

### **Problems of Scheduled Caste Population in South Konkan of Maharashtra**

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#### **Abstract:**

Population is one of the prime resources, which play an important role in determining the economy of the region. The Scheduled Castes have been identified as one most disadvantaged group of Indian society needing special attention. There are large state wise variations in the proportion of the Scheduled Caste population. Thus, while the Scheduled Caste are concentrated in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Haryana. The size and composition of population decide the nature of production. Growth of population is influenced by economic factors such as standard of living, and predicate income, migration aspects of population are influenced by political set up and government policies. The studies in medical science enable us to understand frequent occurrences of certain diseases in certain geographical set up and their impact on the population in that region.

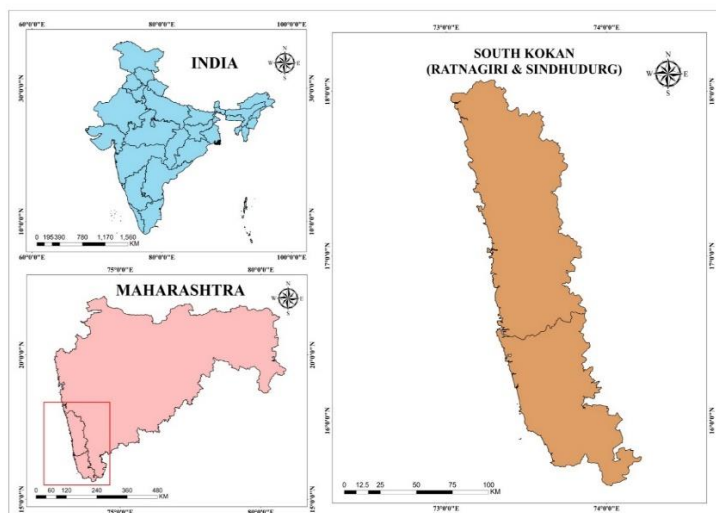
**Keywords:** Scheduled caste, economy, migration, problems.

#### **Introduction:**

Geography a spatial science is concerned with spatial distribution of various characteristics of different phenomena on the surface of the earth. These characteristics are described with some speculation and keen insight regarding the sequence of cause and effect. Human geography studies cultural landscapes of the area its nature and distribution and their relationship with the physical landscape. Geography of population cannot be a systematic study of various characteristics of population in isolation but the understanding of interrelation among various demographic phenomenon and non-demographic qualities of human population and the economic and social consequences stemming from the interaction associated with a particular set of conditions existing in a given areas unit.

#### **Study Region:**

It is situated in between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea and lies between north latitudes 16°30' and 18°04' and east longitude 73°20' and 73°52' and falls in parts of Survey of India degree sheets 47 F, 47 G and 47 H. The district has a geographical area of 8326 sq. km. out of which about 59 sq.km. is covered by forest, whereas cultivable area is 5224 sq. km. and net sown area is 2501 sq. km.



The district forms part of coastal basin. Savitri, Vasisthi, Shastri, Ratnagiri, Jaitapur and Wagothan are the main rivers flowing through the district. The district headquarters is located at Ratnagiri town. For administrative convenience, the district is divided in 9 talukas viz., Mandangad, Khed, Dapoli, Guhagar, Chiplun, Sangameshwar, Ratnagiri, Lanja and Rajapur.

Sindhudurg district is the southernmost district of the state, is located on the west coast of India. It spreads between 15o 37' and 16o 40' north latitudes and between 73o 19' and 74 o 13' east longitudes. The district is surrounded by Kolhapur district in the east, Ratnagiri district in the north, Arabian Sea towards the west and Karnataka and Goa States to the south. On the west, Arabian Sea gives the district a seaboard of about 121 kilometers.

**Objectives:**

1. To examine the economic problems of Scheduled caste population in study area.
2. To study the social problems of Scheduled caste population.

**Data Collection and Methodology:**

The present research paper is entirely based on the Primary and secondary data. Hence the related data has been collected from the selected region of Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra with questionnaire. And secondary data was collected with census handbook.

**Changes in amenities like education, health and transport:**

The facility of primary education is available but for higher education children have to travel more. In case of health facilities not a single dispensary was available for rural area. Transportation facilities are also very less in study region. Private practicing doctors are visiting daily, PHC facility is available in rural and urban besides that many private hospitals are available in study area. MSRTC Bus came to every rural villages and stations after every two to three hours and besides that many private vehicles are available to the service of residents.

Rehabilitant does not get fair compensation for their lost agricultural land. Land given to them in rehabilitated village is less than the lands lose by them due to construction of region.

**Information about Government schemes:**

**Table No. 1**  
**What Government Schemes they have Known?**

| Sr. No. | Details                                                 | Number of respondents (out of 200) | Percentage (%) |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| 01      | Self-help groups loan                                   | 189                                | 94.5           |
| 02      | Educational scholarships (Savitribai Phule scholarship) | 52                                 | 26             |
| 03      | Mahila Samridhi Yojana                                  | 07                                 | 3.5            |
| 04      | Mahila Kisan Yojana                                     | 00                                 | 00             |
| 05      | Term Loan Scheme                                        | 20                                 | 10             |
| 06      | Shahu, Phule, Ambedkar, Dalit vasti Improvement         | 00                                 | 00             |
| 07      | Ramai Awas (Gharkul) Scheme                             | 72                                 | 36             |
| 08      | Incentive to encourage Inter caste Marriage             | 81                                 | 40.5           |
| 09      | Kanyadan Yojana                                         | 27                                 | 13.5           |
| 10      | Incentive to encourage Inter- caste Marriage            | 31                                 | 15.5           |
| 11      | None of all                                             | 00                                 | 00             |

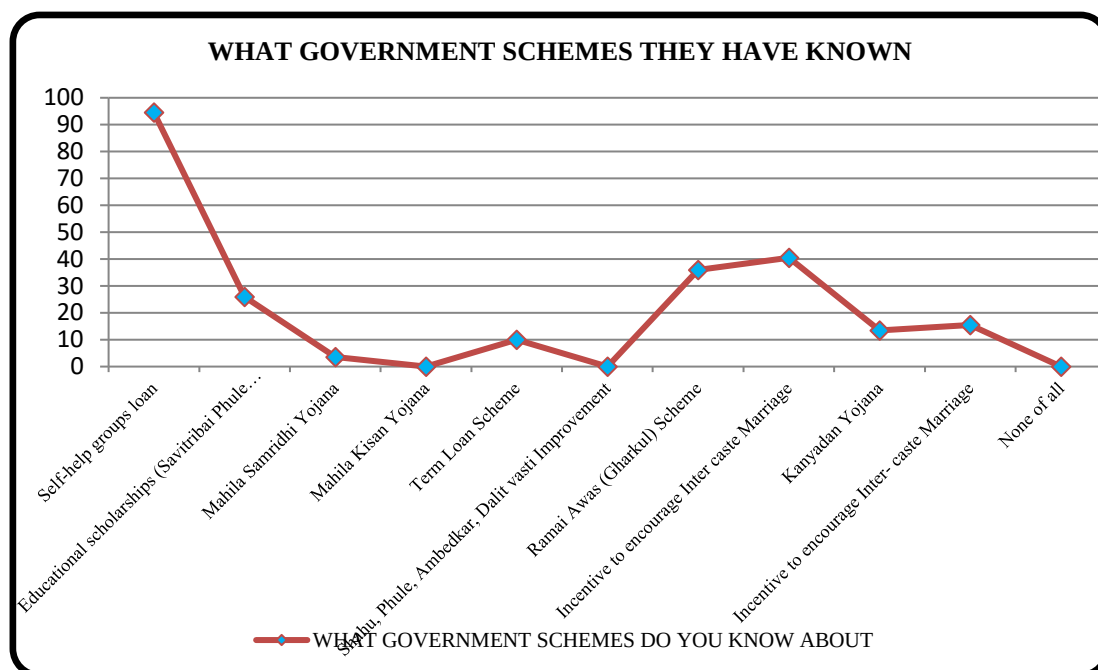


**Fig. No. 1 : What Government Schemes they have Known?**

The government of India has launched various schemes and scholarships for the development of the common man. Then various schemes are being implemented by the government for the development of Scheduled caste. The current situation of that scheme are illustrated here with the help of above table in South Konkan.

This includes, 94.5 percent households taking loan through savings groups. The reason why more and more savings groups take loans is because they have lower interest rates. This shows that self-help groups play an important role in the development of the SC in South Konkan region. Also, an observation of the above table shows that 26 percent of the families are receiving scholarships for education. Then the number of families who are aware of Mahila Samruddhi Yojana is there and a half percent. Then ten percent of households are aware of the term loan scheme. There are 72 families it means, 36 percent families who are aware of Ramai Aawas Yojana. 40.5 percent peoples are aware of the Kanyadan Scheme for marriage of girls. Then 13.5 percent peoples are knowing of the financial assistance provided by the government for inter- caste marriage. Also, 15.5 percent peoples are aware of the plan for the development of new Buddhist and Scheduled Castes. The above observation shows that no one knows about Mahila Kisan Yojana and Shahu, Phule, Ambedkar Dalit Wasti improvement Yojana. In general, it can be said that the peoples of SC in South Konkan do not get enough information about many scheme for the development of the society.

### Conclusion:

The study reveals that rehabilitated population face many problem like emotional problem, problem of land acquisition, payment of compensation, fixation of price of the land, lack of govt. support and facilities,& low quality land etc.

### Suggestions:

- 1) Government must give good quality and enough land to rehabilitants to reduce their anger against government and to improve their quality of life.

- 2) Rehabilitants lose their houses and land because of construction of dam so government must make Shure that they will get enough water of agriculture and other purpose.
- 3) It is very essential to resettle the rehabilitants in same climatic condition. This will help them to adjust to the new site immediately. Also they does not need to change their life style and cropping technique.
- 4) Society and government must give extra sympathy and help to rehabilitants.
- 5) Strict implementation of reservation for rehabilitants, intrest free loans for construction of houses and agriculture development is needed.
- 6) Rehabilitation must took place on secured places

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