



RESEARCH ARTICLE

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF DALIT IN TAMILNADU

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ABSTRACT

As per census 2011, there are 72 million people in Tamilnadu among which 20.04 percent of the state population are scheduled castes. Tamilnadu is today the most urbanized state in India with 43 percent of the population living in urban areas. But the standard of living of the people belongs to scheduled castes is not reached the target. Still, their socio-economic conditions are not well structured and improved in Tamilnadu. Governments are taking various steps to develop living conditions of Dalit people, people have to come forward to utilize the schemes. This paper is an attempt to identify the socio-economic conditions of dalit in Tamilnadu.

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INTRODUCTION

The term 'Dalit' has roots in Sanskrit here the root 'dal' means 'to split, crack, and open'. *Dalaname* means tearing or causing to burst. Dalit means split, broken, destroyed, scattered, torn asunder. The term has gained a new connotation with a more positive meaning. The term is also an expression of their hope to recover their past self-identity. There are many sub-castes within the Dalit Community. They are positioned at the bottom of the Indian caste society. For centuries they were only allowed to pursue low-grade occupations. Tamil Nadu is one of the 35 states of India. Tamil Nadu is bound by the Eastern Ghats in the north, the Nilgiris, the Annamalai Hills, and Palakkad on the west, Bay of Bengal in the east, Gulf of Mannar, Palk Strait in the south east and Indian Ocean in the south. Tamil Nadu is the homeland of the Tamilians and has existed since prehistoric times. Tamil Nadu covers an area of 130,058 km² and is the eleventh largest state in India. According to Census 2011, the state's population is 72 million. The total population included 36,137,975 males and 36,009,055 females, while the decadal growth rate was 15.6 per cent. It is the seventh most populous state in the country. Tamilnadu recorded the lowest population growth rate in 1991-2001 among all the states and Union territories in India. Tamilnadu is today the most urbanized state in India with 43 percent of the population living in urban areas.

Total Population in Tamilnadu 2011

S.No	Indicator	2011
1	Total	72147030
2	Male	36137975
3	Female	36009055

Source: Census India 2011

Socio-economic conditions of Dalit in Tamilnadu

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Tamilnadu

The Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population together constitute nearly 20.04 percent of the State population. 70 percent of the Scheduled Castes and 85 percent of the Scheduled Tribes are living in rural areas. Socially disadvantaged groups of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes need a constant special focus for their socio-economic advancement.

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Population in Tamilnadu 2011

S.No	Indicator	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes
1.	Persons	14438445	794697
2.	Males	7204687	401068
3.	Females	7233758	393629

Source: Primary Census Abstract for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, 2011

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The following table shows the list of top 5 and bottom 5 districts by proportion of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Tamilnadu as per Census 2011.

Districts Ranked by Proportion of SCs 2011- Tamil Nadu

S.No	Top 5 Districts	Proportion	Bottom 5 Districts	Proportion
1	Thiruvarur	34.1	Kanniyakumari	4.0
2	The Nilgiris	32.1	Madurai	13.5
3	Nagapattinam	31.5	Krishnagiri	14.2
4	Perambalur	31.0	Coimbatore	15.5
5	Viluppuram	29.4	Tiruppur	16.0

Source: Primary Census Abstract for Total population, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, 2011

Districts Ranked by Proportion of STs 2011- Tamil Nadu

S.No	Top 5 Districts	Proportion	Bottom 5 Districts	Proportion
1	The Nilgiris	4.5	Karur	0.05
2	Dharmapuri	4.2	Sivaganga	0.06
3	Tiruvannamalai	3.7	Pudukkottai	0.08
4	Salem	3.4	Ramanathapuram	0.08
5	Namakkal	3.3	Virudhunagar	0.12

Source: Primary Census Abstract for Total population, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, 2011

Literates and Literacy Rate of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Tamilnadu

Tamilnadu is one of the educationally more advanced states in the country. The literacy rate stands at 80.1 percent (male literacy 86.8 % and female literacy 73.4 %), higher than the national literacy rate of 74.0 %. Female literacy rate is lesser than male literacy rate. Gender based inequality, social discrimination and economic exploitation, occupation of girl child in domestic chores, low enrolment of girls in schools, low retention rate and high dropout rate are the major reasons lesser literacy rate of female population in Tamilnadu. The provision of educational opportunities for women has been an important part of the every state endeavor.

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Literacy Rate in Tamil Nadu 2011

S.No	Indicator	Total Population		Scheduled Castes		Scheduled Tribes	
		Literates	Literacy Rate	Literates	Literacy Rate	Literates	Literacy Rate
1.	Persons	51837507	80.1	9411121	66.10	375343	53.20
2.	Males	28040491	86.8	5173599	75.20	214417	47.10
3.	Females	23797016	73.4	4237522	56.50	160926	59.17

Source: Primary Census Abstract- Tamilnadu Data highlights.

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Gender Ratio in Tamilnadu

Tamilnadu's sex ratio increased from 987 (females per 1,000 males) in 2001 to 996 in 2011. Nilgiris topped the sex ratio chart with 1,042, followed by Thanjavur (1,035) and Nagapattinam (1,025), while Dharmapuri (946), Salem (954) and Krishnagiri (958) were at the bottom.

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Gender Ratio in Tamilnadu 2011

S.No	Indicator	Tamilnadu	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes
		2011	2011	2011
1.	Total	996	1004	981
2.	Rural	993	1001	982
3.	Urban	1000	1010	980

Source: Primary Census Abstract- Tamilnadu Data highlights.

Work Participation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Tamilnadu

As per Census 2011, the total number of workers in Tamilnadu, is 32.9 million out of which 7 million are scheduled castes and 0.4 million are scheduled tribes. The main workers are 27.9 million and the remaining 4.9 million are marginal workers. The percentage of main workers among the total workers, in Census 2011, is 85.0% against 85.2% in Census 2001. Of this, 21.4 million workers are males and 11.4 million are females. Out of the increase of 5 million workers during the decade 2001-2011, male workers have accounted for 3.3 million and female workers 1.7 million. The Work Participation Rate (WPR) for Tamil Nadu works out to 45.6 %.

Work Participation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Tamilnadu 2011

S.No	Types of Workers	Total Population	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes
1	Main Workers	27942181	5651796	354441
2	Marginal Workers	4942500	1421265	78858
3	Non- Workers	39254277	7365384	361398

Source: Primary Census Abstract- Tamilnadu Data highlights.

Classification of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Workers in Tamilnadu

The broad categories of economic activities, also known as four-fold classification of the workers are, Cultivators (CL), Agricultural Labourers (AL), working in Household Industries (HHI) and Other Workers (OW). The cultivators and agricultural labourers broadly show the workers engaged in the agricultural sector, except those engaged in plantation activities, which, over the Censuses, have been considered as a part of 'other workers'. In Census 2011, out of 32.9 million total workers, 4.25 million are cultivators and another 9.6 million are agricultural labourers. Thus, nearly 42.1% of the workers are engaged in agricultural activities compared to

49.3% in Census 2001. More than half of female (54.9%) are engaged in Agricultural activities where as one-in-three male (35.3%) are engaged in this sector. Of the remaining workers, 1.4 million are in household industries and 17.7 million are other workers.

Classification of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Workers in Tamilnadu 2011

S.No	Category	Tamilnadu Worker's Population	Scheduled Castes Workers	Scheduled Tribes Workers
1	Cultivators	4248457	492987	17637029
2.	Household Industry Workers	1364893	134181	898767
3.	Agricultural Workers	9606547	3563747	22614122
4	Other Workers	17664784	2882146	9784087
	TOTAL WORKERS	32884681	7073061	50934005

Source: Primary Census Abstract- Tamilnadu Data highlights.

During the decade 2001-11, the Census results show a fall of about 8.7 lakhs in cultivators and an increase of about 9.7 lakhs in agricultural labourers. The household industries also have shown a decrease of 1.4 lakhs and other workers have increased by nearly 5 million.

Scheduled Castes people living below poverty line in Tamilnadu

Poverty as a multidimensional concept refers to lack of access to the basic needs of food, shelter, security, education, health services, safe drinking water, and sanitation for a decent, normal and effective existence. In measuring the incidence of poverty, estimating a poverty line is critical. The following table shows the scheduled castes people living below poverty line in Tamilnadu.

Scheduled Castes people living below poverty line in Tamilnadu 2011

Incidents of crimes against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Tamilnadu 2011

Tamil Nadu was the only State to record a downtrend in cyber-crimes last year. Crimes against women have come down in Tamil Nadu in 2015 when compared to the previous year, reveals National Crime Record Bureau data even though scheduled castes people are facing numerous crimes in the state. The following table shows the incidents of crimes against Scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in Tamilnadu for the year 2011.

Incidents of crimes against Scheduled Castes and

Scheduled Tribes in Tamilnadu 2011

S.No	Social Group	Incidents of crimes	
		2011	Rank
1	Scheduled Castes	1391	10
2	Scheduled Tribes	23	16

Source: National Crime Records Bureau.- Crimes 2011

Unemployment status of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Tamilnadu 2013-2014

Apart from other social problems like poverty, health care and education, the problem of unemployment is also addressed in a serious manner. Tamilnadu's unemployment status is however slightly better than the national average which stands at 5%. Of the 32.86 lakh unemployed in the state, 30.53 lakh residents are literate, 4.3 lakh of them being graduates. With reference to the negative indicator, Unemployment rate, Tamil Nadu takes the 8th and 6th positions in rural and urban segments respectively.

Unemployment status of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Tamilnadu 2013-2014

S.No	Indicator	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes
1	Males	1021598	27685
2	Females	981749	21364

Source: Director of Employment Training, Chennai.

Conclusion

In India, Dalits are considered as impure and polluting therefore physically and socially excluded. They are isolated from the rest of society. The whole Dalit community has to struggle for survival. The dominant social orders of the "touchables" are violating the most basic goal of society to guarantee security & happiness for people known as Dalit.. The socio- economic status of Dalits has to be improved. They have to be given equal recognition in the society.

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