

# UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG SC'S AND ST'S IN INDIA: NEED FOR SPECIAL CARE

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## ABSTRACT

Around 700 million people of India live in the rural areas in 600,000 villages. India's labour force is about 47.79 crore in 2011 against 18.07 crore in 1971. Unemployment in the country indicates the slaughter of human resource. India has been emerging as fast growing economy in the world scenario. Poverty and unemployment are the grave problems of India. Since 2009-2010, the unemployment rate between the age group 15 and 29 in the country has increased. The Scheduled Castes comprise a important demographic strength in India. The Scheduled Castes were estimated about 5 crores in the year 1935, 10.475 crores in 1981 and in the year 1991, 13.822 crores. the total Scheduled Castes population constitutes 16.48 per cent. About 84 per cent of the Scheduled Castes population live in ten states of India. The Scheduled Caste population in India, according to the 2001 Census was 166,635,700 persons, constitute 16.2 per cent of the India's total population. 79.8 per cent (four fifth) and 20.2 per cent (one-fifth) of the population live in rural and urban areas respectively. The Planning Commission of India statistics say, the poverty among SC, ST and OBC is declining due to government efforts of poverty eradication through five year plans I to XII. During 2004-05 to 2011-12, the people from depressed classes like SCs, STs and OBCs have been removed from BPL both in rural and urban areas. In this paper attempt is made to highlight trends in unemployment rate among SCs and STs in rural as well as in urban India.

**KEY WORDS:** Demographic, Emerging Scheduled Castes Scheduled Tribes, Unemployment.

## INTRODUCTION

Around 700 million people of India live in the rural areas in 600,000 villages. India's labour force is about 47.79 crore in 2011 against 18.07 crore in 1971. Unemployment in the country indicates the slaughter of human resource. Late Dr. Abdul Kalam in his presidential address in Vijyan Bhavan said that, "India is a country of villages. Connectivity of village complexes providing economic opportunities to all segments of people is an urgent need to bridge the urban rural divide, generate employment and enhance rural prosperity". Unemployment is a situation where a person is willing to work at existing wage rate but unable to find a job. India has been emerging as fast growing economy in the world scenario. Poverty and unemployment are the grave problems of India. Since 2009-2010, the unemployment rate between the age group 15 and 29 in the country has increased. According to the 2014 Global Employment Trends the unemployment rate has raised to 3.8 percent which was 3.7 percent in 2013. In the report of International Labour Organization (ILO), it is said that, India has shown rise in the unemployment.

### Objectives of the Paper

- To study the extent of SCs and STs in India's population
- To study the extent of unemployment rate among SCs and STs
- To study the unemployment rate among rural and urban SCs and STs

## II.SCHEDULED CASTES POPULATION IN INDIA

The Scheduled Castes comprise a important demographic strength in India,. The Scheduled Castes were estimated about 5 crores in the year 1935, 10.475 crores in 1981 and in the year 1991, 13.822 croes. the total Scheduled Castes population constitutes 16.48 per cent. In India, the decadal growth of Scheduled Castes 1991 was 30 per cent, which is more than decadal growth of general population. About 81 per cent of the Scheduled Castes people live in rural area. About 84 per cent of the Scheduled Castes population live in ten states of India. In the states of Himachal Pradesh, 25.34 per cent of its total population, West-Bengal 23.62 per cent of its total population and Uttar Pradesh,

21.04 per cent of its total population belongs to Scheduled Castes. In Maharashtra, 11.10 per cent of its population consists of Scheduled Castes, In Punjab 28 per cent of the total population belong to the Scheduled Castes. In rest of the states, like Bihar, 14.56 per cent, Haryana, 19.75 per cent, Karnataka, 16.38 per cent, Madhya Pradesh, 14.54 per cent, Orissa, 16.20 per cent, Andhra Pradesh, 15.93 per cent and in Tamil Nadu, 19.18 per cent of its total population consists of Scheduled Castes population.

The Scheduled Caste population in India, according to the 2001 Census was 166,635,700 persons, constitute 16.2 per cent of the India's total population. 79.8 per cent (four fifth) and 20.2 per cent (one-fifth) of the population live in rural and urban areas respectively. In India more than 57 per cent of total Scheduled Castes population live in these five States. The highest percentage (21.1 per cent) of Scheduled Caste population to the total Scheduled Caste population of the country live in Uttar Pradesh, in West Bengal, 11.1 per cent and in Bihar 7.8 per cent, in Andhra Pradesh 7.4 percent and in Tamil Nadu 7.1 percent.

The largest proportion of population of the Scheduled Castes to total population of the State is in Punjab i.e 28.9 per cent, followed by Himachal Pradesh, 24.7 percent and in West Bengal 23 percent. In Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Pondicherry proportion of Scheduled Castes population is equal to the National average of 16.2 per cent. In the North-Eastern tribal States such as Mizoram only 272 persons, followed by Meghalaya 0.5 per cent and in Arunachal Pradesh 0.6 per cent is the smallest concentration of the Scheduled Caste population.

## III.UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN INDIA

Unemployment is one of the major problems of India. Indian government is trying to solve the by multi dimensional strategies and schemes. According to 2011 census 78.8 crore (15 -60 Years) is the work force and unemployed force of India constitutes 11.3 crore persons from 7 crore families (28 percent families of the nation) whereas about 23 percent according to 2001 census. This shown the increase of 28 percent within 10 years. The magnitude of unemployment in India differs from religion to religion. In India according to 2011 47 million (20 percent) of youth between age group 15-24 years were unemployed and seeking employment. The

following table gives details about the magnitude of unemployment in India among youths between age groups 20 and 29 years from different religions.

#### Unemployment Percentage of Youths between age groups 20 and 29 years in Different Religions

India	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Buddhist	Jain	Others
20	20	20	26	17	18	12	35

Source: Census 2011

#### Area, Category and Gender-wise Unemployment Rate in India (2004- 2012)

During the period 2004-05, 2009-10 and 2011-12 the percentage of unemployment rate in rural males varied between 1.6 percent and 1.7 percent. This variation was 1.1 percent and 1.3 percent among STs and 1.7 percent and 2.0 percent among SCs the percentage rate is high among SCs than STs. The unemployment rate among rural females varied between 1.6 percent and 1.8 percent. Among STs this was 0.4 percent and 1.1 percent whereas among SCs it was 1.4 percent and 1.5 percent during the period. The rate among SCs is more than STs. The unemployment rate among urban males varied between 2.8 percent and 3.8 percent which was 2.9 percent and 4.4 percent among male STs and 3.1 and 5.5 percent among male SCs and the rate is higher in SCs than STs. The unemployment rate among urban females varied between 5.2 percent and 6.9 percent which was 3.4 percent and 4.8 percent among male STs and 4.2 percent and 4.6 percent among male SCs and the rate is higher in STs than SCs. The following table gives details.

#### Area, Category and Gender-wise Unemployment Rate (in %) (2004- 2012)

Year	ST	SC	OBC	Others	Total
Rural Male					
2011-12	1.3	2.0	1.7	1.8	1.7
2009-10	1.7	1.7	1.4	2.0	1.6
2004-05	1.1	1.7	1.5	2.0	1.6
Rural Female					
2011-12	1.1	1.4	1.7	2.4	1.7
2009-10	0.9	1.5	1.4	2.5	1.6
2004-05	0.4	1.4	1.9	2.9	1.8
Urban Male					
2011-12	3.4	3.2	2.5	3.4	3.0
2009-10	4.4	3.1	2.8	2.7	2.8
2004-05	2.9	5.5	3.3	3.7	3.8
Urban Female					
2011-12	4.8	4.5	4.7	6.3	5.2
2009-10	4.3	4.2	6.2	6.2	5.7
2004-05	3.4	4.6	6.7	8.5	6.9

Source: NSSO Survey 68<sup>th</sup> Round. 20/01/2018 Employment: India - Indpaedia

**Poverty among SCs and STs –Rural & Urban India**

The Planning Commission of India statistics say, the poverty among SC, ST and OBC is declining due to government efforts of poverty eradication through five year plans I to XII.

**Poverty among SCs and STs –Rural & Urban India (in Percentage)**

Year	SC		ST		Others		Total	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
1983-84	58.1	56.5	63.8	54.2	37.0	39.1	45.6	42.2
1993-94	48.1	49.9	52.2	42.4	31.3	30.6	37.1	33.7
1999-2000	36.2	38.6	45.9	34.8	21.6	20.6	27.1	23.7
2004-05 (Revised Estimates)	52.7	40.0	61.9	35.0	26.2	15.8	41.8	25.7
2009-10	43.5	33.0	47.1	28.8	21.1	11.9	33.8	20.9

Sources: GOI, Planning Commission, Eleventh Five Year Plan, 2007-2012, Volume I, Inclusive Growth and NSSO primary data 2009-10.

During 2004-05 to 2011-12, the people from depressed classes like SCs, STs and OBCs have been removed from BPL both in rural and urban areas. This rate is more if compared with other poor people among other castes.

**Decreasing Trend of Poverty Ratio among SC, ST and OBC in Rural Areas**

	1993-94	2004-05	Change (%)	2011-12	Change (%)
<b>Scheduled Caste (SC)</b>	62.4	53.5	-8.9	31.5	-22.0
<b>Scheduled Tribe (ST)</b>	65.9	62.3	-3.6	45.3	-17.0
<b>OBC</b>	NA	39.8	NA	22.6	-17.2
<b>Others</b>	NA	27.1	NA	15.5	-11.6
<b>All Population</b>	50.1	41.8	-8.3	25.7	-16.1

Source: Planning Commission Official Site.

**Decreasing Trend of Poverty Ratio among SC, ST and OBC in Urban Areas**

	1993-94	2004-05	Change (%)	2011-12	Change (%)
<b>Scheduled Caste (SC)</b>	51.7	40.6	-11.1	21.7	-18.9
<b>Scheduled Tribe (ST)</b>	41.1	35.5	-5.6	24.1	-11.4

<b>OBC</b>	NA	30.6	NA	15.4	-15.2
<b>Others</b>	NA	16.1	NA	8.2	-7.9
<b>All Population</b>	31.8	25.7	-6.1	13.7	-12.0

Source: Planning Commission Official Site.

At the time of 2004-05 more than 50 percent of SC and ST population in (rural) (53.5 percent) was Below Poverty Line. The scenario changed by 2011-12 and the percentage decreased to 31.5 percent i.e by 22 percent. During the same period poverty among overall rural population decreased to 25.7 percent i.e 16.1 percent. In case of SCs in urban areas 40.6 percent i.e fall by 19 percent and 21.7 percent and 21.7 percent i.e fall by 12 percent in 2004-05 and 2011-12 respectively. In case of STs in rural areas BPL fell by 17 percent i.e 62.3 percent in 2004-05 to 45.3 percent in 2011-12. The number of STs in urban areas, fell by 11.4 percent i.e from 35.5 to 24.1 percent during the same period. In case of OBC also the scenario is not different. In rural areas the population living BPL fell from 30.6 percent to 15.4 percent i.e 15.2 percent decline where as in urban areas fell from 39.8 percent to 22.6 percent i.e 17.2 percent. As a result of the government efforts and employment generation and poverty alleviation programmes the trend in poverty among SCs, STs and OBCs is decreasing. The following tables give clear picture.

### Findings

- The work force and unemployed force of India constitutes 11.3 crore persons.
- The work force and unemployed force of India increased 28 percent within 10 years
- In India, according to 2011 47 million (20 percent) of youth between age group 15-24 years were unemployed and seeking employment
- The unemployment rate is high among SC males rural (2.0percent) than STs males rural (1.3%)
- The unemployment rate is high among SC females rural (1.4 %) than STs females rural (1.1%)
- The unemployment rate is high among than STs females urban (3.4 percent) SC females urban (3.2 percent)
- The unemployment rate is high among SC females rural (4.5 percent) than STs females rural (4.8 percent)

### IV.CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

India's labour force reached 47.79 crore in 2011 against 18.07 crore in 1971. Unemployment in the country denotes the wasting of human resource. The work force and unemployed force of India constitutes 11.3 crore persons. The work force and unemployed force of India increased 28 percent within 10 years. In India, according to 2011, youth between age group 15-24 years were unemployed and seeking employment. The unemployment rate is high among rural SC males than rural STs males. The unemployment rate is high among rural SC females than rural STs females. The unemployment rate is high among than urban STs females than urban SC females. The unemployment rate is high among rural SC females than rural STs females. The government of India has implemented several poverty alleviation and employment generation programmes for SCs and STs both in rural and urban areas. As a result the declining trend in poverty among SCs and STs is

marked. Still further positive steps for upliftment of SCs and STs is quite essential. Hence the government of India has to implement innovative schemes.

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