

Challenges faced by Scheduled Caste Entrepreneurs: with special reference to Karnataka

Dr.Muniraju M^{*1}, Dr.Saravana K^{*2}

*Assistant Professor, Department of studies and Research in Economics, Tumkur University^{*1}, Research Assistant, IMPRESS-ICSSR Project, Department of Studies and Research in Economic, Tumkur University^{*2}*

Abstract—The purpose of the study is to assess the social challenges faced by scheduled caste entrepreneurs in Karnataka. The Scheduled Castes people have been at the lower cadre of the Hindu caste grading since two thousand years, and it was considerable economic and social discrimination. Most such lower cadre castes were measured as "untouchables" by the people of higher castes with the influence of 'Manu Smriti (Law)'. The objectives of the present study are to analyse the government policies for support of scheduled caste entrepreneurs, and to identify the social constraints faced by them. Descriptive research design used to meet the research goal, data was collected from 162 respondents of Tumakuru and Bengaluru rural. The study is carried out, based on the compilation of primary data with help of a structured questionnaire. The results have been analysed through SPSS statistical tool. In accordance with the study results, it is found that the support for starting a business came from informal sources, many scheduled caste entrepreneurs had difficulty at the starting point of enterprises, such as financial burden, lack of training and social bias. The study concluded that Government should generate the attentiveness among scheduled caste entrepreneurs concerning different Govt especially in rural area. Inducements and developmental plans so as to endorse a more enabling atmosphere for scheduled caste entrepreneurship in India. And the study should help to fill by empirical information certain lacunas in existing knowledge on the pattern of rural scheduled caste entrepreneurship in Karnataka.

Keywords— Entrepreneurs, Scheduled Caste, Social Bias, Untouchables.

I. INTRODUCTION

It's impacted on the ownership of entrepreneurship. Even after independence of India, there are many schemes are promoted for entrepreneurship but the up gradation in less. Even though scheduled caste people are established their own firms, Moreover, despite more than a decade of rapid nationwide economic growth, the share of scheduled castes (SCs) and scheduled tribes (STs) in firm ownership and employment generation in recent period is increased only very modestly (Iyer, Khanna, & Varshney, 2011). The present study is an attempt to identify the social constraints faced by the scheduled caste entrepreneurs in rural area.

Indian handicraft industries, such as textiles, enjoyed a worldwide reputation in ancient times, as attested by the use of Indian muslin in wrapping Egyptian mummies. This sketch however, begins in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the period corresponding to the early years of British influence. In 1750, India was as urbanized as England, France, and Italy, and as industrialized as Japan and most of Eastern Europe. During the seventeenth century, there were a number of entrepreneurs in major trading areas in the Indus River Valley in north western India (much of which is presently a part of Pakistan), in north-eastern India around the Ganges River and its tributaries, and in southern India's coastal areas which engaged in foreign trade. In addition, in the eighteenth century, Indian merchants, brokers, and company servants dealt with European privileged and chartered companies (such as the English East India Company). During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, Indians were involved as financiers-in changing money, providing bills of exchange, loaning to government, acting as treasurer and revenue collector for government, and loaning to private parties (including Europeans).

II. ENTREPRENEURSHIP MOBILITY AMONG CASTE IN INDIA

Caste, together with regional and linguistic community, is used in the analysis of entrepreneurial activity in this study. Caste refers to the varna system for Hindus, The Brahmin (priest), Kshatriya (ruler and warrior), Vaishya (trader), and Sudra (artisan, peasant, and labourer), in addition to the "untouchables" (P.M.J. Antony Raj S.J, 1987) and religion in the case of the non-Hindu population: Sikhs, Muslims, Jains, Parsis, Christians, and a few others. The first three Hindu varna are twice-born castes (Berreman, 1972). More specific caste is still the basic kinship and social particle in a system of

hierarchically agreed, locally integrated, occupationally and ritualistically specific, endogamous social divisions. The ideology of “*Varnshrama*” system discussed by the colonial courts during their ruling and supported by the leading castes to legitimize their status, has helped to shape social reality and is accepted by ordinary Indians as a conceptual device to understand the caste system (Deshpande, Kerbo, & Project, 2010). Caste in India is highly influenced on socioeconomic status of the family. Similarly, expertise in business practice and other economic related activities normally accords with caste (Munshi, 2017, p. 22).

In the eighteenth century, the Khatri and Lohanas, Hindu and Sikh communities in which caste divisions and rules were not rigidly observed, were the leading entrepreneurs in trade and finance in north-western India, despite the fact that the ruling class and the bulk of the population were Muslims. Gujarat and Saurashtra had a highly developed Hindu and Jain (Ghurey, 1952). trading community, in addition to Muslim communities comprising converts from Hindu trading and artisan communities; later in the century an indigenous Parsi group became active in trade. In Maharashtra local Brahmins and trading classes from Gujarat, Rajasthan, Saurashtra, and Kutch dominated business. Hindu and Jain Banias (trading communities) from Rajasthan (the former state of Marwar and adjoining states), called Marwaris in other states, were the leading commercial and banking communities in north-eastern India around the Ganges River. In Bengal indigenous Brahmins and Kayasthas, as a result of their positions as assistants and agents for the dominant British businessmen, obtained access to the major entrepreneurial positions instead of the Bengali trading classes. Various Hindu trading communities (such as the Chettis in Madras) dominated business in South India, except for Kerala where Muslims, Christians, and Jews were the chief traders (Nafziger, 1978, p. 52).

III. NEED OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR SCHEDULED CASTE

It might be argued that the high caste is likely to have a stronger record of academic achievement and greater social presence as a result of the usual disparity in family background. There are now considerable numbers of from scheduled castes can compete equally with high-caste people for at least middle-level places. At present employment in private white-collar sector is only a relatively minor foundation of overall employment in India. But India is to flourish; it will become perhaps the most important sector. Unless attitudes change, or unless reservation is extended to the private sector, the lack of a scheduled caste presence there will reinforce their lowly social position (Vincentnathan, 1998, p. 2). Due to social exclusion amongst the youth of scheduled caste and unemployment can take a particular high toll, leading to a long run loss of self-esteem of young workers and world be workers. Unemployment can lead to a weakening the general harmony and coherence within the family and also community (Sen, 2000, pp. 10–40).

IV. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

For the current study an attempt has been made to explore the challenges faced by the scheduled caste entrepreneurs in Karnataka, the main objectives of study were; To ascertain the socioeconomic condition of the respondents, and to examine the social challenges faced by scheduled caste entrepreneurs

V. RESEARCH METHODS AND MATERIAL

The present study is based on exploratory cum descriptive in nature and following sampling selection steps were taken to bring accurate and reliable result

VI. SAMPLE SELECTION

This study was conducted in rural area of Tuamkuru and Bengaluru district of Karnataka state. Enterprises taken up for the study based on the data available from the Ambedkar Development Corporation, Government of Karnataka. Based on that researcher used purposive sampling technique and identified boutiques, garments, computer centre, beauty parlours, photo studio lab, travels, carpet making units, and general stores. The total population arrived at 250, out this researcher selected 162 samples based on

determine sample size sample size factor of Krejciand Morgan sample survey technique(Krejcie & Morgan, 1970).

VII. DATA COLLECTION

Researcher developed self-prepared schedule to collect data from respondents, the tool prepared by the researcher is based on guidelines of literature and extensive discussions with experts. Five-point Likert Scale used for measuring the social challenges. In the present study, analysis has been performed to retain and delete scale items for developing a refined reliable scale, hence, Cronbach's alpha test was used, the value of Cronbach's alpha was 0.81 is greater than 0.7 is considered reliable for the study (Panayides & Karwowski, 2013, p. 692).

VIII. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

This chapter deals through the analysis and the interpretation of the collected data by Scheduled caste entrepreneurs, to discover the financial and social status and issues and challenges faced by Scheduled caste entrepreneurs during trade. To obtain a systematic conclusion and to make sure that all relevant facts are utilized for construction considered associations and analysis, the data collected in the field are computed and analysed in this part to calculate approximately the results. The chapter also surrounds discussion on the results attained.

TABLE-1: DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF THE SCHEDULED CASTE ENTREPRENEURS

Responses	Frequency	Percent
<i>Age</i>		
20-30	14	8.6
30-40	18	11.1
40-50	50	30.9
50-60	58	35.8
60 And above	22	13.6
Total	162	100.0
<i>Gender</i>		
Male	92	56.8
Female	70	43.2
Total	162	100.0
<i>Marital Status</i>		
Single	4	2.5
Married	156	96.3
Widow/Widower	2	1.2
Total	162	100.0
<i>Education Qualification</i>		
Illiterate	12	7.4
Primary	24	14.8
Higher Primary	42	25.9
Secondary (SSLC)	52	32.1
PUC	20	12.3
Degree	6	3.7
Post-Graduation	6	3.7
<i>Family Type</i>		
Joint Family	156	96.3
Nuclear Family	6	3.7

The above table deals with the demographic profile of the Scheduled caste entrepreneurs of Tumkur City. The majority 35.6 percentages of respondents were belong to the age group of 50-60, 30.9 percentage of respondents were belongs to middle age group of 40-50, 13.6 percentages of Scheduled caste entrepreneurs were above the 60 years and 11.1 percentages of respondents were belongs to the age group of 30-40 and only 8.6 percentages of Scheduled caste entrepreneurs were age group of 20-30. It clearly indicates that start-up entrepreneurs among Scheduled caste were very less. The Scheduled caste entrepreneur in Tumkur reflects the gender variance between male and female of Indian society. The majority 56.8 Scheduled caste entrepreneurs were male and remaining 43.2 percentages were female. And it also clearly indicates that majority 96.3 percentages of Scheduled caste entrepreneurs were married and 2.5 percentages were single and remaining 1.2 percentages were widow.

Education is not the most frequently cited factor critical for successful entrepreneurship, it did rate highly in comparison to others (Arthur, Hisrich, & Cabrera, 2012). The above table reveals about education qualification of Scheduled caste Entrepreneurs. Majority 32.1 percentages of Scheduled caste entrepreneurs were finished their Secondary Education, Higher primary education was completed by 25.9 percentages of respondents. 14.8 percentages of Scheduled caste entrepreneurs were completed their primary education. 7.4 percentages of Scheduled caste entrepreneurs were not literate. And equally 3.7 percentages of Scheduled caste entrepreneurs were completed their Degree and Post-Graduation Degree. The above table reveals that nature of family. The above data clearly indicates that majority 96.3 percentages of Scheduled caste Entrepreneurs were living with their joint family system. And remaining 3.7 percentages of Scheduled caste entrepreneurs were living in nuclear family structure.

TABLE-2: ASSESSMENT IMPACT OF SOCIAL FACTORS ON SCHEDULED CASTE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Particulars	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strong Agree	Total
Have a better of social acceptability	28 (17.3)	8 (4.9)	2 (1.2)	120 (74.1)	4 (2.5)	162 (100)
Have a better contacts(networks) with outsiders	18 (11.1)	12 (7.4)	4 (2.5)	104 (64.2)	24 (14.8)	162 (100)
Have no prejudice or class biases	24 (14.8)	36 (22.2)	4 (2.5)	80 (49.4)	18 (11.1)	162 (100)
The societies attitude towards my products/services is positive	26 (16.0)	40 (24.7)	8 (4.9)	62 (38.3)	26 (16.0)	162 (100)
The attitude of other employees towards business is positive	16 (9.9)	40 (24.7)	14 (8.6)	86 (53.1)	6 (3.7)	162 (100)
Have a positive relationship with the workforce	20 (12.3)	34 (21.0)	12 (7.4)	84 (51.9)	12 (7.4)	162 (100)
Have no conflicting gender roles	10 (6.2)	46 (28.4)	14 (8.6)	70 (43.2)	22 (13.6)	162 (100)
Not affected by gender inequalities	32 (19.8)	26 (16.0)	12 (7.4)	64 (39.5)	28 (17.3)	162 (100)
Have no cultural influences	24 (14.8)	24 (14.8)	24 (14.8)	62 (38.3)	28 (17.2)	162 (100)
Never encounter harassments in registering and operating business	24 (14.8)	48 (29.6)	24 (14.8)	50 (30.9)	16 (9.9)	162 (100)

Note: Number given in parenthesis is represents the percentage

Impact of Social factors on Scheduled caste Entrepreneurship in study area presented in the above table, it depicts that majority (74.1) of Scheduled caste Entrepreneurs agree with they have a better of social acceptability by the other community, followed by Scheduled caste Entrepreneurs having better contacts with other community entrepreneurs (64.2). The highest i.e., 49.4 percentage of Scheduled caste Entrepreneurs were agreed with entrepreneurship does not have prejudice or class bias, contrary 22.2 percentages of Scheduled caste entrepreneurs are disagreed with above statement. 38.3 percentage of

Scheduled caste entrepreneurs are agreed that, other community having positive attitude towards their products, 24.7 percentages of respondents were disagreed with this statement. 38.3 percentage of respondents agreed that they don't influenced by any culture and 14.8 percentages of Scheduled caste were influenced from their culture. 30.9 percentage of Scheduled caste were never encountering any harassment in registering and operating their business.

TABLE-3: ANOVA RESULT OF IMPACT OF SOCIAL FACTORS ON SCHEDULED CASTE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

ANOVA						
<i>Source of Variation</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>MS</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>P-value</i>	<i>F crit</i>
Between Groups	952.1333	9	105.7926	0.596575	0.785004	2.392814
Within Groups	3546.667	20	177.3333			

The above table indicates the Analysis of Variance between the groups and within the groups, the statistical results shows that $F=0.596$, $df=9$, $p=0.785004 > 0.05$ there is no significance difference between the items, i.e., various kinds social challenges faced by the respondents almost similar.

IX. DISCUSSION

It clearly indicates that start-up entrepreneurs among Scheduled caste were very less. Most of the Entrepreneurship were middle age. Skill development workshops should be a part of start-up schemes to educate them. Under, stand up India scheme, banks will give loans of up to Rs 1 crore to SC/ST and women entrepreneurs. Such type of awareness is very imperative to disseminate the loan provisions. Scheduled caste youth do not even aspire to being an entrepreneur due to a lack of role models in their communities.

The specificity of scheduled caste identity produces conflicts related to their education. Scheduled castes face constraints due to their prior status as untouchables. Consequently, ethnocentrism have to be, confronted on the basis of caste, starts from their birth. It is important to explore the social dimensions of their schooling before engaging with their issues related to higher education.

Scheduled caste communities have conventionally worked as artisans and daily labour, education and employment opportunities are major in economic mobility. It seems to be scheduled caste people lacking in entrepreneurial culture and their inferior social position has discouraged them from entering trade practices. However, many were disappointed with early nineties policies, earlier policies had represented a certain assurance on the part of national leaders to social justice and equality. Whereas utmost Scheduled caste communities were poor and illiterate, favourable action policies provided them with some mobility and, until the 1980s, a few who could obtain education could gain employment in the government sector. Liberalization was a bar from the blue, which they saw as an anti-Scheduled caste upper-caste process. Family and the support of community is a form of social capital, it plays vital role to the establishment, development and the success of a trade.

The people of scheduled caste may face multifaceted challenges to run their enterprises, viz., financial, political and social. The engagement in Entrepreneurship from scheduled caste communities is very rare and traditionally scheduled caste communities in India setup for labour work, whereas the higher caste communities such as Reddy in Andhra Pradesh, Shetty in Karnataka, Marwari in Rajasthan (Migrated to all over India). In the case of Scheduled caste concern they have no any role model to follow as per as business is concern. Business enterprises are not considered as an option since they do not have many members of society who have succeeded in business in scheduled caste communities. Therefore, thinking of business is considered to be a wrong though in scheduled caste Communities. Many of scheduled caste community thinks that if any youth is thinking of business discouraged by their own family and community.

X. SUGGESTION AND CONCLUSION

A Women Entrepreneurs' Association can be formed. This can be initiated, in the beginning by the developmental agencies and promotional agencies. Many of the women entrepreneurs were not aware of the other co-entrepreneurs hence such an association would help develop kinship in the beginning and become more active later on. They can derive moral support from each other. They can also, as groups, seek help from different institutions. A formal association would also encourage other potential entrepreneurs.

At present both central and state governments are initiating various schemes to provide entrepreneurship opportunities, it is required to promotional organisations with the objective to create awareness about entrepreneurial opportunities and building up confidence level of scheduled caste entrepreneurs and their family members. It is required to organise workshops and seminars at district level, state, regional and national levels to create awareness about the opportunities available for scheduled caste. Successive projection is significant method to encourage start-up, hence use of success scheduled caste personalities in the field of entrepreneurship to be encouraged to discuss with new start-ups.

Dalit chamber of industrial commerce established in Hyderabad, and it has chapters in around the country in Metropolitan cities, it is promoting entrepreneurship opportunities to scheduled caste and scheduled caste people. It is required to establish district wise chapters, to perform as incubation team for entrepreneurship aspirants. Finally, due to the oppression scheduled caste people become social, educationally and economically backward. The constitution of India, mandated government to upliftment of socially oppressed by providing safeguard and reservation in education, employment and political. Due to the social exclusion scheduled caste still remaining in underprivileged stage, and they are not even thinking about entrepreneurship, many of scheduled caste entrepreneurs are first generation, facing multifaceted challenges including socially, economically. Lack of family support is majorly identified issue among respondents, the emergence of scheduled caste entrepreneurship in the Karnataka such as family background, motivating and facilitating factors, ambition, attitudes of family/society, etc. A concrete support to be given by the government and voluntary organization to the scheduled caste. Determined efforts from scheduled caste entrepreneurs, backed by affable environment can bring about significant results. This effort may bring constructive transformation and develop the scheduled caste community socio-economically. Scheduled caste entrepreneurship can go and setup large scale industries.

XI. REFERENCES

- [1] Berreman, G. D. (1972). Social Categories and Social Interaction in Urban India. *American Anthropologist*. <https://doi.org/10.1525/aa.1972.74.3.02a00220>
- [2] Deshpande, M. S., Kerbo, H., & Project, S. (2010). *History of the indian caste system and its impact on india today*.
- [3] Ghurey, G. S. (1952). *Caste And Class In India*. Bombay: Popular Book Depot.
- [4] Iyer, L., Khanna, T., & Varshney, A. (2011). *Caste and Entrepreneurship in India*.
- [5] Krejcie, R. V., & Morgan, D. . (1970). Determining Sample Size for Research Activities. *Educational and Psychological Measurement*, 30, 607–610.
- [6] Munshi, K. (2017). *Caste and the Indian Economy **.
- [7] Nafziger, E. W. (1978). *Class, Caste, And Entrepreneurship*. New York.
- [8] P.M.J. Antony Raj S.J. (1987). *The Social Bases of Obedience of the Untouchables in India*. Retrieved from https://ecommons.luc.edu/luc_diss/2531
- [9] Panayides, P., & Karwowski, M. (2013). Coefficient Alpha Interpret With Caution. *Europe's Journal of Psychology*, 9(4), 687–696. <https://doi.org/10.5964/ejop.v9i4.653>
- [10] Sen, A. (2000). The Task of Evaluation and Assessment. In *The Social Exclusion: Concept, Application, And Scrutiny*. <https://doi.org/10.1.1.100.1010>
- [11] Vincentnathan, L. (1998). The Untouchables: Subordination, Poverty and the State in Modern India,. *Journal of Political Ecology*, 7(1), 36. <https://doi.org/10.2458/v7i1.21565>