

## Education development of SCs in Karnataka: A statistical analysis

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### Abstract

Realizing the under development of scheduled castes in education, the UGC and the Government has formulated many of the reservation and scholarship schemes so as to increase education among scheduled castes. Still, the statistics pertaining to scheduled castes shows that, compared to all other castes, the educational development among scheduled castes is lower. The paper presented statistics about the same.

**Keywords:** scheduled castes, scholarship schemes, educational development

### Introduction

Education helps in establishing equality and ensuring social justice but the system of education itself can add to the existing inequalities or at least perpetuate the same. It is noted that there is education inequality among the different social groups such as males and females and General Category, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population. Inequalities of educational opportunities arise due to:

- Poverty, as the poor cannot afford to meet the expenses of education.
- Children studying in the rural schools have to compete with the children in urban areas where there are well-equipped schools.
- In the places where no primary, secondary or collegiate educational institutions exist children do not get the same opportunity as those who have all these in their neighborhood.
- Wide inequalities also arise from differences in home environments. A child from a rural household or slum does not have the same opportunity as a child from an upper class home with educated parents.
- There is wide sex disparity in India. Here girl's education is not given the same encouragement as boys.
- Education of backward classes including SC and ST and economically backward sections is not at par with that of other communities or classes.

After the independence, the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and recently women population gave reservation in the education and employment opportunities in Government sector. But, still majority of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population is living in rural areas and does not have adequate awareness about the education and government policies about these aspects. Due to these The enrolment of students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in higher education continued to be much below the percentage reserved for them in admission. While the enrolment of Scheduled Caste students was about 7.5%, that of the Scheduled Tribes was only about 1.6% of the total enrolment.

In July, 1981, the University Grants Commission (UGC) requested all universities to ensure that the percentage of reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is fully utilized as quickly as possible, and that for this purpose, all such students may be admitted by allowing concessions in

marks till the percentage of reservation is reached.

All universities have been requested to set up Special Cells to watch the progress of implementation of various measures for the benefits of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It is noted that 48 Universities have so far set up such Cells. Besides, the UGC has requested the universities to reserve 20% seats in hostels for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students; 10% of all Fellowships awarded by the UGC at various levels have been reserved for them; 50 junior fellowships, 20 post-doctoral fellow- ships and 20 research associateships have been instituted for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes specifically. About 25 Post-graduate scholarships have been instituted for Scheduled Tribe students from border hill areas. About 100 colleges located in tribal areas and catering to the needs of tribal students are proposed to be given special assistance during the Sixth Plan period. A provision of Rs. 3 crores has been set apart for this purpose. Emphasizing the development of scheduled caste people and women's education, and also for removing disparities in education among the different classes in the society, the University Grants Commission formulated the National Policy on Education in 1986 and its aims and policies related to the Women and Scheduled Caste are stated as under<sup>[1]</sup>.

1. The new Policy will lay special emphasis on the removal of disparities and to equalize educational opportunity by attending to the specific needs of those who have been denied equality so far.
2. Education will be used as an agent of basic change in the status of woman. In order to neutralize the accumulated distortions of the past, there will be a well-conceived edge in favour of women. The National Education System will play a positive, interventionist role in the empowerment of women. It will foster the development of new values through redesigned curricula, textbooks, the training and orientations of teachers, decision-makers and administrators and the active involvement of educational institutions. This will be an act of faith and social engineering. Women's studies will be promoted as a part of various courses and educational institutions encouraged taking up active programmes to further women's development.
3. The removal of women's illiteracy and obstacles inhibiting their access to and retention in, elementary education will

receive overriding priority, through provision of special support services, setting of time targets and effective monitoring. Major emphasis will be laid on women’s participation in vocational, technical and professional education at different levels. The policy of non-discrimination will be pursued vigorously to eliminate sex stereo-typing in vocational and professional courses and to promote women’s participation in non-traditional occupations, as well as in existing and emergent technologies.

4. The Central focus in the Scheduled Caste peoples’ educational development is their equalization with the Non-SC population at all stages and levels of education, in all areas and in the entire four dimensions- rural male, rural female, urban male and urban female. The measures contemplated for this purpose include.
  - a) Incentives to indigent families to send their children to school regularly till they reach the age of 14;
  - b) Pre-Matric Scholarship scheme for children of families engaged in occupations such as scavenging, flaying and tanning to be made applicable from Class I onwards. All children of such families, regardless of incomes, will be covered by this scheme and time-bound programmes targeted on them will be undertaken;
  - c) Constant micro-planning and verification to ensure that the enrolment, retention and successful completion of courses by SC students do not fall at any stage, and provision of remedial courses to improve their prospects for further education and employment.
  - d) Recruitment of teachers from Scheduled Castes;
  - e) Provision of facilities for SC students in students' hostels at district headquarters, according to a phased programme;
  - f) Location of school buildings, Balwadis and Adult Education Centres in such a way as to facilitate full participation of the Scheduled Castes;
  - g) The utilisation of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana resources so as to make substantial educational facilities available to the Scheduled Castes; and
  - h) Constant innovation in finding new methods to increase the participation of the Scheduled Castes in the educational process.

The following are only a few general schemes and policies of the State Governments and Central Government to increase the education of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Population

1. Free Hostel Facilities
2. Free Education up to 12<sup>th</sup> Standard.
3. Fee Concessions for all the students of weaker sections.

4. Loans and Financial Assistance to pursue Higher and Professional Education.
5. Scholarships and Fellowships for pursuing the higher education.
6. Free Coaching for the Administrative Examinations such as IAS, IPS, etc.
7. Enforcement of Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 so as to control Untouchability.

Many of the Scholarship Schemes formulated by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India and major schemes are listed as under.

1. Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana
2. Post-Matric Scholarship for SC Students
3. Pre-Matric Scholarships for the Children of those Engaged in Unclean Occupations
4. Central Sector Scholarship Scheme of Top Class Education for SC Students (Effective from June 2007)
5. Central Sector Scheme of ‘Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship’ for Providing Scholarships to Scheduled Caste Students to pursue Programmes in Higher Education such as M.Phil and Ph.D.
6. National Overseas Scholarships for Scheduled Castes (SC) etc. Candidates for Selection Year 2010-2011.
7. Special Educational Development Programme for Scheduled Castes Girls belonging to low Literacy Levels
8. Upgradation of Merit of SC Students
9. Scheme of free Coaching for SC and OBC Students (Remedial Coaching)

Education and literacy levels are considered to be decisive among the various determinants of quality of life of people and of social development. Awareness with respect to health and hygiene maintenance, better avenues of livelihood, etc. follow from the degree of literacy and education. The level of literacy and education among the Scheduled Caste in Karnataka has been increasing over the years. According to 1981 Census, the literacy rate among Scheduled Caste in Karnataka was 27.62 percent. It increased to 38.06 percent in 1991. For the state in general, the literacy rate for these respective years was 46.21 percent and 56.04 percent. According to 2001 Census, the average literacy rate for all the people in general in the state has been reported to be 67.04 percent. For Scheduled Caste, the literacy rate improved substantially to 52.90 percent. So the number of illiterates among the Scheduled Caste has become less than 50 percent [2].

The following table shows the literacy rate among the Scheduled Caste and General Population in Karnataka in 1981, 1991 and 2001.

**Table 1:** Literacy Rate among SCs and General Population in Karnataka

Particulars	Area	Year	Male	Female	Total
Scheduled Caste Population	Rural	1981	31.83	9.24	20.67
		1991	43.21	19.23	31.42
		2001	58.71	35.56	47.25
	Urban	1981	65.39	37.82	52.03
		1991	70.05	47.64	59.18
		2001	78.32	59.88	69.27
	Total	1981	39.38	15.48	27.62
		1991	49.69	25.95	38.10
		2001	63.75	41.72	52.87

General Population	Rural	1981	51.11	23.84	37.63
		1991	60.30	34.76	47.69
		2001	70.45	48.01	59.33
	Urban	1981	76.54	56.41	66.91
		1991	82.04	65.74	74.20
		2001	86.66	74.12	80.55
	Total	1981	58.73	33.17	46.21
		1991	67.26	44.34	56.04
		2001	76.10	56.87	66.64

Source: Registrar General, Census of India, 1981, 1991 and 2001.

Due to the reforms and welfare policies of the Governments, it is emphasized that the general literacy of the scheduled caste population is gradually increasing and but less compared to general population. Still there is a notable gap in the literacy

rate of general population and SC population. It is emphasized that comparatively the literacy rate of scheduled caste females is lower.

Table 2: Gender-wise Literacy Rates of SC/STs in relation to General Literacy: 1971-2001: (In Percentages)

Category	1971	1981	1991	2001
General Literacy	39.5	54.4	62.7	73.5
Male	51.8	68.0	73.7	82.3
Female	26.9	40.4	51.3	64.6
Scheduled Castes	21.82	29.67	46.74	63.2
Male	32.2	40.65	58.36	73.4
Female	11.3	18.47	34.89	53.0
Scheduled Tribe	9.02	20.46	27.89	41.5
Male	13.3	26.71	35.25	50.2
Female	4.5	14.00	20.23	32.8

Sources: Census of India (Table No. 1 & 2), 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001, Primary Census Abstracts

Motiram<sup>[3]</sup> studied on the Scheduled Castes' Education in India and in which he provided the following information:

Table 3: Enrollment of Scheduled Caste and Non-SC Students by Stages, 2001

Educational Stages	General			Scheduled Castes		
	Girls	Boys	Total	Girls	Boys	Total
Primary or Basic (I-V)	48034817 (43.48%)	62356699 (56.52)	110393505 (100%)	8850232 (42.12%)	11676839 (57.88%)	20527071 (100%)
Middle (VI-VIII)	17701885 (41.45%)	25011674 (58.55%)	42713559 (100%)	2792414 (39.50%)	4277967 (60.50%)	7070381 (100%)
Sec/H. Sec. or Pre-degree	11077943 (39.00%)	17332774 (61.00%)	28410717 (100%)	1484000 (36.58%)	2573058 (63.42%)	4057059 (100%)
Higher Education	3249442 (40.53%)	4767991 (59.47%)	8017433 (100%)	242562 (31.98%)	512105 (68.02%)	752867 (100%)

On the basis of above stated table, when percentages are calculated, it is surprising to note that only 15.66% of the Scheduled caste population is got primary education, only 14.20% of the SC population got Secondary education, about 12.49% of the SCs have got education up to pre-degree level

and remarkably, only 8.58% of the scheduled caste population is getting higher education including Graduation, Post-Graduation and Research degrees. Even though majority of the SC population is getting basic education, their participation in higher education is very low.

Table 4: Percentage of Children who are out of school in the age group 7-14

Sl. No.	Category	Percentage of Out-of-School Children		
		Boys	Girls	Total
1	All	1.47	1.62	1.54
2	SCs	1.99	2.47	2.22
3	STs	2.11	2.67	2.42

Source: Children's Census, Department of Public Instruction, Karnataka, 2005.

The reasons for lesser literacy rate and primary/secondary education among the SC population are more percentage of children who are out of school in the age group of 7-14 years.

As shown in the Human Development Report 2005 of Karnataka Government the population and literacy of the Scheduled caste population in Karnataka is as under.

**Table 5:** Scheduled Caste in Karnataka: Literacy and Education

S. No.	Particulars	Units	Results
1	Population**	Lakhs	85.64
2	Percentage to Total State Population	Percent	16.23
3	Percentage to total Hindu Population	Percent	19.32
4	Literacy Rate**	Percent	52.87
5	Literacy Rate*	Percent	50.91
6	Levels of Education	High School*	Percent 6.96
		PUC*	Percent 2.30
		Graduation*	Percent 0.86
		Post-Graduation*	Percent 0.13
7	Out of School Children (7-14 Age group)***	Percent	2.22
8	Drop Out Rates	Primary Level (7-14 Age Group)*	Percent 5.03
		Higher Primary/ High School level*	Percent 17.12

**Sources:** 1. \*Sample Survey Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Karnataka 2004A.  
 2. \*\*Registrar General of India, Census 2001.  
 3. \*\*\* Children’s Census, Department of Public Instruction, 2005.

The above table made it clear that only 6.96% of the SC population is getting high school education, about 2.30% only are getting Pre-University education, only 0.86% are getting Graduate education and very meager SC population that is only 0.13% are participating in Post-Graduation in Karnataka.

**Conclusion**

It is concluded from the above discussion that, though there are fellowships and reservations, there is slower growth of education among scheduled castes. Hence, it is essential to look into the problems of scheduled castes to get education. It is observed that, there is negligence and poverty among the scheduled castes especially in rural areas and even many of these castes are deprived from facilities and services due to suppression, discrimination, alienation and social inequality especially at rural areas. Hence, it is needed to remove these barriers so as to bring educational development among the scheduled castes.

**References**

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