

Evaluation Study No. 12



HARIJAN WELFARE

An
Evaluation Report

ISSUED BY :
BUREAU OF STATISTICS & EVALUATION
GOVERNMENT OF PONDICHERRY

1971

INTRODUCTION

The Evaluation Report on Harijan Welfare is the twelfth issue in the evaluation series of the Bureau of Statistics and Evaluation, Pondicherry.

A survey of the socio-economic life of harijans was conducted in selected harijan colonies with a view to assess the extent to which the harijans have derived benefits from various schemes implemented by the Harijan and Social Welfare Department. The present report embodies the results of the analysis of the data collected in this survey.

The co-operation extended by the Director of Harijan and Social Welfare, Pondicherry, in providing the requisite facilities for carrying out the survey and in furnishing necessary data for this report is gratefully acknowledged.

It is hoped that this publication will be of great use to those who are concerned in the evaluation of plan schemes.

Place: Pondicherry
Date: 22nd July 1971.

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EVALUATION STUDY No. 12—HARIJAN WELFARE

1. Introduction :

The process of social emancipation of the depressed classes was accelerated by the concerted efforts made by the Government of India since Independence. Certain specific provisions are incorporated in the constitution of India to ensure protection to and progress of the scheduled caste population. In consonance with the constitutional guarantees various legislative measures have been undertaken to afford relief to the members of this community. With the result that the slur of untouchability has, to a very large extent, been eradicated, though disabilities of lesser gravity are still experienced by scheduled caste people in certain parts of the country.

This community which has been the victim of social ostracism for ages together has gradually got itself integrated in the mainstream of Indian social life. Nonetheless, the fact that a sizeable section of this people is still in impecunious circumstances can hardly be ignored. Poverty is of course not an ordeal exclusive to the Harijan community. But it invariably assumes greater poignancy when a caste which has already been sinned against socially is additionally burdened with the same.

2. Background :

In the Union Territory of Pondicherry, out of the total population of 3,69,079 (1961 Census), 56,846 or 23% belong to the scheduled caste. Region-wise, it is

found that Karaikal has the highest percentage 26%, followed by Yanam 23% and Pondicherry 21%. Mahe has got only a very negligible proportion (0.27%) of Harijan population.

Prior to the *De-facto* transfer no schemes for the exclusive benefit of Scheduled Castes were implemented nor even envisaged by the former French Administration. The transfer of power on 1—11—1954 thus heralded a new era for the Harijans in the Territory whose sole hope of economic advancement under the French regime lay in joining French military service. A separate office for the implementation of schemes relating to Harijan Welfare was started in 1956 and it has been rendering various forms of assistance to the Harijan population of the Territory. This office has since been merged in 1969 with the Department of Social Welfare without any diminution whatsoever in the sphere of its activities. The following are the schemes handled by the Harijan and Social Welfare Department.

Schemes for Economic Uplift :

1. Provision of housesites.
2. Free distribution of agricultural implements.
3. Free distribution of tools for setting up cottage industries.
4. Vocational training.

Other Schemes :

1. Award of Scholarships.
2. Free supply of books and slates.
3. Free Supply of Clothes.
4. Opening and maintenance of hostels for harijan students.

5. Adult education.
6. Construction of community halls.
7. Provision of drinking water facilities.

3. Objectives of the Study :

The purport of this study is to ascertain the basic facts about the socio economic conditions to which the residents of selected harijan colonies are subject. The degree of economic développement of a community is mostly a function of the forces of interactions in the educational, occupational and social spheres. Hence the study of economic development of the scheduled caste community necessarily presupposes an examination of the intricately associated environmental factors involved as well. It would be readily conceded that this approach would reflect the true picture of the life of quite a representative section of the Community.

The broad objectives of this study are, therefore, to enquire into and make an appraisal of :

1. The nature, content and tempo of development in the day to day life of Harijans in the selected housing colonies.
2. The extent to which they have derived tangible benefits from the various schemes of assistance.
3. The scope for furthering the cause of welfare and advancement of this community.

4. Procedure and method of enquiry :

In view of the multitude of schemes, each susceptible of varying degrees of impact upon the harijan community the task of selection of respondents for getting an integrated picture of Harijan Welfare, was

obviously difficult. The data sought to be collected being broad based it was felt that a survey of the socio economic life of Harijans in selected harijan colonies would fetch useful information on the subject.

The Harijan and Social Welfare Department, has setup 17 Harijan colonies for harijans in Pondicherry, Karaikal and Yanam. The list of housing colonies is given below. As figures relating to the actual cost of construction of the colonies were not available with the Department the estimated cost of each colony is furnished below :—

Table No. 1

S. No.	Name of Villages	Name of Communes	Number of houses	Estimated Cost
				Rs.
1.	Thirukanji	Villianur	30	18,800
2.	Kalitheerthalkuppam	Mannadipet	30	18,800
3.	Aranganoor	Bahur	30	18,800
4.	Manamedu	Bahur	33	20,200
5.	Annavaasalpet	Nedungadu	12	7,500
6.	Arangapet	Thirunallar	20	12,500
7.	Sedarapet	Villianur	42	25,600
8.	Manapet	Bahur	32	19,800
9.	Kirumambakkam	Bahur	32	19,600
10.	Sorapet	Mannadipet	40	24,200
11.	Commapakkam	Mudaliarpet	18	10,700
12.	Thiruvandarkoil	Mannadipet	40	24,200
13.	Nedungadu	Nedungadu	30	18,800
14.	Polagam	T.R. Pattinam	30	18,800
15.	Vizhidiyur	Neravy	30	18,800
16.	Thalatheru	Kottucherry	16	10,200
17.	Darialatippa	Yanam	30	19,550
			Total	495

For the requirements of this study, 8 housing colonies and 5 house sites were selected from various communes. Compared to the total strength of 760 households in all the housing colonies and house sites, the number of households selected for field enquiry is 475. The following table gives the relevant figures of total household approved and households actually in existence at the time of the survey.

Table 2

Sl. No.	Harijan housing colony/sites (H.S.)	Commune	Number of approved houses	Number of houses actually occupied and surveyed	Number of house sites vacant
A. PONDICHERRY :					
1.	Thirukanji	Villianur	30	28	2
2.	Athuvaikalpet (H.S.)	Villianur	53	53	Nil
3.	Kalitheerthalkuppam	Mannadipet	30	30	Nil
4.	Thiruvandarkoil	Mannadipet	40	40	Nil
5.	Kirumambakkam	Bhahur	32	32	Nil
6.	Kariamanikkam(H.S.)	Nettapakkam	113	73	40
7.	Commapakkam	Mudaliarpet	18	18	Nil
8.	Ouppalam - Nethajinagar (H.S.)	Pondicherry	28	27	1
	Total		344	301	43
B. KARAİKAL :					
1.	Polagam	T.R. Pattinam	30	30	Nil
2.	Vizhidiyur	Neravy	30	15	15
3.	Thalatheru	Kottucherry	16	16	Nil
4.	Neivatachery (H.S.)	Tirunallar	29	14	15
5.	Paravipet (H.S.)	Karaikal	26	12	14
	Total		131	77	54
	Grand Total		475	378	97

The field enquiry was conducted by the Statistical Inspectors of the Bureau. The difficulties faced by the field staff in reaching some of the colonies lend credence to the view expressed by the respondents that the selection of sites for these colonies had not always been made with the locational convenience of the dwellers in mind.

The houses built in the colonies surveyed are one room tenements provided mostly with thatched roofings. A few of the houses are tiled. These houses have been allotted without any right of ownership, the Government levying a nominal fee of one Rupee per annum by way of establishing its proprietary rights. The Department has not so far formulated any concrete proposal for the assignment of these houses to the allottees.

In the case of house sites, each beneficiary was allotted 3 to 5 cents of land as housing plot the cost of construction of the house being borne by him.

All the colonies except that of Vizhidiyur in Karaikal are occupied by harijans. It is understood that the harijans for whom the colony was built have refused to occupy it on account of its location in the vicinity of a temple. After repeated abortive attempts to prevail upon them to move to this colony, the Department has thrown open the colony to other economically backward classes who did not somehow share the objection raised by the harijan community. For purposes of this study, however, the particulars in respect of all the 15 non-scheduled caste households in the Vizhidiyur colony have been included with the rest of data collected on account of the near-evenness of the socio economic level of such non-scheduled caste occupants with that of harijans. The results of the

survey have also not pointed to any significant variation in the levels of living between these 15 non-scheduled caste households and the rest of the 363 harijan households.

RESULT OF THE STUDY

A. Educational and Vocational aspect :

1. Age groups :

Among the respondents (husbands) as many as 61.10% are in the 15 to 40 years age-group, in comparison to 85.38% of the respondents (wives) who fall in the same age-group. Only 18.08% of the husbands and 3.45% of the wives are more than 50 years old. The facility of free allotment of houses and house sites appears, therefore, to have attracted more the younger generation and this fact also highlights the general tendency for greater family fragmentation, irrespective of social or economic status.

Table 3

Age-groupings of respondents

S. No.	Age Group	Husband		Wife	
		No. of persons	Per centage	No. of persons	Per centage
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	15-20	5	1.37	25	7.16
2	21-25	15	4.11	78	22.35
3	26-30	58	15.89	86	24.64
4	31-35	66	18.08	57	16.33
5	36-40	79	21.65	52	14.90
6	41-45	45	12.33	19	5.44
7	46-50	31	8.49	20	5.73
8	51-55	31	8.49	4	1.15
9	56-60	19	5.21	7	2.01
10	Above 60	16	4.38	1	0.29
Total		365	100.00	349	100.00

2. Family size :

The total number of children in all the 378 households surveyed is 911, thus yielding an average strength of less than 3 per household. It is significant to note that 13.2% of the respondents had no issues. The majority of respondents are quite close to the family planning norm of 3 or less than 3 children, their percentage being 61.7%. However, the fact that as many as 21.2% of the respondents possess 4 or 5 children, points to the need for greater attention on this very vital aspect. And this is all the more important because, as already emphasised, the large majority of respondents fall in the age group of 15 to 40 years, thus enhancing the likelihood of further increase in family size in the future.

3. Literacy :

Even though 61.10% of the respondent husbands and 85.38% of the respondent wives are in the 15 to 40 age-group the vast majority of them have not benefited from the literacy drive. 88% of the husbands and 99% of the wives are illiterates. The percentage of respondent husbands who have had high school education as negligible a figure as 0.56% ; and this in spite of the fact that 1.37% of respondent husbands are in the age-group of 15 to 20 years.

Table 4
Literacy

S. No.	Class	No. of husbands	Per-centage	No. of wives	Per-centage
1	Illiterate	322	88.20	345	98.84
2	Literate	28	7.68	1	0.29
3	Primary	10	2.74	3	0.87
4	Middle	3	0.82	—	—
5	High School	2	0.56	—	—
Total		365	100.00	349	100.00

4. Children's education :

Out of a total of 694 children of above 5 years of age, those attending school are only 150 or in terms of percentage 21.61. The table below illustrates that there is a sharp drop in the attendance of school children beyond V Standard.

Table 5

Number of Children studying at the time of survey

S. No.	Present Class studying	Number of boys	Number of girls
1	2	3	4
1.	First Class	20	6
2.	2nd Class	20	5
3.	3rd Class	20	5
4.	4th Class	16	3
5.	5th Class	25	4
6.	6th Class	7	2
7.	7th Class	3	2
8.	8th Class	6	—
9.	9th Class	2	—
10.	10th Class	3	—
11.	11th Class	1	—
Total		123	27

The fact that there is only a single student studying in XI Standard among the children of 378 households surveyed is certainly not exhilarating of further grave importance is the non-attendance of school by as many as 190 children of school going age. In other

words, among the children of school going age, the number of those not attending school (190) far exceeds that of those attending school (150). Again in comparison to boys, the number of girls attending schools is extremely low.

Various reasons have been adduced by the respondents for not sending their children to schools. From the table given below it would be seen that over one fifth of such non schooling children refrain themselves from going to school simply because they are not interested in getting education.

Table 6

Reasons for children of school going age not attending School

S. No.	Reasons	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	2	3	4
1.	Need for additional income	37	19.48
2.	Helping agriculture	19	9.99
3.	Domestic duties	95	49.99
4.	Children not desiring education	39	20.54
	Total	190	100.00

It may be noted that in spite of the fact that a vast majority of respondents (78%) are engaged in agriculture, only 10% are skipping schools for purpose of helping their parents in agricultural work. It is thus patent that there is a growing tendency to wean away children from the traditional occupation in favour of education.

5. Educational facilities :

In sheer contrast to depressing figures relating to the number of children at school, it is found that 91.63% of the respondents are satisfied with the facilities available in the schools, 90.83% have no complaints regarding the quality of teaching and 71.71% are happy with the various kinds of assistance provided for the education of their children. The opinion of the respondents regarding educational facilities provided is given in the table below :

TABLE 7

Respondent's opinion regarding schools, teachers and Scholastic assistance.

S. No.	Opinion	Number of respondents	Percentage to group total
1	2	3	4
A. Schools :			
1.	Location inconvenient	19	7.57
2.	Improperly housed	1	0.40
3.	Lack of basic amenities	1	0.40
4.	Satisfactory	230	91.63
	Total	251	100.00
B. Teaching :			
1.	Inadequate staff	15	5.98
2.	Indifference of teachers	—	—
3.	Deficiency of Curriculum	8	3.19
4.	Satisfactory	228	90.83
	Total	251	100.00

1	2	3	4
<i>C. Assistance :</i>			
1. Inadequacy of scholarship		10	3.98
2. Inadequacy of scholastic materials		45	17.94
3. Inadequacy of Uniform		4	1.59
4. Inadequacy of Midday meals		12	4.78
5. Satisfactory		180	71.71
	Total	251	100.00

None among the respondent families has ever entered the portals of a college. Primary education is the highest level reached by any member of over 60% of respondent families. Hardly 12% of the households had members who had gone up to High School stage and only 3% of the respondent households could boast of having one or more members who have completed high school education.

Table 8

Highest class studied by any member of the respondent's family.

S. No.	Class studied	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	2	3	4
1. Primary		77	60.16
2. Middle		32	24.99
3. High		15	11.72
4. Matric		4	3.13
	Total	128	100.00

6. Availing of hostel and vocational facilities :

Not a single child in the 378 households interviewed has availed of free hostel facilities for children studying in Middle School classes. The vocational course of training imparted by the Harijan Welfare Department is tailoring. This training is given to both boys and girls for a period of one year with payment of a monthly stipend of Rs. 25 or Rs. 30. On completion of this training course, each trainee is given a sewing machine free of cost. The Harijan Welfare Department have also conducted a training course in mat-weaving and also organised a co-operative society for mat-weavers belonging to harijan community in Odiampet village in Villianur Commune. But this society is dormant now.

Among the respondents households only 3 have been benefited by such training, having successfully completed the course. All the three respondents have stated that they have received their monthly stipends in full and have received free of cost a sewing machine at the end of their training. Of the three trainees, one has left the tailoring profession as he has found a better employment, while another is attending to odd tailoring jobs by way of part time employment. Only one trainee is now fully engaged in the tailoring trade. It is, however, reported by him that the monthly earnings made out by him are only Rs. 40.

7. Members of respondent's family seeking employment:

Ten households have members who are seeking employment, of which 9 are in 15—21 age group and one in 26—30 age-group. Excepting a single member seeking a clerical position, the remaining 9 are in search of purely unskilled jobs having only primary or middle school education. Out of the 10, only 6 have

cared to register themselves in the Employment Exchange and only one has been called for interview in connection with a job. The monthly salary expected by eight job seekers is Rs. 100. The other two unemployed desired Rs. 150 and Rs. 200 as monthly pay.

8. Occupational distribution of respondents :

Obviously enough, agriculture predominates the list of present occupations of the respondents, 78.29% of them being either agriculturists or agricultural workers. This is in alignment with the fact that for 82% of the respondents agriculture is the hereditary occupation. In comparison it is found that, as against 11.92% of respondents declaring skilled trades as their hereditary occupation, only 5.03% are now actually engaged in such trades. Unfortunately the trend is just the reverse in the case of unskilled labour which had been the hereditary occupation of only 3.44% and which is the present occupation of 14.55%. The tendency to gravitate more towards occupations involving unskilled labour cannot possibly be conducive to the economic advancement of a community. The following table gives the number and percentage of the respondents as per their hereditary and present occupations.

Table 9
Hereditary and present occupations.

Occupation 1	Hereditary occupation		Present occupation	
	Num-ber 2	%-age to total 3	Num-ber 4	%-age to total 5
1. Agriculture	310	81.99	296	78.29
2. Toddy tapping	10	2.65	8	2.13
3. Skilled jobs	45	11.92	19	5.03
4. Unskilled jobs	13	3.44	55	14.55
Total	378	100.00	378	100.00

9. Earnings of respondents :

An overwhelming majority (93.10%) of respondents reported getting an average monthly earning of Rs. 100 or less. Viewed in the context of their occupational distribution, as shown in the table above, it is evident that a sizeable section of those engaged in agricultural work (78%) get but a meagre wage. Those who benefit from a slightly better range of 101 to 150 constitute 6.09%. Only 0.54% earn between Rs. 151 to Rs. 200. One single respondent however happens to derive Rs. 251 to Rs. 300 per month.

Table 10
Average monthly earnings

S. No.	Earnings range (In Rupees)	Number of respondents	Percentage to total
1	2	3	4
1.	Below 100	352	93.10
2.	101—150	23	6.09
3.	151—200	2	0.54
4.	201—250	—	—
5.	251—300	1	0.27
Total		378	100.00

10. Expenditure of respondents :

As compared to 93.10% of respondents declaring an average monthly income of Rs. 100 and less, only 51.58% are able to squeeze their average monthly expenditure within Rs. 100. Similarly, as against 6.09% earning between Rs. 101 to 150, 28.05% are incurring an expenditure of an equal order. The following table gives details of the monthly earnings, expenditure and minimum salary expectations of respondents.

Table 11

Average monthly expenditure

S. No.	Range	Number of respondents	Percentage to total
1	2	3	4
1.	Below 100	195	51.58
2.	101—150	106	28.05
3.	151—200	57	15.08
4.	201—250	10	2.65
5.	251—300	5	1.32
6.	Above 300	5	1.32
Total		378	100.00

11. Possession of assets :

The pronounced difference between the figures of income and expenditure furnished by the respondents inevitably suggests that the deficit is made-up either by utilising the income derived from whatever assets they happen to possess or by resorting to loans, which naturally leads to an inquiry into their assets and liabilities position. Only 21 or 5.55% of the respondents possess assets like land or cattle. None among the respondents owns elsewhere either a house or a house site. Out of the 21, only 5 or 1.37% are having lands in their possession while the remaining 16 or 4.23% own only cattle. The value of the assets is mostly of minuscule monetary worth. The assets of 2.65% of respondents are valued by them at below Rs. 250. Thus the value of assets owned by nearly half the number of respondents possessing assets is

almost negligible. 1.05% of the respondents have assets worth between Rs. 250 to Rs. 500 and the value of assets owned by 1.85% is between Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000.

Table 12

Possession of assets

Sl. No.	Category of wealth	Number of respondents	% - age to total respondents
1	2	3	4
1.	Land	5	1.32
2.	Cattle	16	4.23
	Total	21	5.55

Table 13

Value of assets

Sl. No.	Value (in Rs.)	Number of respondents	% - age to group total
1	2	3	4
1.	250	10	47.62
2.	250 - 500	7	33.33
3.	500 - 1000	4	19.05
	Total	21	100.00

12. Extent of liabilities :

It is, therefore, evident that, taking into account the marked paucity of assets, a good number of respondents resort to loans for plugging the deficit in their domestic budget. The table below gives the value of the outstanding loans that the respondents had at the time of the survey.

Table 14

Amount of loan

Size of loan 1	No. of Respondents 2	Percentage to group total 3
Up to 300	185	86.04
300 - 500	22	10.24
500 -1000	8	3.72
Total	215	100.00

Though the value of loans outstanding at the time of the survey is not great, it is significant that as many as 56.87% of the respondents are indebted. 72.56% of the debtors have stated that they obtain loan from friends and acquaintances. Those who obtain loans from professional money lenders constitute 21.39%. 5.58% of the respondents borrow from their relatives, only a mere 0.47% approach credit institutions for loans.

13. Purpose of loans and contemplated means of repayment :

Purpose of loan : As the table below reveals the large number of respondents i.e., 85.12% of the debtors have come to contract debts only for purposes of meeting their routine domestic expenses. Children's education and house construction are the reasons for resorting to loans in the case of 0.47% and 9.77% respectively. For 3.72% of those indebted the requirements of marriage expenditure had forced them to take loans.

Table 15
Purpose of loan

S. No. 1	Purpose 2	Number of respondents 3	% age to group total 4
1.	Routine domestic expenses	183	85.12
2.	Children's education	1	0.47
3.	Medical expenses	2	0.92
4.	House construction	21	9.77
5.	Marriage celebrations	8	3.72
Total		215	100.00

Means of repayment :

40% of the debtors do not have any solution in their minds for clearing their dues other than raising of a fresh loan. In the case of 34.42% of the debtors the means contemplated for the repayment of the loan is the expectation of their own future earnings. Those who expect to return their loan the earnings that their children might get in future constitute 17.21%. Disposing of assets to wipe out their debts once and for all appears to be the solution for 8.37% of the indebted.

14. Dependents :

As much as 26.12% of the respondents are having the burden of supporting relatives other than wife and children. Of these, 16.41% have their parents or grand parents as their dependents. Brothers and sisters are under the charge of 5.56% of the respondents. 4.76% of the respondents support relatives other than those mentioned above.

15. Schemes from which respondents have been benefited :

Apart from the scheme of free allotment of houses or house sites under which all the 378 respondents have benefited, 53 of them are beneficiaries of the undermentioned schemes :—

<i>Name of the Scheme</i>	<i>Approximate cost of each implement or tools set.</i> <i>Rs.</i>
1. Free distribution of agricultural Implements ...	10.50
2. Free distribution of tools for starting cottage industries :—	
(a) Weaving tools ...	104.00
(b) Carpenter's tools ...	89.75
(c) Washerman's tools (Pressing Iron) ...	57.50
(d) Cobbler's tools ...	52.75
(e) Hair dresser's tools ...	34.05

The table below gives the number of respondents who have received implements and tools free of cost under the above mentioned schemes and the percentage of utilisation of such implements and tools by the respondents :—

Table 16

Utilisation of implements and tools

S. No.	Name of Scheme	Number of respondents benefited	Number of respondents making actual utilisation	% age of utilisation to group total
1	2	3	4	5
1	Free distribution of agricultural implements	47	10	21.28
2	Free distribution of tools for starting Cottage Industries	6	6	100.00

In the group of sample respondents interviewed, only 47 have availed of the scheme of free distribution of agricultural implements, in contrast to as great a number as 296 who are actually engaged in agriculture. Furthermore even these 47 are not at all using the implements at present. Only 10 (21.28%) of them are putting those implements to use now. 26 (55.32%) respondents have stated that the implements are not in good condition and another 11 (23.40%) respondents have reported that they could not utilise those implements as they were either broken or lost.

A total of 6 respondents have benefited from the scheme of free distribution of cottage industrial tools. Three respondents got carpentry tools, barber's tools were distributed to one, and two respondents-washermen received ironing box. All these 6 respondents have declared that the tools received by them are in actual use now.

SOCIAL SITUATION

16. Housing pattern :

The survey covered a total of 209 (42.22%) dwellings in housing colonies and 169 (63.78%) dwelling in housing sites. A Housing colony usually consists of house built with masonry walls which are either terraced or at least covered with tiles or asbestos sheets. In the case of the housing colonies coming under the purview of this survey only 76 or 30.52% are covered with tiles, while the remaining 133 or 69.48% have thatched roofs. As the latter are highly susceptible to damages caused by fire and vagaries of weather they need periodical replacement, the entire expenditure of such replacement being borne by the

occupants themselves. In the case of housing sites (169) where the allottees are expected to put up their thatched huts, eight houses or 3.21% have masonry walls constructed by the occupants themselves.

The table below gives the number and percentage of respondents by the duration of their stay in their respective housing colonies.

Table 17

S. No.	Duration of stay	Number	Percentage occupied
1	2	3	4
1.	Upto 1 year	18	4.76
2.	Upto 2 years	47	12.43
3.	Upto 3 years	10	2.65
4.	Upto 5 years	74	19.58
5.	Upto 10 years	75	19.84
6.	Over 10 years	154	40.74
Total		378	100.00

Over 40% of the respondents have been staying in their respective dwellings for more than 10 years.

17. Sanitary facilities and water supply :

Sanitary facilities are quite conspicuous by their total absence in the housing colonies and house sites. The colonies have not been provided even with common latrines. A few of the respondents (8.47%) have made make-shift arrangements adjacent to their houses.

In the matter of water supply, however, the position is somewhat better with 37.30% of the respondents deriving benefit of supply from overhead tanks. 42.59% of the respondents are drawing their water requirements from wells or handpumps, whereas 20.11% do not have any source of water supply in the housing colonies and are obliged to fetch water from the neighbourhood.

18. Electrification :

None of the respondents' houses is electrified, not even one of the 76 tiled ones in the sample of 378 houses. As house electrification gives impetus to educational development and domestic hygiene, the figurative observation that harijans live in darkness is also aptly applicable in its literal meaning to the respondents interviewed.

19. Extent of lack of amenities :

The following table gives the number and percentage of respondents who are not satisfied with various amenities in respect of their housing colonies.

Nature of amenities lacking	Number of respondents	Percentage to total number of respondents
1	2	3
1. Absence of latrines	370	97.88
2. Improper drainage	303	80.16
3. Inadequate water supply	290	62.70
4. Insufficient accommodation	255	67.46
5. Absence of electrification	229	60.58
6. Inconvenient location	107	28.31

In the context of the total absence of latrines in their colonies it is not surprising that dissatisfaction with the existing latrine facilities is almost a universal phenomenon, with nearly 98% of the respondents sharing that grievance. It is highly deplorable that so basic a sanitary amenity has not received due attention while constructing housing colonies. The second biggest disadvantage which 80.16% of the respondents experience is the inadequate drainage in the colonies, which again points to the existence of unhygienic conditions of living to which the respondents are subject. The inadequacy of protected water supply is felt by 62.70% while the percentage of respondents complaining about the inadequacy of accommodation in their dwellings is 67.46%. Lack of electrification of their houses is actually felt by 60.58% of the respondents. 28.31% of the respondents are of the opinion that the location of the colony is inconvenient for them, being either segregated from the village or too far away from their place of work.

20. Medical facilities and Family planning :

The view that medical facilities are inadequate had been expressed by 81.75% of the respondents. Though provision of separate medical facilities for harijans could not be contemplated, the need for organising medical services in such a way as to benefit the harijans living in these colonies can hardly be over emphasised. As regards family planning, only 4 respondents (or 1.06%) out of the 378, have reported to be adopting family planning methods; this, notwithstanding the fact that over 61% of the male respondent husbands and 85% of the respondent wives fall in the potential reproductive age group of 15 to 40 years. Considerable effort would, therefore, be needed to induce them to take to family planning methods before the size of their families grow further.

21. *Job preference and job reservations :*

Quite a large number of respondents (69.58%) have expressed desire to place their children in Government jobs in the future. Those who want their children to follow their hereditary agricultural occupation constitute 23.07%. Only 1.32% of the respondents are keen on putting their children on technical jobs; the remaining 2.03% have no fixed idea about the career that they would advise their children to choose.

In keeping with the desire of the majority of the respondents to secure Government service for their children it is found that 94.18% of the respondents favour the continuance of the procedure of reservation of posts for the Scheduled castes in the matter of selection to Government jobs.

22. *Sociological attitudes :*

Paradoxically enough, nearly all the respondents contacted is 376 (99.46%) are inclined to enter into matrimonial alliances only within their own community. Inter caste marriage, therefore does not seem to find favour with them. Notwithstanding their impecunious conditions, as many as 180 (47.62%) of the respondents have stated that they require a minimum amount of Rs. 800 to Rs. 1,000 to celebrate a marriage. 332 (87.83%) of the respondents feel that untouchability is still a problem in these days while nearly a third (33.07%) are of the opinion that their dwellings are segregated from the village community.

FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY

1. The survey reveals the existence of enough man power potential in the selected colonies. As over 61% of the respondents are in the active age group of 15 to 40 years, their share in the community's labour

force assumes importance. Their economic development, therefore, hinges on the pattern of occupation they take up and their degree of preparedness for job mobility to ensure a better future for them.

2. It is unfortunate that the percentage of literacy is utterly low (12%) among the respondents. The series of literacy drives launched to stamp out illiteracy among the rural population do not seem to have made even a partial impact on the respondents. Though the hurdles in the implementation of the programme of adult education in rural areas are many, it would be worthwhile to take steps not to allow such a vast majority of respondents, especially those in the comparatively younger age groups, to remain lifelong illiterates.

3. The picture presented in the matter of the education of the respondents children is even more sombre. Despite all the facilities provided for children's education, as many as 190 children of school going age are not attending school. Contrary to the common belief that most children are kept back from school for earning additional income for the family it is found that nearly 50% of such children abstain from school only to look after the domestic duties. And what is worse, over 20% of them do not attend school because they are simply not interested in education. The absence of motivation in the minds of the respondents for education of their children is deplorable. But such a draw-back, once identified, must be sought to be remedied by proper propaganda among the respondents through the combined efforts of the Harijan and Social Welfare Department and the Education Department.

4. Another distressing factor noticed is the steady decline in the number of students attending school beyond V Standard. In other words, many children drop out from school even before they reach the middle school stage. Measures must be devised to avoid this. The minimum qualification for most of the technical courses or professions is the completion of high school Education. The expectation of assuring tangible economic benefits to this community would be belied if concerted efforts are not made to ensure that every harijan boy or girl completes at least high school education. The fact that there is only one boy among all the 378 families of respondents who has reached the School final stage highlights the enormity of the problem.

5. Eventhough over 91% of the respondents have declared that they are satisfied with the facilities available and the coaching provided in the schools, it would not be prudent to take it at its face value when due allowance is given to the magnitude of illiteracy among the respondents (88%). In the matter of various assistance given to the students by way of scholarship, free distribution of scholastic materials, uniforms and midday meals, over 26% of the respondents feel the need for augmentation of such assistance.

6. *Vocational training* : There were only three trainees among the families of 378 respondents who have availed of this scheme. Out of the three, only one is now fully engaged in the tailoring trade and he has reported a monthly income of only Rs. 40 from this avocation. It is incredible that anyone could afford to stay in a profession that yields only a net return of Rs. 40 a month that too after undergoing a full year's training in the trade. However, there is no denying the fact that though this trainee has learnt

the trade, he has not established himself in it commercially. Eventhough no valid inference could be made from this single instance, it would be worthwhile to chalk out measures that would provide the trainees scope for better employment after the training. For instance, it is found that the Harijan and Social Welfare Department which is distributing cloths free to Harijan students is getting them stitched by a private agency. If this regular tailoring job could be entrusted to the vocational training school in tailoring, it will be gainful and will go a long way in providing greater employment to the trainees, besides doing away with the need to hand over the job to a private tailor.

7. Occupation of respondents : Out of 82% of respondents who have stated that agriculture is their hereditary occupation, over 78% are still following the same occupation. As nearly all those engaged in agriculture are not owning lands, it is unlikely that much headway could be made in respect of their economic development unless cultivable lands are allotted to them. The present situation of predominant dependence of the agricultural labour on daily wages can only provide them the wherewithal just for a hand-to-mouth existence—as is clearly evidenced by the fact that over 93% of them earn only Rs. 100 and below. Equally dismal is the low proportion of those engaged in skilled trades. It is needless to say that the more prosperous avenues of employment of the present day are those involving technically skilled trades and any measures that are devised for the diversion of a greater percentage of harijans to such lucrative trades are bound to yield satisfactory results. As it is certain ominous tendencies like discontinuance of education

at middle school level, growing strength of respondents in the unskilled trade group and dependency of an overwhelming majority of respondents on daily wage agricultural jobs, must be arrested urgently if a stable and better economic future for the harijans is to be built up.

8. *Earnings and expenditure of respondents* : Only a little above 6% of respondents are able to earn Rs. 100 to Rs. 151 per month while 3 respondents or 0.81% are fortunate enough to get an income of Rs. 151 to Rs. 300 per month. As against 93% earning Rs. 100 or less, only 51.58% manage to peg down their expenditure to the amount they earn. It is, therefore, not a surprise that over 62% of the respondents are indebted to varying degrees. Further, as is to be expected, the great majority (85.12%) of those who have thus borrowed have done so only to defray their routine domestic expenses. It is obvious that unless some substantial amelioration could be effected in the earning capacity of the respondents, they will no doubt continue to squirm under the inexorable burden of deficit budgets indefinitely. A sizeable proportion of the respondents (40%) do not have any hope of clearing their existing debts by means other than the raising of fresh loans. The likelihood of this vicious circle remaining perpetually and menacingly alive is considerable indeed.

9. Among the harijan welfare schemes put through departmentally, those directly linked with the employment potential of the respondents are the "Free distribution of agricultural implements" and "Free distribution of cottage industrial tools."

A perusal of the approximate cost of each implement/tool set reveals that the quantum of assistance offered to the beneficiaries is much too limited in scope. Though the supplying of such tools gratis will assist them in their individual trades, it could not be asserted on that count that such assistance, limited as it is in extent will bring about a material transformation in their economic life. By far the most stupendous hurdle encountered by the respondent artisans is the lack of employment opportunities, lucrative enough to give them the much needed break-through. In the absence of such promising employment conditions it would be futile to expect the realisation of a satisfactory economic life for the harijans. Any effort made by the Department towards opening better employment avenues to the beneficiaries of these schemes would be abundantly useful. While hundred per cent utilisation of the cottage/Industrial tools received by 6 respondents has been reported, only 10 beneficiaries out of 47 who have received agricultural implements have stated that they are actually utilising them. Of the remaining 37, as many as 26 respondents have reported that the implements are not in good condition. This fact may be got verified by the Department and if it finds that such is the case, measures may be taken to issue new and serviceable implements.

10. The housing conditions which the respondents live leave much to be desired. That nearly 70% of the houses are thatched only goes to prove that the conditions in most of these colonies are not very different from those the respondents would have to encounter elsewhere in the absence of such specified housing schemes. Though the establishment of model housing colonies for Harijan may not always be feasible to the point of perfection, it behoves the Department to remove at least certain major deficiencies in respect of

the existing colonies especially in the matter of sanitation. Provision of proper latrines and drainage is desperately hoped for by a great majority of the respondents. The extension of medical care-without laying the proper emphasis for environmental hygiene in these colonies would serve little purpose ultimately. Inadequacy of water supply is yet another handicap with which many of the respondents have to put up with. These basic amenities, which are the pre-requisites for any advancement in the economic efficiency of a community, should be sought to be created at the earliest. The problem assumes added urgency when viewed in the context of the duration of stay of the residents in the colonies. A majority of the respondents (61.38%) have been staying in the colonies for nearly 10 years now. It is high time, therefore, that they were provided the essential amenities.

11. Inadequacy of medical facilities is reported by as many as 81.75% of the respondents. This should be looked into and suitable remedial action initiated. Only a pitiable proportion of 1.06% of the respondents have stated that they are adopting family planning methods. The fact that a lot more has to be done to bring the respondents under the fold of the programme hardly needs emphasis.

12. The white collar job still seems to hold an enormous amount of attraction to the respondents, nearly 70% of them preferring Government service for their children. That quite a large body of respondents are in the agricultural occupation by force rather than by choice is proved by the fact that only 23% of respondents prefer their sons taking to agriculture as their profession. If the economics of this profession is to be made more attractive to the respondents, sufficient land

should be assigned to them for cultivation. It is needless to say that the concept of ownership of the land they cultivate would go a long way in pepping their enthusiasm and efforts in achieveing profitable returns for their labour.

13. In the matter of inter-societal relationship the respondents are unfortunately found to be harbouring remnants of certain retrograde notions. Over 99% are willing to enter into matrimonial alliance only with members of their own caste. Moreover it is ironical that Harijans—themselves victims of age old superstitious beliefs like untouchability—are equally susceptible to be afflicted by superstitious as is evidenced by the fact that no amount of official persuasion could convince the harijans to move into the Vizhidiyur colony (Karaikal), on account of the presence of a temple on the vicinity. Speedy spread of literacy appears to be the only solution for helping the harijans out of their shell and extricating them from the tentacles of the complex of inferiority. Serious and sustained effort ought to be made by the Department for infusing new life to their adult education programme for harijans. Notwithstanding the fact that the Department has been implementing this programme for a number of years, a sizeable proportion of the respondents (88%) still continue to be in the clutches of illiteracy.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

1. Besides the high percentage of illiteracy among the adult respondents, the response of their children to education is not encouraging. A large percentage of children of school going age stay away from school.
2. The scheme of vocational training in tailoring should be made more purposeful by assisting the trainees to establish themselves commercially after their period of training. The stitching of uniforms could be handled by the vocational school itself to the mutual advantage of the trainees and the Department.
3. The occupation of the majority of the respondents is agricultural labour, most of them being landless. Assignment of cultivable lands to them is necessary for assuring them a settled means of livelihood. Judged from the data regarding their hereditary and present occupation, a large percentage of the respondents are found to be engaged in unskilled trades.
4. The average monthly earnings of over 93% of the respondents is Rs. 100 and less. In other words these respondents must be presumed to be living just at the subsistence level. Additionally as many as 62% of the respondents are indebted to varying degrees mainly to defray the requirements of routine domestic expenses.

5. The scheme of free distribution of agricultural implements has not contributed to any palpable change in their economic status. The scheme of free distribution of cottage industrial tools has given the beneficiaries the means of carrying on the trade.
 6. Houses in some of the colonies are lying vacant. In the case of Vizhidiyur colony in Karaikal, the entire colony had to be allotted to non-harijans, due to the harijan members' disinclination to occupy them on superstitious grounds.
 7. Lack of basic amenities in the colonies is a major grievance voiced by a majority of the respondents.
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COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF HARIJAN AND
SOCIAL WELFARE, PONDICHERRY.

Page No. 3 The scheme "Construction of community
Item No. 6 halls" has been suspended from the
year 1969-70. In addition to the
schemes listed out, some other schemes
are also implemented by the Directo-
rate of Harijan and Social Welfare,
viz., :

- (1) Grant-in-aid to municipalities for
elimination of the practice of
carrying night-soil as head-loads ;
- (2) Grant-in-aid to municipalities for
construction of houses for sca-
vengers ;
- (3) Legal aid to persons belonging to
scheduled castes ; and
- (4) Aid to voluntary organisations.

Page No. 6 The colonies were constructed only as
Para No. 1 per the wishes of the harijan popu-
lation of the locality.

Page No. 6 Though the Department has not so far
Second para formulated any concrete proposal for the
assignment of houses in these colonies,
the same is engaging its attention.

Page No. 21 Within the limited allocation available
First Para for the scheme, only a limited number
of persons could be benefited.

- Page No. 21 The statement of the beneficiaries that
First para the implements supplied were either
 bad in quality or liable to be broken
 is not correct.
- Page No. 22 It is agreed that even common latrines
Para No. 17 have not been provided in the colonies.
 These amenities will be provided in
 future.
- Page No. 23 The Department has done its best to pro-
Sub-para vide water supply in all harijan cher-
 ries. Even the 20.11% of respondents
 not having the facility now will be
 covered in due course.
- Page No. 23 It is proposed to electrify all harijan
Para No. 18 colonies and necessary data in this
 regard are being collected.
- Page No. 24 For want of funds, sanitary amenities
 could not be provided. The Govern-
 ment are, however, seized of the matter
 and when housing colonies are set up
 in future, this amenity will be invari-
 ably provided. The colonies have been
 constructed only after ascertaining the
 willingness of the harijans, and it is
 only in Vizhidiyur Housing Colony
 that harijans refused to settle.
- Page No. 24 Wide publicity was given by the Harijan
Para No. 20 Welfare Inspectors in the matter
 of family planning also in addition to
 the work done by the Propaganda
 workers of the Health and Family
 Planning Department.

Page No. 23 16% of the jobs are reserved for schedu-
 Para No. 21 led caste candidates as far as Govern-
 ment appointments are concerned.

Page No. 25 No comments of inter-caste marriages
 Para No. 22 among harijans. It is mere superstition
 on the part of the harijans that un-
 touchability still prevails. They must
 shed their inferiority complex and un-
 less their present attitude is changed,
 the schemes designed for their benefit
 will never yield better results. Un-
 touchability Offences Act, 1955 has
 been extended in this Territory. To
 promote integration of harijans among
 other castes, the Department offers re-
 servation of seats for the other econo-
 mically backward class pupils in the
 matter of admission in Government
 hostels while in the case of distribu-
 tion of plots", 10 to 25% of the plots
 available are distributed to non-hari-
 jans. Post-matric scholarships are
 also awarded to low-income group
 students other than harijans. All these
 are aimed at eradicating the complex
 of inferiority and untouchability.

Page No. 25 Findings of the survey—No comments
 Para No. 1

Page No. 27 Tailoring work was entrusted to the inmates of the observation home, and special school run by the Department during 1970-71 and the practice of handing over this work to private tailors has been suspended. However, it may not be advisable to entrust the job to the students in Vocational Training Centre who are just under training.

Page No. 29 No comments

Para No. 8

Page No. 29 No comments

Para No. 9 (1)

Page No. 30 As already indicated, since agricultural implements/tools for cottage industries are supplied out of limited resources, it is obvious that the quantum of assistance offered to the beneficiaries is also limited. But it is not correct to say that the implements supplied by the Department are not in good condition. May be that the tools may become unserviceable due to carelessness and mishandling on the part of the beneficiaries.

Page No. 30 The problem of insanitary condition has already been claiming the attention of the Government and it has been decided to provide amenities hereafter. In respect of old colonies, the study group's recommendations will be examined and steps taken accordingly. Drinking water facilities will be provided in all harijan colonies before the close of the Fourth Plan period.

Para No. 10

Page No. 32 Unless the harijans, themselves come
Para No. 13 forth to shed away their inferiority
complex and superstition and avail
of the departmental activities, it will
hardly be possible for them to emanci-
pate from the social and economic dis-
abilities from which they now suffer.