

CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

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India's social structure is a unique blend of diverse religions, cultures and racial groups. Historically, India has been a hospitable land to numerous immigrants and invaders from distant parts of Asia and Europe. The cultural patterns of these alien settlers have, over the past many centuries, been interwoven with the native culture to produce India's glorious cultural heritage.

The uniqueness of Indian social structure lies in its unit amidst diversity. There is striking diversity between various communities & groups in kinship and marriage rites, customs, inheritance and modes of living.

The Indian society today is divided into numerous castes and sub-castes, each having its distinctive place in social hierarchy, but at the same time, castes of a region form part of single social framework. In spite of these numerous social, cultural religious and racial diversities, India still remains a largely unified society. India is a political entity every part of which is governed under the same Constitution.

India is a developing country & having the second

higher population of the World. The natural resources are few, though the industrialisation taking place, it is very difficult to feed such a large population because the income & expenditure does not tally. It has a big variation. So study like socio-economic conditions of any small part of India is very important.

The aim of any scientific study of inquiry is connected with the life pattern and problems of the people, nature and research investigations is confined with limited field jurisdiction on one and secondly with specific strength of people having the common condition of life generally implies the housing and habitation matter. The occupation similarities and changes and variation on if occurred in the material outlook towards life and aspect of material culture.

POPULATION :

In terms of the size of population, India is the second largest country in the world, next to China. China stands on the top with 1,160 million people. India's population constitutes nearly 16 percent of the total world population while her geographical area is only 2.42 per cent of the world area. With such a huge population to support on so small an area, the country finds itself in great difficulty in making any significant dent on his poverty and economic backwardness. India's national in-

come, which is barely 2 percent of the total global income, clearly shows the tremendous strain of population on her economy.

1991 CENSUS HIGHLIGHTS

Population of India Total : 843,930,861

Male : 437,597,929

Female : 406,332,932

Decennial population growth 1981-91

(a) Absolute : 160,601,764

(b) Percentage : 23.50

Density of Population : 267 per sq km

Sex ratio : 929 females per 1000 males

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES :

The birth rate is projected to decline from 30.9 for 1986-91 to 27.5 for 1991-96 and death rate from 10.8 to 9.4 for the corresponding period.

POVERTY :

Poverty is socio-economic phenomenon which defines any precise definition, its concept and content varies from country to country depending upon what a particular society accepts a reasonably good living standard for its people. Thus, in California, USA it would not be surprising if a family owning less than two cars may be dubbed as poor. But in India, poverty

the poverty line comprise largely those whose consumption is very low and who have little physical resources of production. Quite often they are located in the climatically unfavourable regions with extremely low and fluctuating levels of production, income and meager avenues of gainful employment.

Percentage of population living below the poverty line.

	Rural	Urban	Total
1977-78	51.2	38.2	48.3
1983-84	40.4	28.1	37.4
1984-85	39.9	27.7	36.9
1989-90	28.2	19.3	25.8

Poverty and illiteracy in India are the main causes of India's backwardness. It was inevitable that during India's struggle from freedom the political aspect of independence overshadowed every things else yet from its earliest beginnings, Indian nationalism had a large element of economic thinking and social reform. The moments motivating the social reforms in Indian society were considered as a part and parcel of the more broad bases freedom movement organized by the liberal leaders. India and it was transferred into agitation from by the revolutionaries and leaders of leaftrust thinking.

PROGRESS OF EDUCATION

There has been a great deal of accomplishment in the field of education since independence. The number of recognised educational institutions has increased from 2.31 lakh in 1951 to over 7.61 lakh by the end of 1987-88. The total enrolment over the same period has increased from about 24 million to 144 million. The national stock of educated manpower is estimated to have increased from less than 4 million in 1951 to about 50 million by the end of 1987-88.

All India Literacy Rates (Percent)

Year	Male	Female	Total
1901	9.8	0.6	5.3
1911	10.6	1.1	5.9
1921	12.2	1.8	7.2
1931	15.6	2.9	9.5
1941	24.9	7.3	16.1
1951	24.9	7.9	16.7
1961	34.4	13.0	24.0
1971	39.5	18.7	29.5
1981	46.9	24.8	36.2
1991	63.86	39.42	52.11

THE VARIATION IN OCCUPATION OF INDIAN PEOPLE

The pattern of Social life in Indian Society is governed by the traditional value system having little variation at different habitation levels. In the ancient time the Barter Economy was there, people live scattered. Animal hunting and forest fruits were the things for their food. The time has changed people live in a group and discovered the agriculture system, at that time Agriculture was the main source for their life. After many years groups changed into society and people learnt more. Then the trade took place with the exchange of goods this is known as Exchange Economy. With help of trade & transport people developed their life upto the industrialisation.

The Socio-economic conditions are relatively responsible for protecting or stimulating any living population within larger habitation complex. Unless the nations connected with standard of living are unknown, one cannot assess the nature of "Socio-economic conditions".

NATIONAL INCOME

National income is the sum total of money value of all the final goods and services produced in a country during the period of one year.

The Indian economy posted a meager 1.2 percent growth in real terms during 1991-92 as against 5.2 real terms during

1991-92 as against 5.2 percent in the previous year while per capita income in real terms declined by 1.1 percent. This "Unsatisfactory" performance was largely due to the negative growth recorded by the two most important sectors of the economy—agriculture and manufacturing.

Referring to the per capita income, the CSO estimates showed that the per capita income in real terms is estimated at Rs.2,174 for 1991-92 as against Rs.2,199 for 1990-91, registering a decrease of (-) 1.1 percent during the year. But the per capita income at current prices is estimated at Rs.5,529 in 1991-92 as against Rs. 4,934 for the previous year.

The estimates show that at constant prices, the national income in 1991-92 rose by 0.9 percent to Rs.1,86,135 crore from Rs.1,84,460 crore in 1990-91. At current prices, the national income for the year was estimated at Rs.4,13,943 crore in 1990-91, an increase of 14.3 percent.

The country's gross domestic product (GDP) is estimated to grow at the rate of 6.2 percent in the current fiscal year, compared to 6.3 percent in 1994-95. The GDP at factor cost at constant (1980-81) prices in the year 1995-96 is likely to attain a level of Rs.2,66,537 crore compared to Rs.2,51,010 crore in the previous year.

According to quick estimates released by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) on February 9, 1996, the rate of growth in net per capita income is also likely to fall from 4.8

percent in 1994-95 to 4.4 percent in the current fiscal year. The fall is attributed to lower rate of growth in the farm sector which is anticipated to grow at 3 percent compared to 4.9 percent in the previous year.

The per capita income in real terms has been estimated at Rs.2,506 as compared to the quick estimates for the year 1994-95 of Rs.2,401.

The substantial variation in per capita income is attributed to rise in population from 904 million in 1994-95 to 920 million in the current year. The rate of growth of population remained constant at 1.8 percent.

The "Nation" of standard living could be further cleared, if we will refer the concept of minimum level of living as implied to and indicated by V.N. Statistical Commission. In all the following components were indicated by the above commission.

- 1) Health.
- 2) Education.
- 3) Food consumption and nutrition.
- 4) Employment conditions.
- 5) Housing.
- 6) Recreation.
- 7) Labour conditions.
- 8) Clothing.

9) Social security.

10) Human Freedom.

In the light of the above components, one can select and study some of the components who are influencing the Socio-economic conditions and the standard of living of Indian masses imposes independent Indian society.

Socio-economic conditions means the Social & Economical Status of the individual. The Social & economical status go hand in hand. Social status depends upon the economic conditions of the individual. It may be daring to say that any damn individual may get social status if he is financially strong.

While considering the study of social-economic conditions are related with the factors mentioned in above paragraph viz. Health, Education, Food consumption, Nutrition etc.

EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS

As per the Census of 1981, the population was divided into main workers, marginal workers and non-workers. The figures of only these broad groups are available. In the 1971 census, population was divided into workers and non-workers. In 1971, there were 9 categories (cultivators, agricultural, labourers, livestock, forestry, fishing, etc. mining and quarrying, manufacturing and processing, construction, trade and commerce, transport, storage and communication, other services) and non-workers.

The employment conditions of the Class-IV employees are not upto the mark. As well as their time of work is some what odd, dirty and hazardous.

Still the scavengers have to carry dirt on their shoulders or head they have not been provided mask and handgloves by the corporation. The sweepers have to wake up early in the morning & gather in the corporation ward where the work and area has been allotted by the Ward Inspector/Mukadam likewise the labours working in City Engineering Department & Water Works have the face the same problem.

The Drainage & Garbage Workers have to work according to the instructions given by the Mukadam as well as they have to satisfy the Municipal Corporators and General Public. The required equipment are also not provided to these people, they have to face health and skin disease many time.

Due to the above type of work the employees do not have any social status & they have to work below dignity of human being.

MAIN SOURCE OF INCOME

The economic condition of the individual depends upon the monthly earnings like Wages & Salary, Landed property, Savings in the various sources like Bank, Post, LIC, Business, Trade, Agriculture income, Rent of the houses & interest on investment like Shares, Debentures, Bonds, Certificates, Fixed deposits etc.

Particularly speaking about the topic the main source of the income of the Class-IV employees is salary only. The salaries are paid monthly as well as the salaries are not sufficient to cater the daily needs of one standard size family. Even they can not meet day to day hand to mouth. That is why the economic conditions of the Class-IV employees is always critical & they have heavy ladden.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

Family background also plays a vital role in pointing out the socio-economic conditions of the individuals. A standard size family well educated & having good relations among themselves & having good income, maintains a good social status in the society.

Unfortunately we find rare cases like this in India. India is a over populated country & the people wont have any importance of family planning programme due to illiteracy & superstitions and certain faiths & beliefs. The family planning programme remains on paper only.

Due to the big family, the family members could not live the standard life. Also the income of people is few and due to this the people have to face many problems like starvation.

FAMILY BUDGET

Budgeting is the very important aspect/tool to keep the control on expenses. If any person makes proper budgeting and according to his income & acts accordingly he will be the most successful person. Budget is the monetary planning for future. Proper budgeting is the best tool to face future problems.

Unfortunately the Indian people are not habituated with the family budget & that why their expenditure is more than their income. Certain aspect like Foodgrains, Vegetables, Milk, Fuel, Meat, Housing, Clothing, Medicine, Education, Entertainment, no doubt requires the money but with help of proper planning & budget avoided and the money can be saved. Expenses on celebrations of festivals, superstitions, occasions like marriages, unnecessary gifts, expenses on habits must be avoided.

Japan, Russia, China & India are developing with the help of proper planning & budgeting. For fast development & to face the big problems proper planning & budgeting is a must.

CONDITIONS OF WAGES

Wage is the major problem in India for both the private & public section. Now a days the peoples are running towards urban area to get the job. As due to uncertainty of rain & over population the agricultural field is facing problems & the people do not want to depend upon their landed property. They want instant money while the agriculturist has to wait for one year to get the money from land.

Apart from that Indian agriculture is facing the problems of fertilizers, new techniques, hybrid seeds, improved seeds, modern tools to cultivate the land. Due to shortage of above the production of agriculture is reduced. And due to the less production the farmers got the least income from agriculture. When the income is reduced the living standard also falls. From the agriculture the farmers can not make money.

On the other hand there is surety & security of certain income from any type of employment. People also want to lead the urbanised life. They run towards the urban area, and that is why the unemployment problem is also increased. The employer take undue advantage of this unemployment problem & pay the wages below the level decided by the Government.

Fortunately for the public sector wages are paid according to the rules & regulations framed by the Government. But large no. of family members one can not manage the family expenses in the income he received. The expenses to run the family are always out of limit than the wages they drawn. Apart from this the employees spend more on Festivals, Superstitions, Habits etc. which creates the economic crisis for them.

HOUSING CONDITIONS

Housing conditions is one of the important factor of socio-economic study. If a individual has a good built house he has got more status in society. If a individual live in a unbuilt house he will not get more status than the person who is having

good or well built house. It is said that "The man is known by the company which he keeps" likewise the socio-economic conditions can be predicted by the house keeping of the individual.

Generally the Class-IV employees though they have their own houses found living in slum areas or zopadpatti etc. do not get any social status. The housing conditions of these employees are very poor. The employees have to face the problems of water, as they have to fetch the water from common water taps provided by the corporation where there is possibility of quarrel at any time.

In slum or zopadpatti area there is always problem of Water, Sanitary, Lighting, Lavatory facilities as these are the common facilities provided by the corporation. As the facilities are non satisfactory which is also not suitable & good for the health.

Fortunately, Solapur Municipal Corporation has provided the better sanitary underground drainage facilities & lighting facilities to the people.

LOANS

Now a days it is fashion to borrow the loans & tendency is day by day increased. People search for the reason to borrow the loan. The loan may be drawn for the purchasing of site, construction of house, marriages of daughters & sons, education, business or trade etc. But in majority of cases the loan is drawn

to repay the previous loans drawn by them & for the some non productive items like Mopeds, TV, Motor Cycle, Freeze, Cupboard etc.

The sources of drawing the loan are of different nature like Bank Co-operative Societies, Money Lenders, Friends & Relatives etc. Generally it is observed that majority of the people from the Class-IV category take the benefit of all these sources.

Loan is a such a thing that can be drawn easily but the repayment of the loan is a very difficult task. When a individual unable to pay the loan in stipulated period the interest on the loan is increases and the time comes where the same individual draws the another loan to repay the first.

Loan from Money Lenders is the worst thing of the universe. The interest of the money lenders is very high comparatively to the Banks or Co-operative societies. When one takes loan from the money lender he goes in the depth or valley from where he can't move up. So those people who are having loan of any type have not social status.

SAVINGS

Savings is one of the important aspect to study the soci-economic conditions. Savings is made for better future. Savings can be made from the income retrenching the expenditure. Savings is also known as planning tool. If a individual is having lot of bank balance he is a good social status. Savings is made

to face future problems.

But this quality is lacking in the Indian people in general. They are satisfied with the compulsory savings through social savings schemes like Provident Fund, Pension etc. Very few percentage of people try to save their money in Post, Bank, LIC etc. Only the rich class has been found the attitude of savings.

HABITS

Almost all the people are habituated at least one of the habits. But here habit in sense illegal voices like Drinking, Smoking, Gambling etc. Generally lower class employees found habituated with the habit like Pan, Tobacco, Bidi, Cigarettes, Country Liquor, Drugs like Ganja etc. But for all these things money is required and now a days all the above mentioned items have become costly, particularly Alcohol and Cigarettes are not affordable to the Class IV employees.

There is a tendency amongst the employees to get high power kick from all these habits to get the relief from the daily work & domestic problems and that is why they go for the habits like liquor ganja, shindi (tadi) etc. Some times they may borrow the loan to satisfy their thirst of habits.

Due to these types of habits the economic conditions are collapsed & they loose their social status in the eyes of public in general.