
			Respondent	percentage	Respondent	Percentage
1	Dropout	Up to 5 std	16	32	05	10
		Up to 8 std	12	24	11	22
		Up to 10 std	22	44	34	68

Source: Primary data from the field

Figure: 2 Dropout of the respondents



The table and figure shows that, level of dropout about SC women in Dharwad district. 32 per cent from rural and 10 per cent of the from urban respondent’s dropout up to primary level. While 24 per cent rural and 22 per cent of the respondent from urban dropout up to 8th std level. 44 per cent from rural and 68 per cent from urban respondent’s dropout up to high school level. So majority of the rural SC people not going to school more that primary level compare then urban.

Table: 3 Awareness about education to SC women’s respondents

S. No	Characters	Particulars	Rural		Urban	
			Respondents	Percentage	Respondents	Percentage
1	Do know Indian Government introduced free education	Yes	22	44	29	58
		No	28	56	21	42
2	Do you know the special school of SC/ST community	Yes	19	38	25	50
		No	31	62	25	50
3	Do you know about special seats for level of higher education	yes	20	40	32	64
		No	30	60	18	36
4	Do you know education is a fundamental right in Indian constitution	Yes	12	24	26	52
		No	38	76	24	48
5	Your parent or society giving equal education like boys?	Yes	08	16	20	40
		No	32	64	30	60
6	Do you know free bus pass for going to school	Yes	26	52	30	60
		No	24	48	20	40
7	Up to which year free education is possible	5 to 10	16	32	10	20
		5 to 14	23	46	21	42
		upto 14	06	12	19	38

Source: Primary data from the field

From the above table, 44 per cent of the rural respondents and 58 per cent urban respondent said aware about free education providing our India government. Where 56 per cent rural and 42 per cent of the respondent from urban said doesn’t have awareness about free education.

The respondents were enquired about the special school of SC community, 38 per cent of the rural respondents and 24 per cent of the urban respondents were said know. Rest of 62 per cent of the rural respondents and 50 per cent of the urban respondents said that, does not have aware about special school for SC community.

The respondents were enquired about special seats for level of higher education, Only 40 percent rural and 64 percent respondent from urban aware about quota system in education. 60 per cent of the respondents from rural and 36 per cent respondents from urban does not aware about this.

The table shows that, 24 per cent of the rural respondents and 52 per cent of the urban respondents said education is a fundamental right according from Indian constitution. Remaining 76 per cent rural

respondents and 48 per cent from urban respondents said that, their does not know education is a fundamental right.

Whereas rural 16 percentages of the respondent and 40 per cent of the urban respondent said that parent and society giving equal education like boys. Were 86 per cent of the rural respondents and 60 per cent of the urban respondent said that, having discrimination of education between both genders. It is because of their parents don't have awareness about important of women education.

The respondents were enquired about free bus pass for going to school, 52 per cent of the respondent from rural and 60 per cent of the urban respondent said that, know about free bus pass for school student. Remaining 48 per cent of the rural and 40 per cent of the respondent from urban said that, were doing know about free bus pass scheme.

The above table shows 32 per cent of the rural respondents and 20 per cent of the urban respondents said free education is eligible 5 to 10 years. Whereas 46 per cent of the rural respondents and 42 per cent of the urban respondents said free education is 11 to 14 age group children's only adopted. Remaining 12 per cent rural respondents and 38 per cent of the urban respondents said that, understood the free education is eligible for only up to 14 age group children's.

Findings

1. Only 22 per cent respondents from rural and 32 respondents from urban belonged to 21 to 25 years. Were 46 per cent of the respondents from rural and 22 per cent of the respondent from urban belonging to above 25 years.
2. 52 per cent of the respondent was rural and 32 per cent respondents were from urban unskilled workers.
3. Only 22 per cent of the rural respondents earned more than Rs. 5000 thousand and 48 per cent of the urban respondents earned above Rs. 5000 thousands.
4. More than 60 percent of respondent belong to Hindu religion.
5. Were 10 per cent from rural and from urban 24 percentage respondents studied up to Under Graduate level. Whereas Only 06 per cent of the respondents completed from rural and 12 percentage from urban respondents completed Post Graduate level The studies clearly indicate that, from rural 32 per cent and urban 10 per cent of the respondents said dropout up to primary level.
6. 56 per cent rural and 42 per cent of the respondent from urban said doesn't have awareness about free education.
7. 62 per cent of the rural respondents and 50 per cent of the urban respondents were don't know aware about special school for SC community.
8. 76 per cent rural respondents and 48 per cent of the urban respondents said that, their does not know education is a fundamental rights.
9. 86 per cent of the rural and 60 per cent of the urban respondent said that, having discrimination of education between both genders.
10. 48 per cent of the rural and 40 per cent of the urban respondent said that, were doesn't know about free bus pass scheme.
11. 12 per cent rural and 38 per cent of the urban respondents said that, understood free education is eligible for upto 14 age group children's.

Recommendations

- Monthly Scholarships provide to SC students from 5th STD to Degree level, at least above Rs.1000/.
- After 12th std Job Oriented skill Training Programmes.
- Micro credit to one lakh women each year engaged in petty occupation.
- Establish the schools within easily accessibility.
- Every taluk establishing Counselling and Guidance Centre for motivating all the parents to send the children to school and not to work.
- Creating awareness to the SC families about the education facilities provided by the Government and NGO.
- Central and State government every six month monitoring and evaluating the all schemes and policy.

Discussion

This paper evidently indicates that, till dalit women suppress and oppressive by the society. Lot of reforms and revolution has happened and till initiated lot of government policy and programmes but discrimination is not reduced especially to rural areas. According to this study 56 per cent rural and 42 per cent of the respondents from urban said doesn't have awareness about free education. 76 per cent rural and 48 per cent of the urban respondents does not know education is a fundamental right. 86 per cent of the rural and 60 per cent of the urban respondents having discrimination of education between both genders. This results means, why the rural women only did not aware at least their fundamental rights? What is reason? Who is reason? Where is having solution? When was started this kinds of discrimination? When we will put the full stop for this kind of discrimination. How we will to do upliftment of women society mainly rural dalit women. Dr. B.R Ambedkar is the leader of many mass agitations of the dalits of Maharashtra. In order to educate his people he opened schools and colleges and played an important role in conscientising his fellow dalits. It was Ambedkar who made his fellow dalits aware of exploitative and oppressive caste system of India. He hammered one point: that caste is not a physical object like a wall of bricks or a line of barbed wire which has to be pulled down, but a notion, a state of the mind. According to him, it is difficult to walk out of caste, for it is only a class jacket. Ambedkar is called the Modern Manu and the saviour of the oppressed and discriminated dalit of India. He sharpened the sensitivities of the dalits and made them outward looking and able to articulate their suppressed feelings, and inspired them to demand their fundamental right as citizens of India. He conscientized them of the fact that only "self-help, self-development and self-assertion will break their bondage. He emphasized on struggle, struggle and nothing else but struggle." in order to free themselves from the clutches of caste system. **"without changing the social marginalization of the dalits, pursuing political and economic goals would not bring about the desired results"**. He encouraged the dalits to get involved in the politics so that social and economic freedom may be achieved gradually.

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