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SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC WELFARE AND INITIATIVES

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SCHEDULED TRIBES AND MIGRATION – AN OVERVIEW



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Abstract: *Generation of productive and gainful employment with decent working conditions on a sufficient scale to absorb the growing labor force is a critical element in a strategic plan for achieving inclusive growth. In terms of most social indicators, the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and the Scheduled Tribes (STs) among social groups are the most marginalized section. The development of the tribal population in India has been a major concern of the Government, Voluntary agencies, NGOs, Social reformers, Social scientists, etc. Unemployment leading to immense poverty can be directly linked to the increase in terrorism and rising membership of tribal's in the ranks of Maoists and Naxals. The present paper examines the Employment and Unemployment situation of the tribal community in relation to the other social groups. Before examining the employment situation of the tribal's, certain internationally accepted definitions of employment and unemployment and its various facets have been listed.*

Keywords: *Employment, Unemployment, Migration*

Introduction

'Work' is defined as participation in any economically productive activity. According to this definition, the entire population has been classified into three main categories - Main workers, Marginal workers and non - workers. Main workers are those who work for the major part of the year preceding the date of enumeration i.e. those who were engaged in any economically productive activity for 183 days (or six months) or more during the year. Marginal workers work any time in the year preceding the enumeration but do not work for a major part of the year, i.e. those who worked for less than 183 days (or six months). Non-workers are those who have not worked any time at all in the year preceding the date of enumeration.

Concepts used in employment and unemployment surveys of NSSO

Economic activity and the Activity status: Any activity that results in the production of goods and services that adds to national product is considered an economic activity. The entire population is classified under three categories of Activity status:

1. Working
2. Seeking or available for work, i.e., unemployed
3. Neither working nor 'seeking or available for work'

Persons under category (i) and (ii) of activity status come under 'Labor Force' and those under category (iii) are 'Out of Labor Force'.

The NSSO provides four different measures of employment and unemployment, which capture different facets of the employment unemployment situation following the recommendations of the Expert Committee on Unemployment (Dantwala Committee).

1. Usual Principal Status (UPS),
2. Usual Principal and Subsidiary Status (UPSS),
3. Current Weekly Status (CWS),
4. Current Daily Status (CDS).

Usual principal activity status

1. Reference period 365 days preceding the date of the survey.
2. Activity status decided on the basis of Major Time Criteria (MTC) during the reference period.
3. First, one is categorized as belonging to the labor force or not.
4. Second, from the persons belonging to the labor force, the broad activity status of either working or unemployed is determined on the basis of MTC.

Subsidiary economic activity status

Engagement in work in subsidiary capacity arises due to two situations:

1. A person may be engaged for a relatively long period during the 365 days in some economic/noneconomic activity and for a relatively shorter period in another economic activity, which is not less than 30 days (e.g. a student engaged in private tuitions during summer vacations).
2. A person may be pursuing an economic activity/non-economic activity almost throughout the year in the principal status and also simultaneously pursuing

another economic activity for a relatively shorter time in a subsidiary capacity (e.g. a student simultaneously engaged in private tuitions throughout the year).

Current weekly activity status

1. The reference period of 7 days preceding the date of survey • Decided on the basis of priority cum-major time criteria.
2. According to priority criteria, the status of working gets priority over the status of unemployed, which in turn, gets priority over the status of 'out of labor force'.
3. A person is considered working if he or she had worked for at least one hour during the reference week.
4. If a person is pursuing multiple economic activities, the current weekly status is decided on the basis of MTC.

Current Daily Activity Status (CDS)

1. CDS of a person is determined on the basis of his/her activity status on each day of the reference week using a priority-cum-major time criterion.
2. Each day of the reference week is looked upon as comprising of either 'two half-days' or a 'full day' for assigning the activity status.
3. A person is working with intensity 1.0 if he/she had worked for four hours or more during the day.
4. If a person had worked for one hour or more, but less than four hours, he/she is considered working for half a day.
5. A person engaged in more than one economic activity for four hours or more on a day is assigned two economic activities out of the different economic activities on which he/she devoted a relatively long time on the reference day, i.e., 0.5 intensity to these two economic activities.

Work Participation Rate

Census of India defines the Work Participation Rate (WPR), as the percentage of total workers (main and marginal) to the total population. Census reveals that, among Total workers, 59.8% of the tribal's belong to rural areas as compared to 50.0% of SCs and 48.9% of the All-India population. The corresponding percentage of data derived from the Census 2001 is lower in all cases in this category. In the urban areas, among Total workers, 42.6% were STs as compared to 41.0% of SCs and 39.9% of all population. Census 2001 is lower in all the cases in this category too. In the Non-Worker category there is a marginal improvement in 2011 over 2001 in both urban and rural areas. In fact, the percentage of STs is lower than SCs and All India in this category.

While the percentage of Cultivators has declined in 2011 across STs, SCs and All Population - both in rural and urban sectors when compared with 2001, the decline was particularly glaring, more than 10%, for the tribal community. On the other hand, the percentage of Agricultural Labors has increased in 2011 across STs, SCs and All Populations. It is about 9% for tribals -both in the rural and urban sectors when compared with data of Census 2001.

Comparing the Worker Participation Rates as obtained from Census 2001 and 2011 data, it was observed that 43.5% of ST males were main workers compared to 23.9% ST females. Among the marginal workers, 9.7% were ST males whereas 20.9% were ST females. Overall, 53.2% were male and 44.8% were female workers. All the above parameters for Census 2011 reveal significantly higher percentages both for male and female workers.

The Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) is defined as the number of persons in the labor force per 1000 persons and is measured according to the usual status considering both the principal and the subsidiary statuses. The Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR), from NSS 66th Round (2009-10) and shows that All India LFPR for STs is 46.0% (56.5% males and 34.9% females) as compared to 40% for 'all population' (55.7% for male and 23.3% for female). The Workforce Participation Rate (WPR), defined as the number of workers per 1000 persons for STs is 45.2% (55.5% males and 34.5% females) as compared to 39.2% for 'all population' (54.6% for male and 22.8% for female).

Among the usual status (ps+ss) male workers, share of self-employment was the highest among others category (64.9%) and was lowest among the SC category (34.1%). Among the males, the proportion of casual labor was the highest among the SC (58.2%) and was the lowest among another category (24.1%). Share of regular wage/salaried employees was the highest among male workers in another category (11%) and was around 6.9% among ST, 7.7% among SC and 8% for OBC. Among female workers, the share of self-employment was the highest among others category (71.2%) and lowest among the SC (38.6%). Among female workers, the share of casual labor was the highest among SC (56.5%) and lowest among another category (22.1%). Among females workers, the share of regular wage/salaried employees was the highest among females in others (6.7%) category and lowest among ST (2.5%).

Among the usual status male workers, the proportion of self-employed was the highest (44.7%) in others category, it was 42.7% among workers in the OBC category, 28.2% among workers in the SC category and 28.5% among workers in ST category. Among the male workers, the proportion of casual labor was the highest among SC (30.4%) and was the lowest among another category (8.3%). The share of regular wage/salaried employees was the highest among male workers in another category (47%) and was lowest (36.4%) among OBC. Among female workers, the share of self-

employment was the highest among the OBC category (47%) and lowest among the ST (30.8%). Among female workers, the share of casual labor was the highest among ST (35.5%) and lowest among another category (8%). The share of regular wage/salaried employees was the highest among females in others (52.2%) category and lowest among OBC (30.4%).

In rural areas for both males and females, the primary sector employed the highest proportion of usual status workers across all the social groups followed by that of the secondary sector and the tertiary sector employed the lowest proportion of usual status workers. In urban areas for both males and females, the tertiary sector employed the highest proportion of usual status workers across all the social groups followed by that of the secondary sector and in the primary sector, the lowest proportion of usual status workers were employed.

In rural India, among males, the proportion of unemployed was nearly 1% for each of the ST and SC while for others category of persons it was 1.1% and for the OBC category, it was 0.7%. The unemployment rate for males was nearly 1.7% for each of the ST and SC while for another category of persons it was 2%. For rural females, the proportion of unemployed was less than 1% for each of the social groups (0.3% for ST, 0.4% for each of SC and OBC and 0.5% for others). For rural females, the unemployment rate was the highest; nearly 2.5% for another category while it was the lowest for the ST category, nearly 0.9%.

Among the urban males, the proportion of unemployed was nearly 2.4% for ST, 1.7% for SC, 1.5% for each of OBC and others. The unemployment rate among the males was the highest for ST (nearly 4.4%), 3.1% for SC, 2.8% for OBC and 2.7% for others category. Among females, the proportion unemployed was nearly 0.9% among ST, 0.8% for SC, 1% for OBC and 0.7% among others. The female, the unemployment rate was the highest for both OBC and others (6.2% each) while it was nearly 4.3% for ST and 4.2% for SCs.

Data on Proportion of Unemployed (PU) and Unemployment Rates (UR) of Various Social Groups over the NSS Rounds indicates that for rural male ST, the UR increased from 1.1% in 2004-05 to nearly 1.7% in 2009-2010, while for the remaining social groups the UR among rural males did not change over this period: during these two periods, for SC it was nearly 1.7%, for OBC it was nearly 1.5 to 1.4% and for others category it was nearly 2%. Over the period from 2004-05 to 2009-10, the rural female UR has shown an increase for ST (from 0.4% in 2004-05 to nearly 0.9% in 2009-10), while for the remaining social groups, UR has generally remained at the same level or decreased during these two periods: for SC the UR was nearly 1.4 to 1.5% during these two periods.

For urban males, the UR for ST increased from 2.9% in 2004-05 to 4.4% during 2009-10, for SC it has decreased from 5.5% in 2004-05 to 3.1% in 2009-10. The UR for the

urban females has also shown the same pattern as those of urban males: the UR for ST females in urban areas has increased from 3.4% to 4.3% during 2004-05 to 2009-10, for SC the UR decreased from 4.6% to 4.2% during this period, 2004-05 and 2009-10.

In the rural areas, among the not literate males, UR was 0.1% among ST, 0.3% among SC, 0.5% among OBC and 0.6% among others. Among rural females, not literates, no unemployment rate was observed in different social groups. In urban areas, among males not literates, no unemployment rate was observed for ST, while it was 0.8% for SC, 1% for OBC and 1.4% for others.

In urban areas, among females, no unemployment rate was observed for ST while it was 0.3% for SC, 0.8% for OBC and 0.7% for others. In rural areas, among the educated males of age 15 years and above, UR was the highest among ST (4.9%) and lowest among OBC (3.1%), while among the educated females of age 15 years and above, UR for was the highest for SC (13.4%) and lowest among ST (6.1%). In urban areas, among the educated males of age 15 years and above, UR was the highest among ST (6.9%) and lowest among others Category.

With respect to migration, comparing the results of NSS 49th round (Jan-Jun, 1993) and 64th round (2007-08), the number of migrant households among STs decreased from 27 to 19 (per 1000 households) in rural areas, and increased from 29 to 62 (per 1000 households) in urban areas. Overall, in rural and urban areas, the migrant households decreased from 27 to 23 (per 1000 households).

Comparing the 55th round (1999-2000) and 64th round (2007-08) data, the migration rate for the STs in rural areas reveals that the rate of migration of males has decreased from 56 to 47 (per 1000 persons) whereas that of females has increased from 357 to 440 (per 1000 persons). On the other hand, the migration rate in the urban areas increased for both males (282 to 288) and females (411 to 430), per 1000 persons. It can be seen that the female migration was around 9 times than that of the male population in rural areas. In the urban areas, the female migration was almost 2 times that of the male STs.

From the data on migration rates across different Monthly Per Capita Expenditure (MPCE) levels, in both rural and urban areas, the highest number of persons who migrated belonged to 90-100 MPCE decile class. Least migration occurred among the STs belonging to the lowest MPCE decile class (0-10) for both rural and urban populations.

Most of the migration (72.5%) took place from one rural area to another rural area of the same district. The reason for that may have been due to marriage (82.7%) or to pursue studies (5.3%).

About 16.4% of the migration took place from one rural area to another rural area of different districts but in the same state. The reason for that also may have been due

to marriage (71.6%), or due to the migration of the parent/earning member of the family (9.5%) or in search of better employment (4.5%). Least migration (0.1%) took place from India to another country.

A large number of reasons were responsible for the migration of the ST population. Maximum migration (76.4%) took place due to marriage. 7.7% of the ST population migrated due to the migration of the parents or the earning members of the family. As per NSS 66th round Report (2009-10) under MGNREGA, 398 households per 1000 households got work which was highest among all other social groups.

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