



**GOVERNMENT OF ORISSA**

**LIVING CONDITIONS OF SCHEDULED TRIBES  
SCHEDULED CASTES AND OTHER  
BACKWARD CLASSES IN  
ORISSA**

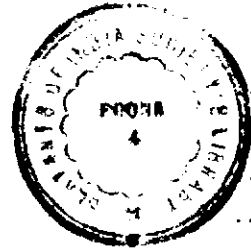
**PLANNING & CO-ORDINATION (EVALUATION) DEPARTMENT**

# LIVING CONDITIONS OF SCHEDULED TRIBES SCHEDULED CASTES AND OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES IN ORISSA

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## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

1. A survey was conducted in the first half of 1963 to find out the living conditions of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Class people living in selected blocks. The impact of a decade of development programme on the living conditions of these people was also proposed to be enquired into.

2. 1,048 heads of families— 678 Tribal, 222 Scheduled Castes and 148 Other Backward Classes were interviewed from 32 villages ( one from each of 32 blocks ) covering 12 districts of Orissa. Out of 32 blocks, 7 had Scheduled Tribe population of less than 20 per cent, 11 between 20 per cent to 66 per cent and 14 above 66 per cent. Categorising the blocks in another way, we find that there were 3 Stage II, 13 Tribal Development, 11 Stage I, 4 pre-extension and one shadow block.

2-A. Although it was intended to find out the impact of development programmes on levels of living of people in Stage II and Stage I blocks or blocks with varying proportion of Tribal people, no significant difference was noticed in the survey.

### POPULATION

3. 1,048 sample families had a total population of 5,557; i. e. to say the average family size was 5.3.

4. The proportion of workers was considerably high. It was 58.3 per cent against 43.6 per cent for the general population according to 1961 Census.

5. Out of 1,048 respondents, 766 were illiterate. Thus about a quarter of the respondents were literate. Comparing the caste-groups, we find that rate of literacy was lowest for the Scheduled Tribe and highest for Scheduled Caste respondents. Literacy among the entire population of the sample villages was of the order of 15.6 per cent.

6. More than 90 per cent of families belonging to each of the caste-groups were either cultivators or agricultural labourers. Thus one out of ten pursued non-agricultural occupation. When we compare these proportions with the findings of the Economic Survey, we notice that the proportion of Scheduled Tribe agricultural labourer families has increased while that for Scheduled Caste has decreased. From all available evidences, it is noticed that dependence on agriculture has increased instead of decreasing.

7. The average monthly income of backward families is estimated to be Rs. 62. Taking the caste-groups separately, income of Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes were respectively, Rs. 60, Rs. 54 and Rs. 78.

### AGRICULTURE

8. The proportion of landless families has remained constant over the decade. The present survey indicated that 32.4 per cent were landless while according to the Economic Survey, they constituted 30 per cent.

9. Among the land-owning families, 52 per cent had 5 acres or less while only 15 per cent owned more than 5 acres. Families having less than 5 acres were more numerous among Scheduled Caste people than the other two caste-groups.

### AMENITIES

20. Drinking water facilities were usually created for community use. In some of the villages visited by us wells were not used by Tribal people due to ignorance, indifference or other reasons such as lack of buckets or ropes, etc.

21. Although the numbers of families sending their children to school has progressively increased, more than half of the families having school-going children were not sending them to school. Even if some of them were willing to send their children to school, they were unable to do so due to the cost involved. The state of awareness of educational facilities provided by Government being very poor, parents were not influenced by such facilities. It would, therefore, be desirable to keep the parents informed about the educational facilities available and the consequential decrease in the cost of sending children to school. Distance as a cause of not sending children to school was not very important. On the other hand ignorance and indifference on the part of parents were important causes.

22. Health facilities created in the locality were generally utilised. A Good number of families visited hospitals and other health centres while many of them were visited by public health personnel. The Tribal peoples' attitude towards modern system of cure was favourable. The influence of methods of traditional cure was on the decline.

### EMPLOYMENT CONDITION

23. The extent of unemployment among Backward people was low. Partial unemployment was of the order of 40 per cent.

24. Four-fifths of workers belonging to each of three caste-groups were engaged in agriculture.

### INDEBTEDNESS

25. Two-thirds of the Backward families surveyed by us were indebted. This was much higher than that revealed by other surveys concerning general population.

26. Debt per family was Rs. 70.63 against Rs. 105.29 per indebted family. Debt per family was higher than that revealed by the Orissa Economic Survey.

27. Cash loans constituted 70 per cent of all outstanding loans. Kind loan was 18 per cent. The proportion of families incurring cash and kind loans was 52 per cent and 10 per cent respectively.

28. Private money-lenders supplied the largest proportion of credit. Government sources supplied more credit at the time of survey than was the case a decade back. As between Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes the latter depended upon Government sources more than the former.

29. Analysing indebtedness by income of families, we notice that the indebted families were concentrated over a few income-groups, viz., Rs. 10 to Rs. 100. As usual, richer families had more debt than the poorer ones. Thus credit appears to be more a function of income and assets of the borrowers than their consumption and investment needs.

### SOCIAL STATUS

30. The families surveyed by us did not suffer from social discrimination. The Backward families had exercised their due influence in Panchayat and other local institutions like Youth Clubs and Mahila Samitis. Villages primarily inhabited by Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes people did not offer any scope for exercising discrimination by the upper caste families whose number was very limited. Drinking water wells were used without any discrimination. The Scheduled caste families did not visit temples. This might be more due to their superstition. It might therefore be concluded that the few villages surveyed by us did not reveal lack of community living. The Tribal and Scheduled Caste families were fully associating themselves with village life and activities.

10. 14 per cent of the families having land leased from others for purposes of cultivation. Considering the area, 7.9 per cent of land owned was leased in. Both the figures were less than the corresponding figures published in the Economic Survey. As the sole occupation of these families was agriculture and as per capita land holding was small, leasing out land was not necessary.

11. Land owned per family by Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, and Other Backward Classes was 2.10, 3.71 and 7.93 acres respectively.

12. Land cultivated was the resultant of land inherited by the family, plus land purchased, minus land sold up to the date of survey. It was noticed that Scheduled Caste families had more land at the time of survey than they inherited while the other two caste-groups had less. That is to say, the Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes sold more than they purchased.

13. Acquisition of Government land by purchase was not popular. Only 2 Scheduled Caste families did that. 45 tribal families leased Government land. 138 (13.2 per cent) families reclaimed land by their own labour.

14. 3/4ths of our sample did not adopt any improved agricultural practices. Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Classes adopting improved agricultural practices constituted 26.6 per cent, 22 per cent and 31.1 per cent respectively. Shifting cultivation was not practiced by 89.5 per cent of the families. Among the caste-groups, shifting cultivation was most popular among tribal families.

#### STANDARD OF LIVING

15. The proportion of families living in one room or two-roomed houses constituted 75 per cent of the sample. The per capita floor area occupied by the caste-groups taken together was 22.3 sq. ft.

16. None of the Scheduled Caste families received any assistance for construction of their residences which were primarily Kutcha houses. 7 per cent of the tribal families were assisted by Government. All of them were living in T. D. blocks where concentration of tribal population was above 66 per cent. About 90 per cent of the tribal families had either Kutcha houses or huts. None of the Other Backward Class families was assisted by Government in the construction of their houses, 3/4 ths of which were Kutcha.

17. Seven per cent of the Scheduled Caste families received assistance from Government for repairing their houses. None was assisted for construction of new houses. 10 per cent of the Tribal families received assistance for construction while 6.6 per cent received assistance for repairing their houses. None of the Other Backward Classes received any assistance. Construction and repair of houses was more numerous within five years than before.

18. Value of assets per Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Class family was Rs. 242.48, Rs. 174.64, Rs. 307.57 respectively. A major portion of the assets was in the form of domestic animals and poultry. Durable assets such as utensils and ornaments constituted a small proportion. Ornaments constituted 3 per cent to 8 per cent. A few families had cycles.

19. Monthly *per capita* consumption expenditure of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes was Rs. 9.75, Rs. 12.36, Rs 15.37, respectively. Food expenses was around 80 per cent for each of the caste-groups. The expenditure on clothing and intoxicants was significant while those on health and education was very low.