

CHAPTER – 5

**THE ECONOMICAL AND POLITICAL  
POSITION OF MAHAR AND CHAMBHAR  
COMMUNITIES**

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In the earlier chapter, the researcher has analysed the data relating to socio-cultural aspects of Mahar and Chambhar communities. In the present chapter the economical and political aspects of Mahar and Chambhar communities are analysed. The living standard, status of the person is depending upon the economical aspects. The political participation indicates the change in the society. Thus, the attempt has been made to know the economical and political position of the Mahar and Chambhar communities.

#### **ECONOMICAL ASPECTS-**

##### **Occupational Background-**

By tradition, the Chambhar community has the traditional occupation of their own. The Mahar had no traditional occupation. They served villagers and administration by their manual labour. But at present the people from both the communities are engaged in different occupations. The data relating to occupation of the respondents is presented in the table 5.1.

In case of Mahar community 46.15 percent respondents are farmer. It is followed by labour (22.08 percent), traditional occupation (15.38 percent) and service (11.54 percent) whereas in Chambhar community 45.83 percent respondents

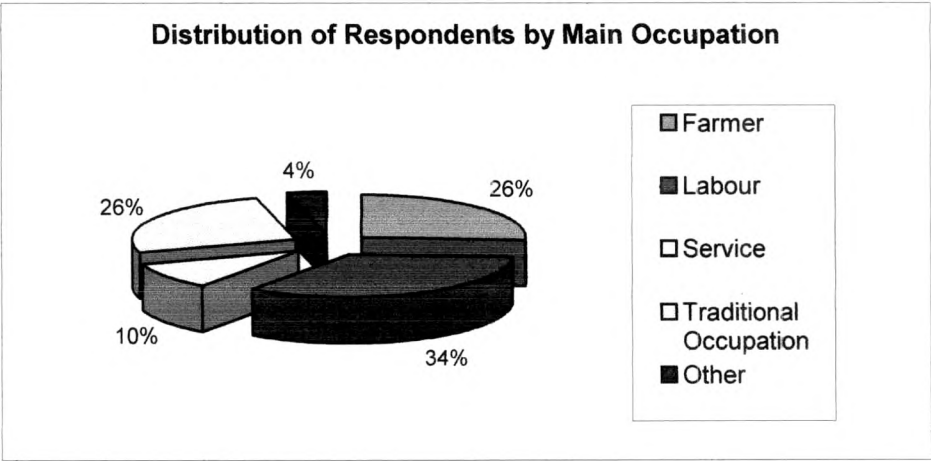
are labour. It is followed by traditional occupation (37.50 percent) and service (8.33 percent).

Table 5.1

Caste wise Distribution of the Respondents by Main Occupation

Caste	Main Occupation					Total
	Farmer	Labour	Service	Traditional Occupation	Other	
Mahar	12 (46.15)	6 (23.08)	3 (11.54)	4 (15.38)	1 (3.85)	26 (100)
Chambhar	1 (4.17)	11 (45.83)	2 (8.33)	9 (37.50)	1 (4.17)	24 (100)
Total	13	17	5	13	2	50

Fig. 5.1



This reveals that the Mahar respondents are more in farming and service occupation whereas the Chambhar respondents are more in labour and traditional occupation.

In brief, the data shows that the majority of the respondents from both the communities are labour. It is followed by traditional occupation and farming.

**Opportunity of New Occupation-**

Our Constitution has given freedom of occupation to all. Thus, it is necessary to know that is there any opportunity of new occupation to respondents. The table 5.2 shows the picture about it.

Table 5.2  
**Caste wise Distribution of the Respondents by an Opportunity of New Occupation**

Caste	Yes	No	N.A.	Total
Mahar	17 (65.38)	9 (34.62)	- (0.00)	26 (100)
Chambahr	16 (66.67)	6 (25)	2 (8.33)	24 (100)
Total	33	15	2	50

The data shows that 65.38 percent Mahar respondents have reported that they have opportunity of new occupation and remaining 34.62 percent respondents have reported negatively. Whereas 66.67 percent Chambhar respondents have reported positively about new occupation and 25 percent respondents reported negatively about the opportunity of new occupation.

It shows that the proportion of respondents, who have reported the opportunity of new occupation, from both the communities, is nearly equal. Whereas the Mahar respondents are more that have reported negatively about an opportunity of new occupation.

**Balutedari System-**

The present study is confined to rural area. In the past both the communities were serving the villagers by taking baluta (particular share of grain). Thus it is necessary to see that whether the balutedari system is continuing in the present. In this regard the data is presented in the table 5.3.

Table 5.3  
**Caste wise Distribution of the Respondents by Balutedari System**

Caste	Yes	No	N.A.	Total
Mahar	4 (15.38)	22 (84.62)	- (0.00)	26 (100)
Chambahr	- (0.00)	24 (100)	- (0.00)	24 (100)
Total	4	46	0	50

The data indicates that only 15.38 percent Mahar respondents are working by taking baluta and remaining 84.62 percent Mahar and 100 percent Chambhar respondents are not working by taking baluta. It shows that the balutedari system is almost declined from Mahar community and totally declined from Chambhar community.

**Annual Income of the Respondents-**

The table 5.4 presents the annual income of the respondents. The data exhibits that 50 percent Mahar respondents have the annual income below 15 thousand. It is followed by the income group of 16 to 30 thousand (23.08 percent), 46 & above (15.38 percent) and 31 to 45 thousand (11.54 percent). Whereas 41.67 percent Chambhar respondents have the income below 15 thousand. It is followed by the income group 16 to 30 thousand (33.33 percent), 31 to 45 thousand (16.67 percent) and 46 & above income group (8.33 percent). The Mahar respondents are more in the income

group of below 15 and 46 & above, whereas the Chambhar respondents are more in the income group of 16 to 30 and 31 to 45 thousand income group.

Table 5.4

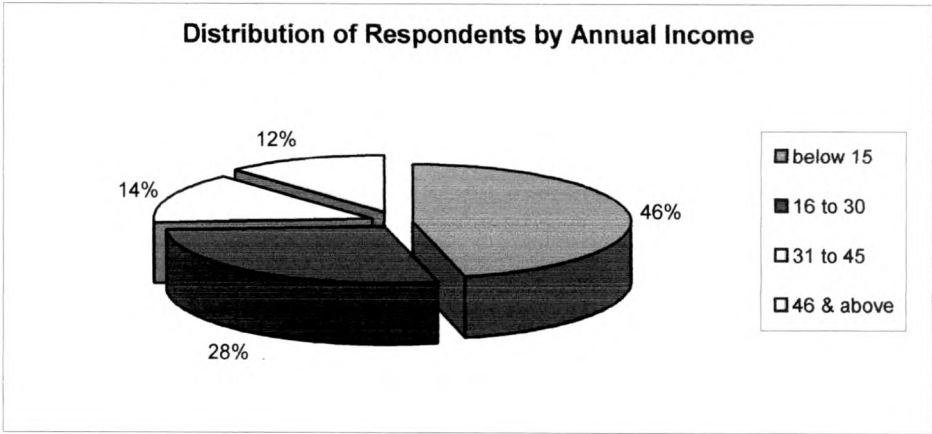
**Caste wise Distribution of the Respondents by Annual Income**

**(in thousand)**

Caste	Annual Income (in thousand)				Total
	below 15	16 to 30	31 to 45	46 & above	
Mahar	13 (50)	6 (23.08)	3 (11.54)	4 (15.38)	26 (100)
Chambhar	10 (41.67)	8 (33.33)	4 (16.67)	2 (8.33)	24 (100)
Total	23	14	7	6	50

In a nutshell, majority of the respondents from both the communities have the income below 15 thousands. It is followed by the income group 16 to 30 thousands.

Fig. 5.2



**Agricultural Land-**

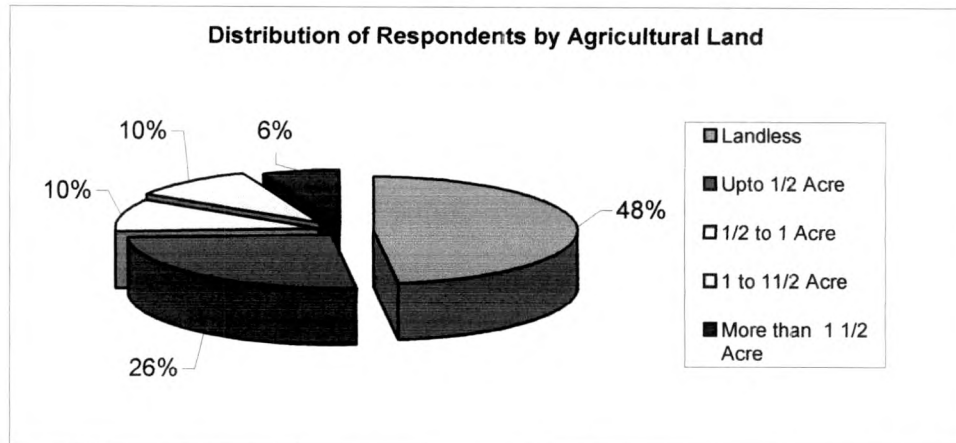
The respondents are having rural background. So the question was asked whether the respondents are having land, and if so how many acres of land. The details in this view are given in the table 5.5. In land holding pattern, 30.77 percent Mahar respondents are landless, 26.93 percent respondents

Table 5.5

**Caste wise Distribution of the Respondents by Agricultural Land**

Caste	Land Holding					Total
	Landless	Upto ½ Acre	½ to 1 Acre	1 to 1 ½ Acre	More than 1 ½ Acre	
Mahar	8 (30.77)	7 (26.93)	4 (15.38)	4 (15.38)	3 (11.54)	26 (100)
Chambhar	16 (66.68)	6 (25)	1 (4.16)	1 (4.16)	- (0.00)	24 (100)
Total	24	13	5	5	3	50

have the land up to ½ acre and the percentage of the respondents is equal (15.38 percent each) in holding the land ½ to 1 acre

**Fig. 5.3**

and 1 to 1½ acre. Whereas 66.68 percent Chambhar respondents are landless and 25 percent respondents hold the land up to ½ acre.

It shows that Mahar respondents hold more land than Chambhar respondents. But the data shows that most of the respondents from Mahar and Chambhar communities are landless.

### **Membership of Co-operative Society –**

The co-operative sector is helping to the development of rural area. Particularly the co-operative societies are playing an important role in providing various agricultural equipments, fertilizers, seeds and loan for agriculture to the members. In this regard the data has been required about the membership of co-operative society and its use for them.

The table 5.6 presents the data on the membership of co-operative society.

Table 5.6

#### **Caste wise Distribution of the Respondents by Membership of Co-op Society**

Caste	Yes	No	N.A.	Total
Mahar	16 (61.54)	10 (38.46)	- (0.00)	26 (100)
Chambahr	12 (50)	10 (41.67)	2 (8.33)	24 (100)
Total	28	20	2	50

In case of Mahar community 61.54 percent respondents are the members of co-operative society and the remaining 38.46 percent respondents are not the members of co-operative society. Whereas 50 percent Chambhar respondents are the members of co-operative society and 41.67 percent are not the member of co-operative society.

The proportion of Mahar respondents is more in having the membership of co-operative society than Chambhar respondents. In brief, most of the respondents are the members of the co-operative society.



**Use of Co-operative Society –**

The members of co-operative society have taken help of co-operative society for various reasons. The table 5.7 shows that most of the respondents (15) are taking fertilizers from co-operative society. 14 respondents have taken loan and 5

Table 5.7

**Caste wise Distribution of the Respondents by Use of Co-op. Society**

Caste	Use of Co-op. Society			
	Loan	Fertilizer	Saving	Seeds
Mahar	12	15	4	4
Chambahr	2	-	1	-
Total	14	15	5	4

respondents have taken benefit of saving from co-operative society in which the proportion of Mahar respondents is 85.71 percent and 80 percent respectively. The respondents taking fertilizers and seeds are all from Mahar community. It means that Mahar respondents are taking help of co-operative society more than Chambhar respondents.

**Loan Facility-**

The respondents have taken loan for various purposes from various sources. The data about the sources in which the loan is taken and the purposes in which the loan is used is collected from the respondents. The table 5.8 shows the data on loan taken by the respondents.

Table 5.8  
Caste wise Distribution of the Respondents by Loan Taken

Caste	Sources of Loan Taken						Total
	Bank	Co-op Society	Pat Sanstha	Money Lender	Relative	N.A.	
Mahar	11 (42.31)	9 (34.62)	- (0.00)	3 (11.54)	2 (7.69)	1 (3.85)	26 (100)
Chambhar	4 (16.67)	2 (8.33)	1 (4.16)	- (0.00)	- (0.00)	17 (70.83)	24 (100)
Total	15	11	1	3	2	18	50

Among all Mahar respondents 42.31 percent respondents have taken loan from bank, 34.62 percent respondents from co-operative society. Whereas the Chambhar respondents have taken loan from bank (16.67 precent) and co-operative society (8.33). Patsanstha, moneylender and relatives are the minor sources in providing loan to the respondents.

In each sources, the proportion of Mahar respondents is more than Chambhar respondents in taking loan. Whereas the majority of the Chambhar respondents have not taken loan. The data shows that bank and co-operative society are the dominant sources for providing loan to the respondents.

**Proper Use of Loan-**

The loan taken by the respondents have been used for different purposes. In this regard the information is given in the table 5.9. The table shows that 11 respondents have used loan for agriculture and 9 respondents for house construction. The number of respondents taken loan for cattle and education (4 respondents each) is equal as well as for occupation and

repay previous loan (2 respondents each) is equal. 5 respondents have taken loan for marriage and only one respondent for illness. The proportion of Mahar respondents is more than Chambhar respondents in taking loan for above given purposes except occupation.

Table 5.9

**Caste wise Distribution of the Respondents by Proper Use of Loan**

Caste	Loan Used for the Purposes							
	House Constr.	Agri.	Cattle	Marriage	Educa- tion	Repay Pre- vious Loan	Occupation	Illness
Mahar	9	10	4	4	3	2	-	1
Chambhar	-	1	-	1	1	-	2	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

**Commodities Possessed by Respondents –**

With the advent of economic affluence, people start looking for convenience and small pleasure to lessen the drudgery of day-to-day survival. Here is the commodities are presented in the table 5.10 which are being used in respondents household.

Table 5.10

**Caste wise Distribution of the Respondents by Commodities Possessed**

Caste	Commodities Possessed							
	Radio	Tape	TV	Cupboard	Fan	Table Chair	Electricity	Shewing Machine
Mahar	17	13	15	12	11	20	24	8
Chambhar	8	11	13	5	6	8	21	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>18</b>

The table indicates that 45 respondents have the electricity. The respondents equally possess TV and table-chairs (28 respondents each) and cupboard and fan (17 respondents each). The respondents having radio and tape are nearly equal. 18 respondents have the sewing machine. The proportion of Mahar respondents

is more than Chambhar respondents in possessing the commodities except the sewing machine.

**Facility of Welfare Schemes-**

Scheduled castes are socially, economically, politically and educationally backward. Thus, they are included in lower strata of the society. In order to increase their over all status government is providing the facilities of welfare schemes. The table 5.11 presented present the data on it.

Table 5.11  
**Caste wise Distribution of the Respondents by Getting Facility of Welfare Schemes**

Caste	Yes	No	N.A.	Total
Mahar	18 (69.23)	8 (30.77)	- (0.00)	26 (100)
Chambahr	17 (70.83)	5 (20.83)	2 (8.34)	24 (100)
Total	35	13	2	50

The data shows that the percentage of Mahar respondents, who are taking benefit of welfare schemes, is 69.53 and those who are not getting the benefit of welfare schemes is 30.77 percent. Whereas 70.83 Chambhar respondents are getting the benefit of welfare schemes and 20.83 percent respondents are not getting the benefit of such facilities.

The proportion of both the communities is nearly equal in getting the benefit of welfare schemes whereas the Mahar respondents are more in not getting such facilities. In short, the majority number of respondents

from both the communities are taking benefit of welfare schemes.

### **POLITICAL ASPECTS -**

The elections are important type of an organised activity, though it takes periodically. It provides an opportunity to the citizens to express their political will individually or collectively. Before the independence of India the backward people were deprived of their right of participation in political life. However, after independence the establishment of democratic government encouraged the participation of backward people. In this section the data regarding the political participation and voting behaviour have been analysed.

#### **Awareness of Voting Right-**

The question was asked about the respondents' awareness about the right of vote. All the respondents expressed that they are aware of their voting right irrespective of sex. It indicates the political consciousness of both the communities. But nobody respondent is a member of any political party and very few people (36percent) vote willingly.

In order to participate in politics and to increase the political status of the scheduled castes, there are reserved seats for them in each local institution. The data required about the duties performed by the elected Grampanchayat members from both the communities is presented in the table 5.12. The data

indicates that majority of the respondents of Mahar (80.77 percent) and Chambhar communities (75 percent)

Table 5.12

**Caste wise Distribution of the Respondents by Preference Given to Duties Performed by the Grampanchayat Members**

Caste	Yes	No	N.A.	Total
Mahar	21 (80.77)	3 (11.54)	2 (7.69)	26 (100)
Chambahr	18 (75)	5 (20.83)	1 (4.17)	24 (100)
Total	39	8	3	50

have reported that the grampanchayat members from their caste are performing their duties and helping people. But 11.54 percent Mahar respondents and 20.83 percent Chambhar respondents have reported negatively.

The proportion of respondents in taking help from grampanchayat member is more in Mahar whereas the Chambhar are more in not taking help from grampanchayat member. A great number of Mahar and Chambhar respondents are taking help of grampanchayat member.

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