

CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

C H A P T E R - I

INTRODUCTION

A) BACKGROUND :

The rigid caste system that prevailed in India, certain sections of the population suffered from distinct social and economic dis-abilities and came to be known as back-ward classes. The term backward has been used to include - scheduled caste, scheduled tribes, notified tribes and - other classes which are backward.

Each caste is differentiated in Indian Society, and so every activity of life, from education to the cleaning of streets, houses or even latrins etc. goes on as pre-arran- -ged. Every caste thinks that they have to discharge the services for society, those have been assigned to them by birth. Some of the arts have been passed on from generation to generation and particular castes have been found - specialised in their occupation. Besides these things to maintain the purity of blood and to represent the - superiority of one caste over the other the caste system came in existence. (e.g. Sharma -1976).

Schedule Caste is depressed class in Indian Society. .
The most notable features of Scheduled Caste are very low

social and ritual status in the traditional Hindu Society, giving rise to some serious social and economic disabilities due to which these groups have remained extremely poor and backward for centuries.

It should be noted that the term 'Scheduled Caste' is primarily a juridical category with all India applicability while at the local level there exists sub castes each with a strong sense of its own identity and separateness from the others but at the same time sharing some features with the others. The Government of Maharashtra has included 59 communities in Scheduled Caste. (Govt. circular No. C.B.C. 1076/43790/5/30.7.77). Some of these are as follows :

Burud, Chambar, Bhangi, Dhor, Khatik, Mahar, Mang, Matang, Mang Garudi etc.

As is well known, these castes were previously referred to as untouchables, depressed classes, out castes or exterior castes. 'Mahatma Gandhi (1933) gave them a new name Harijan, meaning 'men of God', which was free from traditional associations.

The Government of India, for the first time in 1930, decided to list the depressed communities in a 'Schedule' in order to have an accurate estimate of their numbers and provide special benefits for them through legislative and executive action. Considering that bulk of the Indian

population is poor and backward, the question arises as to what were the peculiar conditions or characteristics from which these castes were suffering, which moved the Government to take special legislative action in their interest.

In the absence of any definition of the term, 'Scheduled Castes' it is difficult to state in categorical terms the criteria or characteristics that mark off a particular group or caste, as belonging to the Scheduled Castes. However, the census report of 1931, mention the following tests in order to distinguish the Scheduled Castes from the others.

- 1) Whether the caste or class in question can be served by barber, tailors, etc., who serve the caste Hindus.
- 2) Whether the caste or class in question is one from whose hands a caste Hindu can take water.
- 3) Whether the caste in question pollutes a high caste Hindu by contact.
- 4) Whether in ordinary social relation a well educated member of the caste or class in question will be treated as an equal by high caste men of the same educational qualifications.

- 5) Whether the caste or class in question is debarred from the use of Hindu temples.
- 6) Whether the caste or class in question is debarred from using public conveniences such as ferris, roads, wells or schools.
- 7) Whether the caste or class in question is merely depressed on account of its own ignorance, illiteracy or poverty and but for that would be subject to no social disability.
- 8) Whether it is depressed on account of the occupation followed and whether but for that occupation it would be subject to no social disability.

The following criterion appears to hold good for purpose of specifying the Scheduled Caste according to census report of 1931.

"From the point of view of the state, the important test is the right to use public convenience - roads, wells and schools and if this be taken as the primary test, religious disabilities and the social difficulties indirectly involved by them may be regarded as contributory only. Some importance must be attached to them since obviously if the general public regards the persons of certain groups as to distasteful that concerted action is resorted in order to •

keep them away, persons of those groups do suffer under a serious disability."

As this study is mainly concerned with the Scheduled Castes, references to constitutional provisions shall be made pertaining only to the Scheduled Castes. The acceptance of the reforms by Indian political parties and leaders, these castes and communities whose names have been listed in the Schedule have come to be known as 'Scheduled Caste'. The list of the castes was first issued in the Scheduled appended to the Government of India Order, 1935 and was later incorporated in the Constitution of India (S.C. and S.T.) Order 1950.

Clause (1) of Article 341 of the Constitution of India, states : "The president may with respect to any state (or Union Territory) and where it is a state after consultation with Governor thereof, by public notification, specify the castes, races or tribes or parts of or groups within castes, races or tribes which shall for purpose of this Constitution be deemed to be Scheduled Castes in relation to that state (or Union Territory) as the case may be once these lists have been issued, inclusion therein or exclusion therefrom can be made only by Parliament vide Clause (2) of Article 341."

The Constitution of India, as is clear from its preamble, aims at securing to all the citizens of India,

"Justice : Social, economic and political, liberty of thought expression, belief, faith and worship, equality of status and of opportunity, and to promote among them all fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity of the nation. Since Independence the Government has greatly intensified its efforts to improve as rapidly as possible the social and economic conditions of the Scheduled Castes. In order to achieve this objective a number of provisions have been made in the constitution to remove the social disabilities from which the Scheduled Castes suffer. The most important of them are as follows :

- (1) Article 15 of the Constitution Clause (1) reads, "the state shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them." Clause (2) ensures that, "No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth, or any of them, be subject to any disability, liability, restriction, condition, with regard to - (a) access to shops, public restaurants, hotels, and places of public entertainments; or - (b) the use of wells, tanks, bathing ghats, roads and places of public resort maintained wholly or partly out of state funds or dedicated to the use of the general public."

- (ii) While Article 16 (1) states that, "there shall be equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the state," Clause (4) makes it clear that, "Nothing in this article shall prevent the state from making any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizen which in the opinion of the state, is not adequately represented in the services under the state."
- (iii) "Untouchability" is abolished under Article 17 of the constitution and its practice in any form is forbidden. The enforcement of any disability, arising out of "Untouchability" shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law.
- (iv) Article 25 stresses that the State to make any law and also the continuance of any existing law, providing for social welfare and reform, or the throwing open of Hindu religious institutions of a public character to all classes and sections of Hindus. Here, the reference to Hindus is construed as including reference to persons professing the Sikh, Jain or Buddhist religion, and the reference to Hindus religious institution is construed accordingly.

V) Article 29 (2) of the constitution reads : No citizen shall be denied admission into any educational institution maintained by the state or receiving aid out of state funds on grounds only of religion, race, caste, language or any of them.

(VI) As one of the directive principles of state policy, Article 38 reads, "The state shall strive to promote the welfare of the people by securing and protecting as effectively as it may, a social order in which justice, social, economic and political shall inform all the institutions of the national life".

(VII) Article 46 lays down another very important Directive Principle of state policy and provides that "the state shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people and in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation".

Besides, in order to supervise the working of the special provisions, a post of a special officer for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was created and his duties were defined in the constitution. (Article 338). It is clear that Article 46, that the constitution makers

not only took special care to protect the interests of the "Weaker sections of the people", but that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were given a special status among the weaker sections. As Ghurye (1963) points out, "The backward classes however, specified, may be, are the least privileged or specially treated of, the weaker sections of the people. The two other components of the ~~whole~~ whole category of the weaker sections, i.e. the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are much more treated and highly privileged under the constitution. This only represents that the framers of the constitution must have been aware of the peculiar nature and extent of backwardness of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, which must have induced them to accord such special status.

B) THE PROBLEM :

The researcher defines his problems of study as follows :

"The study of personality competence in Scheduled Caste adolescents of Junior Colleges in Kolhapur City".

Mainly two kinds of factors bio-genic and socio-genic abstract, distort or prevent the development of the personality of an individual putting him at a disadvantage against others in the competition of life. The sociogenic factors are outside the child in the socio-economic

conditions, in the political power structure, and in the cultural values, certain sections of our Indian Society is depressed through the ages. In order to up lift the depressed class it is the duty of the educator to educate them properly for the development of different dimensions of personality. Before educating the representative of the depressed class the educator should think about the society and environment from which the student comes to school or college for educational purpose.

The cardinal intension of this study is to investigate factors such as social variables and familial variable that are associated with personality competence in Scheduled Caste adolescents studying in Junior Colleges. The concept of personality competence in this context is considered as the ability to perform effectively in a valued social role.

C) THE HYPOTHESIS :

This study intends to demonstrate that competent Scheduled caste adolescents have a distinctive personality configuration, social characteristics and family environment those set them apart from less competent Scheduled Caste adolescents they may be more confident, have higher "Socio-economic" background, come from more stable family environment and in general, have more intact and better adjusted personalities.

D) AIM OF THE STUDY :

The present study focuses on source of healthy environment rather than socio-pathology in the Scheduled Caste experience. It explores the personality attributes of three groups of differentially competent Scheduled Caste adolescents. This project concern with adaptive rather than maladaptive behavior which has been emerging frequently (White - 1965, Smith - 1968). In the recent past, a number of studies have examined adolescents and their personality factors. (Bronfenbrenner - 1961, Offer - 1969, 1974). However, none of these have been concerned with personality competence. Such factors as who has responsibility of child care, who heads the family, the relative influence of peer group versus family, education - occupational attitudes, all might differentially affect the development of competence. Further findings suggests that variables such as ordinal position in brothers and sisters and the number of dependents on parents may be contributory to the development of personality competence (Zajonc - 1976).

E) SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROBLEM :

Researcher hopes this project can help to clarify the relationship among competence and various social characteristics and personality of Scheduled ^{Caste} ~~Caste~~ adolescents of Junior Colleges. Also it is expected that, this study

can help to evolve a concept of Scheduled Caste competence, to describe the particular kind of adaptability, resourcefulness and values required for the greatest effectiveness under the conditions of life in the Scheduled Caste community. It is a part of current research work to see the relation between effective behavioral role in social environment and academic achievement.

F) THE TOOLS OF RESEARCH USED :

The socio-economic back ground was studied by administering Biographical Information Questionnaire and Peer Report Inventory helped to classify the subjects into different competence levels, while Peer relation, familial closeness and romantic attachment was/by self Report Inventory. Internal-External Locus of control scale helped to study 'Internality and Externality' of the subjects. Finally the Family Interviews conducted by the researcher,, served the purpose of studying child rearing philosophy of the parents and varifying the notations on P.R.I. and S.R.I.

The study reported here consists of two phases.

- 1) The selection, identification and assessment of competent 18-19 year p;ds and non-competent adolescents of the same age and,
- 2) the investigation of family characteristics and

process of both competent and non-competent adolescents, studying in Junior Colleges of Kolhapur City.

G) LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY :

The following are the limitations in this study.

- 1) In this project male students of Scheduled Caste studying in Junior Colleges of Arts, Science and Commerce only have been selected as subjects. The Junior College is a post S.S.C. Course of two years in 10 + 2 + 3 pattern of education in Maharashtra State. The students studying for other two years post S.S.C. Courses have been not taken into consideration.
- 2) The tools of research have been administered for the students those who have passed their S.S.C. examinations in Marathi medium only.
- 3) Out of 59 Scheduled Caste communities only 10 are seen in Kolhapur City area, students and families belonging to these communities were treated as subjects.