



Socio-economic condition of scheduled castes: A study of Kairana town in Shamli district of Uttar Pradesh

Vinay Kumar Sharma^{1*}, Kalish Chandra Purohit¹ and Anita Rudola¹

¹Department of Geography, H.N.B. Garhwal University (A Central University) B.G.R. Campus, Pauri-246001, UK

*Corresponding Author Email: vinay_xtreme@yahoo.co.in

Received: 14.07.2017; Revised: 20.08.2017; Accepted: 10.10.2017
©Society for Himalayan Action Research and Development

Abstract: India is a nation having multiple languages and religions. Since the time immemorial it has been stratified in various major and minor castes. According to Manu Smriti, there are four main castes, Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishya and Shudras. Out of them Shudras are considered of low status and sometimes untouchables. These are generally deprived of basic amenities and education. This paper looks into the various aspects which lead to the low socio-economic status of Scheduled Caste people in Kairana town of Shamli District in Uttar Pradesh. As per Census 2011, the Kairana has a total population of 2,66,121 which includes 18.34% Hindus. Out of the total population of Hindus, there are 5.4% people from Scheduled caste.

Keywords: Occupation, Debt, Backwardness

Introduction

India, a country with multiple religions is the home for hundreds of castes and sub-castes. This system of caste is not new to it but is prevalent since ancient times and to be precise since the times of Aryans who arrived here from Central Asia as regarded by Carl Marx. Those people had their societies divided into four Varnas namely Brahmins (Learners & Teachers), Kshatriyas (Warriors), Vaishyas (Businessmen) and Shudras (Servants). But these varnas were not decided by birth rather by occupations taken up by people. The people not belonging to any of these categories or say besides these varnas were known as Avarnas or Chandals (Apparaya S. May 2015). As on today these people are known as Scheduled Caste people but this is not because they willingly want to be known so, rather this category has been imposed upon them with no way out. Today we have stepped into the 21st century and we find India highly stratified and discriminatory in terms of castes which are not based upon the occupations but given to people immediately at the time of birth. At present there are approximately more than 3000 castes and sub-castes in India and out of these the condition of scheduled caste people is very pathetic. Generally these people are less educated and have fewer resources due to which they cannot compete with other people and remain in the same class. Due to the lack of resources they are forced to take up such jobs which are of low standard and bring low incomes and lowering their standards of living further down. These people are commonly cobblers, scavengers and washermen etc. These people cannot think of coming out of this web despite having talents as in this society there is no help for them.

The first step towards the upliftment of these downtrodden people was taken during British period through several reforms and by the missionaries who came here to preach people about modernity. The Govt. of India Act 1935 was the first official document to identify the scheduled castes. Several Indian reformers also

fought to eliminate the menace of untouchability and discrimination. They attempted to bring these people to main stream by establishing many organizations working for their welfare. After independence in 1947, several provisions were inducted into the Constitution of India to provide protection to SCs such as Article 15 prohibits the state from practicing untouchability on the grounds of race, sex or birth place and Article 30 allows the minorities to maintain their own educational institutions. The Govt. of India has provided reservations in education and employment so that these people can come close to other people in terms of opportunity for growth. Yet in reality the situation is not as good as it has always been thought of. The present paper deals with the scheduled castes of Kairana town in Shamli district of Uttar Pradesh and tries to look into their socio-economic conditions.

Study area

Kairana town is a Development Block, Nagar Palika Parishad and tehsil extending between 29^o23” North Latitudes to 77^o12” East Longitudes (Fig. 1). This Kairana Block includes main Kairana ULB and 60 surrounding villages. As per Census 2011, the total population of Kairana is 2, 66,121 which includes the town population of 89000 and rural population of 1, 77,121. As far as the Scheduled Caste population of Kairana Block is concerned, it has been estimated to be 5,087 (M-2,734 and F-2,353) while that of surrounding rural areas is 9,389 (M-5,055 and F- 2,353) which means a total of 14,476 including 7,789 males and 6,687 females.

Objectives

The present study has following aims & objectives:

- (1) To look into the present socio-economic conditions of SC population in Kairana.
- (2) To know the status of women in SC community.
- (3) To know the level to which the government welfare programs and policies are effective in community.
- (4) To find out any improvement in living standard of SC people in Kairana.
- (5) To find out the vices prevalent in youngsters of SC Community.

Methodology

The present research involves the use of secondary data as well as primary data collected through questionnaire containing the questions related to the social and economic issues of SC community.

The secondary data has been collected through the reports of Census of India 2011, Block Development Office and the Nagar Palika Parishad, Kairana. Various books, reports and papers have been consulted to finalize the representation of data in this research paper.

Observations and findings

The total population of Kairana includes Muslims (80.74%), Hindus (18.34%), Jains (0.62%) and Christians (0.22%). (Fig. 2). Out of this Hindu population, the SC community accounts for 29.66%. Four sub-groups of this community are Valmiki, Chamar, Julaha (Kori) and Jaatav. These people are spread across 15 wards and 42 villages.

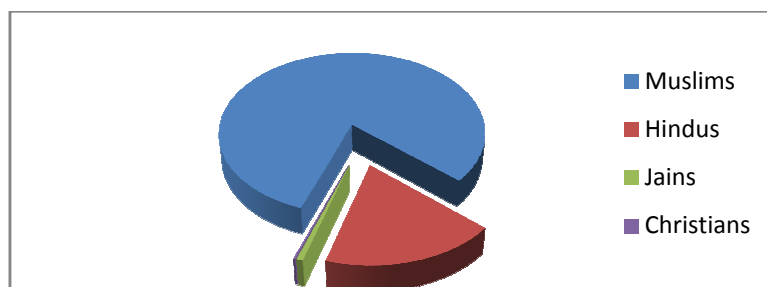


Figure 2 Religious Composition of Kairana (Census 2011)

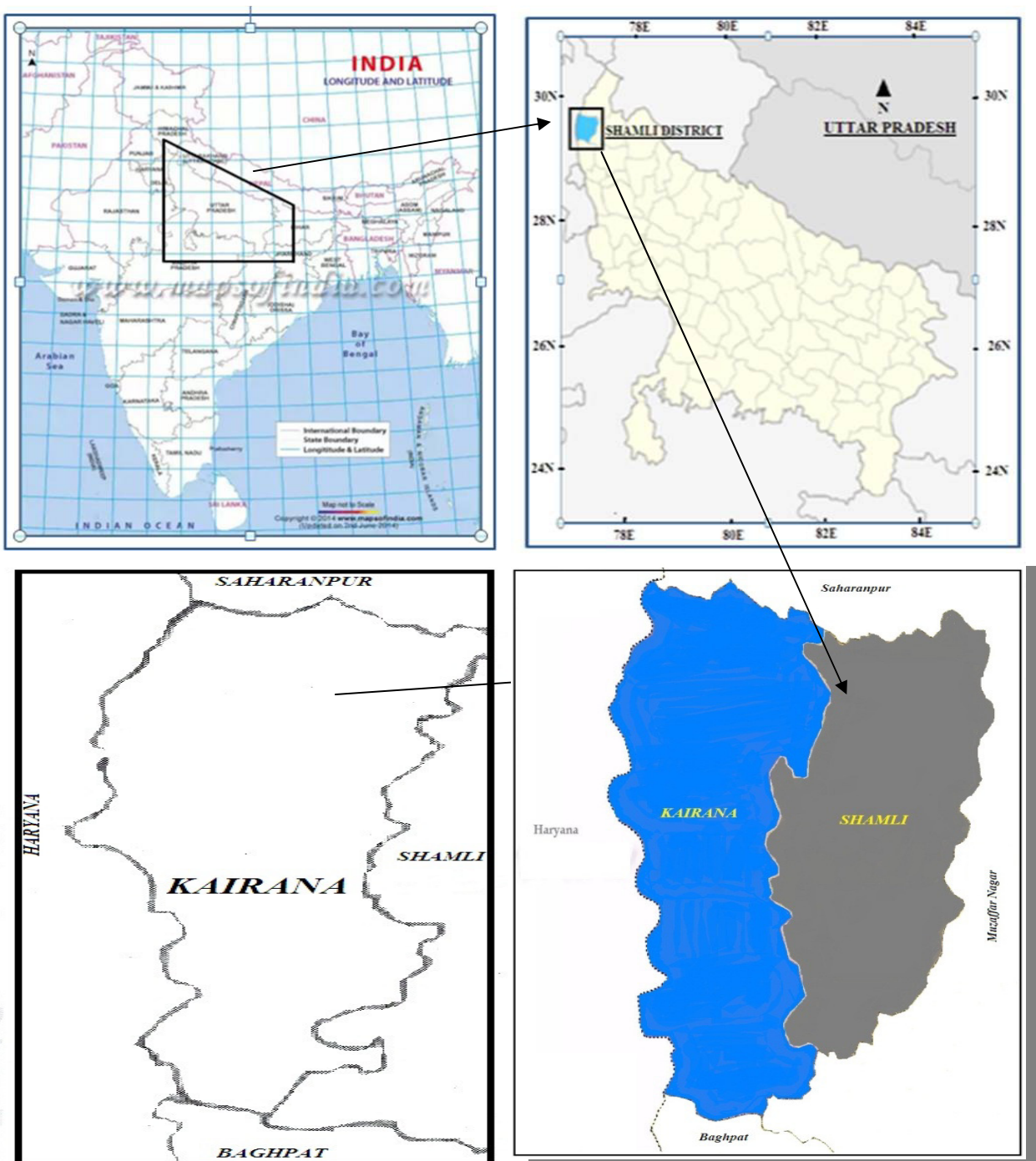


Figure 1 Location map of Kairana town

Table1 Village And Ward Wise Distribution Of Sc Population In Kairana Block, KAIRANA URBAN: SC POPULATION

S No.	Name of Village/Ward	Total SC Population
01.	Ward No. 01	197
		494
		634
		232
02.	Ward No. 02	108
		322
		473
03.	Ward No. 03	205
		159
		12
		22
04.	Ward No. 04	107
		240
		132
		389
05.	Ward No. 06	331
		07
06.	Ward No. 07	178
		19
07.	Ward No. 08	36
		348
		12
		86
08.	Ward No. 09	06
09.	Ward No. 10	38
		50
10.	Ward No. 11	158
11.	Ward No. 12	22
		36
12.	Ward No. 13	04
13.	Ward No. 15	09
14.	Ward No. 16	07
15.	Ward no. 25	14
Total		5087

Source: Census of India 2011, DCHB, Shamli)

Kairana rural: SC population

Sl No.	Name of Village/Ward	Total SC Population	Males	Females
01.	Pather	121	64	57
02.	Bamabi	15	09	06
03.	Bibipur Hatiya	60	32	28
04.	Jangheri	88	47	41
05.	Akbarpur Sunheti	13	09	04
06.	Basera (Non-Alluvial)	51	23	28
07.	Deohari Khurd	62	39	23
08.	Issapur Khurgan	132	74	58
09.	Paonti Kalan	411	215	196
10.	Gogawan	05	02	03
11.	Bhura	849	400	349
12.	Gandrav	41	17	24
13.	Malakpur	149	84	65
14.	Kadem	57	30	27
15.	Badhupura	13	06	07
16.	Ghazipura	108	61	47
17.	Barala Kukaraheri	111	59	52
18.	Hingokheri	179	104	75
19.	Bamnoli	226	113	113
20.	Kandela	471	262	209
21.	Jaganpur	267	138	129
22.	Manna Majra	76	39	37
23.	Kairana Rural	85	44	41
24.	Jharkheri	27	16	11
25.	Ramra	259	142	117
26.	Panjeeth	115	60	55
27.	Mavi Non-Ahtmal	72	34	38
28.	Mavi Timali Hall	44	24	20
29.	Bucchakheri	481	265	216
30.	Titarwara	327	179	148
31.	Sahpat	101	50	51
32.	Erti	511	287	224
33.	Alipur	23	13	10
34.	Benra	95	59	36
35.	Kishorpur	108	56	52
36.	Unchagaon	831	435	396
37.	Badhev Kandu Khera	1079	589	490
38.	Mundet Kalan	469	244	225
39.	Titayli	625	336	289
40.	Kaserwa Khurd	85	44	41
41.	Kaserwa Kalan	523	278	245
42.	Jahanpur	124	73	51
TOTAL		9389	5055	4334

(Source: Census of India 2011, DCHB, Shamli)

Gender wise distribution of the respondents

For this research purpose 570 respondents were contacted which included both the genders. Out of total respondents 60% were males while remaining 40% were females. The selection of respondents was random and for responses 10 people were chosen from each ward and each village.

Table 2 Gender Wise Distribution Of Respondents

Particulars	Frequency	Total
Males	60.00	342
Females	40.00	228
Total	100.00	570

Age –wise distribution of respondents: Since the socio-economic condition of a community has its impact on all age groups, that’s why the respondents were selected from different age groups to understand the real picture. The maximum proportion was from the age group 21-35 years and 36-45 years collectively as these two age groups include the working population of the community (Table 3)

Table 3 Age-Wise Distribution Of Respondents

Particulars	Frequency	Total
Below 20 Years	20.00	114
21 to 35 Years	40.00	228
36 to 45 Years	20.00	114
46 to 60 Years	10.00	57
Above 60 Years	10.00	57
Total	100.00	570

Occupations of the respondents: As far as the occupations of the community is concerned it was found that most of the people from this community are unskilled labourers (87%) which are working either in someone else’s agricultural farms or brick kilns or doing other types of labour work. This huge labour force includes children and youngsters too. Hardly 3% people of the total have their own agricultural farms while 5% are in Government sector and 5% in private jobs such as helpers at shops. None of them had their own business

Table 4 Occupation-Wise Distribution Of Respondents

Particulars	Frequency	Total
Agriculture	3.00	17
Private Jobs	5.00	29
Govt. Jobs	5.00	29
Labourers	87.00	495
Total	100.00	570

Total monthly income of the respondents: While discussing the issue related to their monthly incomes, it has been found that 75% respondents have a monthly income lesser than Rs.5,000 per month and most of these people are from labourer group. The people having a pay range betweenRs.5,000 to Rs.20,000 and above it are either working on shops or engaged in govt. jobs. Some of them are retired government pensioners also (Table 5).

Table 5 Total Monthly Income Of Respondents

Particulars	Frequency	Total
Upto Rs. 5,000	75.00	428
Rs. 5,001 to Rs. 10,000	11.00	63
Rs. 10,001 to Rs. 20,000	9.00	51
Above Rs. 20,000	5.00	28
Total	100.00	570

Total value of debts due to poverty: Since majority of respondents are labourers so they always have lack of money due to which they borrow money from their landlords and thus always remain in debts. The

reasons of borrowings include the construction of houses or surrounding walls, marriages of daughters etc. It has also been observed that these borrowings take place mainly in off-season for labourers as they require money to purchase bread for their families (Table 6).

Table 6 Amount Of Debts due To Respondents

Particulars	Frequency	Total
Upto Rs. 50,000	30.00	171
Rs. 1 Lakh to 3 Lakh	45.00	256
Above 3 Lakh	25.00	143
Total	100.00	570

Worth of properties owned by respondents: Generally majority the respondents have their houses only in the name of property. The values of their houses in Kairana urban area are higher than that in rural areas. That's why only 35% (25% +10%) of the respondents have the property worth above Rs. 3 Lakh (Table 7).

Table 7 Properties Owned By Respondents

Particulars	Frequency	Total
Upto Rs. 1 Lakh	35.00	200
1 Lakh to 3 Lakh	30.00	171
3 Lakh to 5 lakh	25.00	142
Above 5 Lakh	10.00	57
Total	100.00	570

Education level of the respondents: It has been revealed in the study that 25% have studied upto Secondary School and 35% upto Higher Secondary School. But there is a period in the year when these children are taken out of the school and work with their families to earn bread. 20% respondent have never seen the face of the school and remaining 20% are graduates and post graduates trying to get any reputable job while working alongside (Table 8).

Table 8 Education Level Of Respondents

Particulars	Frequency	Total
Upto SSC	25.00	142
Upto HSC	35.00	200
Graduation	10.00	57
Post Graduation	10.00	57
No Education	20.00	114
Total	100.00	570

Benefits through government welfare programs: This segment of the study reveals that only 5% of the respondents have availed the benefits of Old Age Pension Scheme and 5% students have received scholarships for their studies. Rest of the respondents have not availed benefits of any government scheme. The main reason behind this meager percentage is the lack of money to apply for such schemes (Table 9).

Table 9 Benefits Through Govt. Plans, Programs & Policies

Particulars	Frequency	Total
MNREGA	0.00	0
Indira Awas Yojana	0.00	0
Old Age Pensions	5.00	29
Unemployment Allowance	0.00	0
Scholarships	5.00	29
Total	10.00	58

Availability of drinking water facility: The source of drinking water for 60% respondents was hand pumps installed in their locality while 40% respondents have permanent government water supply facility. (Table 10)

Table 10 Source Of Drinking Water In SC Colonies

Particulars	Frequency	Total
Govt. Supply	40.00	228
Wells	0.00	0
Hand Pumps	60.00	342
Others	0.00	0
Total	100.00	570

Problems faced by people due to their caste: Generally no incidents of social discrimination has been reported on the grounds of caste in social sphere but only two or three people have mentioned the unjustifiable behavior of superiors in service due to their caste.

Ease of access to the government offices: As far as the ease of access to any public office is concerned, no incident of prohibition has been reported. But the main problem behind their growth and projection of their problems to authorities is the lack of money for which they have to work day and night.

Barriers in overall development of community: The major cause of their backwardness is the lack of resources, chiefly the money. 90% of respondents find lack of money responsible for their problems. Despite this, most of the youngsters and married men consume liquor on regular basis and the females of their family go out for work. It further worsens their situation and subsequently their standard of living. (Table 11)

Table 11 Barriers in the development

Particulars	Frequency	Total
Inadequate Reservation	0.00	0
Insufficient Resources/Funds	90.00	513
Social Factors	0.00	0
Other Factors	10.00	57
Total	100.00	570

Conclusion

The above study reveals that the SC community in Kairana block is in such a situation which will get worse in future if no intervention is made either by the government or any NGO or the prominent persons of the community themselves. Though in this town no incidents of discrimination on the grounds of caste have been reported yet these people are considered as of low standard due to their bad habits of consuming liquor, gambling and involvement in fights afterwards. The awareness programs to ensure healthy environment for all must be encouraged in SC community areas of the town. To improve the lives of SC people, the elders of this community must bear some responsibility in this direction otherwise the giants of illiteracy and unemployment will engulf the entire community very soon.

References

- Apparaya S.: Socio-Economic condition of Scheduled Caste in Kalaburagi District, Indian Journal of Research (Vol-4, Issue-5, May 2015)
- Das S. & Hossain A.: Socio-Economic status of schedule Caste in Tripura- a case study of Cobbler community, EPRA Journal, (Vol-1 Issue-1, Dec 2015)

Suryawanshi B.R. & Dhande N.C.: Socio-Economic Development among Scheduled Caste: A Study of Mahatma Phule Backward Class Development Corporation in Select District of Maharashtra, IJSSH (Vol-2 Issue-5, Sep 2012)

Sugandhe A. & Sen V.: Scheduled Castes in Maharashtra: Struggle and Hurdles in their Socio-Economic Development, Journal of Indian Research (Vol-3, Issue-3, Jul-Sep 2015)

Singh, H.: A study on Socio-Economic Status of Scheduled Caste People of Kangra, Asian Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies (Vol-2, Issue-12, Dec 2014)

Roy D & Mondal A.: Socio-Economic Condition of Scheduled Caste in Kanupur Village of Birbhum District, JBM & SSR (Vol-4, Issue-5, May 2015)

District Census Handbook: Shamli District (Census 2011)
<https://www.censusindia.gov.in/digitalibrary>
