

Socio-Economic Study of the Scheduled Castes
in Rural Maharashtra

G. M. Gore

GOKHALE INSTITUTE OF POLITICS AND ECONOMICS,

Peena 4

March 1973

PREFACE

The Indian Constitution provides for the promotion, with special care, of the educational and economic interests of the scheduled castes and their protection from social injustice and all forms of discrimination. However, in spite of all the constitutional protections and social efforts and welfare schemes, the scheduled castes still continue to suffer from various social disabilities. Untouchability is still being practised, often in a severe manner, particularly in rural areas. The subject of the present study is the condition of the scheduled castes in rural Maharashtra.

The Jati-Nirmulan Sanstha (society for the eradication of castes) of Poona, as its name implies, works towards the eradication of the caste system. The organisation is thus vitally interested in the welfare of the scheduled caste population. In order to see what further welfare programmes could be suggested the Jati-Nirmulan Sanstha conducted a comprehensive survey of 6434 scheduled caste families in 230 villages over eight districts in Maharashtra in the months of May and June 1970. The survey was initiated in the Gandhi Centenary Year and was carried out with the help of workers of 'Rashtra Seva Dal' and Harijan Sevak Sangh, Maharashtra. The Gokhale Institute provided assistance in the preparation of schedules and selection of samples, and in arranging some elementary training of the field investigators. The field work was organised in 230 villages by Shri Shirubhau Limye of Jati-Nirmulan Sanstha and Dr. R. N. Ambike of Rashtra Seva Dal, Poona. After the collection of data the Gokhale Institute also

provided help in the processing of the data and in the preparation of the report. In the Institute, the work was mainly entrusted to me.

The Indian Council of Social Sciences Research, (ICSSR) New Delhi extended financial assistance to meet the expenditure on tabulation and the preparation of the report.

I am grateful to Prof. A. R. Kamat, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Poona, who read the draft report and made many valuable suggestions.

Gokhale Institute of
Politics & Economics,
Poona 411 004

G. M. Gare

March, 1973

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>	
PREFACE	(1)	
LIST OF TABLES	(vi)	
<u>Chapter:</u>		
I	INTRODUCTION: OBJECTIVES AND METHODS	1
	1.1 Introduction	1
	1.2 The purpose and scope of the study	3
	1.3 Area of inquiry	3
	1.4 Selection of villages	4
	1.5 Units of study	6
	1.6 Methods of field work	6
	1.7 Plan of the report	8
II	THE PROBLEMS OF THE SCHEDULED CASTES AND EFFORTS MADE TO SOLVE THEM	9
	I	
	2.1 Scheduled caste population	9
	2.2 Livelihood pattern	10
	2.3 Education	12
	2.4 Housing and standard of living	14
	2.5 Scheduled castes and untouchability	15
	II	
	2.6 Anti-untouchability reform movement	16
	III	
	2.7 Policy and welfare programmes for the scheduled castes	18
III	SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE SURVEYED FAMILIES	25
	I	
	Kolhapur District (Shirol Taluka)	
	3.1 General information about family members	27
	3.2 Economic condition	29
	3.3 Cultivators and their land	32
	3.4 Housing and standard of living	33

	<u>Page</u>	
3.5	Family system and social change	34
3.6	Caste and change in occupation	36
3.7	Untouchability and social relations	37
	II	
	Kolaba District (Mahad Taluka)	
3.1	General information about family members	42
3.2	Economic condition	45
3.3	Cultivators and their land	48
3.4	Housing and standard of living	49
3.5	Family and social change	50
3.6	Caste and change in occupations	51
3.7	Untouchability and social relations	52
IV	OVERALL VIEW FOR ALL DISTRICTS	55
4.1	General information about family members	55
4.2	Educational level	62
4.3	Economic status and occupational pattern	68
4.4	Change in traditional occupations	73
4.5	Annual income	79
4.6	Indebtedness	83
4.7	Cultivators and their land	89
4.8	Housing and standard of living	95
4.9	Family system and social change	100
4.10	Untouchability and social disabilities	103
4.11	Conversion to Buddhism	110
V	SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION	113
	<u>NOTE ON UNTOUCHABILITY IN RURAL AREAS</u>	116
	<u>TABLES</u>	
	Kolhapur (Tables 3.1 to 3.29)	120
	Kolaba (Tables 3.4, 3.5, 3.8, 3.12 and 3.14)	154

	<u>Page</u>
Dhulia (Tables 3.1 to 3.29)	161
Nasik (Tables 3.1 to 3.29)	195
Satara (Tables 3.1 to 3.29)	229
Amravati (Tables 3.1 to 3.29)	263
Jalgaon (Tables 3.1 to 3.29)	297
Bhir (Tables 3.1 to 3.29)	331
 <u>Appendix</u>	
I DISTRICTS ACCORDING TO SCHEDULED CASTES POPULATION IN MAHARASHTRA	365
II A SPECIMEN OF THE HOUSEHOLD SURVEY SCHEDULE	366
III A SPECIMEN OF THE VILLAGE SURVEY SCHEDULE	370
BIBLIOGRAPHY	373

LIST OF TABLES

<u>Table No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Page</u>
1.1	Distribution of the selected villages according to district and taluka	5
2.1	Proportion of workers engaged in nine broad categories of economic activities for 6 numerically important scheduled castes in Maharashtra	13
3.1	Surveyed families according to district, taluka and castes	26
3.1 (Kolaba)	Distribution of families according to caste and population	43
3.2 (Kolaba)	Castewise families and their population by family size	43
3.3 (Kolaba)	Castewise families by adult males, females and children	44
3.6 (Kolaba)	Distribution of families according to caste and occupations	46
3.7 (Kolaba)	Distribution of families according to the annual income groups (in Rs.)	46
3.9 (Kolaba)	Distribution of indebted families according to purpose of borrowing	48
3.10 (Kolaba)	Debt according to sources of debt	48
3.11 (Kolaba)	Distribution of families according to size of landholding	49
3.15A(Kolaba)	Type of families according to land and income	51
3.15B(Kolaba)	Type of families according to income	51
4.1	Distribution of families according to caste and population	56
4.2	Castewise families by adult males, females and children	57
4.3	Castewise percentages of emigrants in the scheduled castes	58
4.4	Castewise earners per family in the scheduled castes	60
4.5	Caste and earning members of population	61

<u>Table No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Page</u>
4.6	Districtwise percentages of working population	60
4.7	Distribution of populations according to caste and education	63
4.8	Castewise percentages of working adult males, adult females and children in the scheduled castes	70
4.9	Distribution of families according to caste and occupational classification	71
4.10	Districtwise occupational distribution among the scheduled caste families	74
4.11	Distribution of families according to caste and change in traditional occupations	76
4.12	Caste and change in traditional occupation	77
4.13	Districtwise occupational change in the scheduled caste families	78
4.14	Distribution of families by caste and annual income groups (in %.)	80
4.15	Distribution of annual income according to caste and occupational categories	82
4.16	Districtwise percentages of income according to various occupations in the scheduled castes	83
4.17	Distribution of indebted families according to caste and purpose of borrowing	85
4.18	Debt according to caste and source of debt	87
4.19	Districtwise percentages of families according to purpose of borrowing and sources of debt	91
4.20	Distribution of families according to caste and size of landholding (in acres)	92
4.21	Districtwise percentages of land holders among the surveyed families	93

<u>Table No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Page</u>
4.22	Landholders, amount of land owned and amount of land cultivated with income according to caste	94
4.23	Districtwise landholders and their total land	96
4.24	Distribution of landholders according to caste and their working livestock (bullocks etc)	95
4.25	General information about agriculture according to caste	98
4.26	Housing condition of scheduled castes and lower castes	101
4.27	Castewise families and their population by family size	102
4.28	Distribution of families according to caste and family type	103
4.29	Free access to centres of public activities	105
4.30	Access to community dinner	104
4.31	Families by caste and their attitude to maintain marriage relations with touchables	107
4.32	Freedom to choose occupation by castes	108
4.33	Participation in common village activities	109
4.34	Quarrels and struggles between upper castes and scheduled castes	111
4.35	About inter-dining, common well and coming together of the scheduled castes	112
1	Access to places of public utilities	118
3.1(Kolhapur)	Distribution of families according to caste and population	121
3.2 (Kolhapur)	Castewise families and their population by family size	122
3.3 (Kolhapur)	Castewise families by adult males, females and children	123

<u>Table No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Page</u>
3.4 (Kolhapur)	Distribution of population according to caste and education	124
3.5 (Kolhapur)	Caste and earning members of population	126
3.6 (Kolhapur)	Distribution of families according to caste and occupational classification	127
3.7 (Kolhapur)	Distribution of families by caste and annual income groups (in Rs.)	129
3.8 (Kolhapur)	Distribution of annual income according to caste and occupational categories	130
3.9 (Kolhapur)	Distribution of indebted families according to caste and purpose of borrowing	131
3.10 (Kolhapur)	Debt according to caste and sources of debt	133
3.11 (Kolhapur)	Distribution of families according to caste and size of land holding (in acres)	134
3.12 (Kolhapur)	Land holders, amount of land owned, and amount of land cultivated with income according to caste	135
3.13 (Kolhapur)	Distribution of land holders according to caste and their working livestock (bullocks etc.)	136
3.14 (Kolhapur)	General information about agriculture according to caste	137
3.15 (Kolhapur)	Housing condition of scheduled castes	138
3.16 (Kolhapur)	Arrangement of household materials and health condition of residents	139
3.17 (Kolhapur)	Distribution of families according to caste and family type	140
3.18 (Kolhapur)	Family type according to caste and annual income groups	141
3.19 (Kolhapur)	Family type according to caste and size of land	142
3.20 (Kolhapur)	Distribution of families according to caste and change in traditional occupation	143

<u>Table No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Page</u>
3.21 (Kolhapur)	Caste and change in traditional occupation	144
3.22 (Kolhapur)	Free access to centres of public activities	145
3.23 (Kolhapur)	Access to community dinner	147
3.24 (Kolhapur)	Families by caste and their attitude to maintain marriage relations with touchables	148
3.25 (Kolhapur)	Freedom to choose occupation by caste	149
3.26 (Kolhapur)	Prevention of economic advancement	150
3.27 (Kolhapur)	Participation in common village activities	151
3.28 (Kolhapur)	Quarrels and struggle between upper castes and scheduled castes	152
3.29 (Kolhapur)	About inter-marrying and inter-dining among sub-caste groups	153
3.4 (Kolaba)	Distribution of population according to caste and education	155
3.5 (Kolaba)	Caste and earning member of population	157
3.8 (Kolaba)	Distribution of annual income according to caste and occupational categories	158
3.12 (Kolaba)	Land holders, amount of land owned and amount of land cultivated with income according to caste	159
3.14 (Kolaba)	General information about agriculture according to caste	160
3.1 (Dhulia) to 3.29 (Dhulia)		162
3.1 (Nasik) to 3.29 (Nasik)		196
3.1 (Satara) to 3.29 (Satara)		230
3.1 (Amravati) to 3.29 (Amravati)		264

<u>Table No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Page</u>
3.1 (Jalgaon) to 3.29 (Jalgaon)		298
3.1 (Bhir) to 3.29 (Bhir)		332