



International Journal of Research in Finance and Management

P-ISSN: 2617-5754
E-ISSN: 2617-5762
IJRFM 2022; 5(2): 58-64
Received: 24-05-2022
Accepted: 06-07-2022

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A study of poverty and prosperity in Haryana

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Abstract

Scheduled castes belonging to low income group have no access to medical facilities in private hospitals as a result of which their efficiency and income earning capacity remains low. As the level of income increases, they can afford better medical facilities and are able to improve their financial position and move above the poverty line. Household gadget and poverty have a two way linkage. A reduction in poverty results in more household gadgets with scheduled castes; and more gadgets with scheduled caste households helps in their increase in efficiency and results in further poverty reduction.

Keywords: Poverty, income, employment, government jobs, education, medical facilities, scheduled castes, household gadgets, government schemes.

Introduction

A field survey of representative geographical area of the state of Haryana was conducted to collect primary information about the ground reality of socio-economic conditions of people to study and analyse the collected data in the year 2012. During the field work, conducted to collect information regarding the type of employment of people in Haryana, it was observed that some of the households were either unavailable (since they had gone to their jobs) or reluctant to specify their nature of employment due to their ignorance. Therefore, efforts have been made to get information from their neighbours, in case, the households in question were not available. Moreover, some of the households were convinced that the information is being collected for research work rather than any other purpose. They were also told to specify whether they work in private or government sector and that too as a labourer or not. The households were also told about the different employment schemes and welfare programs of government of Haryana. However, most of the households were not aware of them and were not getting much benefits from these schemes. Thus, in the state of Haryana, the government has introduced a number of employment schemes and welfare programs for scheduled castes, but the present research study reveals that ground reality is different because majority of scheduled caste people either do not know or do not getting much benefits from them and, still living miserably.

Table 1: Type of Employment and Poverty (year 2012)

Category	Employment				Total (%)
	Private	Government	Self-empl.	Laborer	
SC- low income group	5.83	2.50	1.67	90.00	100
SC- higher income group	22.38	16.42	10.45	50.75	100
Total SC	11.76	7.49	4.81	75.93	100
Non-SC Higher income group	8.39	16.78	74.83	Nil	100

Source: Primary data collected from stratified random sample research survey of 240 households belonging to scheduled castes and non-scheduled castes (120 households from each) from three districts of Haryana State.

In this table it is clear that

1. There is direct and positive correlation between self-employment and prosperity among scheduled castes and non-scheduled castes in Haryana.
2. There is a direct and positive correlation between labor employment and poverty among scheduled castes and non-scheduled castes in Haryana.

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Size of Family and Poverty

Different studies have been undertaken to examine the issue of sensitivity of poverty estimate to the treatment of household size. Some of them include Buhmann, *et al.* (1988) ^[58], Coulter, *et al.* (1992) ^[59], Lanjouw and Ravallion (1995) ^[60], Dreze and Srinivasan (1997) ^[61], Lancaster, *et al.* (1999) ^[61]. All these studies have focused on the impact of household's size on poverty calculations. Most of the results find a positive correlation between larger household size and more poverty but the results of Lanjouw and Ravallion (1995) ^[60] counter the widely held view that larger families tend to be poorer in developing countries. The empirical

literature on the sensitivity of poverty calculations to the equivalent scale specification does not distinguish between the effects of household size and family compositions on the estimates. The two effects are likely to be related in developing countries, since larger families tend to be younger or at least will have more young children. The situation is quite different and more complex in these countries, with the prevalence of the joint family system and with the children staying on with their parents to a much later stage than in the advanced countries (Meenakshi *et al.* 1999) ^[32].

Table 2: Average Size of Family and Poverty in Haryana (year 2012)

Category	Average size of family	Youth population (18-59 year) as percentage of total population of the group
SC- low income group	6.20	49.24
SC- higher income group	7.04	56.80
Total SC	6.37	50.92
Non-SC Higher income group	7.43	61.66

Source: Primary data collected from stratified random sample research survey of 240 households belonging to scheduled castes and non-scheduled castes (120 households from each) category from three districts of Haryana State.

The table shows that

1. The size of family of total non-SC is larger than that of total SC. This shows a positive correlation between size of family and prosperity and an inverse relation between size of family and poverty.
2. The size of family of SC-LIG is larger than that of SC-HIG. This also reveals a positive correlation between the size of family and prosperity and an inverse relation between size of family and poverty.
3. Proportion of youth people in the family is also helpful in enhancing income of family. Lesser the percentage of youth population, lesser will be the family income and vice-versa.

In India, there is not much variation, so far as the average size of families in different states is concerned. The following table shows household size in India in some of the states and union territories selected on the basis of their economic prosperity.

There are states like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Union Territory of Chandigarh where average size of family is less than 4.5. These states are comparatively prosperous also with less incidence of poverty. On the other hand, states like Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Bihar and Rajasthan have average size of family as 6.0 or more. All these states are comparatively less prosperous with higher incidence of poverty. This shows a positive correlation between larger size of family and higher incidence of poverty.

Table 3: Average Size of Family

Sr. no.	State/ UT	Average size of Family
1	Andhra Pradesh	4.4
2	Bihar	6.0
3	Chandigarh	4.3
4	Haryana	5.7
5	Jammu & Kashmir	6.4
6	Maharashtra	5.0
7	Punjab	5.6
8	Rajasthan	6.0
9	Tamil Nadu	4.2
10	Uttar Pradesh	6.4
11	India	5.3

Source: Government of India, Census of India, 2001.

Youth Population and Poverty in Haryana

The present research study, on the basis of a field survey of Haryana villages came to the result that the youth population (YP) in the household is significant at 1% level

of significance and is negatively related with poverty. The coefficient is -3.34 which means a change of 1% in YP will bring a change of 3.43% in the poverty.

Table 4: Youth Population and Poverty in Haryana (year 2012)

Category	Below 18 year	18-59 year (Youth)	Above 59 year	Total (%)
SC- low income group	43.03	49.24	7.73	100
SC- higher income group	36.69	56.80	6.51	100
Total SC	41.62	50.92	7.46	100
Non-SC Higher income group	28.69	61.66	9.64	100

Source: Primary data collected from stratified random sample research survey of 240 households belonging to scheduled castes and non-scheduled castes (120 households from each) category from three districts of Haryana State.

In this table it is clear that

1. The proportion of youth population (18-59 year) in a household also shows a direct and positive correlation with prosperity in SC and non-SC groups in Haryana.
2. Percentage of people above 59 year of age is more in non-SC category than SC category which show a higher life expectancy among non-SCs.
3. Percentage of people of below 18 years of age is more in SC than in non-SC.

Land Ownership and Poverty amongst Scheduled Castes Thorat (1999) ^[51] also examined the survey/ reports of NSS on land holding in 1982 and 1992. In these survey, it was observed that the percent of landless scheduled castes households was 12.62 at all India level while, it was 10.09 for Haryana. At all India level, 47.97 percent of total rural household held less than half-an-acre of land while it was 87.50 percent for Haryana.

Table 5: Agricultural Land Ownership and Poverty in Haryana (year 2012)

Category	Agricultural land ownership				Total (%)
	No land	Less than 1 acre	Between 1-2 acre	More than 2 acre	
SC- low income group	89.58	10.42	Nil	Nil	100
SC- higher income group	83.33	16.67	Nil	Nil	100
Total SC	88.33	11.67	Nil	Nil	100
Non-SC Higher income group	Nil	17.50	25.00	57.50	100

Source: Primary data collected from stratified random sample research survey of 240 households belonging to scheduled castes and non-scheduled castes (120 households from each) category from three districts of Haryana State.

The table shows that there is a positive correlation between ownership of agricultural land and prosperity among SC and non-SC also in Haryana.

Awareness and Participation in Gram Sabha and Poverty amongst Scheduled Castes in Haryana

One formidable factor explaining such differences is discrimination and lack of equal opportunities for scheduled castes, due to practices of castes and untouchability based

exclusion and discrimination towards untouchables and seeking provision for equal rights. Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar had dealt these problems on the basis of logic and reasons and suggested equal rights, developmental and empowering measures, legal safeguards against violation of rights, strategies to overcome deep rooted deprivation caused by historical exclusion and isolation of untouchables (GOI 2006) ^[9].

Table 6: Awareness and Participation in Gram Sabha and Poverty in Haryana (Year 2012) (Percentage)

category	Willing to attend Gram Sabha meetings		Allowed to attend Gram Sabha meeting		Total
	Willing	Not willing	Allowed	Not allowed	
SC- low income group	97.92	2.08	1.04	98.96	100
SC- higher income group	100	Nil	29.17	70.83	100
Total SC	88.33	11.67	6.67	93.33	100
Non-SC Higher income group	90.00	10.00	100	Nil	100

Source: Primary data collected from stratified random sample research survey of 240 households belonging to scheduled castes and non-scheduled castes (120 households from each) category from three districts of Haryana State.

In this table it is clear that

1. 88.33 percent of total SCs are willing to attend Gram Sabha meetings and only 6.67 percent are allowed to attend the meetings while 90 percent of non-SC are willing to attend the meetings of Gram Sabha and all are allowed to attend these meetings.
2. 97.92 percent of SC- LIG are willing to attend these meetings while only 1.04 percent of the group are allowed to attend the Gram Sabha meetings whereas 100 percent of SC-HIG are willing to attend the meetings while 29.17 are allowed to attend Gram Sabha meetings.
3. This shows a direct and positive correlation between prosperity and attending Gram Sabha meetings.

Education and Poverty

Education and poverty are inter-dependent and they have two ways linkage effect. In the first place, investment in

education as a poverty reduction strategy enhances the skill and productivity among the poor households. Secondly, poverty is a constraint to educational achievement, both at macro and micro level. Poor countries generally have lower level of enrolment and children of poor households receive less education. In fact, education creates skills which facilitate higher level of productivity. According to a Report of World Bank (1995), education, especially primary and higher secondary help reduce poverty by increasing the productivity of poor, by reducing fertility and improving health, and by equipping people with the skills they need to participate fully in an economy and society. Although education is costly yet, it brings benefits also. Hence, there is a need to increase investment in human capital formation. The theory of human capital also establishes a link between education and poverty in terms of education as a means of poverty reduction. However, the household level evidences suggest that children of poorer households are, generally,

likely to receive less education.

Table 7: Level of Education and Poverty in Haryana (year 2012) (percentage)

Category	Illiterate	Primary	High school	Graduate & above	Total
SC- low income group	41.69	37.98	18.82	1.51	100
SC- higher income group	23.67	42.60	23.67	10.06	100
Total SC	37.70	39.00	19.90	3.40	100
Non-SC Higher income group	17.82	28.48	40.47	13.23	100

Source: Primary data collected from stratified random sample research survey of 240 households belonging to scheduled castes and non-scheduled castes (120 households from each) category from three districts of Haryana State.

In this table it is clear that

1. The table shows a positive correlation between illiteracy and poverty among SC and non-SC categories in Haryana.
2. Higher education and prosperity also have positive correlation among SC and non-SC categories in Haryana.

The present research work has also made an effort to establish a link between education and poverty. Out of 240 households from Haryana selected stratified randomly, it was found that Literacy of head of household (LHH) is significant at 1% level of significance and negatively related with poverty and the coefficient is -4.87 which means if LHH changes by 1% the poverty at household level will change by 4.8 percent.

Government Programs and Poverty Reduction

Haryana government introduced a number of schemes for the welfare of the scheduled so that their level of poverty may be reduced. Some of the schemes introduced by Haryana government for scheduled castes are as follows-

- Indira Gandhi Priyadarshani Vivah Shagun Yojana
- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
- Indira Awas Yojana
- Housing schemes for Scheduled Castes
- Dr. Ambedkar Medhavi Chhatra Yojana
- Cash Incentive Schemes for Scheduled Caste Students
- Anusuchit jaati Chhatra Uchh Shiksha Protshahan Yojana
- Scheme for Pre Examination Training of Scheduled

Caste Candidates for UPSC and HPSC Examination

- Scheme for the Encouragement of Inter-Caste Marriages
- Legal Aid to Scheduled Castes
- Dr. Ambedkar Medical Aid Scheme
- Monetary Relief to the Victims of Atrocities; etc.

The present research scholar always remains interested to examine the extent to which this help is utilized by scheduled castes. Not to speak of help, this research scholar observed that with majority of people was not even heard of these schemes. They had little knowledge of socio-economic help provided by all these schemes by Haryana government.

Beside the knowledge of the government help, the research scholar also observed that the amount of money given in the form of cash incentive or loans is not very attractive and need revisions. For example, the government of Haryana distributed Rs. 29031000 as loan to 683 free scheduled caste people for self-employment (Jagaran Post 2012). The average loans come to be Rs. 42505. This is a petty amount for any business to start in these days. Hence, it is just eyewash. What is required is a big loan to be given to deserving candidates so that they may lift themselves above the poverty line. Moreover, the formalities of loan and government help are so complex that the scheduled caste people do not opt for any help. In such a situation it can be suggested that formalities for government help should be the least, help should be attractive information of schemes should be given door to door to all the 8.86 lac eligible scheduled caste families in Haryana, if poverty among scheduled castes is to be really reduced.

Table 8: Government Programs and Poverty in Haryana (Year 2012) (percentage)

Category	Information or knowledge of govt. scheme in the area		Receiving government help		Information of govt. schemes by sarpanch / other office bearer	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
SC- low income group	5.21	94.79	2.08	97.92	4.17	95.83
SC- higher income group	4.17	95.83	Nil	100	Nil	100
Total SC	5.00	95.00	1.67	98.33	3.33	96.67
Non-SC Higher income group	100	Nil	77.50	22.50	96.67	3.33

Source: Primary data collected from stratified random sample research survey of 240 households belonging to scheduled castes and non-scheduled castes (120 households from each) category from three districts of Haryana State.

In this table it is clear that

1. Only 5% of the households from Total SCs have knowledge of government schemes in the area whereas all the households from non-SC category have this knowledge.
2. And only 3.33 percent of the households from Total SC

category are informed by Sarpanch or other official as compared to 96.67 percent of the households from non-sc category informed by them.

3. Among SCs there is a positive correlation between government help and poverty as SC-HIG received less government help than SC-LIG.

4. If we see total SC and non-SC, it is seen that larger percentage of households from non-sc category receives government help than that from total SCs.

Medical Facilities and Poverty

Medical facilities in Haryana are available in private, public and other medical sectors, both in urban and rural areas. Although, households prefer to go to the private medical sector, yet it depends upon the financial capability of the households because all of them cannot afford the services of private medical sector as compared to public sector which is relatively cheaper. Hence, a study was undertaken among scheduled and non-scheduled caste households to observe whether there is any relationship with medical facilities and poverty prevailing in Haryana.

Table 9: Medical Facilities and Poverty in Haryana (Year 2012) (Percentage)

Category	Medical facility availing			Total
	Private	Government	Other	
SC- low income group	Nil	80.21	19.78	100
SC- higher income group	58.33	41.67	Nil	100
Total SC	11.67	72.50	15.83	100
Total Non-SC (High Income Group)	44.17	54.17	1.67	100

Source: Primary data collected from stratified random sample research survey of 240 households belonging to scheduled castes and non-scheduled castes (120 households from each) category from three districts of Haryana State.

According to the table, the scheduled castes whose family income is less Rs.5000 per month cannot afford medical facilities in private sector. As the level of economic prosperity increased, they prefer to go for private sector for medical purpose. As it is clear from the table that 58.33 percentage of scheduled castes in high income group avail

medical facilities from private sector.

Household Gadgets and Poverty

Standard of living of people is determine by the consumption of necessities, comforts and luxuries to which they are used to and without which they feel deprived of something. In the present study, three modes of conveyance, namely, cycle, two-wheeler and cars are taken into consideration, along with three other common gadgets, namely, washing machines, televisions and mobile phones. The results of the present study based on primary data are given in the following table 10:

Common mode of conveyance is cycle, and that too with those scheduled castes who belong to higher income group while this mode is not familiar with non-scheduled castes population belonging to higher income group. So far as two wheeler is concerned, only 12.50 percent of scheduled castes belonging to higher income group used this mode of conveyance. It is interesting to note that in the sample survey, no scheduled caste household had any motor car while 30.83 percent non-scheduled caste households used motor cars as their mode of conveyance.

Scheduled caste population hardly own washing machines, as the percentage of total scheduled castes who owned it is 0.83 percent while 53.33 percent of non-scheduled castes owned a washing machine. Television sets and mobiles were owned by all the families from scheduled and non-scheduled castes. These results prove that a reduction in poverty level helped the households to own more mechanical and electronic gadgets for their use because their economic condition improves. Since these gadgets are owned less by low income group scheduled caste households, hence, there is a need to provide them more employment opportunities so that their financial conditions may improve.

Table 10: Household Gadgets and Poverty in Haryana (Year 2012) (Percentage)

Category	Car (%)	Two wheeler (%)	Cycle (%)	Washing machine (%)	Television (%)	Mobile (%)	Total number of households
SC- low income group	Nil	Nil	2.08	Nil	25.00	90.63	96
SC- higher income group	Nil	12.50	58.33	4.17	100.00	100.00	24
Total SC	Nil	2.50	13.33	0.83	40.00	92.50	120
Total Non-SC (High Income Group)	30.83	67.50	1.66	53.33	100.00	100.00	120

Source: Primary data collected from stratified random sample research survey of 240 households belonging to scheduled castes and non-scheduled castes (120 households from each) category from three districts of Haryana State.

Conclusion

There is continuing disparity among social groups in Haryana despite a high growth rate. It is a welfare oriented state, yet the benefits of government policies and programs have not been reaped by scheduled castes as 75.93 percent of them are still labourers. The youth population among low income group of scheduled castes is 49.24 percent which is less than for non-scheduled castes, which is 66.66 percent. Only 11.67 percent scheduled castes own less than one acre of land while 57.5 percent of non-scheduled castes own more than two acre of land. Literacy rate for scheduled castes is also quite low since 37.7 percent of scheduled castes are illiterate as compared to only 17.8 percent non-scheduled castes are illiterate in Haryana. Lack of awareness of government welfare policies and programs is also responsible for poverty among scheduled castes since only 5

percent of scheduled castes had knowledge about them and out of them only 1.67 percent received government help.

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