



Comparative Analysis of Occupational Structure of Schedule Caste Population in Mountainous Areas of Himalayas and Aravalli

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Abstract:

Social arrangements determine occupations since later vedic period. After Independence, occupational structure becomes a sense of work not a sociological order. Rural economy still governed by land suitable for livelihood. Employment opportunities changes scenario of occupations and one can moves from a chosen occupations to other economic viable occupation. Cultivation and its ancillary occupations are dominant in rural areas in India. Proximity to urban centres opens up chances of works in various sectors of economy. Distance plays a key role for male and female workers with sense of their land.

Keywords: Occupation, Cultivation, Workers, Labour, Economy, Gender.

Introduction:

The term "occupation" is used to describe the line of work that a someone does for a living. The pattern of occupation is an index of economic status, level of living, involvement of persons in different activities and socio-cultural development. As far as diversity in workforce is concerned, the gap between the representation of scheduled caste population that is target population and other castes is so wide that only a state policy can remedy it (Rao, 2002). The severity of social caste-discriminatory practices was not uniform across the nation (Sundaram & Tendulkar, 2003). Their occupational structure is critical in knowing the Scheduled Caste and how it is spread to different occupations and gender wise involvement in various economic activities. There are also two types of workers, one of them is main workers who work majority of the year and the other marginal workers who work not majority of the year (Census of India, 2001).

The scheduled castes are those that are named in an order released by the Indian government in August 1950 on the scheduled castes. A person is thus considered to be part of a Scheduled Caste, when he or she just happens to belong to a caste which has been found under the constitution to have been approved as a Scheduled Caste in the region where he or she resides. The president of India can merely designate a caste as a Scheduled Caste and anything added or removed to the list is only possible through an act of the parliament. Therefore, the idea of Scheduled Caste is not sociological but constitutional.

The significance of the knowledge of work participation rate provides data on the capacity of an economy to generate employment (Sikri 2008).

Study Area: Location of Deogarh tehsil is 73° 55' 00" E to 74° 00' 00" E and 25° 20' 00" N to 25° 25' 00" N and Balh tehsil of Mandi district located between 76° 93' 18" E to 76° 98' 19" E and 31° 63' 37" N to 31° 69' 54" N latitude and longitude respectively. Deogarh tehsil comprises an area 550.23 square kilometre having population of 93119 persons which includes 16414 persons of schedule caste, male 8443 and females 8483. According to Census of India, 2011, total main workers are 46,536 among them 25006 are male workers and 21530 are female workers. Deogarh tehsil falls in semi arid zone with mild rainfall during monsoon period having hot summers and mild winters. Aravalli hills are dominant physiographic unit with Bhilwara super group of pre Cambrian period in crystalline in nature. There are some dissected patches of migmatitic gneiss, mica schist, amphibolites, granulite, dolomite marble, and ultramafic rocks also found. This area is a super rich in natural minerals.

Balh tehsil, headquartered at Dadour covers an area of Mandi district 223.07 square kilometre inhabited by 57,283 males and 56,702 females totaling 113985 persons in which schedule caste population 48923 is composed of males 24683 and female 24240 as per record of census for 2011. The main workers force comprises 1370 persons for schedule caste population, 9674 are males and 4116 females. Balh valley is a low lying very fertile area with sub tropical with sub humid climate. Balh valley area of Balh tehsil is rare example of sub tropical climate in alpine zone of Himalayas. Beas river and Suketi khad flows through Balh tehsil. Balh area is composed of ancient Mandi Darla volcanic with dolomite, limestone, quartzite, and red shales. Soils are silty loam to silty clay loam having strong fertility. Balh is basically a intermontane valley in bowl shaped tableland in Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh.

Objectives:

1. To analyze the role of work participation of schedule castes in Balh and Deogarh tehsils.
2. To assess work participations of male and female among schedule caste of mountainous areas.
3. To compare topographic effects on occupational structure of schedule caste in the study area.

Hypothesis: Terrain decides agriculture type and production and affects composition of occupational pattern of the area.

Methodology: The primary sources for this study are the secondary data sets made public by the Indian government's Registrar General and Census Commissioner. Handbook for the Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh's district census, as published by the Directorate of Census Operations, Himachal Pradesh on September 30, 2014, in Series-03, Part XII-B of the 2011 Himachal Pradesh census. Located in the southwestern region of Rajasthan is the Deogarh tehsil. According to the map, this area is part of the Aravali hill range's Mewar plateau. The Directorate of Census Operations, Rajasthan, in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs, published the Rajasthan DCH Handbook on June 16, 2014. The publication is a part of the 2011 Rajasthan Census, which was conducted in 2011 and falls under Series 09. For the purpose of combining the two fields of study, we retrieved data from the most recent employment and socioeconomic surveys conducted in Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan in 2014 and 2015, respectively, on the same subject.

Data Analysis and Results: Data of both tehsils i.e Balh of Mandi district and Deogarh of Rajsamand district was analysed for every category of occupation for main workers categories and marginal categories of workers. Data was prepared on the basis of secondary sources and presented in tabulated for easy calculations.

Main Workers Category of Deogarh Tehsil, 2011

Main Workers		Cultivators		Agricultural Labourers		Household Industry Workers		Other Workers	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
3596	1906	1512	1061	347	440	28	14	1709	391
5502		2573		787		42		2100	

Marginal Workers Category of Deogarh Tehsil, 2011

Marginal Workers		Cultivators		Agricultural Labourers		Household Industry		Other Workers	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
871	1896	283	700	199	559	6	29	8	9
2767		983		758		35		17	

Main Workers Category of Balh Tehsil, 2011

Main Workers		Cultivators		Agricultural Labourers		Household Industry Workers		Other Workers	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
9674	4116	2792	2967	303	164	224	44	6355	941
13790		5759		467		268		7296	

Marginal Workers Category of Balh Tehsil, 2011

Marginal Workers		Cultivators		Agricultural Labourers		Household Industry Workers		Other Workers	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
4939	8839	2986	7643	465	429	89	38	1399	729
13778		10629		894		127		2128	

Cultivators: Basically, cultivators are those persons who are directly or indirectly work for cultivation. These persons may own land or work as co sharer of crop produce. This class can be identifies as land holders or tenants. There are 2573 persons of schedule caste from Balh tehsil of Mandi district who are engaged as cultivators as per census of 2011 for Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh. This number includes 1512 males and 1061 females shows higher share of males in this category. The marginal category for cultivators included 2986 males and 7643 females for accounting 10629 persons in Balh tehsil as per census of 2011. On the other hand, Deogarh tehsil in Rajsamand district constitutes 5759 numbers of person works as cultivators while 2792 males and 2967 females from schedule caste category forms part of cultivators. Among marginal category of cultivators in SC population, there are 700 females while 283 are

males. The data indicate higher participation of females from Deograh tehsil just opposite to Balh tehsil males for the same category. Male from Balh tehsil accounts 58.76 percent and female forms 41.22 percent of total. The Deograh tehsil shows that 48.48% male population and 51.52% female population works under this category.

Agricultural Labourers: Agricultural labourer is a person who works on others land meant for agricultural purposes. This person works for wages in cash or kind or sharing crop. Around 44.09 percent of males and 55.91 percent of females are working as agricultural labourers in the mountainous area of Balh tehsil. A male of schedule caste work as agricultural labourers and constitutes around 64.88% and 35.12% of total population under this category. This category also shows that males from Deograh tehsil have dominance to work under this category in their area but females from Balh tehsil participate higher than their counterparts in this category. The schedule caste persons under marginal category for agricultural labourers are 984 for males 465 of SC and females of 429 SC. In Deogarh tehsil of Rajsamand district, There are 303 males of schedule castes and 164 females of schedule castes are working in this category. Under marginal category, only 199 males of SC population find work and 559 females of the same category are participating in work as agricultural labourers.

Household Industry Workers: Census of India (2011) adopted the same definition of household industry as it was modified after Census of 1971. This category includes primary and secondary persons works in household industry. Participation by one or more members of a household was the prerequisite of a household industry. This standard was used in urban localities as well. The industry did not necessarily need to be within the house, yet it was present at least somewhere in the rural areas at the outskirts of the village, and the members of the household had more chances of the industry. The household industry in the urban centers where the organized industry was higher ranked was to be limited to the part of the house where the participants resided. In the urban areas the household members were not considered a household industry even though they run an industry by themselves but in a location outside the household precincts. Most of the people of schedule caste engaged for their livelihood in household industries till Independence of the country. Major share of schedule caste population is not so contributory in the study area for the current census work as well as for other castes too. The data of census for 2011 signifies that 66.66 percent of male SC population and 33.34% of female SC population works under household industry in Balh tehsil of Himachal Pradesh simultaneously data for the same category in Deogarh tehsil shows a clear dominance of SC males (83.58%) over their counterparts (16.42%). For marginal category under household industry for Balh tehsil, males 89 and females 38 are working out of 127 persons while males 06 and females 29 are falls under the same category in Deogarh tehsil of Rajsamand district of Rajasthan.

Other Workers: The tertiary level includes the remaining workers. Those who were not farmers, domestic workers, or cultivators were considered to be "All other Workers" (OW) if they had engaged in economic activity during the period of numerical computation in the previous year. Workers in the following fields were considered to be part of this category: manufacturing, plantation labor, transportation, mining, construction, politics, social work, all government employees, municipal workers, educators, clergy, performers, etc. In actuality, this category included everyone who participated in the economy, except those who worked in agriculture, domestic service, or cultivation (Census of India, 2011). This category has 2100 persons of SC population from Balh tehsil and constitutes 81.38% male workers engaged in this category and 18.62% female workers belong to category of other worker. It is evident from above given tables that 6355 SC males and 941 SC females out of 7296 are working as other workers and makes 87.10% and 12.90% of respective gender from Deograh tehsil of

Rajsamand district. Males of both areas are working in this category as the category falls in economic category with some skills desirable for service sector. Female share in marginal workers and non workers is higher than the males in both tehsils of the research. This trend indicates that women work participation is less in main workers category and much higher in marginal workers category. Most of women are doing household works and forms base of non workers. Marginal category from the Deogarh tehsil forms 8 and 9 persons are doing work as other workers, 17 persons including male and females of schedule caste category. There are 2128 persons of schedule caste populations comes under this category among which are males 1399 and females 729 respectively.

Non Workers: Non working population is that category of persons who are not working during reference period of census. These persons are mainly dependent persons, children below six years, students, retired persons. In this category, all persons are counted who are neither joined any economic activity or nor helping in households works of their own families. There are males 3976 and females 4681 out of 8657 non workers in Deograh tehsil of Rajsamand district while male 10070 and female 11285 out of 21355 are under the same category for Balh tehsil of Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh.

Conclusion: Males are dominant in the category of other workers means they are engaged in economic activities which requires at least some skills for work. Although males also constitute major portion of cultivators category but in Balh tehsil females outshines males in this category. Topography plays crucial role in this category with source of income. Males migrate in search of jobs and females supervise farm fields in Balh tehsil of Mandi district. Agricultural labourers category in Deograh tehsil dominated by females while in Balh tehsil this category with a majority of males. Household industry is a male centric in Balh tehsil while in deogarh it is a mixture in main workers category and in marginal category of work. Migrations with distance in search of employment play a crucial role to determine occupational structure in the study area.

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