

SOCIAL EXCLUSION AND DEVELOPMENT: A CASE STUDY OF RAJASTHAN

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Abstract

Rajasthan, being the largest state of India and also a culturally diverse state, is the home of a large number of communities. It is common knowledge that some communities are still lagging behind others in various facets of life even by moderate national and state standards. One of the major objectives of the government, reflected in various plan documents, has been to promote economic growth with social justice keeping in mind an egalitarian society. The paper examines the relative positions of SCs and STs vis-à-vis other social groups in Rajasthan. The study shows that an inverse association is observed between the populations in SC and ST dominated districts and their human development index. Unfair exclusion with differential treatment results in low access and participation of marginalized and socially excluded population groups, which ultimately causes low human development among excluded groups. The exclusion of and discrimination against scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the state continues to be quite widespread and deeply entrenched. In all socio-economic indicators of development (education, health, income) the status of these excluded communities continue to be low. Rajasthan is one of the lowest achievers in the country as far as socio-economic developments of its people are concerned. The Economic Survey 2011-12 released recently, has found that only Karnataka has performed poorer than the desert state. As per Human Development Report 2011, quoted by the Economic Survey, Rajasthan has slipped three places from the ranking of 14 in 1999-2000 to 17 in 2007-08.

Introduction

Social Exclusion has been defined by the Department of International Development (DFID) as a “process by which certain groups are systematically disadvantaged because they are discriminated against on the basis of their ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation, caste, descent, gender, age, disability, HIV status, migrant status or where they live.”

One of the major objectives of the government, reflected in various plan documents, has been to promote economic growth with social justice keeping in mind an egalitarian society. Both the central and

state planning authorities have framed and implemented various policies for improvement in standards of living of scheduled castes (SC) and scheduled tribes (ST) who have historically been most backward classes. In order to evaluate the impact of national and state level development programmes, it is important that we obtain an accurate picture of standard of living of these less privileged social and ethnic groups. The development process for any society/community is ultimately evaluated through its impact on quality of life and human well-being. Here the focus is on the economic status of these backward communities

using some standard measures of income inequality and poverty.

“The basic purpose of development is to enlarge people's choices. In principle, these choices can be infinite and can change over time. People often value achievements that do not show up at all, or not immediately, in income or growth figures: greater access to knowledge, better nutrition and health services, more secure livelihoods, security against crime and physical violence, satisfying leisure hours, political and cultural freedoms and sense of participation in community activities. The objective of development an enabling environment for people to enjoy long, healthy and creative lives” is how renowned economist Dr.Mahbub ul haq defined human development (HD).

The socio-economic development is a function of purchasing power, literacy, life expectancy.

Conceivably, almost all types of deprivations initiate from lack of access to income necessary to maintain a minimum acceptable standard of living. UNDP would call this 'Inadequate economic empowerment.' However the national and state average HDI, income inequality and poverty index figures mask much of the variations in empowerment across states and social groups. It is thus critical to observe the income inequality and poverty indices separately for SCs and STs to recognize the merits and limitations of planned development programmes aimed at improving the levels of living of these backward communities.

Apparently, household income is only an indispensable indicator of material well-being. An adequate household income is necessary though not sufficient to guarantee a reasonable quality of life. Higher the household income, greater is the possibility of leading a decent life, implying a higher level of well-being. This is exactly why a comparative analysis of earned income of households across communities is likely to unfold a few aspects

of quality of life in relative terms.

Social exclusion involves the systematic denial of entitlements to resources and services, and the denial of the right to participate on equal terms in social relationships in economic, social, cultural or political arenas. Exclusionary processes can occur at various levels – within and between households, villages, cities, states, and at the global level. As a condition or outcome, social exclusion is a state in which excluded individuals or groups are unable to participate fully in their society. This may result from:

- Their social identity (for example race, gender, ethnicity, caste or religion), or
- Social location (for example in areas that are remote, stigmatized or suffering from war or conflict).

As a multidimensional and dynamic process, social exclusion refers to the social relations and organizational barriers that block the attainment of livelihoods, human development and equal citizenship. It can create or sustain poverty and inequality, and can restrict social participation. As a dynamic process, social exclusion is governed by:

- Social and political relations, and
- Access to organizations and institutional sites of power.

Social exclusion is a process and a state that prevents individuals or groups from full participation in social, economic and political life and from asserting their rights. It derives from exclusionary relationships based on power (Jo and Piron, 2005)

Section 2 of this account describes objectives of the study, followed by review of literature in section 3. Section 4 deals with discussion and results and finally section 5 presents some concluding remarks.

Objectives

Rajasthan being the largest state and also a culturally diverse state is the home to a very large number of communities. It is common knowledge that some communities are still lagging far behind others in various facets of life even by moderate national and state standards. The objective of this paper is to contrast the level of poverty, health and education for SCs and STs vis-à-vis other groups in the population. Comparisons are drawn between SCs, STs and other groups on the basis of computed measures of poverty, health and education viz. percent of households below poverty line, important health outcomes like IMR, NMR, CMR, MMR etc., gross enrolment ratio respectively. Accordingly, the perceived objectives of the study are as follows:

- To analyze the status of SCs and STs in BPL survey.
- To study in Rajasthan inter-temporal change in the gross enrolment ratio. This is an important indicator of education.
- To examine the change in the health status of SCs and STs vis-à-vis other social groups.
- To highlight the share of crime against SCs and STs in the state.
- To suggest some policy prescriptions in order to improve the conditions of these social groups in Rajasthan.

The study is purely based on secondary data. The analysis has been carried out on the basis of data available in published reports of census of India, NFHS, BPL survey 2002 NUEPA and NCRB etc.

Status of SCs and STs: Discussion and Results

In this paper I have discussed the status of SCs and STs in terms of the following classifications:

Poverty Level: Poverty and social structure are uniquely intertwined in the state. Demographically, the state has a SC population of 96, 94,462 (census of India 2001) little over 17.2% of total population (5,65,07,188) being those belonging to the scheduled castes and over 12% belonging to the scheduled tribes. It ranks 7th in India in terms of total sc population and 10th in terms of their proportion to the total population among all states and Union territories. As per 2002 BPL survey, the state has a population of 15.28% to its total population recorded as those living below poverty line, less than the national average at 26.10. moreover, as per the World Bank's 1997 India Poverty Assessment Report the state's rural poverty was reported as 47.5% as against the national average of 36.7% in the country. Though, regional imbalance in growth and development is significant in the state of Rajasthan, the state has high concentration of poor in the resource-poor regions – largely occupied by the scheduled tribes. Among various causes, such regions have lacked severely in productive land, irrigation facilities, industrialization, skills and higher incidences of illiteracy.

Though various anti-poverty initiatives have been implemented by the government of India (GoI) and the state government, the results have been dismal on account of various reasons, mainly poor targeting and inefficient management. With the background, the DPIP was implemented in seven districts of Rajasthan during the period 2000-2007 with an objective of improving the status of the rural poor through increased income, improved standard of living, and improved social status.

Table 1 : Households below poverty line according to social groups

Districts	Total No of Households	Percent of Households among Social Groups			
		GEN	ST	SC	OBC
Ajmer	33921	4.56	9.02	23.01	63.42
Alwar	65100	12.01	26.36	24.79	36.84
Banswara	160617	5.60	83.00	5.93	5.47
Baran	47952	5.46	35.07	23.73	35.74
Barmer	127332	10.62	10.26	22.91	56.21
Bharatpur	49393	8.35	5.75	33.16	52.74
Bhilwara	94200	7.40	23.93	25.21	43.46
Bikaner	85281	32.53	2.06	29.09	36.32
Bundi	33562	5.35	21.91	29.97	42.77
Chittaurgarh	89862	7.77	48.57	18.20	25.46
Churu	68056	17.58	3.01	38.95	40.46
Dausa	49582	10.82	27.13	30.63	31.41
Dholpur	26964	16.99	7.93	30.70	44.38
Dungarpur	139367	5.00	82.24	4.74	8.02
Ganganagar	66437	5.65	1.97	64.10	28.28
Hanumangarh	44359	7.89	1.51	51.62	38.98
Jaipur	64960	12.63	16.58	28.72	42.07
Jaisalmer	24858	22.61	8.21	17.83	51.34
Jalore	79012	8.83	18.56	29.29	43.32
Jhalawar	50784	6.47	18.03	29.25	46.25
Jhunjhunu	14957	14.27	3.70	40.93	41.10
Jodhpur	68754	18.12	9.72	26.97	45.19
Karauli	60386	11.83	23.16	31.44	33.56
Kota	34387	8.24	14.73	35.89	41.13
Nagaur	56953	12.66	1.05	45.80	40.49
Pali	63618	6.63	20.03	31.58	41.76
Rajsamand	62028	12.43	25.29	16.72	45.56
Sawai Madhopur	42300	9.64	19.52	28.07	42.78
Sikar	27339	17.83	6.93	35.65	39.59
Sirohi	32538	4.48	56.71	22.46	16.36
Tonk	35544	7.86	18.82	29.41	43.91
Udaipur	255779	9.70	70.44	6.15	13.71

Source: Based on BPL Survey 2002.

Health Status: The health status of population is assessed on the basis of its health outcomes, reflected in indicators such as IMR, CMR, Neonatal Mortality, Post Mortality etc.

Table 2 : Health Outcomes: According to Social Groups

Indicators	SC		ST		Other	
	NFHS – 2	NFHS – 3	NFHS – 2	NFHS – 3	NFHS – 2	NFHS – 3
Neonatal Mortality	60.3	65.3	58.0	38.4	49.9	44.7
Post Neonatal Mortality	38.6	31.0	36.7	34.8	31.7	13.4
IMR	98.9	96.4	94.7	73.2	81.6	58.1
CMR	46.4	29.6	66.6	43.8	30.1	12.5
Under 5	140.7	123.1	155.0	113.8	109.3	69.9
Institutional	14.2	19.6	15.8	24.7	27.9	44.1
Home	84.9	80.4	84.1	75.3	71.6	55.9
No ANC	58.1	25.8	57.9	30.7	48.1	22.2

Source: NFHS II and III

Five districts in Rajasthan, viz., Udaipur, Banswara, Dungarpur, Jaipur and Chittorgarh account for more than half (54.50%) of the total ST population in Rajasthan (2001 Census). A cursory look at the general socio-economic development of the SC and ST population makes it evident that an inverse association is observed between the populations in SC and ST dominated districts and their human development index. Geographically, Northern and north eastern districts namely Ganganagar (33.72), Hanumangarh (26.13), Karauli (23.16), Bharatpur (21.70), Dausa (21.21), Churu (21.17), Dholpur (20.13), S. Madhopur (19.98) have more SC population and southern and southeastern districts namely Banswara (72.27), Dungarpur (65.14), Udaipur (47.86), Sirohi (24.76), Karauli (22.37), Chittorgarh (21.53) have more ST population. Except for Ganganagar, Hanumangarh and Bikaner all these districts occupy very low ranks in HDI. Health index is an important indicator of human development. The more developed a region is, higher is the value for health index and vice versa. Health index for the state is 0.588 in 2008. However, the health index for such a district as Dungarpur is 0.282, Banswara is 0.309 and other tribal predominant districts fall between 0.2 and 0.4.

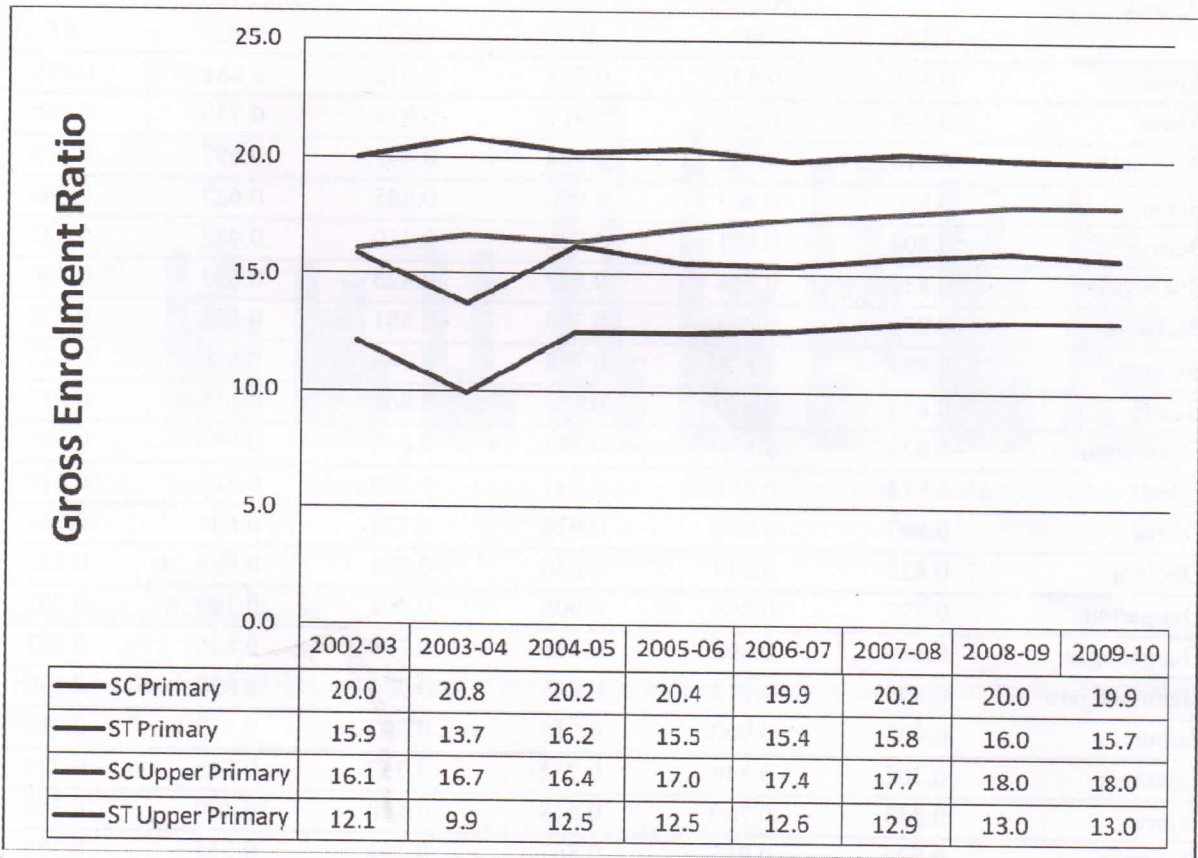
Table 3. Percent Change in Health Outcomes (1998-2005)

Indicators	SC	ST	Other
Neonatal Mortality	1.18	-4.83	-1.49
Post Neonatal Mortality	-2.81	-0.74	-8.25
IMR	-0.36	-3.24	-4.11
CMR	-5.17	-4.89	-8.35
Under 5	-1.79	-3.80	-5.15
Institutional	5.43	8.05	8.29
Home	-0.76	-1.49	-3.13
No ANC	-7.94	-6.71	-7.69

Source: Computations by authors based on NFHS data

Education: Following is an overview of the enrolment of SCs and STs teachers which has been almost stagnant from 2004-05 to 2009-10

Figure 1. SC and ST Teachers in Elementary Education



Source: Various Reports NUEPA

Elementary Education: The process of education and attainments has an important impact on all aspects of life. Education in the present context, is perhaps the single most important means for individuals to improve personal endowments, build capability level, overcome constraint and in the process enlarge their available set of opportunity and choices for a sustained improvement in well being

Following is an overview of the status of education in State

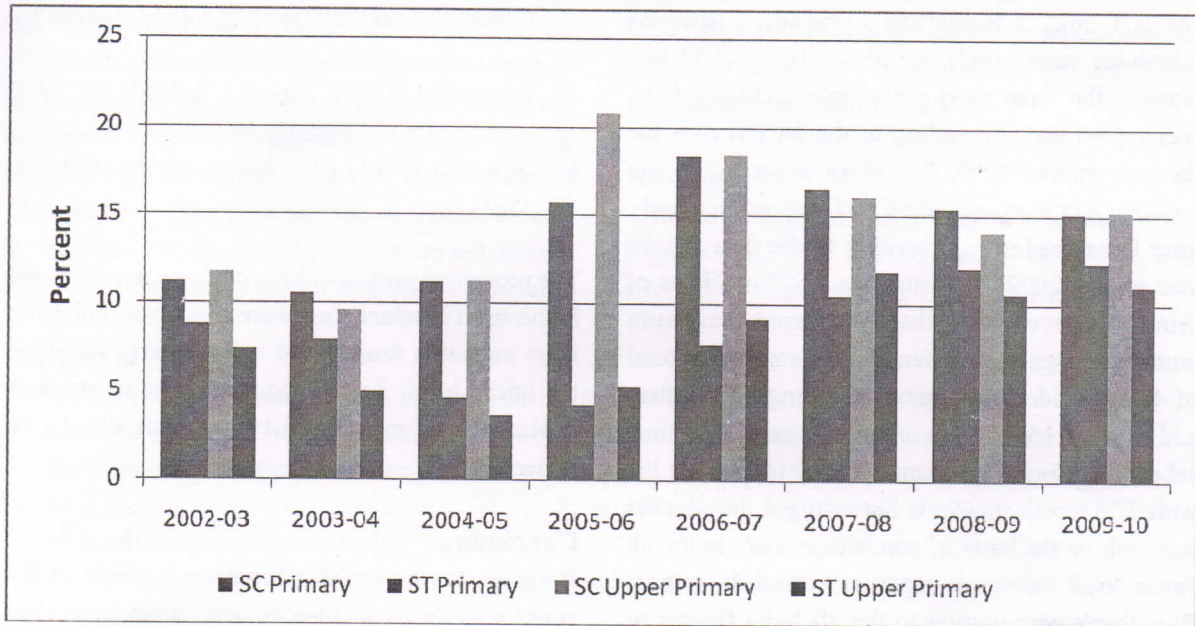
Table 4. Gender Parity Index for Enrolment by Social Groups in Rajasthan (2006-07)

District	Primary			Upper Primary		
	GEN	SC	ST	GEN	SC	ST
Ajmer	0.886	0.872	0.768	0.912	0.681	0.589
Alwar	0.845	0.889	0.917	0.814	0.735	0.760
Banswara	0.810	0.929	0.904	0.807	0.697	0.673
Baran	0.860	0.903	0.890	0.885	0.627	0.580
Barmer	0.802	0.831	0.729	0.450	0.452	0.322
Bharatpur	0.833	0.864	0.877	0.825	0.635	0.760
Bhilwara	0.930	0.864	0.788	0.881	0.531	0.459
Bikaner	0.887	0.826	0.772	0.746	0.520	0.633
Bundi	0.855	0.870	0.837	0.866	0.618	0.613
Chittaurgarh	0.931	0.878	0.842	0.857	0.694	0.584
Churu	0.913	0.851	0.841	0.809	0.712	0.810
Dausa	0.897	0.890	0.936	0.778	0.634	0.731
Dholpur	0.825	0.849	0.886	0.804	0.615	0.625
Dungarpur	0.797	0.868	0.906	0.804	0.799	0.767
Ganganagar	0.819	0.892	0.815	0.799	0.826	0.623
Hanumangarh	0.805	0.913	0.865	0.730	0.839	0.890
Jaipur	0.908	0.900	0.918	0.892	0.730	0.698
Jaisalmer	0.702	0.848	0.761	0.357	0.355	0.229
Jalore	0.843	0.789	0.618	0.520	0.490	0.268
Jhalawar	0.922	0.913	0.867	0.791	0.535	0.558
Jhunjhunu	0.832	0.899	0.860	0.783	0.882	0.810
Jodhpur	0.892	0.848	0.805	0.652	0.502	0.494
Karauli	0.927	0.900	0.946	0.933	0.622	0.828
Kota	0.862	0.929	0.857	0.856	0.712	0.759
Nagaur	0.899	0.843	0.859	0.820	0.533	0.811
Pali	0.916	0.823	0.716	0.850	0.609	0.418
Rajsamand	0.917	0.902	0.855	0.728	0.727	0.387
S. Madhopur	0.873	0.869	0.904	0.873	0.495	0.632
Sikar	0.877	0.870	0.844	0.836	0.753	0.757
Sirohi	0.787	0.813	0.651	0.686	0.479	0.345
Tonk	0.957	0.922	0.851	0.883	0.520	0.448
Udaipur	0.850	0.871	0.807	0.770	0.881	0.620

Source: Citizens' Report, 2009.

Gender parity index is the number of pupils enrolled in a given level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the population in the theoretical age group for the same level of education. GPI is the ratio of female students enrolled at primary, secondary, tertiary levels of education to the number of male students in each level.

Figure 2. Gross Enrolment Ratio of SC and ST in Rajasthan

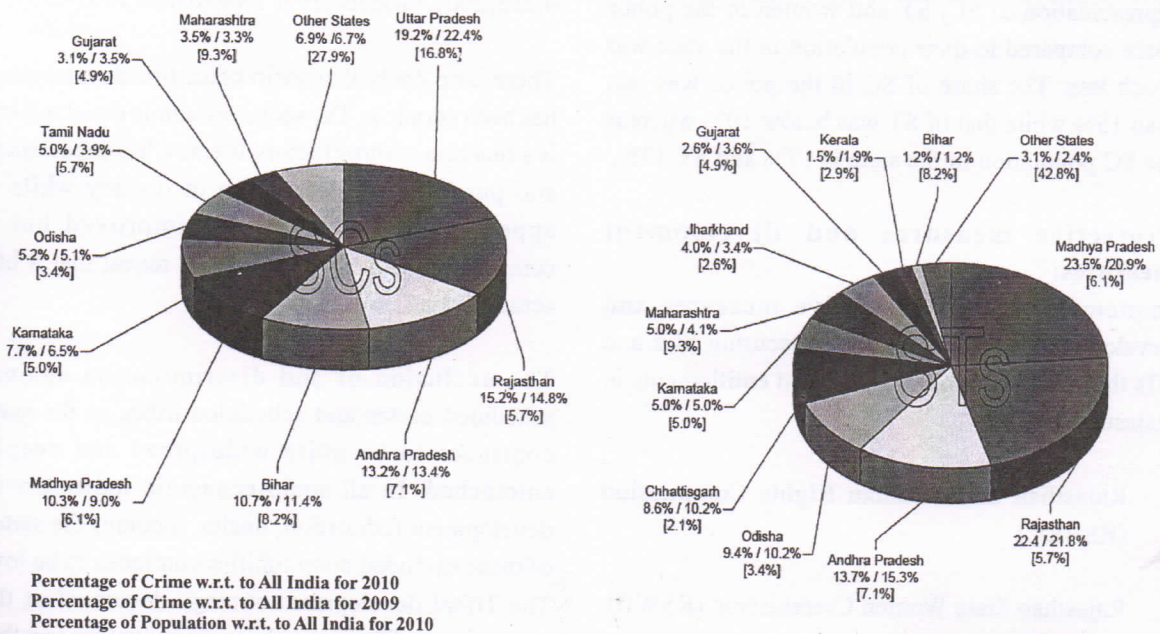


Source: Various Reports NUEPA

The graph clearly shows that as compared to enrolment in primary education, the enrolment ratio of secondary education is lower.

Crime against SC and ST

Figure 3. Incidents of Crime



Source: NCRB, 2010

The latest data of the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) makes Rajasthan's prejudice towards scheduled castes (SC), scheduled tribes (ST) and women, the three most vulnerable sections of the society, evident. According to the NCRB data for the year ending 2009, Rajasthan is second in the country in crimes against SC, ST and women, only after Uttar Pradesh. According to the data for the year ending 2009, UP witnessed 7,522 incidents of crime, however, Rajasthan witnessed maximum number of cognizable offences. The state saw a total of 4,985 incidents of crime including 65 murders and rape of 163 dalit women. In crimes against scheduled tribes, Rajasthan not only topped the list with 1,183 such incidents but also got the number one rank on the basis of percentage share in the all India total of crime against schedule tribes. Rajasthan's contribution to the all India figures of crime against ST, SC and women was 21.8%, 14.8% and 8.5%, respectively. There was 2 to 3 per cent jump in each category. While, the state tops the list in crime against SC/ST, it ranks fourth in crime against women. In fact, Bihar, stood at 20th place in cognizable crimes against women and seems to be treating women better than Rajasthan. The representation of SC, ST and women in the police force compared to their population in the state was much less. The share of SC in the police was less than 15% while that of ST was below 10% whereas the SC population in the state is 17% and ST 13%.

Protective measures and development measures:

Implementation of protective measures and development measures aimed at securing SCs and STs their due in terms of rights and entitlements in Rajasthan:

1. Rajasthan State Human Rights Commission (RSHRC)
2. Rajasthan State Women Commission (RSWC)
3. Rajasthan State Commission for SCs (RSCSC)

4. Rajasthan State Legislative Assembly Committee on Welfare of SCs (RSLA-WSC)
5. Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955. (PCRA)
6. SCs, STs (POA) (Prevention of Atrocity) Act, 1989.

The protective measures have not been implemented in the spirit in which they were conceived and result its impact is limited and is not clearly visible at the micro level. So, a serious exercise to arrive at indicators of meaningful change needs to be undertaken.

Conclusion

Rajasthan is one of the lowest achievers in the country as far as socio-economic developments of its people are concerned. The Economic Survey 2011-12 released recently, has found that only Karnataka has performed poorer than the desert state. As per Human Development Report 2011, quoted by the Economic Survey, Rajasthan has slipped three places from the ranking of 14 in 1999-2000 to 17 in 2007 {Health index 0.587(2008), Income index 0.253(2007-08) education index 0.462(2007-08)}.

There is no doubt that socio-economic development has been very low. The socio-economic development is a function of three factors-literacy, life expectancy, and purchasing power. Even in literacy while it appears that Rajasthan has improved but a comparison with other states will reveal that it has actually gone down.

The exclusion of and discrimination against scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the state continues to be quite widespread and deeply entrenched. In all socio-economic indicators of development (education, health, income) the status of these excluded communities continues to be low. The Tribal development strategy document of the government of Rajasthan has recognized the fact that

benefits from programs and schemes intended for the tribes do not reach them automatically. Thus, deliberate, strategic measures and proactive regimes have to combine with relevant programs in order to ensure that benefits actually accrue to the vulnerable sections such as the marginalized. Mechanisms of participation of the poor and the excluded, created by legislation to support their empowerment, remain ineffective because adequate efforts in informing

people about these mechanisms and building their knowledge and capacity to operate these mechanisms are never made. The marginalized till date have continued to remain excluded.

*Dedicated to :

“The sufferings of the excluded communities”. Rightly said, “The world is full of sufferings, it is also full of overcoming it”. – Helen Keller.

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